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

**Geneva, Switzerland**
**17-19 November 2021**

**CSTD 2021-2022 priority theme on "Science, technology and innovation for sustainable urban development in a post-COVID world"**

Statement submitted by

International Telecommunication Union

**UNITED NATIONS COMMISSION ON SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY FOR DEVELOPMENT**

**CSTD 2021-2022 Intersessional Panel – 17-19 November 2021**

**PRIORITY THEME 2:** *STI for sustainable urban development in a post-COVID world*
*18 November 2021, 14:30-16:30 CET*

- Based on ITU's experience, one of the main challenges cities are facing when implementing digital technologies in response to the global pandemic and for sustainable development is the need to measure progress and align development strategies with the SDGs.

- United for Smart Sustainable Cities (U4SSC) is a UN initiative coordinated by ITU, UNECE and UN-Habitat and supported by other 14 United Nations agencies and programmes to achieve Sustainable Development Goal 11: "Make cities and human settlements inclusive, safe, resilient and sustainable". U4SSC has developed the Key Performance Indicators (KPIs) for Smart Sustainable Cities to support countries and cities in measuring the performance of their digital strategy. In response to the global pandemic, U4SSC has also created a thematic group on "economic recovery in cities and urban resilience building in the time of Covid-19".

- WSIS process, including WSIS Forum, WSIS Stocktaking, WSIS Prizes and its many special initiatives serve as examples of sharing best practices and discussing how ICTs are helping countries undertake transition towards urban sustainability so that cities are productive, inclusive, and liveable. A new repository was launched in April 2020 - WSIS Stocktaking Coronavirus Response – ICT Case Repository - that has been collecting projects and activities on how ICTs are assisting stakeholders in their everyday life, work, and combating challenges caused by the pandemic, including the impact on sustainable urban development.

- This year, the WSIS Forum 2021 conducted several workshops on the theme of Smart Cities, including a high-level session entitled Inclusive and responsible digitalization in the city engaging Mayors. Following the success of this session, the WSIS Forum 2022 will organize a Mayor's meeting to further discuss this important topic.

- The main lesson we could draw from the pandemic experience is that digital technologies, or STI, are a mean to achieve urban sustainability not a goal. Meaning that the global community needs to work together to build capacity and facilitate global learning that emphasize on solving common challenges, such as interoperability, and aligning sustainable urban development with the SDGs.

- ITU has provided significant support to countries and cities to leverage STI for sustainable development through standardization.

- ITU has submitted its inputs to the CSTD Secretariat that contain all ITU activities addressing the two priority themes and we would like to kindly request the CSTD Secretariat to make this contribution available online for further information.