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(CSTD)**

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**Submissions from entities in the United Nations system and elsewhere on
their efforts in 2018 to implement the outcome 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 22nd 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.

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Response to UNCTAD-CSTD request for WSIS Reporting 2018

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 and confirmed in ECOSOC Resolution 2017/21.

Part One: Executive Summary

The World Bank Group 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 this, in concert with other development partners, through its lending program (including credits and grants made available through the International Development Association), through its technical assistance program, through its analytical work program, and through private sector activities of the IFC. New initiatives in 2018 include the Digital Economy for All program, membership of the UN Broadband Commission and the launch of the Human Capital agenda. All WSIS stakeholders are invited to join the Digital Development Partnership, a multi-partner Trust Fund established with the aim strengthening the digital economy.

Part Two: Trends and Experiences in WSIS Implementation

Interest amongst the membership of the World Bank in the development of the Information Society, and in particular of the Digital Economy, continues to grow. To this end, in 2018, the World Bank formally separated the “Digital Development” team from the Transport and ICT Global Practice as a new Global Practice in its own right. The DD team continues to collaborate with other parts of the World Bank in WSIS implementation, notably the Finance, Competitiveness and Innovation (FCI) and Governance Global Practices, the Technology and Innovation Lab, and the Telecommunications Media and Technology (TMT) team within the International Finance Corporation (IFC).

During 2018, highlights have included:

- The release of the 2018 World Development Report on the **Future of Work**, in which the WBG launches its new Human Capital Index. The report recognizes, inter alia, that *“technology is creating opportunities, paving the way for new and altered jobs, increasing productivity, and improving the delivery of public services”*.
- The publication, in October 2018, of the WBG **“Information and Communications for Development 2018: Data-driven development”**, the fourth report in the flagship series, launched in 2018.
- The launch, at the 2018 Spring Meetings, of the **“Digital Economy for All”** initiative. Requests have been received from a number of countries to benefit from lending and technical assistance under the program. Interest in benefiting from the Digital Economy for All program has been expressed by a number of countries, including Ghana, Kenya, Lesotho, Rwanda, South Africa and the Seychelles.
- The WBG has formally joined the **UN Broadband Commission**, and has proposed a new working group, in partnership with other development partners, notably the African Union, to focus on

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doubling broadband connectivity in Africa. The expansion of the Digital Identification for Development (**ID4D**) program, with a new regional program lending launched in West Africa.

- The expansion, both in funding and membership, of the **Digital Development Partnership**, a multi-partner Trust Fund, established by the WBG, of its implementation of the 2016 World Development Report on *Digital Dividends*. Membership of the DDP is open to all development partners.
- New **digital development lending program** have been approved, or become effective, during 2018, including for eBurkina Faso (US\$20m), Digital Malawi (US\$72m), Kosovo Digital Economy (US\$25m), e-Agriculture in Cote d’Ivoire US\$70m) and Benin (US\$70m) and Additional Financing for connectivity programs in Burkina Faso (US\$21m) and the Union of the Comoros (US\$10m). New pipeline lending programs are under development, *inter alia*, in Niger, Cameroon, Tuvalu, Gabon, Nigeria, Central Asia and elsewhere.
- New analytical work, with funding notably from the DDP, published or underway in 2018 includes digital economy studies of Malaysia, the Russian Federation and Senegal as well as a new methodology for e-Government assessments and an analysis of innovative business models for broadband connectivity.
- Technical assistance programs in the field of digital development continues in a wide-range of countries. Of particular interest is the support the WBG is providing to the establishment of **new ICT regulatory authorities** in Ethiopia, Seychelles and Somalia.

Part Three: Ongoing and Future Initiatives

Among the different initiatives listed above, the DDP is particularly closely related to the WSIS action plan. During 2018, a third tranche of funding for DDP programs was launched in October 2018 at the DDP annual workshop, held in Seoul, Korea, on 16-17 October. The DDP windows can be matched to the WSIS Action Lines, as shown in the table below.

| DDP activity / Pillar | Corresponding WSIS action line(s) |
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| 1. Data and Indicators, including “Doing Business Digitally” and “IC4D2018: Data Driven Development”, New activities includes studying the regulation of disruptive technologies and operationalizing Big Data Analytics in WBG lending programs | Partnership for Measuring the Information Society C11 – International Co-operation |
| 2. Digital Economy Enabling Environment, including “Toolbox for the Digital Economy”. New country-specific programs are launched in South Africa, Egypt and Rwanda. | C6 – enabling environment |
| 3. Cybersecurity, including “Cybersecurity Maturity Model Assessments” and “Capacity-building for policy makers”. New activities launched in Brazil, India and Turkey. | C4 – capacity building C5 – Global culture of cybersecurity |
| 4. Internet for all, including “Innovative business models for closing the access gap”. New activities are launched in Ethiopia, which is undertaking a major reform of its telecom sector, and for a digital single market in East Africa. | C2 – Infrastructure |

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| <p>5. Digital Government, including “WDR16 MOOC” and “Digital Government Assessment Framework” to be tested in select countries based on strong counterpart’s demand. New activities are launched in Sri Lanka and Vietnam.</p> | <p>C3-Access to information and knowledge C4 – capacity building C6- enabling environment C7, eGovernment</p> |
| <p>6. Mainstreaming digital services, applications and platforms, including in the agriculture, transport and education sectors. New activities include the Lake Victoria cargo drone challenge and a digital skills initiative in Asia.</p> | <p>C3 – Access to information and knowledge C7 (all)</p> |

Among new initiatives, the proposed **UN Broadband Commission Working Group on connectivity in Africa**, formally launched on 11 December 2018, is likely to be of most interest to WSIS stakeholders. Home to the world’s youngest population, and with a combined population of over 1.2 billion people, Africa is ready for a digital transformation that could change the trajectory of the continent and provide much-needed jobs to the millions of young people who enter the workforce each year. But access to the internet remains out of reach for most people in the continent, with only 22% reporting having access in 2017. Too few citizens have digital IDs or mobile wallets – locking them out of access to critical services and e-commerce. Startups struggle to attract funding.

Under the leadership of the AU, we are working towards launching a new initiative, a Moonshot for digital transformation in Africa. . The Digital Moonshot for Africa will take a collective commitment by all African countries, development partners and the private sector to **massively scale up resources** dedicated to building the digital economy foundations at national level and create a Digital Single Market for Africa. It will require a concentrated effort to build up the core foundations of the digital economy including digital infrastructure and platforms, digital skills, digital financial services and an environment supportive of entrepreneurship.

The Bank is also joining the Task force for Digital Economy for Africa that is expected be launched on December 18, 2018 in the margins of the Africa EU Summit in Vienna with the objective to coordinate partners’ interventions in Africa.