INTERSESSIONAL PANEL OF THE UNITED NATIONS COMMISSION ON SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY FOR DEVELOPMENT (CSTD)

Geneva, Switzerland
7-8 November 2019

CSTD 2019-2020 priority theme on 'Exploring space technologies for sustainable development and the benefits of international research collaboration in this context'

Statement submitted by

International Telecommunication Union (ITU)

Theme 2: Exploring space technologies for sustainable development and the benefits of international research collaboration in this context

- As the UN's specialized agency for Information and Communication Technologies (ICTs), ITU through its Radiocommunication Sector (ITU-R) coordinates the shared global use of the radio spectrum and satellite orbits, works to improve telecommunication infrastructure in developing world, and assists in the development and coordination of worldwide technical standards.

- The discussion of these important issues, which is essential to extend the reach of ICTs to all corners of the world is currently ongoing at the World Radiocommunication Conference 2019 (WRC-19) in Egypt as we speak.

- Regarding space activities, ITU focuses on ensuring the essential services delivered over satellite systems can function without risk of 'harmful interference'. As the geostationary satellite orbit (GSO) becomes increasingly crowded, ITU's role in facilitating the coordination of satellites remains increasingly important.

- ITU has submitted its contribution document that covers ITU's activities and work on this particular theme: *Exploring space technologies for sustainable development and the benefits of international research collaboration in this context*. In this regard, we would like to highlight some of ITU's activities.

- The development and future deployment of non-Geostationary Orbit Satellite (non-GSO) FSS constellation is an example of service that will use space technology for sustainable development. Non-GSO have the potential to increase access to broadband infrastructure and bridge the digital divide, especially for the populations living in rural areas.

- Space-based connectivity is helping make smart societies a reality across all 17 Sustainable Development Goals (including intelligent transport systems, e-government, tele-education, e-health, e-logistics, smart energy, smart agriculture), in both developed and developing countries. These technologies are also facilitating advances in sustainability, banking, and diverse government services and are having a deep impact on several SDGs.

- Capacity-building and exchange of best practices on space services, including workshop, regional seminars and forums are important to leverage the potential of space technologies for sustainable development.

- Recent events organized by the ITU have covered topics such as: Satellite Communication technologies, markets and trends, regulations and policies. At ITU, the AI for Good

summits have a space track to promote global exchanges between stakeholders and push forward the requirements they may have at international level.

- At the request of Stakeholders, next year, the WSIS Forum 2020, scheduled on 6-9 April 2020 in Geneva, Switzerland will also feature a special track on Space and SDGs. The track aims to discuss the impact of space technology on SDGs and demystify some concepts for the wider WSIS stakeholder community.

- ITU is aiming forward to continue to use and improve satellite technologies and fair access to the orbit and spectrum resources at the international and national level to help connect the unconnected, and make the world a better and a fairer place for all.