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**Submissions from entities in the United Nations system, international
organizations and other stakeholders on their efforts in 2022 to
implement the outcomes of the WSIS**

Submission by

World Bank Group

This submission was prepared as an input to the report of the UN Secretary-General on "Progress made in the implementation of and follow-up to the outcomes of the World Summit on the Information Society at the regional and international levels" (to the 26th session of the CSTD), in response to the request by the Economic and Social Council, in its resolution 2006/46, to the UN Secretary-General to inform the Commission on Science and Technology for Development on the implementation of the outcomes of the WSIS as part of his annual reporting to the Commission.

DISCLAIMER: The views presented here are the contributors' and do not necessarily reflect the views and position of the United Nations or the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development.

Response to UNCTAD-CSTD request for WSIS Reporting, October 2022

Prepared by the World Bank Group¹

The following report is submitted to the Commission on Science and Technology for Development (CSTD) by the World Bank Group (WBG) as part of its commitment to report annually on the implementation of the Action Plan of World Summit on the Information Society (WSIS – Geneva 2003; Tunis 2005). This is in line with ECOSOC Resolution 2006/46. The report follows the template proposed by the CSTD, in its letter of June 23, 2022.

Part One: Executive Summary

The WBG, through the Digital Development Global Practice (DD), continues to be fully committed to upholding the principles set out in the WSIS Declaration of Principles and implementing the WSIS Action Plan. It does so, in concert with other development partners, through (i) its lending program (mobilizing multiple [financing instruments](#), including for the [poorest countries](#)), (ii) technical assistance and analytical work program, (iii) the private sector-oriented activities of the International Finance Corporation (IFC), and (iv) through the risk guarantees offered by the Multilateral Investment Guarantee Agency (MIGA). All WSIS stakeholders are invited to join the Digital Development Partnership (DDP), a multi-partner Trust Fund established with the aim to strengthen the digital economy, supporting many of the areas targeted by the WSIS Action Plan.

During the FY22 reporting period (July 2021 – June 2022), new lending operations led by DD cumulatively amounted to \$800 million. DD is currently managing a total of 44 projects worth \$3.3 billion in cumulative commitments.

Part Two: Trends and Experiences in WSIS Implementation

Digital connectivity and services contribute to growth, productivity, employment, equity and poverty reduction, therefore supporting efforts towards achieving the WBG's twin goals of ending extreme poverty and promoting shared prosperity. The April 2022 Bank-Fund Development Committee Meeting [Paper on Digitalization and Development](#) presents key digital trends that emerged during the pandemic and proposes a set of policy priorities for maximizing digitalization's development dividends while managing risks. In 2018, the World Bank established DD and since then, the practice has grown in terms of its analytical and knowledge products, lending operations and staffing. In addition to regional units dedicated to specific set of countries, the practice now counts with two Global Engagement teams respectively focusing on (i) shaping the strategy for the DD global knowledge agenda and managing the practice's global analytical work program, including by leading or supporting flagship and corporate initiatives; and (ii) managing the Identification for Development ([ID4D](#)) and the Digitizing Government-to-Person payments ([G2PX](#)) initiatives.

DD's work is organized around the following five interconnected business lines that form key digital foundations and accelerators: (i) broadband connectivity and use, (ii) digital data infrastructure, (iii) ICT industry and digital jobs, (iv) digital safeguards, and (v) digital for climate. In addition, DD supports other World Bank sectors in accelerating the deployment of digital technologies and utilization of data to drive innovation, increase operational efficiency, and develop more accessible, user-friendly, and productive digital products, services, and other use cases. The World Bank Group's ecosystem approach to digital transformation is further illustrated in Annex 1.

FY22 highlights include:

- **A total of over 37 country-specific digital economy diagnostics under the [Digital Economy for Africa \(DE4A\)](#) initiative were completed.** Each diagnostic uses a common methodology based around the five following pillars: (i) digital infrastructure, (ii) public platforms, (ii) financial services, (iv) skills and (v)

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businesses. The new digital economy country diagnostics completed in FY22 include [Botswana](#) and [Guinea Bissau](#). Further reports are under way for Chad, Mali, Somalia, South Sudan, Djibouti, Namibia, and Equatorial Guinea. In addition, the following new World Bank Country Economic Memorandum included a specific focus on digital: [Cabo Verde](#), [Cote d'Ivoire](#), [Democratic Republic of Congo](#), [Congo](#), [Egypt](#) and [Ghana](#). These reports form the analytical basis for future lending programs, contributing to **WSIS action lines C1, C2, C3, C5, C6 and C7**.

- **The [Government Migration to Cloud Ecosystem](#) report was published in June 2022.** The report aims at supporting governments to better understand the multiple options available for migrating their data to the cloud, with a view to accelerate their journey towards digital transformation and economic growth. Additional details are also available in this blog [post](#). **The latest G2PX report, [The role of Digital in the COVID-19 Social Assistance Response](#), was published in September 2022.** The report expands on the importance of leveraging existing digital infrastructure to implement efficient government-to-people payment ecosystems. Additional details are also available in this blog [post](#). These reports contribute to **WSIS action lines C1 and C2**.
- **The [Digital Development Partnership \(DDP\)](#) umbrella program continued to expand and build strong collaboration with both the public and private sector.** Over the past year, the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia joined DDP bringing the total number of partners to 14. The DDP portfolio has now reached more than 120 programs across 80 countries. The funds disbursed by DDP have leveraged more than \$10.7 billion in World Bank lending, which is almost double compared to two years ago. This represents an impact of more than ~\$700 in World Bank lending for every \$1 our partners invested in DDP. The DDP-funded activities contribute to **all WSIS action lines but especially C1**.
- **The [Cybersecurity Multi-Donor Trust Fund \(MDTF\)](#), part of the broader DDP umbrella program, aims at systematically incorporating cybersecurity in the development agenda as well as in World Bank operational programs.** Work includes global knowledge to better define the cybersecurity development agenda, and country-specific technical assistance. The Fund is supported through contributions from Estonia, Germany, Israel, Japan, The Netherlands, the US Government, and the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation. The activities supported through the Trust Fund contribute to **WSIS action lines C3, C5, C6 and C11**.
- **In 2021, the [Korea Digital Development Program initiative \(KoDi\)](#) was established to help low- and middle-income countries to accelerate digital transformation that is data-driven, secure, and green.** The first year of the program focused on developing a knowledge base for future providing country-specific technical assistance. Several studies distilled Korean best practices, including guides on enhancing the security and resilience of critical information infrastructure and integrating national data ecosystems, as well as case studies on [greening the ICT sector](#) (contributing to **WSIS action line C7**) data-based economies, and the potential of trustworthy Artificial Intelligence. **KoDi contributes to all WSIS action lines**.
- **The ID4D initiative is supporting more than 50 countries to [design and implement different types of identification and civil registration systems](#).** The initiative focuses on increasing accessibility, strengthening trust, and realizing the developmental benefits. ID4D has helped the [Philippines](#) to design an inclusive and privacy-preserving identification system, in which 74 million Filipinos (or nearly two-thirds of the population) have registered since the beginning of 2021, and is now supporting its use for more beneficiary-centric social protection delivery. In [Nigeria](#), research on barriers faced by women and girls to access identification has led to legal and operational reforms to remove those impediments and improve accessibility. In addition, ID4D is globally-recognized as a thought leader on the agenda, producing knowledge resources for policy-makers, practitioners, and researchers, including the [Global ID4D Dataset and ID4D-Findex](#), which are seminal sources of information on the coverage of identification systems. ID4D has also contributed to digital public goods such as open standards and the Modular Open Source Identity Platform (MOSIP) and convened 30 organizations to develop the ten [Principles on Identification for Sustainable Development](#), which have become an influential

guiding framework on how to mitigate risks and harness the full benefits of identification and civil registration systems. These initiatives contribute to contribute to **WSIS action lines C1, C3, C7, C8, and C11**.

- **In Latin America and the Caribbean**, the first DE4LAC for [El Salvador](#) was published in April 2022, with three more in drafting for Colombia, Ecuador, and Jamaica. A new lending project preparation was initiated in Argentina, combining last mile access to unconnected communities and regionalization of data centers to enable security and redundancy of public data infrastructure and enable the migration of public services.
- **In Sub-Saharan Africa**, new lending operations in [Burundi](#), [Cameroon](#), [Gabon](#), [Ghana](#), [Mozambique](#), the [Republic of Congo](#), [Rwanda](#), and [Sao Tome and Principe](#) are addressing both supply side and demand side of digital transformation. July 1, 2022, marked the beginning of the IDA20 cycle implementation. The July 2022 [Dakar Call for Action](#) reaffirmed African’s leaders commitment to IDA20, including by scaling up digitalization in Africa, orienting the World Bank’s lending in FY23-FY24. There is an increased focus on facilitating increased use and enhance benefits of digital services. For example, in April 2022, this [report](#) was published to advance the understanding of how to improve urban mobility in cities in Sub-Saharan Africa through building incrementally on the existing paratransit sector, informed by innovative data techniques and data-driven diagnostics.
- **In East Asia Pacific**, the Practice continued its emphasis on increasing digital connectivity, especially to connect remote and rural users, and building sustainable, resilient and secure digital economies and digital services. It approved new investments in developing the digital economy in the [Republic of the Marshall Islands](#), [Mongolia](#) and the [Republic of Kiribati](#). Technical assistance was provided to the Philippines on institutional and legal reforms for digital transformation. A case study on [Singapore’s National Digital Identity and Government Data Sharing Platform](#) was published.
- **In the Middle East and North Africa**, the approved operation in [Djibouti](#) ensures that more citizens and businesses have access to quality and affordable internet by developing an enabling environment for the gradual introduction of competition and private-sector investment in ICTs, and by fostering the uptake of digital skills and services.
- **In South Asia**, approved lending operations in the (i) [Maldives](#) aim at enhancing the competitiveness of the broadband market and to leverage digital technologies for climate resilience, and (ii) in [Nepal](#) aim to expand access to broadband and engage more people in the digital economy. In addition, this [report](#) published in March 2022 presents both the opportunities of and the bottlenecks for furthering the digital agenda in the region, and this [policy research working paper](#) focuses on the demand for digital and complementary skills in Southeast Asia.
- **The above-mentioned World Bank lending operations in the Digital space contribute to all WSIS action lines.**
- **In addition, the Practice supported the implementation of regulatory reforms to develop digital economy enablers through several Development Policy Loans (DPL) embedding digital components.** In [Senegal](#), support to the government focuses on introducing a strategic reform to strengthen the market competition in the telecom sector while establishing regulatory framework for a consolidated national social protection system. In [The Gambia](#), support to the government is aimed at liberalizing the telecom sector to improve accessibility and affordability of broadband services across the country. In [Burkina Faso](#), through a DPL, the government is rolling out the tax administration digitalization reform to promote transparency and accountability in tax processes. In [Eswatini](#), support to the government’s efforts aims to strengthen the legal foundations and institutional framework to facilitate electronic transactions, strengthen online consumer protection, and to enable digital and contactless payments. In addition, the government receives support to establish a regulatory

framework to increase telecom sector competition and incentivize private sector in digital infrastructure. In [Angola](#), the government revised its regulatory frameworks on infrastructure sharing to increase investment and network coverage and on payment infrastructure and services to enable digital financial services and promote financial inclusion. These policy reform initiatives directly contribute to **WSIS action lines C2 and C6**.

Part Three: Ongoing and Future Initiatives

As mentioned in the previous section, the DD GP recently re-organized its work program around five interconnected business lines that form key digital foundations and accelerators for digital transformation and digital economy development. These business lines are reinforced and built upon through coordination and collaboration with partner GPs, IFC, and MIGA. The table below summarizes the newly established business lines, and corresponding WSIS action lines.

Digital Development Global Practice Business Lines	Corresponding WSIS action line(s)
1. Broadband Connectivity, Access, and Use. Promoting universal access to inclusive, affordable, safe, and resilient connectivity and usage through effective telecommunications policy and regulation, stimulating broadband infrastructure investment, and boosting digital literacy and access to internet-connected devices.	C2: Information and communication infrastructure
2. ICT Industry and Digital Jobs. Boosting economic growth and creating jobs by encouraging investment in ICT and ICT enabled services industries and facilitating industry-academia partnerships to develop digital skills and job placement programs tailored to market demand.	C6: Enabling environment
3. Digital Data Infrastructure. Maximizing the social and economic value of data by encouraging investment in data infrastructure and services, strengthening data governance, and development of integrated data management infrastructure, platforms, and analytical capabilities.	C1: The role of public governance authorities and all stakeholders in the promotion of ICTs for development C11: International and regional cooperation
4. Digital for Climate. Reducing the environmental footprint and strengthening the climate resilience of digital infrastructure and systems, and deployment of digital technologies, business models and data to mitigate greenhouse gas emissions and support climate resilience and across key sectors	N/A
5. Digital Safeguards. Building and strengthening trust in usage of digital platforms and services among people, governments, and businesses by strengthening data privacy protections, raising cyber awareness, and building capacity to protect critical infrastructure and systems from cyber threats.	C5: Building confidence and security in the use of ICTs
Accelerating Digital Use Across Sectors. Building upon our primary business lines, DD supports its partner GPs to accelerate the deployment of digital technologies and utilization of data to drive innovation, increase operational efficiency, and develop more accessible, user-friendly, and productive digital products, services, and other use cases.	C3: Access to information and knowledge C7: ICT Applications

Annex: World Bank Group Ecosystem Approach to Digital Transformation

