COMMISSION ON SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY FOR DEVELOPMENT (CSTD)

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Submissions from entities in the United Nations system, international organizations and other stakeholders on the progress made in the implementation of the outcomes of the WSIS during the past 20 years

Submission by

International Telecommunication Union

This submission was prepared as an input to the report of the CSTD secretariat that will inform the substantive discussion at the CSTD on the progress made in the implementation of the outcomes of the WSIS during the past 20 years during its 28th annual session in April 2025, in response to the request by the Economic and Social Council, in its resolution E/RES/2023/3, to the CSTD to conduct such substantive discussions and to report thereon, through the Economic and Social Council, to the General Assembly.

WSIS+20 Reporting

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Date of response: 30 November 2024

I. What is your organisation's formal role and responsibilities concerning WSIS implementation?

a. Mandates of your organization relevant to the WSIS implementation:

The International Telecommunication Union (ITU) is a specialized agency of the United Nations responsible for issues related to information and communication technologies (ICTs). ITU's role in the implementation of the World Summit on the Information Society (WSIS) outcomes is multifaceted and comprehensive, reflecting its status as a leading UN agency in the field of digital technologies. The mandates of ITU relevant to WSIS implementation are extensive and include the following key responsibilities:

1. Governance and Resolutions: ITU's governance bodies, including the **Council Working Group on WSIS&SDG (CWG WSIS&SDG)**, **ITU Council**, and the **Plenipotentiary Conference (PP)**, play a crucial role in overseeing the implementation of WSIS outcomes.

- The **CWG WSIS&SDG** ensures continuous dialogue on WSIS follow-up activities, providing recommendations and ensures the alignment of ITU activities with the overall WSIS framework.
- The **ITU Council** provides the strategic direction and oversight of ITU's contributions to WSIS, aligning global efforts with broader ICT development goals.
- The **Plenipotentiary Conference** (the highest decision-making body) sets ITU's priorities and strategic direction, ensuring that its programs and activities remain relevant to the evolving global ICT landscape and the implementation of WSIS commitments.

ITU's leadership in WSIS implementation is reinforced by its governance under United Nations General Assembly (UNGA) and Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC) resolutions, as well as ITU's own resolutions on WSIS and the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). These resolutions provide a robust framework for ITU's activities and ensure alignment with global digital development goals. Key resolutions include:

- **UNGA Resolution 70/125**: This resolution outlines the overall review of the implementation of the WSIS outcomes and recognizes the crucial role of ITU in this process.
- **ECOSOC Resolution 2023/3**: This resolution assesses the progress made in the implementation of and follow-up to the outcomes of WSIS and highlights the importance of ITU's contributions.
- **ITU Plenipotentiary Conference Resolutions**: These resolutions, such as Resolution 140 (Rev. Bucharest, 2022) and ITU Council Resolution 1332 (modified 2024), and Resolution 1334 (modified 2023), define ITU's mandates and responsibilities in implementing WSIS outcomes.

2. Lead Facilitator for WSIS Action Lines: ITU is the lead facilitator for several critical WSIS Action Lines, which are essential for the implementation of the Geneva Plan of Action and the Tunis Agenda. These Action Lines address key areas such as infrastructure development, capacity building, cybersecurity, and regulatory environments. Specifically, ITU is the lead facilitator for:

- **Action Line C2: Information and Communication Infrastructure**: This Action Line focuses on the development of telecommunication/ICT infrastructure to bridge the digital divide and ensure universal access to ICTs. ITU's role includes providing technical support, developing standards, and promoting best practices for infrastructure deployment.
- **Action Line C4: Capacity Building**: This Action Line aims to enhance the capacity of individuals and institutions to effectively use ICTs. ITU's role involves developing training programs, providing educational resources, and facilitating knowledge sharing among stakeholders.
- **Action Line C5: Building Confidence and Security in the Use of ICTs**: This Action Line addresses the need for a secure and trustworthy digital environment. ITU's responsibilities include developing international cybersecurity standards, promoting national cybersecurity strategies, and supporting initiatives to protect children online.
- **Action Line C6: Enabling Environment**: This Action Line focuses on creating a conducive policy and regulatory environment for ICT development. ITU's role includes providing guidance on regulatory frameworks, promoting international cooperation, and supporting the development of policies that encourage investment in ICT infrastructure.

3. Co-Facilitator and Partner for Other WSIS Action Lines: In addition to its role as a lead facilitator, ITU also serves as a co-facilitator and partner for other WSIS Action Lines. This extensive involvement underscores ITU's comprehensive role in advancing the WSIS framework. ITU is a co-facilitator for:

- **Action Line C1: The Role of Public Governance Authorities and All Stakeholders in the Promotion of ICTs for Development**: ITU collaborates with other stakeholders to promote the role of public governance in ICT development.
- **Action Line C3: Access to Information and Knowledge**: ITU works to ensure that information and knowledge are accessible to all, promoting digital inclusion and literacy.
- **Action Line C7: ICT Applications**: This Action Line covers various ICT applications, including e-government, e-business, e-learning, e-health, e-employment, e-environment, e-agriculture, and e-science. ITU supports the development and implementation of these applications to enhance the quality of life and promote sustainable development.
- **Action Line C8: Cultural Diversity and Identity, Linguistic Diversity and Local Content:** ITU promotes multilingual digital content, supports local language content creation, and collaborates with stakeholders to preserve cultural heritage through digitization.
- **Action Line C9: Media:** ITU strengthens media infrastructure in developing countries, offering technical assistance for community radio and digital broadcasting, and provides training for media professionals in digital skills.
- **Action Line C10: Ethical Dimensions of the Information Society:** ITU develops guidelines and standards that promote ethical behavior in the use of ICTs. This includes guidelines on data privacy, cybersecurity, and the responsible use of AI and other emerging technologies.
- **Action Line C11: International and Regional Cooperation**: ITU fosters international and regional cooperation to address global ICT challenges and promote the sharing of best practices.

4. Hosting and Organizing WSIS Forums: Since 2009, ITU has been hosting the annual WSIS Forum, a global multistakeholder platform that facilitates the implementation of WSIS Action Lines for advancing sustainable development. The WSIS Forum brings together a diverse community of stakeholders, including governments, private sector, civil society, and international organizations, to engage in dialogue, share knowledge, and collaborate on ICT for development. The Forum serves as a key mechanism for the implementation of WSIS outcomes and the achievement of the SDGs.

5. WSIS Stocktaking and WSIS Prizes: In accordance with the Tunis Agenda, ITU has been maintaining the WSIS Stocktaking Database since 2004. This publicly accessible database collects ICT-related initiatives and projects with reference to the 11 WSIS Action Lines and 17 SDGs. The WSIS Stocktaking process has grown into an international repository of more than 13,000 entries, providing valuable insights into the development of ICTs and their impact on economic, social, cultural, and environmental aspects. ITU also issues global, regional, and

special WSIS Stocktaking reports, which serve as a valuable resource for understanding ICT development trends and best practices.

The WSIS Prizes contest, launched in 2012, is an integral part of the WSIS Stocktaking process. The contest recognizes excellence in the implementation of ICT projects and initiatives that further the goals of the WSIS process. With over 4,000 submitted projects and initiatives, the WSIS Prizes have attracted hundreds of thousands of stakeholders through its submission and online voting phases, reaching millions of people through the promotion of its outcomes and celebrations of winners and champions.

6. Partnership on Measuring ICT for Development: As an active member and Chair of the Steering Committee of the Partnership on Measuring ICT for Development, ITU has been instrumental in advancing the Partnership's goals and objectives. ITU provides internationally-agreed methodologies that enhance the quality and comparability of statistics on core indicators of ICT access and usage. ITU also organizes country and regional capacity-building workshops and trainings to empower countries to improve their ICT data collection and dissemination practices.

7. United Nations Group on the Information Society (UNGIS): Since its inception in 2006 UNGIS has played an important role in the WSIS process by fostering collaboration and partnerships among UN Chief Executives Board (CEB) members to achieve WSIS objectives. UNGIS helps keep ICT and science and technology issues at the top of the UN agenda and advocates for the implementation of ICT for development solutions in the programs of CEB members. ITU, as the permanent secretariat of UNGIS, has been instrumental in organizing joint thematic activities, meetings, open consultations, events, and joint statements, all accessible on the UNGIS website.

8. Advancing the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development: Since the adoption of the SDGs in 2015, ITU has played a crucial role in advancing the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. Guided by the WSIS outcomes, ITU leverages the transformative power of ICTs to benefit global societies and contribute to the realization of all SDGs. ITU's strategic plans, including the ITU Strategic Plan for 2024-2027 and the Connect 2030 Agenda, emphasize universal connectivity, digital inclusion, and sustainable digital transformation. ITU's activities align with the Political Declaration adopted at the SDG Summit in 2023, which reaffirms the commitment to bridging digital divides and promoting the benefits of digitalization.

9. Challenges and Opportunities: Over the past two decades, the WSIS process has proven to be a well-established and inclusive implementation framework for digital cooperation. ITU has continuously adapted to emerging trends and technological advances, such as Artificial Intelligence (AI), Internet of Things (IoT), and big data. As the UN agency for digital technologies, ITU is at the forefront of advocating for universal connectivity, bridging the digital divide, and ensuring that digital transformation is inclusive. ITU remains committed to

supporting stakeholders in navigating the challenges and opportunities of the digital world, ensuring that no one is left behind.

ITU's mandates relevant to WSIS implementation are extensive and multifaceted, encompassing leadership roles in facilitating key WSIS Action Lines, organizing the WSIS Forum, maintaining the WSIS Stocktaking Database, and advancing the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. ITU's comprehensive involvement in the WSIS process underscores its pivotal role in global digital development and its commitment to leveraging ICTs for sustainable development.

b. Brief History of your organization's contribution to the World Summit on the Information Society (WSIS):

ITU has played a pivotal role in the WSIS Process since its inception. The journey of ITU's contribution to WSIS is marked by significant milestones, extensive collaboration, and a steadfast commitment to leveraging ICTs for sustainable development. Here is a detailed history of ITU's involvement and contributions to WSIS:

1. Origins and Inception: The concept of WSIS was first introduced by Tunisia during the ITU Plenipotentiary Conference in 1998, held in Minneapolis, USA. Recognizing the transformative potential of ICTs, the conference adopted Resolution 73, which called for the organization of a World Summit on the Information Society. This resolution underscored the need for a global platform to address the challenges and opportunities presented by the information society.

2. United Nations Endorsement: In 2001, the United Nations General Assembly (UNGA) adopted Resolution 56/183, which endorsed the holding of WSIS in two phases. The resolution tasked ITU with the leading role in organizing the Summit, reflecting the organization's expertise and leadership in the field of ICTs. An Executive Secretariat (WSIS-ES) was established under the authority of the High-Level Summit Organizing Committee (HLSOC), chaired by the UN Secretary-General, to assist in the preparation of the Summit.

3. First Phase of WSIS (Geneva, 2003): The first phase of WSIS was held in Geneva, Switzerland, from December 10 to 12, 2003. This historic event brought together over 11,000 participants, including heads of state, government officials, private sector representatives, civil society organizations, and international organizations. The Geneva phase focused on developing a shared vision for the information society and establishing a framework for action. In the first phase of WSIS, ITU served as the key organizing body, overseeing the coordination of the event. ITU's role included facilitating discussions on the information society, helping to shape the shared vision, and working with other stakeholders to lay the groundwork for future action. The organization's leadership in managing the logistics, content, and outcomes of the summit was central to its success.

Key outcomes of the Geneva phase included:

- **Geneva Declaration of Principles**: This document outlined the fundamental principles for building an inclusive information society, emphasizing the importance of universal access to information and knowledge, freedom of expression, and the role of ICTs in achieving development goals.
- **Geneva Plan of Action**: This action plan identified 11 WSIS Action Lines, each addressing specific areas such as infrastructure development, capacity building, cybersecurity, and enabling environments. ITU was designated as the lead facilitator for several Action Lines, highlighting its central role in the implementation process.

4. Second Phase of WSIS (Tunis, 2005): The second phase of WSIS took place in Tunis, Tunisia, from November 16 to 18, 2005. Building on the outcomes of the Geneva phase, the Tunis phase aimed to further develop and implement the action plan, with a focus on bridging the digital divide and promoting ICTs for development.

ITU played a crucial role in coordinating the preparations and ensuring continuity from the Geneva phase. The organization helped advance the WSIS Action Plan by facilitating discussions on bridging the digital divide and promoting ICTs for development. ITU contributed to refining the action plan, defining concrete actions for implementation, and emphasizing the role of technology in achieving development goals, particularly in underserved regions. Additionally, ITU supported the establishment of follow-up mechanisms to monitor and build on the commitments made at the Tunis summit, ensuring long-term impact and progress in ICT development.

Key outcomes of the Tunis phase included:

- **Tunis Commitment**: This document reaffirmed the principles and goals established in Geneva and emphasized the need for international cooperation and solidarity to achieve an inclusive information society.
- **Tunis Agenda for the Information Society**: This agenda provided a comprehensive framework for the implementation of WSIS outcomes, including mechanisms for follow-up and review. It also established the Internet Governance Forum (IGF) as a multistakeholder platform for dialogue on internet governance issues.

5. WSIS+10 Review: The *Tunis Agenda for the Information Society*, which was agreed in the second phase of the Summit in 2005, requested the United Nations General Assembly to make an overall review of the implementation of WSIS outcomes in 2015. The WSIS+10 Process celebrated a decade since WSIS, a two-phase summit (2003-2005) that established the key issues, policies, and frameworks for addressing ICTs to promote development. A number of events and milestones took place as part of the preparatory process leading up to the high-level meeting. The WSIS+10 High-Level Event, held in 2014, and the subsequent UNGA High-Level Meeting in 2015, provided an opportunity to assess achievements, identify challenges, and set new priorities for the future.

In the WSIS+10 Review, ITU played a central role in leading the comprehensive review of the progress made in implementing WSIS outcomes. ITU coordinated the preparation and organization of the WSIS+10 High-Level Event in 2014, working with other stakeholders to assess the achievements and challenges since the original summit phases. ITU facilitated discussions on the future direction of the information society and contributed to the formulation of new priorities. In the subsequent UNGA High-Level Meeting in 2015, ITU helped to highlight the importance of ICTs in advancing sustainable development, emphasizing the ongoing relevance of WSIS goals and the need for continued global collaboration to address emerging challenges in the digital age.

Key outcomes of the WSIS+10 review included:

- **WSIS+10 Statement on the Implementation of WSIS Outcomes**: This statement highlighted the progress made in various areas, such as increased global connectivity, enhanced international cooperation, and the development of ICT infrastructure. It also identified ongoing challenges, including the persistent digital divide and the need for greater efforts to ensure cybersecurity and data privacy.
- **WSIS+10 Vision for WSIS Beyond 2015**: This vision document outlined the future direction of the WSIS process, emphasizing the importance of aligning WSIS outcomes with the SDGs and leveraging ICTs to achieve the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.
- Adoption of the **WSIS+10 Resolution (A/RES/70/125)** on 16 December 2015. This Resolution highlights highlights the commitment to a continued review process in 2025.

6. WSIS+20 Review: Resolution 70/125 calls for the General Assembly to convene a high-level meeting in 2025 to review the implementation of the World Summit on the Information Society outcomes (referred to as "WSIS+20"). This review will involve the contributions and participation of all stakeholders, including during the preparatory process, to assess progress, identify areas for ongoing focus, and address emerging challenges. In the WSIS+20 Review, ITU plays a key role in facilitating the comprehensive review of the WSIS process as part of its ongoing efforts to assess the implementation and impact of the WSIS outcomes. ITU, together with UNESCO, UNDP, UNDESA, UNCTAD, UNCSTD, and UN Regional Commissions, is engaged in coordinating the joint preparatory process, working with Member States and key stakeholders, to evaluate the progress made since the WSIS+10 review and identify new challenges and opportunities in the evolving information society. ITU hosted the WSIS+20 Forum High-Level Event 2024, co-hosted with the Swiss Confederation, and co-organized by ITU, UNESCO, UNDP, UNCTAD. This event aimed to ensure that the findings and recommendations from the review process feed into global digital governance discussions and align with key development frameworks, including the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. Building on this momentum, preparations are underway for the WSIS+20 High-

Level Event 2025, which will continue to drive these efforts and reinforce the WSIS process as a cornerstone of shaping an inclusive and sustainable global digital future. ITU continues to advancing the integration of emerging technologies, fostering digital inclusion, and leveraging ICT for sustainable development, ensuring the continued relevance of the WSIS process in shaping the global digital future.

c. Implementation processes and initiatives within your organization and/or in partnership with other organisations:

ITU has been at the forefront of implementing the outcomes of WSIS through a variety of processes and initiatives. These efforts are carried out both within the organization and in collaboration with a wide range of partners, including governments, private sector entities, civil society organizations, and other international organizations. Here is an in-depth look at the implementation processes and initiatives led by ITU:

1. WSIS Forum: The WSIS Forum is an annual event organized by ITU in collaboration with UNESCO, UNDP, and UNCTAD. It serves as a global multistakeholder platform for facilitating the implementation of WSIS Action Lines and advancing sustainable development. The Forum brings together a diverse community of stakeholders to engage in dialogue, share knowledge, and collaborate on ICT for development. Key features of the WSIS Forum include:

- **High-Level Policy Sessions**: These sessions provide a platform for high-level representatives from governments, international organizations, private sector, and civil society to discuss policy issues related to ICTs and development.
- **Thematic Workshops and Sessions**: These workshops and sessions cover a wide range of topics, including digital inclusion, cybersecurity, e-health, e-learning, and ICT infrastructure. They provide opportunities for stakeholders to share best practices, present case studies, and explore new solutions.
- **WSIS Prizes Ceremony**: The WSIS Prizes recognize and celebrate outstanding projects that leverage ICTs to advance sustainable development. The ceremony highlights the importance of ICTs in achieving development goals and promotes the replication of successful initiatives.

2. WSIS Stocktaking: The WSIS Stocktaking process, maintained by ITU since 2004, is a comprehensive database of ICT-related initiatives and projects. It serves as an international repository of best practices and successful projects that contribute to the implementation of WSIS outcomes and the achievement of the SDGs. Key aspects of the WSIS Stocktaking process include:

- **Database of Projects**: The WSIS Stocktaking database includes over 13,000 entries from around the world, covering a wide range of ICT-related initiatives. These projects are categorized according to the 11 WSIS Action Lines and the 17 SDGs.

- **Stocktaking Reports**: ITU publishes global, regional, and special WSIS Stocktaking reports that provide valuable insights into the development of ICTs and their impact on economic, social, cultural, and environmental aspects. These reports highlight trends, challenges, and opportunities in the ICT sector.
- **WSIS Prizes Contest**: The WSIS Prizes contest, launched in 2012, is an integral part of the WSIS Stocktaking process. It recognizes excellence in the implementation of ICT projects and initiatives that further the goals of the WSIS process. The contest has attracted over 4,000 submissions and has reached millions of people through its promotion and celebration of winners.
- **WSIS Photo Contest**: The WSIS Photo Contest provides a platform for stakeholders to visually showcase their ICT-related initiatives and their impact on communities. The contest aims to increase awareness about the role of ICTs in sustainable development and promote the diversity of ICT applications globally. Winning photographs are celebrated during WSIS events, offering visibility to impactful projects and inspiring further innovation.
- **WSIS Healthy Ageing Innovation Prize**: This prize acknowledges innovative ICT solutions that support healthy ageing and improve the quality of life for older adults. It highlights initiatives that leverage technology to address challenges such as accessibility, health monitoring, and social inclusion, aligning with the WSIS Action Lines and the SDGs.
- **WSIS Digital Service Design Prize**: This prize recognizes excellence in designing digital services that are user-centered, inclusive, and impactful. It celebrates projects that demonstrate creativity in addressing real-world challenges, ensuring accessibility and usability while promoting sustainable development through innovative ICT solutions.
- **WSIS Stocktaking Repository of Women in Technology**: At the request of and in collaboration with WSIS Stakeholders a repository of Women in Tech has been launched. The goal is to identify and connect women leaders and practitioners in all sectors of the ICT industry from all regions and engage them in events, forums and activities.

3. Partnership on Measuring ICT for Development: As an active member and Chair of the Steering Committee of the Partnership on Measuring ICT for Development, ITU has been instrumental in advancing the Partnership's goals and objectives. ITU provides internationally-agreed methodologies that enhance the quality and comparability of statistics on core indicators of ICT access and usage. Key activities under this partnership include:

- **Development of ICT Indicators**: ITU develops and promotes indicators that measure the level of ICT development in countries. These indicators are used to track progress, identify gaps, and inform policy decisions.

- **Capacity Building Workshops**: ITU organizes country and regional capacity-building workshops and trainings to empower countries to improve their ICT data collection and dissemination practices. These workshops provide participants with the skills and knowledge needed to produce reliable and comparable ICT statistics.

4. United Nations Group on the Information Society (UNGIS): Since its inception in 2006 at ITU headquarters, UNGIS has played an important role in the WSIS process by fostering collaboration and partnerships among UN Chief Executives Board (CEB) members to achieve WSIS objectives. UNGIS helps keep ICT and science and technology issues at the top of the UN agenda and advocates for the implementation of ICT for development solutions in the programs of CEB members. Key activities of UNGIS include:

- **Joint Thematic Activities**: UNGIS organizes joint thematic activities, meetings, open consultations, and events to promote collaboration and knowledge sharing among UN agencies. These activities address a wide range of topics, including digital inclusion, cybersecurity, and ICT infrastructure.
- **UNGIS Statements and Reports**: UNGIS issues joint statements and reports that highlight the importance of ICTs in achieving development goals and provide recommendations for advancing the WSIS process. These statements and reports are accessible on the UNGIS website.

5. Collaboration with Other International Organizations: ITU collaborates with a wide range of international organizations to advance the WSIS outcomes and promote ICT for development. As the facilitator of key WSIS Action Lines, ITU plays a central role in fostering partnerships that align with the principles of inclusivity, multistakeholder engagement, and innovation

ITU's implementation processes and initiatives are extensive and multifaceted, encompassing a wide range of activities that promote the use of ICTs for sustainable development. Through its leadership in organizing the WSIS Forum, maintaining the WSIS Stocktaking Database, promoting cybersecurity, and building capacity, ITU has made significant contributions to the implementation of WSIS outcomes. These efforts, carried out in collaboration with a diverse range of partners, underscore ITU's pivotal role in global digital development and its commitment to leveraging ICTs for the benefit of all.

II. What have been your organization's main contributions to the direct implementation of the WSIS outcomes and related areas of digital development since the Summit, particularly since 2015?

a. WSIS Action Lines (as lead, co-facilitator or supporting participant):

ITU has been instrumental in the direct implementation of the WSIS outcomes, particularly through its leadership and participation in various WSIS Action Lines. These Action Lines are

critical for advancing the goals of the Geneva Plan of Action and the Tunis Agenda, and they cover a wide range of areas essential for the development of the information society. Since 2015, ITU's contributions have been significant and multifaceted, reflecting its commitment to leveraging ICTs for sustainable development.

ITU WSIS Action Line Roadmaps for C2, C4, C5 and C6 are detailed plans to guide progress towards achieving the WSIS Implementation goals. They provide a broad vision and detailed overview of the activities planned within the mandate of the Union also showing clear linkages with the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).

In line with its mandate and the WSIS outcome documents, the ITU continues to play a key role in the WSIS implementation and follow-up process in particular, as the WSIS Action Lines Sole Facilitator for AL C2 (Information and Communication Infrastructure), AL C4 (Capacity Building), AL C5 (Building Confidence and Security in the Use of ICTs), and AL C6 (Enabling Environment).

With the aim of strengthening the implementation mechanism, ITU Council 2009 agreed on the framework for roadmaps of ITU's activities in its role as the sole facilitator for the above mentioned WSIS action lines in the implementation of WSIS up to 2015. ITU Council 2016 further highlighted the importance of continuing this exercise also in alignment with the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) till 2025. The roadmaps have been updated in accordance to the outcomes of the World Telecommunication Development Conference (WTDC-17).

Roadmaps are detailed plans to guide progress towards achieving the WSIS Implementation goals. They provide a broad vision and detailed overview of the activities planned within the mandate of the Union. Direct links between the activities and the strategic goals and relevant resolutions, programmes and initiatives of the ITU are highlighted that also clearly display the linkages with the SDGs. The roadmaps include timeframes, expected results, as well as list relevant partners. The roadmaps are living documents that will be updated regularly in an ongoing process.

- **Update of WSIS Action Line Roadmaps (2023)**
- **Update of WSIS Action Line Roadmaps (2019)**
- **Update of WSIS Action Line Roadmaps (2017)**
- **Update of WSIS Action Line Roadmaps (2016)**

1. Action Line C2: Information and Communication Infrastructure

As the lead facilitator for Action Line C2, ITU has focused on the development of telecommunication/ICT infrastructure to bridge the digital divide and ensure universal access to ICTs. Key contributions include:

- **Technical Support and Standards Development**: ITU provides continuous technical support to its member states, helping them develop and implement modern, secure, accessible, and affordable ICT infrastructure. ITU also develops international standards that ensure interoperability and quality of ICT services.
- **Infrastructure Deployment Initiatives**: ITU has been involved in numerous initiatives aimed at deploying ICT infrastructure in underserved and rural areas. For example, the GIGA initiative, launched in partnership with UNICEF, aims to connect every school to the internet, providing students with access to digital learning resources and opportunities.
- **Support for Internet Exchange Points (IXPs)**: ITU supports the establishment and development of IXPs, which are crucial for improving internet connectivity and reducing costs. IXPs facilitate the exchange of internet traffic locally, enhancing the efficiency and performance of internet services.

2. Action Line C4: Capacity Building

ITU is the lead facilitator for Action Line C4, which focuses on enhancing the capacity of individuals and institutions to effectively use ICTs. Key contributions include:

- **ITU Academy**: The ITU Academy is ITU's primary platform for capacity building and training in the field of ICTs. It offers a wide range of courses, workshops, and training programs to enhance the skills and knowledge of ICT professionals, policymakers, and other stakeholders. The ITU Academy engages over 45,000 learners from all member states.
- **Specialized Training Programs**: ITU offers specialized training programs on topics such as spectrum management, cybersecurity, quality of service, and digital skills. These programs are designed to address the specific needs of different target groups and ensure that they have the necessary skills to thrive in the digital economy.
- **Centres of Excellence**: ITU has established Centres of Excellence in various regions to provide high-quality training and capacity-building services. These centers collaborate with local institutions and experts to deliver training programs that are relevant to the regional context.

3. Action Line C5: Building Confidence and Security in the Use of ICTs

As the lead facilitator for Action Line C5, ITU promotes a safe and secure digital environment. Key contributions include:

- **Global Cybersecurity Agenda (GCA)**: The GCA is ITU's framework for promoting cybersecurity and building confidence in the use of ICTs. It addresses the growing challenges of cybersecurity and aims to build trust in digital technologies. ITU develops

international cybersecurity standards, promotes national cybersecurity strategies, and supports initiatives to protect children online.

- **Child Online Protection (COP)**: ITU's COP initiative aims to protect children from online risks and promote safe and responsible use of ICTs. It includes guidelines, training programs, and awareness campaigns to educate children, parents, and educators about online safety.
- **Cybersecurity Capacity Building**: ITU provides technical assistance and capacity-building support to member states to help them develop and implement effective cybersecurity measures. This includes training programs, workshops, and the development of national cybersecurity strategies.

4. Action Line C6: Enabling Environment

ITU is the lead facilitator for Action Line C6, which focuses on creating a conducive policy and regulatory environment for ICT development. Key contributions include:

- **Policy and Regulatory Guidance**: ITU provides guidance on regulatory frameworks and policies that promote ICT development. This includes best practices for fostering competition, ensuring universal access, and encouraging investment in ICT infrastructure.
- **Global Symposium for Regulators (GSR)**: The GSR is an annual event organized by ITU that brings together regulators from around the world to discuss policy and regulatory issues related to ICTs. The symposium provides a platform for sharing experiences, discussing challenges, and exploring solutions.
- **Digital Regulation Platform and Training**: ITU offers a digital regulation platform and training programs to help regulators develop the skills and knowledge needed to create effective regulatory environments. These programs cover topics such as spectrum management, competition policy, and consumer protection.

5. Action Line C1: The Role of Public Governance Authorities and All Stakeholders in the Promotion of ICTs for Development

As a co-facilitator for Action Line C1, ITU collaborates with other stakeholders to promote the role of public governance in ICT development. Key contributions include:

- **Public-Private Partnerships**: ITU promotes public-private partnerships to leverage the strengths of both sectors in advancing ICT development. These partnerships facilitate the sharing of resources, expertise, and best practices.
- **Policy Advocacy**: ITU advocates for policies that promote the use of ICTs for development. This includes policies that support digital inclusion, innovation, and the use of ICTs to achieve the SDGs.

6. Action Line C3: Access to Information and Knowledge

ITU is a co-facilitator for Action Line C3, which focuses on ensuring that information and knowledge are accessible to all. Key contributions include:

- **Digital Inclusion Initiatives**: ITU implements initiatives aimed at promoting digital inclusion and ensuring that everyone has access to information and knowledge. This includes programs that provide access to ICTs for underserved and marginalized communities.
- **Knowledge Sharing Platforms**: ITU provides platforms for knowledge sharing and collaboration among stakeholders. This includes the WSIS Forum, which brings together a diverse community of stakeholders to discuss and share best practices in ICT development.

7. Action Line C7: ICT Applications

As a co-facilitator for Action Line C7, ITU supports the development and implementation of various ICT applications. Key contributions include:

- **E-Government**: ITU supports the development of e-government services that enhance the efficiency and transparency of public administration. This includes initiatives that promote the use of ICTs in public service delivery.
- **E-Health**: ITU promotes the use of ICTs in healthcare to improve access to health services and enhance the quality of care. This includes telemedicine initiatives that provide remote healthcare services to underserved communities.
- **E-Learning**: ITU supports the development of e-learning platforms that provide access to education and training opportunities. This includes initiatives that promote digital literacy and lifelong learning.
- **E-Business**: ITU promotes the use of ICTs in business to enhance productivity and competitiveness. This includes initiatives that support the development of digital entrepreneurship and the use of ICTs in trade and commerce.
- **E-Agriculture**: ITU supports the use of ICTs in agriculture to improve productivity and sustainability. This includes initiatives that provide farmers with access to information and tools that enhance agricultural practices.
- **E-Environment**: ITU promotes the use of ICTs to address environmental challenges and promote sustainability. This includes initiatives that support the use of ICTs in environmental monitoring and management.
- **E-Science**: ITU supports the use of ICTs in scientific research and innovation. This includes initiatives that promote the use of ICTs in data collection, analysis, and dissemination.

8. Action Line C8: Cultural Diversity and Identity, Linguistic Diversity and Local Content: ITU promotes multilingual digital content, supports local language content creation, and collaborates with UNESCO to preserve cultural heritage through digitization.

- **Promotion of Multilingualism:** ITU supports initiatives that promote the use of multiple languages in digital content and services. This includes developing standards and guidelines for multilingual internet domain names and supporting the creation of local language content.
- **Cultural Preservation:** ITU collaborates with UNESCO and other organizations to promote the preservation of cultural heritage through digital means. This includes digitizing cultural artifacts and making them accessible online.
- **Local Content Development:** ITU encourages the development of local content by providing technical assistance and capacity-building support to content creators. This helps ensure that diverse cultural expressions are represented in the digital space.

9. Action Line C9: Media: ITU strengthens media infrastructure in developing countries, offering technical assistance for community radio and digital broadcasting, and provides training for media professionals in digital skills.

- **Media Development:** ITU supports the development of media infrastructure and services, particularly in developing countries. This includes providing technical assistance for the establishment of community radio stations and digital broadcasting services.
- **Freedom of Expression:** ITU collaborates with UNESCO and other organizations to promote freedom of expression and media pluralism. This includes advocating for policies that protect journalists and support independent media.
- **Capacity Building for Media Professionals:** ITU provides training and capacity-building programs for media professionals to enhance their skills in digital journalism, content creation, and media management. This helps ensure that media professionals can effectively use ICTs to produce high-quality content.

10. Action Line C10: Ethical Dimensions of the Information Society: ITU develops ethical ICT guidelines on data privacy, cybersecurity, and AI use, advocates for human rights online, and runs awareness campaigns on digital citizenship and online safety.

- **Ethical Guidelines and Standards:** ITU develops guidelines and standards that promote ethical behavior in the use of ICTs. This includes guidelines on data privacy, cybersecurity, and the responsible use of AI and other emerging technologies.
- **Human Rights and Privacy:** ITU collaborates with other organizations to promote the protection of human rights and privacy in the digital age. This includes advocating for policies that safeguard personal data and protect individuals' rights online.

- **Awareness and Education:** ITU conducts awareness campaigns and educational programs to promote ethical behavior in the use of ICTs. This includes initiatives to raise awareness about online safety, digital citizenship, and the ethical implications of emerging technologies.

11. Action Line C11: International and Regional Cooperation

As a co-facilitator for Action Line C11, ITU fosters international and regional cooperation to address global ICT challenges. Key contributions include:

- **Partnerships and Alliances**: ITU collaborates with a wide range of international and regional organizations to advance the WSIS outcomes and promote ICT for development. This includes partnerships with UNESCO, UNDP, UNCTAD, and other UN agencies.
- **Regional Initiatives**: ITU implements regional initiatives that address the specific ICT needs and challenges of different regions. These initiatives promote regional cooperation and the sharing of best practices.

12. WSIS-SDG Matrix

ITU developed the WSIS-SDG Matrix to map the contributions of WSIS Action Lines to specific SDGs. This tool provides a clear framework for assessing the impact of ICTs on sustainable development and identifying areas for further action. The WSIS-SDG Matrix highlights the interconnectedness of WSIS outcomes and the SDGs, demonstrating how ICTs can be leveraged to achieve sustainable development goals.

In summary, ITU's contributions to the WSIS Action Lines have been extensive and impactful, reflecting its commitment to leveraging ICTs for sustainable development. Through its leadership and participation in various Action Lines, ITU has made significant progress in advancing the goals of the Geneva Plan of Action and the Tunis Agenda. These efforts have been carried out in collaboration with a diverse range of partners, underscoring ITU's pivotal role in global digital development.

b. WSIS-related projects:

ITU has been at the forefront of implementing the WSIS outcomes through a variety of impactful projects. These projects span multiple areas, including infrastructure development, capacity building, cybersecurity, digital inclusion, and more. Since 2015, ITU has launched and supported numerous initiatives that have significantly advanced the goals of the WSIS process and contributed to global digital development. Here is an in-depth look at some of the key WSIS-related projects led by ITU (**full information provided by the Broadband Commission for Sustainable Development on its contribution to the implementation of WSIS Process is available in Annex**):

1. Connect 2030 Agenda: The Connect 2030 Agenda is ITU's strategic framework for bridging the digital divide and ensuring inclusive connectivity. It aligns with the SDGs and focuses on universal connectivity, digital inclusion, and sustainable digital transformation. Key initiatives under the Connect 2030 Agenda include:

- **Giga Initiative**: In partnership with UNICEF, ITU launched the Giga initiative to connect every school to the internet. This initiative aims to provide students with access to digital learning resources and opportunities, thereby enhancing education and promoting digital inclusion.
- **Partner2Connect Digital Coalition**: This coalition brings together stakeholders from various sectors to collaborate on projects that promote digital inclusion and connectivity. It focuses on mobilizing resources, sharing best practices, and fostering partnerships to achieve universal connectivity.

2. Global Cybersecurity Agenda: The Global Cybersecurity Agenda (GCA) is ITU's framework for promoting a safe and secure digital environment. It addresses the growing challenges of cybersecurity and aims to build confidence and trust in the use of ICTs. Key components of the GCA include:

- **Development of International Security Standards**: ITU develops and promotes international standards for cybersecurity, ensuring that ICT systems and networks are secure and resilient.
- **National Cybersecurity Strategies**: ITU supports countries in developing and implementing national cybersecurity strategies. This includes providing technical assistance, capacity building, and policy guidance.
- **Child Online Protection (COP)**: ITU's COP initiative aims to protect children from online risks and promote safe and responsible use of ICTs. It includes guidelines, training programs, and awareness campaigns to educate children, parents, and educators about online safety.

3. ITU Academy: The ITU Academy is ITU's primary platform for capacity building and training in the field of ICTs. It offers a wide range of courses, workshops, and training programs to enhance the skills and knowledge of ICT professionals, policymakers, and other stakeholders. Key features of the ITU Academy include:

- **Online and Blended Learning**: The ITU Academy provides online and blended learning opportunities, allowing participants to access training programs from anywhere in the world. This flexibility ensures that training is accessible to a wide audience.
- **Specialized Training Programs**: The ITU Academy offers specialized training programs on topics such as spectrum management, cybersecurity, quality of service, and digital skills. These programs are designed to address the specific needs of different target groups.

- **Centres of Excellence**: ITU has established Centres of Excellence in various regions to provide high-quality training and capacity-building services. These centers collaborate with local institutions and experts to deliver training programs that are relevant to the regional context.

4. Helping advance the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development: Since the adoption of the SDGs in 2015, ITU has played a crucial role in advancing the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. Guided by the WSIS outcomes, ITU leverages the transformative power of ICTs to benefit global societies and contribute to the realization of all SDGs. Key initiatives include:

- **WSIS-SDG Matrix**: ITU developed the WSIS-SDG Matrix to map the contributions of WSIS Action Lines to specific SDGs. This tool provides a clear framework for assessing the impact of ICTs on sustainable development and identifying areas for further action.
- **Connect 2030 Agenda**: ITU's Connect 2030 Agenda aligns with the SDGs and focuses on universal connectivity, digital inclusion, and sustainable digital transformation. This strategic framework guides ITU's activities and ensures that they contribute to the achievement of the 2030 Agenda.

5. EQUALS Global Partnership: The EQUALS Global Partnership is an initiative aimed at bridging the gender digital divide and promoting gender equality in the ICT sector. It brings together governments, private sector entities, civil society organizations, and international organizations to collaborate on projects that empower women and girls through ICTs. Key components of the EQUALS Global Partnership include:

- **Digital Skills Training**: EQUALS provides digital skills training programs for women and girls, helping them develop the skills needed to participate in the digital economy. These programs cover a wide range of topics, including coding, digital literacy, and entrepreneurship.
- **Research and Advocacy**: EQUALS conducts research on the gender digital divide and advocates for policies that promote gender equality in the ICT sector. This includes publishing reports, organizing events, and engaging with policymakers to raise awareness and drive change.
- **Mentorship and Networking**: EQUALS offers mentorship and networking opportunities for women and girls in the ICT sector. This includes connecting them with role models, providing career guidance, and facilitating networking events.

6. Digital Transformation Centres (DTC) Initiative: The Digital Transformation Centres (DTC) Initiative is a partnership between ITU and Cisco aimed at building digital skills and promoting digital inclusion. The initiative focuses on providing training and capacity-building services to underserved communities, helping them develop the skills needed to participate in the digital economy. Key features of the DTC Initiative include:

- **Training Programs**: The DTC Initiative offers a wide range of training programs on topics such as digital literacy, cybersecurity, and entrepreneurship. These programs are designed to address the specific needs of different target groups, including women, youth, and persons with disabilities.
- **Community Engagement**: The DTC Initiative engages with local communities to understand their needs and develop tailored training programs. This includes working with local partners, conducting needs assessments, and organizing community events.
- **Impact and Reach**: By 2023, the DTC Initiative had established over 20 Digital Transformation Centres in various regions, providing training to thousands of participants and promoting digital inclusion.

7. ITU Innovation Challenges: The ITU Innovation Challenges are a series of competitions that encourage innovation and entrepreneurship in the ICT sector. These challenges provide a platform for innovators and entrepreneurs to showcase their ideas, receive mentorship, and access funding opportunities. Key components of the ITU Innovation Challenges include:

- **Global Competitions**: The ITU Innovation Challenges include global competitions that attract participants from around the world. These competitions cover a wide range of topics, including digital inclusion, smart cities, and sustainable development.
- **Mentorship and Support**: Participants in the ITU Innovation Challenges receive mentorship and support from industry experts, helping them develop their ideas and bring them to market. This includes access to training programs, networking opportunities, and funding resources.
- **Showcasing Innovation**: The ITU Innovation Challenges provide a platform for showcasing innovative solutions and promoting best practices. This includes organizing events, publishing reports, and engaging with stakeholders to raise awareness and drive adoption of innovative solutions.

8. ITU-D Regional Initiatives: ITU-D Regional Initiatives are tailored projects that address the specific ICT needs and challenges of different regions. These initiatives promote regional cooperation and the sharing of best practices. Key components of ITU-D Regional Initiatives include:

- **Needs Assessments**: ITU conducts needs assessments to understand the specific ICT challenges and opportunities in different regions. This includes engaging with local stakeholders, conducting surveys, and analysing data.
- **Tailored Projects**: Based on the needs assessments, ITU develops tailored projects that address the specific ICT needs of each region.

c. Indicators used to measure the impact of ICT in the achievement of the SDGs in your organization's area of work:

ITU employs a variety of indicators to measure the impact of ICTs on the achievement of the SDGs. These indicators are essential for assessing progress, identifying gaps, and informing policy decisions. Since 2015, ITU has developed and utilized several key indicators and frameworks to track the contributions of ICTs to sustainable development. Here is an in-depth look at the indicators used by ITU:

1. ICT Development Index (IDI): The ICT Development Index (IDI) is a composite index that measures the level of ICT development in countries. It is one of the most widely recognized indicators used by ITU to assess the impact of ICTs on development. The IDI is composed of three sub-indices:

- **Access Sub-Index**: This sub-index measures the availability of ICT infrastructure and access to ICTs. It includes indicators such as the number of fixed-telephone subscriptions, mobile-cellular subscriptions, international internet bandwidth per user, and the percentage of households with a computer and internet access.
- **Use Sub-Index**: This sub-index measures the intensity of ICT usage. It includes indicators such as the percentage of individuals using the internet, fixed-broadband subscriptions, and mobile-broadband subscriptions.
- **Skills Sub-Index**: This sub-index measures the capability of individuals to effectively use ICTs. It includes indicators such as the adult literacy rate, gross enrollment ratios in secondary and tertiary education, and the proportion of the workforce with ICT skills.

The IDI provides a comprehensive overview of ICT development and allows for comparisons between countries and regions. It is used by policymakers, researchers, and international organizations to monitor progress and identify areas for improvement.

2. WSIS-SDG Matrix: The WSIS-SDG Matrix is a tool developed by ITU to map the contributions of WSIS Action Lines to specific SDGs. This matrix provides a clear framework for assessing the impact of ICTs on sustainable development and identifying areas for further action. The WSIS-SDG Matrix highlights the interconnectedness of WSIS outcomes and the SDGs, demonstrating how ICTs can be leveraged to achieve sustainable development goals.

The matrix maps each WSIS Action Line to the relevant SDGs, showing how the implementation of WSIS outcomes contributes to the achievement of the SDGs. For example, Action Line C2 (Information and Communication Infrastructure) is mapped to SDG 9 (Industry, Innovation, and Infrastructure), while Action Line C4 (Capacity Building) is mapped to SDG 4 (Quality Education).

3. Global ICT Regulatory Outlook: The Global ICT Regulatory Outlook is an annual report published by ITU that provides an overview of the regulatory landscape for ICTs. It includes indicators that measure the effectiveness of regulatory frameworks and their impact on ICT development. Key indicators used in the Global ICT Regulatory Outlook include:

- **Regulatory Authority Independence**: This indicator measures the degree of independence of the national regulatory authority from government and industry influence. It is essential for ensuring fair and transparent regulation of the ICT sector.
- **Regulatory Framework for Competition**: This indicator assesses the effectiveness of the regulatory framework in promoting competition in the ICT sector. It includes measures such as the presence of competition laws, the existence of a competitive market structure, and the enforcement of anti-competitive practices.
- **Consumer Protection and Quality of Service**: This indicator measures the effectiveness of regulatory measures in protecting consumers and ensuring quality of service. It includes measures such as the presence of consumer protection laws, the availability of dispute resolution mechanisms, and the monitoring of service quality.

The Global ICT Regulatory Outlook provides valuable insights into the regulatory environment for ICTs and helps policymakers identify best practices and areas for improvement.

4. ICT Price Basket (IPB): The ICT Price Basket (IPB) is an indicator developed by ITU to measure the affordability of ICT services. It is a composite index that includes the prices of fixed-telephone, mobile-cellular, and fixed-broadband services. The IPB is expressed as a percentage of gross national income (GNI) per capita, allowing for comparisons between countries and regions. Key features of the IPB include:

- The IPB provides a measure of the affordability of ICT services, which is essential for ensuring universal access to ICTs. It helps policymakers identify barriers to affordability and develop strategies to reduce the cost of ICT services.
- The IPB allows for comparisons of ICT service prices across countries and regions, providing insights into the relative affordability of ICT services. This information is valuable for benchmarking and identifying best practices.

5. Global Cybersecurity Index (GCI): The Global Cybersecurity Index (GCI) is an indicator developed by ITU to measure the commitment of countries to cybersecurity. It assesses the level of cybersecurity development in countries based on five pillars: legal measures, technical measures, organizational measures, capacity building, and cooperation. Key features of the GCI include:

- The GCI provides a comprehensive assessment of the commitment of countries to cybersecurity. It includes indicators such as the presence of cybersecurity laws, the establishment of national cybersecurity agencies, the implementation of cybersecurity standards, and the availability of cybersecurity training programs.
- The GCI allows for comparisons of cybersecurity development across countries and regions, providing insights into the relative strengths and weaknesses of national cybersecurity frameworks. This information is valuable for benchmarking and identifying best practices.

6. ICT Regulatory Tracker: The Tracker is a tool developed by ITU to monitor and assess the regulatory environment for ICTs. It includes indicators that measure the effectiveness of regulatory frameworks and their impact on ICT development. Key features of the ICT Regulatory Tracker include:

- The ICT Regulatory Tracker provides a comprehensive assessment of the regulatory frameworks for ICTs in countries. It includes indicators such as the presence of competition laws, the independence of regulatory authorities, and the effectiveness of consumer protection measures.
- The ICT Regulatory Tracker allows for comparisons of regulatory frameworks across countries and regions, providing insights into the relative strengths and weaknesses of national regulatory environments. This information is valuable for benchmarking and identifying best practices.

7. Partnership on Measuring ICT for Development: As an active member and Chair of the Steering Committee of the Partnership on Measuring ICT for Development, ITU has been instrumental in advancing the Partnership's goals and objectives. The Partnership provides internationally-agreed methodologies that enhance the quality and comparability of statistics on core indicators of ICT access and usage. Key activities under this partnership include:

- The Partnership develops and promotes indicators that measure the level of ICT development in countries. These indicators are used to track progress, identify gaps, and inform policy decisions.
- The Partnership organizes country and regional capacity-building workshops and trainings to empower countries to improve their ICT data collection and dissemination practices. These workshops provide participants with the skills and knowledge needed to produce reliable and comparable ICT statistics.

8. ICT Data and Statistics: the ICT Data and Statistics Division of ITU is responsible for collecting, analysing, and disseminating data on ICT development. The division produces a wide range of indicators that measure the impact of ICTs on development. Key activities of the ICT Data and Statistics Division include:

- The division collects data on ICT development from countries around the world. This data is analysed to produce indicators that measure the impact of ICTs on development.
- The division publishes reports that provide insights into the state of ICT development worldwide. These reports include the MISR, the Global ICT Regulatory Outlook, and the WSIS Stocktaking reports.
- The division provides capacity-building support to countries to help them improve their ICT data collection and dissemination practices. This includes training programs, workshops, and technical assistance.

In summary, ITU employs a variety of indicators to measure the impact of ICTs on the achievement of the SDGs. These indicators provide valuable insights into the state of ICT development, identify areas for improvement, and inform policy decisions. Through its work on the IDI, the WSIS-SDG Matrix, the Global ICT Regulatory Outlook, the IPB, the GCI, the ICT Regulatory Tracker, the Partnership on Measuring

d. What assessment has your organization made of its engagement in WSIS-related work and digital development in its areas of responsibility?

ITU has conducted comprehensive assessments of its engagement in WSIS-related work and digital development across its areas of responsibility. These assessments are crucial for understanding the impact of ITU's initiatives, identifying areas for improvement, and ensuring that the organization's efforts align with the goals of the WSIS and the SDGs. Here is an in-depth look at the assessments ITU has made:

1. Annual WSIS Forum Outcome Documents: The WSIS Forum, organized annually by ITU, serves as a key platform for stakeholders to engage in dialogue, share knowledge, and collaborate on ICT for development. Each year, the outcomes of the WSIS Forum are documented in comprehensive reports that provide insights into the progress made in implementing WSIS outcomes. These outcome documents include:

- **Summary of Discussions**: The outcome documents summarize the discussions held during the WSIS Forum, highlighting key themes, challenges, and opportunities. They provide an overview of the contributions made by various stakeholders and the consensus reached on critical issues.
- **Action Points and Recommendations**: The outcome documents include action points and recommendations for advancing the WSIS process. These recommendations are based on the inputs from participants and are aimed at guiding future actions and initiatives.
- **Assessment of Progress**: The outcome documents assess the progress made in implementing WSIS Action Lines and achieving the SDGs. They provide a detailed analysis of the achievements, challenges, and areas for further action.

2. ITU Contribution to the Implementation of the WSIS Outcomes Reports: ITU publishes annual reports that detail its contributions to the implementation of WSIS outcomes. These reports provide a comprehensive assessment of ITU's activities and their impact on digital development. Key components of these reports include:

- **Overview of ITU's Activities**: The reports provide an overview of ITU's activities related to WSIS implementation, including initiatives, projects, and partnerships. They highlight the key achievements and milestones reached during the reporting period.

- **Impact Assessment**: The reports assess the impact of ITU's activities on digital development. This includes an analysis of the outcomes of specific projects, the progress made in achieving WSIS Action Lines, and the contributions to the SDGs.
- **Challenges and Lessons Learned**: The reports identify the challenges encountered in implementing WSIS outcomes and the lessons learned from ITU's experiences. This information is valuable for informing future actions and improving the effectiveness of ITU's initiatives.

3. WSIS Stocktaking Reports: The WSIS Stocktaking process, maintained by ITU since 2004, is a comprehensive database of ICT-related initiatives and projects. ITU publishes global, regional, and special WSIS Stocktaking reports that provide valuable insights into the development of ICTs and their impact on economic, social, cultural, and environmental aspects. Key features of the WSIS Stocktaking reports include:

- **Analysis of Trends and Developments**: The reports analyze trends and developments in the ICT sector, highlighting the progress made in implementing WSIS outcomes. They provide an overview of the key projects and initiatives that have contributed to digital development.
- **Case Studies and Best Practices**: The reports include case studies and best practices that showcase successful ICT projects and initiatives. These examples provide valuable insights into the factors that contribute to the success of ICT projects and can be replicated in other contexts.
- **Assessment of Impact**: The reports assess the impact of ICT projects on various aspects of development, including economic growth, social inclusion, and environmental sustainability. They provide a detailed analysis of the contributions of ICTs to the SDGs.

4. Global ICT Regulatory Outlook: The Global ICT Regulatory Outlook is an annual report published by ITU that provides an overview of the regulatory landscape for ICTs. It includes indicators that measure the effectiveness of regulatory frameworks and their impact on ICT development. Key components of the Global ICT Regulatory Outlook include:

- **Assessment of Regulatory Frameworks**: The report assesses the regulatory frameworks for ICTs in different countries, highlighting best practices and areas for improvement. It provides insights into the effectiveness of regulatory measures in promoting competition, protecting consumers, and ensuring quality of service.
- **Impact on ICT Development**: The report analyzes the impact of regulatory frameworks on ICT development, including the availability and affordability of ICT services, the level of competition in the ICT sector, and the protection of consumer rights.
- **Recommendations for Policymakers**: The report provides recommendations for policymakers on how to improve regulatory frameworks to promote ICT development.

These recommendations are based on the analysis of regulatory practices and their impact on the ICT sector.

5. ICT Development Index (IDI): The ICT Development Index (IDI) is a composite index that measures the level of ICT development in countries. It is one of the most widely recognized indicators used by ITU to assess the impact of ICTs on development. The IDI is composed of three sub-indices:

- **Access Sub-Index**: This sub-index measures the availability of ICT infrastructure and access to ICTs. It includes indicators such as the number of fixed-telephone subscriptions, mobile-cellular subscriptions, international internet bandwidth per user, and the percentage of households with a computer and internet access.
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- **Skills Sub-Index**: This sub-index measures the capability of individuals to effectively use ICTs. It includes indicators such as the adult literacy rate, gross enrollment ratios in secondary and tertiary education, and the proportion of the workforce with ICT skills.

The IDI provides a comprehensive overview of ICT development and allows for comparisons between countries and regions. It is used by policymakers, researchers, and international organizations to monitor progress and identify areas for improvement.

6. Global Cybersecurity Index (GCI): The Global Cybersecurity Index (GCI) is an indicator developed by ITU to measure the commitment of countries to cybersecurity. It assesses the level of cybersecurity development in countries based on five pillars: legal measures, technical measures, organizational measures, capacity building, and cooperation. Key features of the GCI include:

- **Assessment of Cybersecurity Commitment**: The GCI provides a comprehensive assessment of the commitment of countries to cybersecurity. It includes indicators such as the presence of cybersecurity laws, the establishment of national cybersecurity agencies, the implementation of cybersecurity standards, and the availability of cybersecurity training programs.
- **Comparisons Across Countries and Regions**: The GCI allows for comparisons of cybersecurity development across countries and regions, providing insights into the relative strengths and weaknesses of national cybersecurity frameworks. This information is valuable for benchmarking and identifying best practices.

7. ICT Regulatory Tracker: The ICT Regulatory Tracker is a tool developed by ITU to monitor and assess the regulatory environment for ICTs. It includes indicators that measure the

effectiveness of regulatory frameworks and their impact on ICT development. Key features of the ICT Regulatory Tracker include:

- **Assessment of Regulatory Frameworks**: The ICT Regulatory Tracker provides a comprehensive assessment of the regulatory frameworks for ICTs in countries. It includes indicators such as the presence of competition laws, the independence of regulatory authorities, and the effectiveness of consumer protection measures.
- **Comparisons Across Countries and Regions**: The ICT Regulatory Tracker allows for comparisons of regulatory frameworks across countries and regions, providing insights into the relative strengths and weaknesses of national regulatory environments. This information is valuable for benchmarking and identifying best practices.

8. Partnership on Measuring ICT for Development: As an active member and Chair of the Steering Committee of the Partnership on Measuring ICT for Development, ITU has been instrumental in advancing the Partnership's goals and objectives. The Partnership provides internationally-agreed methodologies that enhance the quality and comparability of statistics on core indicators of ICT access and usage. Key activities under this partnership include:

- **Development of ICT Indicators**: The Partnership develops and promotes indicators that measure the level of ICT development in countries. These indicators are used to track progress, identify gaps, and inform policy decisions.
- **Capacity Building Workshops**: The Partnership organizes country and regional capacity-building workshops and trainings to empower countries to improve their ICT data collection and dissemination practices. These workshops provide participants with the skills and knowledge needed to produce reliable and comparable ICT statistics.

9. Digital Inclusion and Accessibility Assessments: ITU conducts assessments of its digital inclusion and accessibility initiatives to ensure that they effectively promote digital inclusion and address the needs of underserved and marginalized communities. ITU evaluates the impact of its digital inclusion projects, such as the EQUALS Global Partnership and the Digital Transformation Centres (DTC

III. What does your organization see as the main achievements, problems and emerging issues arising from WSIS and from digital development in its areas of responsibility since the Summit, particularly since 2015?

a. What have been the main achievements of WSIS and digital development?

Since WSIS was held in two phases in 2003 and 2005, the ITU has been at the forefront of implementing the WSIS outcomes and advancing digital development globally. The period

since 2015, in particular, has seen significant achievements in various areas of ICT development, driven by ITU's initiatives and collaborations with multiple stakeholders. Here are the main achievements of WSIS and digital development in ITU's areas of responsibility:

1. Enhanced Global Connectivity: One of the most significant achievements of WSIS and digital development has been the dramatic increase in global connectivity. Key milestones include:

- **Internet Penetration**: Internet usage has increased from 16% in 2005 to 69% by the end of 2024. This growth has been driven by the expansion of broadband infrastructure, the proliferation of mobile technologies, and efforts to make internet access more affordable and accessible.
- **Mobile Connectivity**: The number of mobile-cellular subscriptions worldwide has surpassed 8 billion, indicating that mobile connectivity has become nearly ubiquitous. Mobile broadband subscriptions have also seen substantial growth, providing high-speed internet access to billions of people.
- **Rural Connectivity**: Significant progress has been made in extending connectivity to rural and underserved areas. Initiatives such as the GIGA project, which aims to connect every school to the internet, have played a crucial role in bridging the digital divide and ensuring that rural communities have access to digital opportunities.

2. Development of ICT Infrastructure: The development of robust ICT infrastructure has been a cornerstone of WSIS outcomes. Key achievements include:

- **Broadband Networks**: The deployment of broadband networks has expanded significantly, providing high-speed internet access to more people. This includes both fixed-broadband and mobile-broadband networks, which have been essential for supporting digital services and applications.
- **Internet Exchange Points (IXPs)**: The establishment and development of IXPs have improved internet connectivity and reduced costs by facilitating the local exchange of internet traffic. IXPs have enhanced the efficiency and performance of internet services, particularly in developing countries.
- **Satellite Connectivity**: Advances in satellite technology have expanded connectivity to remote and hard-to-reach areas. Satellite networks have provided critical communication links for disaster response, remote education, and telemedicine.

3. Capacity Building and Digital Skills Development: Building the capacity of individuals and institutions to effectively use ICTs has been a key focus of WSIS outcomes. Key achievements include:

- **ITU Academy**: The ITU Academy has provided training and capacity-building programs to over 45,000 learners from all member states. These programs cover a wide range of

topics, including spectrum management, cybersecurity, quality of service, and digital skills.

- **Centres of Excellence**: ITU has established Centres of Excellence in various regions to provide high-quality training and capacity-building services. These centers collaborate with local institutions and experts to deliver training programs that are relevant to the regional context.
- **Digital Skills Training**: Initiatives such as the EQUALS Global Partnership have provided digital skills training to women and girls, helping them develop the skills needed to participate in the digital economy. These programs have empowered thousands of women and girls, promoting gender equality in the ICT sector.

4. Promotion of Cybersecurity: Ensuring a safe and secure digital environment has been a critical aspect of WSIS outcomes. Key achievements include:

- **Global Cybersecurity Agenda (GCA)**: The GCA has provided a comprehensive framework for promoting cybersecurity and building confidence in the use of ICTs. ITU has developed international cybersecurity standards, supported the implementation of national cybersecurity strategies, and promoted initiatives to protect children online.
- **Child Online Protection (COP)**: The COP initiative has raised awareness about online risks and promoted safe and responsible use of ICTs among children, parents, and educators. The initiative has reached millions of children worldwide, contributing to safer online environments.
- **Cybersecurity Capacity Building**: ITU has provided technical assistance and capacity-building support to member states to help them develop and implement effective cybersecurity measures. This includes training programs, workshops, and the development of national cybersecurity strategies.

5. Digital Inclusion and Accessibility: Promoting digital inclusion and ensuring that everyone has access to ICTs has been a central goal of WSIS outcomes. Key achievements include:

- **Digital Inclusion Projects**: ITU has implemented numerous projects aimed at promoting digital inclusion for underserved and marginalized communities. These projects have provided access to ICTs for people with disabilities, indigenous communities, and rural populations.
- **Accessibility Standards**: ITU has developed international standards for ICT accessibility, ensuring that ICT products and services are accessible to all individuals, regardless of their abilities. These standards have been adopted by countries worldwide, promoting inclusive digital environments.

- **EQUALS Global Partnership**: The EQUALS Global Partnership has worked to bridge the gender digital divide by providing digital skills training, mentorship, and networking opportunities for women and girls. The partnership has empowered thousands of women and girls, promoting gender equality in the ICT sector.

6. Advancements in E-Applications: The development and implementation of various e-applications have been significant achievements of WSIS outcomes. Key areas include:

- **E-Government**: The adoption of e-government services has enhanced the efficiency and transparency of public administration. Governments worldwide have implemented digital platforms for public service delivery, enabling citizens to access services online.
- **E-Health**: The use of ICTs in healthcare has improved access to health services and enhanced the quality of care. Telemedicine initiatives have provided remote healthcare services to underserved communities, particularly during the COVID-19 pandemic.
- **E-Learning**: The development of e-learning platforms has provided access to education and training opportunities for millions of learners. These platforms have promoted digital literacy and lifelong learning, contributing to the achievement of SDG 4 (Quality Education).
- **E-Business**: The use of ICTs in business has enhanced productivity and competitiveness. Digital entrepreneurship initiatives have supported the development of digital startups and the use of ICTs in trade and commerce.
- **E-Agriculture**: The use of ICTs in agriculture has improved productivity and sustainability. Initiatives such as precision farming and mobile agricultural services have provided farmers with access to information and tools that enhance agricultural practices.
- **E-Environment**: The use of ICTs to address environmental challenges and promote sustainability has been a key achievement. ICTs have been used for environmental monitoring, disaster response, and the promotion of green technologies.

7. International and Regional Cooperation: Fostering international and regional cooperation has been a cornerstone of WSIS outcomes. Key achievements include:

- **Partnerships and Alliances**: ITU has collaborated with a wide range of international and regional organizations to advance the WSIS outcomes and promote ICT for development. This includes partnerships with UNESCO, UNDP, UNCTAD, and other UN agencies.

- **Regional Initiatives**: ITU has implemented regional initiatives that address the specific ICT needs and challenges of different regions. These initiatives have promoted regional cooperation and the sharing of best practices.
- **UNGIS**: The United Nations Group on the Information Society (UNGIS) has played an important role in fostering collaboration and partnerships among UN agencies to achieve WSIS objectives. ITU, as the permanent secretariat of UNGIS, has been instrumental in organizing joint thematic activities, meetings, and events.

8. Measurement and Monitoring of ICT Development: The development of indicators and tools to measure and monitor ICT development has been a significant achievement of WSIS outcomes. Key contributions include:

- **ICT Development Index (IDI)**: The IDI is a composite index that measures the level of ICT development in countries. It provides a comprehensive overview of ICT development and allows for comparisons between countries and regions.
- **Global Cybersecurity Index (GCI)**: The GCI measures the commitment of countries to cybersecurity. It assesses the level of cybersecurity development based on legal measures, technical measures, organizational measures, capacity building, and cooperation.
- **ICT Price Basket (IPB)**: The IPB measures the affordability of ICT services. It is a composite index that includes the prices of fixed-telephone, mobile-cellular, and fixed-broadband services.
- **WSIS-SDG Matrix**: The WSIS-SDG Matrix maps the contributions of WSIS Action Lines to specific SDGs. It provides a clear framework for assessing the impact of ICTs on sustainable development and identifying areas for further action.

9. WSIS Stocktaking and WSIS Prizes: The WSIS Stocktaking process, maintained by ITU since 2004, is a comprehensive database of ICT-related initiatives and projects. It serves as an international repository of best practices and successful projects that contribute to the implementation of WSIS outcomes and the achievement of the SDGs. Key aspects of the WSIS Stocktaking process include:

- **Database of Projects**: The WSIS Stocktaking database includes over 13,000 entries from around the world, covering a wide range of ICT-related initiatives. These projects are categorized according to the 11 WSIS Action Lines and the 17 SDGs.
- **Stocktaking Reports**: ITU publishes global, regional, and special WSIS Stocktaking reports that provide valuable insights into the development of ICTs and their impact on economic, social, cultural, and environmental aspects. These reports highlight trends, challenges, and opportunities in the ICT sector.

- **WSIS Prizes Contest**: The WSIS Prizes contest, launched in 2012, is an integral part of the WSIS Stocktaking process. It recognizes excellence in the implementation of ICT projects and initiatives that further the goals of the WSIS process. The contest

b. What problems, obstacles and constraints have been encountered in the last 20 years?

Over the past two decades, the implementation of the World Summit on the Information Society (WSIS) outcomes and the advancement of digital development have faced numerous challenges. These problems, obstacles, and constraints have impacted the progress and effectiveness of various initiatives aimed at leveraging information and communication technologies (ICTs) for sustainable development. The International Telecommunication Union (ITU) has identified several key issues that have arisen during this period:

1. Persistent Digital Divide: Despite significant progress in expanding connectivity and access to ICTs, a persistent digital divide remains a major challenge. Key aspects of this issue include:

- **Geographical Disparities**: There are significant disparities in ICT access and usage between urban and rural areas. Rural and remote communities often lack the necessary infrastructure and resources to access digital services, leading to a gap in digital inclusion.
- **Socioeconomic Inequalities**: Socioeconomic factors, such as income levels and education, continue to influence access to ICTs. Low-income households and individuals with lower levels of education are less likely to have access to digital technologies, exacerbating existing inequalities.
- **Gender Digital Divide**: Women and girls, particularly in developing countries, face barriers to accessing and using ICTs. Cultural norms, safety concerns, and limited access to education and training contribute to the gender digital divide.

2. Infrastructure Challenges: The development and maintenance of ICT infrastructure pose significant challenges, particularly in underserved and remote areas. Key issues include:

- **High Costs**: The deployment of ICT infrastructure, such as broadband networks and satellite connectivity, requires substantial investment. High costs can be a barrier to infrastructure development, especially in low-income countries and rural areas.
- **Technical and Logistical Barriers**: Building and maintaining ICT infrastructure in remote and hard-to-reach areas can be technically and logistically challenging. Factors such as difficult terrain, lack of access to electricity, and extreme weather conditions can hinder infrastructure projects.
- **Sustainability and Maintenance**: Ensuring the sustainability and maintenance of ICT infrastructure is crucial for long-term connectivity. However, limited financial and

technical resources can make it difficult to maintain and upgrade infrastructure over time.

3. Cybersecurity Threats: The increasing reliance on digital technologies has led to a rise in cybersecurity threats, posing significant risks to individuals, organizations, and governments. Key challenges include:

- **Cyber Attacks**: Cyber attacks, such as hacking, phishing, and ransomware, have become more frequent and sophisticated. These attacks can disrupt services, compromise sensitive data, and cause financial losses.
- **Lack of Cybersecurity Awareness**: Many individuals and organizations lack awareness of cybersecurity best practices, making them vulnerable to cyber threats. There is a need for greater education and training on cybersecurity measures.
- **Inadequate Cybersecurity Measures**: Some countries and organizations have inadequate cybersecurity measures in place, leaving them exposed to cyber threats. Developing and implementing effective cybersecurity strategies and standards is essential for protecting digital assets.

4. Regulatory and Policy Challenges: Creating a conducive regulatory and policy environment for ICT development is essential for promoting digital inclusion and innovation. However, several challenges have been encountered in this area:

- **Regulatory Fragmentation**: Differences in regulatory frameworks and policies across countries can create barriers to ICT development and cross-border collaboration. Harmonizing regulations and promoting international cooperation are important for addressing this issue.
- **Outdated Policies**: Rapid technological advancements can outpace the development of regulatory and policy frameworks. Outdated policies may not adequately address emerging issues, such as data privacy, artificial intelligence, and digital trade.
- **Balancing Regulation and Innovation**: Striking the right balance between regulation and innovation is a challenge. Overly restrictive regulations can stifle innovation, while insufficient regulation can lead to risks and uncertainties.

5. Digital Literacy and Skills Gaps: Digital literacy and skills are critical for individuals to effectively use ICTs and participate in the digital economy. However, gaps in digital literacy and skills remain a significant challenge:

- **Lack of Access to Education and Training**: Many individuals, particularly in developing countries, lack access to education and training opportunities that can help them develop digital skills. This limits their ability to benefit from digital technologies.
- **Rapid Technological Changes**: The fast pace of technological change can make it difficult for individuals to keep up with new developments and acquire the necessary

skills. Continuous learning and upskilling are essential for staying relevant in the digital economy.

- **Disparities in Digital Skills**: There are disparities in digital skills across different demographic groups, such as age, gender, and socioeconomic status. Addressing these disparities is important for promoting digital inclusion and equity.

6. Financial Constraints: Limited financial resources can hinder the implementation of ICT projects and initiatives. Key financial challenges include:

- **Funding Gaps**: Securing adequate funding for ICT projects, particularly in low-income countries and underserved areas, can be challenging. There is a need for innovative financing mechanisms and increased investment from both public and private sectors.
- **Sustainability of Funding**: Ensuring the sustainability of funding for ICT projects is crucial for their long-term success. Short-term funding can lead to project discontinuation and limit the impact of initiatives.
- **Resource Allocation**: Efficient allocation of financial resources is important for maximizing the impact of ICT projects. There is a need for strategic planning and prioritization to ensure that resources are directed towards high-impact initiatives.

7. Data Privacy and Protection: The collection, storage, and use of data raise important privacy and protection concerns. Key challenges in this area include:

- **Data Breaches**: Data breaches can compromise sensitive information and lead to privacy violations. Strengthening data protection measures is essential for safeguarding personal and organizational data.
- **Regulatory Compliance**: Complying with data protection regulations, such as the General Data Protection Regulation (GDPR), can be complex and resource-intensive. Organizations need to ensure that they have the necessary policies and practices in place to comply with regulations.
- **Balancing Data Use and Privacy**: Balancing the use of data for innovation and development with the need to protect privacy is a challenge. There is a need for frameworks that enable responsible data use while safeguarding privacy rights.

8. Inclusivity and Accessibility: Ensuring that ICTs are inclusive and accessible to all individuals, regardless of their abilities, is a key goal of WSIS outcomes. However, several challenges remain:

- **Accessibility Barriers**: Many ICT products and services are not fully accessible to individuals with disabilities. There is a need for greater adoption of accessibility standards and inclusive design practices.

- **Cultural and Linguistic Diversity**: Promoting cultural and linguistic diversity in the digital space is important for ensuring that ICTs are relevant and accessible to diverse populations. This includes providing content and services in multiple languages and supporting local content creation.
- **Gender Inclusivity**: Addressing gender disparities in ICT access and usage is crucial for promoting gender equality. There is a need for targeted initiatives that empower women and girls and address the barriers they face in accessing and using ICTs.

9. Environmental Impact: The environmental impact of ICTs is an emerging concern that needs to be addressed. Key challenges include:

- **E-Waste Management**: The disposal of electronic waste (e-waste) poses significant environmental and health risks. There is a need for effective e-waste management practices, including recycling and safe disposal.
- **Energy Consumption**: The energy consumption of ICT infrastructure, such as data centers and networks, contributes to carbon emissions and environmental degradation. Promoting energy-efficient technologies and practices is important for reducing the environmental footprint of ICTs.
- **Sustainable ICT Practices**: Encouraging sustainable ICT practices, such as the use of renewable energy and eco-friendly materials, is essential for minimizing the environmental impact of digital technologies.

10. Emerging Technologies: The rapid development of emerging technologies, such as artificial intelligence (AI), blockchain, and the Internet of Things (IoT), presents both opportunities and challenges. Key issues include:

- **Regulatory and Ethical Considerations**: The deployment of emerging technologies raises important regulatory and ethical considerations. There is a need for frameworks that address issues such as bias, transparency, and accountability.
- **Integration with Existing Systems**: Integrating emerging technologies with existing ICT systems and infrastructure can be complex and resource-intensive. Ensuring interoperability and compatibility is important for maximizing the benefits of these technologies.
- **Skills and Workforce Development**: The adoption of emerging technologies requires new skills and expertise. There is a need for training and capacity-building programs that equip individuals with the knowledge and skills needed to work with these technologies.

The implementation of WSIS outcomes and the advancement of digital development have encountered a range of problems, obstacles, and constraints over the past 20 years. Addressing these challenges is essential for ensuring that ICTs can be leveraged effectively for

sustainable development and that the benefits of digital technologies are accessible to all individuals and communities. ITU remains committed to working with its partners and stakeholders to overcome these challenges and advance the goals of the WSIS process.

c. What new opportunities and challenges have emerged over the years since WSIS which need to be addressed?

Since the WSIS was held in 2003 and 2005, the landscape of digital has evolved significantly. This evolution has brought about new opportunities and challenges that need to be addressed to continue advancing the goals of WSIS and leveraging ICTs for sustainable development. ITU has identified several key opportunities and challenges that have emerged over the years:

1. Emergence of New Technologies: The rapid development of new technologies has created numerous opportunities for innovation and development. However, these technologies also present challenges that need to be addressed:

- **Artificial Intelligence (AI)**: AI has the potential to revolutionize various sectors, including healthcare, education, and transportation. It can enhance decision-making, automate processes, and provide personalized services. However, AI also raises ethical and regulatory concerns, such as bias, transparency, and accountability. There is a need for frameworks that ensure the responsible and ethical use of AI.
- **Internet of Things (IoT)**: IoT enables the interconnection of devices, allowing for real-time data collection and analysis. This technology can improve efficiency and productivity in sectors such as agriculture, manufacturing, and smart cities. However, IoT also presents challenges related to data security, privacy, and interoperability. Ensuring the security and privacy of IoT devices and data is crucial.
- **Blockchain**: Blockchain technology offers opportunities for secure and transparent transactions, supply chain management, and digital identity verification. It can enhance trust and reduce fraud in various applications. However, blockchain also faces challenges related to scalability, energy consumption, and regulatory compliance. Addressing these challenges is important for the widespread adoption of blockchain technology.
- **5G Networks**: The deployment of 5G networks promises to deliver high-speed, low-latency connectivity, enabling new applications such as autonomous vehicles, remote surgery, and augmented reality. However, the rollout of 5G networks requires significant investment in infrastructure and poses challenges related to spectrum allocation, cybersecurity, and regulatory frameworks.

2. Digital Transformation and Economic Growth: Digital transformation has become a key driver of economic growth and development. However, it also presents challenges that need to be addressed:

- **Digital Economy**: The digital economy offers opportunities for innovation, entrepreneurship, and job creation. It enables businesses to reach new markets, improve efficiency, and develop new products and services. However, the digital economy also requires a skilled workforce, supportive regulatory frameworks, and access to digital infrastructure. Ensuring that all individuals and businesses can participate in the digital economy is crucial.
- **E-Commerce**: E-commerce has grown rapidly, providing opportunities for businesses to expand their reach and for consumers to access a wider range of products and services. However, e-commerce also presents challenges related to consumer protection, data privacy, and cross-border trade. Developing regulatory frameworks that support the growth of e-commerce while protecting consumers is important.
- **Digital Financial Services**: Digital financial services, such as mobile banking and digital payments, have the potential to enhance financial inclusion and provide access to financial services for underserved populations. However, these services also raise concerns related to cybersecurity, data privacy, and regulatory compliance. Ensuring the security and integrity of digital financial services is essential.

3. Digital Inclusion and Equity: Promoting digital inclusion and ensuring that everyone has access to ICTs is a key goal of WSIS. However, several challenges remain:

- **Bridging the Digital Divide**: Despite progress in expanding connectivity, a significant digital divide remains between urban and rural areas, high-income and low-income populations, and developed and developing countries. Addressing this divide requires targeted initiatives that provide access to affordable and reliable ICT infrastructure and services.
- **Gender Digital Divide**: Women and girls continue to face barriers to accessing and using ICTs. Promoting gender equality in the digital space requires initiatives that address cultural norms, safety concerns, and access to education and training. Empowering women and girls through digital skills training and mentorship is crucial.
- **Accessibility for Persons with Disabilities**: Ensuring that ICTs are accessible to persons with disabilities is essential for promoting digital inclusion. This requires the adoption of accessibility standards, inclusive design practices, and the development of assistive technologies. Promoting awareness and understanding of accessibility issues is important for creating inclusive digital environments.

4. Cybersecurity and Data Privacy: The increasing reliance on digital technologies has heightened the importance of cybersecurity and data privacy. Key challenges include:

- **Cyber Threats**: Cyber threats, such as hacking, phishing, and ransomware, have become more frequent and sophisticated. These threats pose risks to individuals, organizations, and governments. Developing and implementing effective cybersecurity

measures is essential for protecting digital assets and ensuring trust in digital technologies.

- **Data Privacy**: The collection, storage, and use of data raise important privacy concerns. Ensuring that data is protected and used responsibly is crucial for safeguarding privacy rights. Developing regulatory frameworks that balance data use and privacy is important for promoting innovation while protecting individuals' privacy.
- **Cross-Border Data Flows**: The global nature of digital technologies requires the seamless flow of data across borders. However, differences in data protection regulations can create barriers to cross-border data flows. Harmonizing data protection regulations and promoting international cooperation are important for facilitating cross-border data flows while protecting data privacy.

5. Environmental Sustainability: The environmental impact of ICTs is an emerging concern that needs to be addressed. Key challenges include:

- **E-Waste Management**: The disposal of electronic waste (e-waste) poses significant environmental and health risks. Developing effective e-waste management practices, including recycling and safe disposal, is essential for minimizing the environmental impact of ICTs.
- **Energy Consumption**: The energy consumption of ICT infrastructure, such as data centers and networks, contributes to carbon emissions and environmental degradation. Promoting energy-efficient technologies and practices is important for reducing the environmental footprint of ICTs.
- **Sustainable ICT Practices**: Encouraging sustainable ICT practices, such as the use of renewable energy and eco-friendly materials, is essential for minimizing the environmental impact of digital technologies. Promoting awareness and understanding of the environmental impact of ICTs is important for fostering sustainable practices.

6. Regulatory and Policy Frameworks: Creating a conducive regulatory and policy environment for ICT development is essential for promoting digital inclusion and innovation. Key challenges include:

- **Regulatory Harmonization**: Differences in regulatory frameworks and policies across countries can create barriers to ICT development and cross-border collaboration. Harmonizing regulations and promoting international cooperation are important for addressing this issue.
- **Outdated Policies**: Rapid technological advancements can outpace the development of regulatory and policy frameworks. Outdated policies may not adequately address emerging issues, such as data privacy, artificial intelligence, and digital trade.

Developing adaptive and forward-looking regulatory frameworks is important for addressing these challenges.

- **Balancing Regulation and Innovation**: Striking the right balance between regulation and innovation is a challenge. Overly restrictive regulations can stifle innovation, while insufficient regulation can lead to risks and uncertainties. Developing regulatory frameworks that support innovation while protecting public interests is important.

7. Digital Literacy and Skills Development: Digital literacy and skills are critical for individuals to effectively use ICTs and participate in the digital economy. Key challenges include:

- **Access to Education and Training**: Many individuals, particularly in developing countries, lack access to education and training opportunities that can help them develop digital skills. Providing access to digital literacy programs and training is essential for promoting digital inclusion.
- **Continuous Learning and Upskilling**: The fast pace of technological change requires continuous learning and upskilling. Developing programs that support lifelong learning and provide opportunities for individuals to acquire new skills is important for staying relevant in the digital economy.
- **Addressing Skills Gaps**: There are disparities in digital skills across different demographic groups, such as age, gender, and socioeconomic status. Addressing these disparities is important for promoting digital inclusion and equity.

8. International and Regional Cooperation: Fostering international and regional cooperation is essential for addressing global ICT challenges and promoting digital development. Key opportunities and challenges include:

- **Partnerships and Alliances**: Collaborating with international and regional organizations can enhance the effectiveness of ICT initiatives and promote the sharing of best practices. Developing partnerships and alliances that leverage the strengths of different stakeholders is important for advancing digital development.
- **Regional Initiatives**: Implementing regional initiatives that address the specific ICT needs and challenges of different regions can promote regional cooperation and the sharing of best practices. Developing tailored projects that address regional priorities is important for promoting digital inclusion and development.
- **Global Governance**: The global nature of digital technologies requires effective global governance mechanisms. Developing frameworks that promote international cooperation and address global ICT challenges is important for ensuring the responsible and equitable use of digital technologies.

In summary, the emergence of new technologies, digital transformation and economic growth, digital inclusion and equity, cybersecurity and data privacy, environmental

sustainability, regulatory and policy frameworks, digital literacy and skills development, and international and regional cooperation present both opportunities and challenges that need to be addressed. ITU remains committed to working with its partners and stakeholders to leverage these opportunities and address the challenges, ensuring that ICTs can be effectively used for sustainable development and that the benefits of digital technologies are accessible to all individuals and communities.

IV. Lessons learned in the implementation of the Summit outcomes in your organisation's specific areas of responsibility

The International Telecommunication Union (ITU) has been deeply involved in the implementation of the World Summit on the Information Society (WSIS) outcomes, working across various areas of responsibility to advance digital development and leverage information and communication technologies (ICTs) for sustainable development. Over the years, ITU has gained valuable insights and learned important lessons from its efforts. These lessons are crucial for informing future strategies and ensuring the continued success of ICT initiatives. Here are the key lessons learned by ITU in the implementation of the WSIS outcomes:

1. Importance of Multistakeholder Collaboration: One of the most significant lessons learned is the critical importance of multistakeholder collaboration. The success of WSIS outcomes relies on the active participation and cooperation of a diverse range of stakeholders, including governments, private sector entities, civil society organizations, international organizations, and academia. Key insights include:

- **Inclusive Dialogue**: Engaging all stakeholders in inclusive dialogue is essential for addressing the complex challenges of digital development. Multistakeholder platforms, such as the WSIS Forum, provide valuable opportunities for stakeholders to share perspectives, exchange knowledge, and collaborate on solutions.
- **Partnerships and Alliances**: Building strong partnerships and alliances enhances the effectiveness of ICT initiatives. Collaborative efforts leverage the strengths and resources of different stakeholders, leading to more impactful and sustainable outcomes.
- **Shared Responsibility**: Achieving the goals of WSIS requires shared responsibility and collective action. Stakeholders must work together to address common challenges, pool resources, and coordinate efforts to maximize the impact of ICT initiatives.

2. Continuous Capacity Building and Knowledge Sharing: Capacity building and knowledge sharing are fundamental to the successful implementation of WSIS outcomes. ITU has learned that continuous efforts in these areas are essential for empowering individuals and institutions to effectively use ICTs. Key insights include:

- **Tailored Training Programs**: Providing tailored training programs that address the specific needs of different target groups is crucial. The ITU Academy, with its wide range of courses and specialized training programs, has been instrumental in enhancing digital skills and knowledge.
- **Regional and Local Contexts**: Understanding and addressing regional and local contexts is important for effective capacity building. ITU's Centres of Excellence and regional initiatives have demonstrated the value of delivering training and support that is relevant to the specific needs of different regions.
- **Knowledge Sharing Platforms**: Facilitating knowledge sharing through platforms such as the WSIS Forum and the WSIS Stocktaking process promotes the dissemination of best practices and successful projects. These platforms enable stakeholders to learn from each other's experiences and replicate successful initiatives.

3. Adaptability to Technological Advancements: The rapid pace of technological advancements requires adaptability and flexibility in the implementation of WSIS outcomes. ITU has learned that staying abreast of emerging technologies and adapting strategies accordingly is essential for leveraging new opportunities and addressing emerging challenges. Key insights include:

- **Proactive Approach**: Adopting a proactive approach to technological advancements allows for timely responses to new developments. ITU's work on emerging technologies such as artificial intelligence (AI), the Internet of Things (IoT), and 5G networks demonstrates the importance of anticipating and preparing for technological changes.
- **Continuous Learning**: Continuous learning and upskilling are necessary to keep pace with technological advancements. ITU's training programs and capacity-building initiatives emphasize the importance of lifelong learning and staying updated with the latest developments in the ICT sector.
- **Innovation and Experimentation**: Encouraging innovation and experimentation fosters the development of new solutions and approaches. ITU's Innovation Challenges and support for digital entrepreneurship highlight the value of promoting creativity and innovation in the ICT sector.

4. Addressing the Digital Divide: Despite significant progress in expanding connectivity and access to ICTs, the digital divide remains a persistent challenge. ITU has learned that targeted efforts are needed to address the disparities in ICT access and usage. Key insights include:

- **Inclusive Policies and Strategies**: Developing inclusive policies and strategies that prioritize underserved and marginalized communities is essential for bridging the digital divide. ITU's initiatives, such as the GIGA project and the Partner2Connect

Digital Coalition, focus on providing connectivity and digital opportunities to rural and remote areas.

- **Affordability and Accessibility**: Ensuring the affordability and accessibility of ICT services is crucial for promoting digital inclusion. ITU's work on the ICT Price Basket (IPB) and the development of accessibility standards highlights the importance of making ICTs affordable and accessible to all individuals.
- **Empowerment through Digital Skills**: Empowering individuals with digital skills is key to enabling meaningful participation in the digital economy. ITU's digital skills training programs, particularly those targeting women and girls, emphasize the importance of building digital literacy and skills for all.

5. Promoting Cybersecurity and Trust: Building confidence and trust in the use of ICTs is essential for the successful implementation of WSIS outcomes. ITU has learned that promoting cybersecurity and protecting data privacy are critical components of digital development. Key insights include:

- **Comprehensive Cybersecurity Frameworks**: Developing comprehensive cybersecurity frameworks that address legal, technical, organizational, and capacity-building measures is important for protecting digital assets. ITU's Global Cybersecurity Agenda (GCA) provides a valuable framework for promoting cybersecurity.
- **Awareness and Education**: Raising awareness and educating individuals and organizations about cybersecurity best practices is crucial for mitigating cyber threats. ITU's Child Online Protection (COP) initiative and cybersecurity training programs highlight the importance of promoting cybersecurity awareness.
- **International Cooperation**: Cybersecurity is a global challenge that requires international cooperation and collaboration. ITU's efforts to promote international standards and facilitate cross-border cooperation demonstrate the value of working together to address cybersecurity threats.

6. Ensuring Sustainability and Environmental Responsibility: The environmental impact of ICTs is an emerging concern that needs to be addressed. ITU has learned that promoting sustainability and environmental responsibility is essential for minimizing the environmental footprint of digital technologies. Key insights include:

- **Sustainable ICT Practices**: Encouraging sustainable ICT practices, such as the use of renewable energy and eco-friendly materials, is important for reducing the environmental impact of ICTs. ITU's initiatives on green ICTs and e-waste management emphasize the importance of promoting sustainability.
- **Energy Efficiency**: Promoting energy-efficient technologies and practices is crucial for reducing the energy consumption of ICT infrastructure. ITU's work on energy-efficient

standards and guidelines highlights the importance of minimizing the environmental impact of ICTs.

- **Awareness and Advocacy**: Raising awareness and advocating for environmental responsibility in the ICT sector is essential for fostering sustainable practices. ITU's efforts to promote awareness of the environmental impact of ICTs demonstrate the value of advocacy and education.

7. Effective Monitoring and Evaluation: Monitoring and evaluating the impact of ICT initiatives is essential for understanding their effectiveness and identifying areas for improvement. ITU has learned that robust monitoring and evaluation mechanisms are crucial for ensuring the success of WSIS outcomes. Key insights include:

- **Data-Driven Decision Making**: Using data and evidence to inform decision-making is important for developing effective ICT strategies and policies. ITU's work on the ICT Development Index (IDI) and the Global Cybersecurity Index (GCI) highlights the value of data-driven approaches.
- **Regular Assessments**: Conducting regular assessments of ICT initiatives and projects provides valuable insights into their impact and effectiveness. ITU's annual WSIS Forum Outcome Documents and WSIS Stocktaking reports demonstrate the importance of continuous assessment.
- **Feedback and Adaptation**: Gathering feedback from stakeholders and adapting strategies based on lessons learned is essential for improving the effectiveness of ICT initiatives. ITU's engagement with stakeholders through platforms such as the WSIS Forum emphasizes the importance of feedback and adaptation.

8. Fostering International and Regional Cooperation: International and regional cooperation is essential for addressing global ICT challenges and promoting digital development. ITU has learned that fostering cooperation and collaboration among countries and regions enhances the effectiveness of ICT initiatives. Key insights include:

- **Partnerships and Alliances**: Building partnerships and alliances with international and regional organizations leverages the strengths and resources of different stakeholders. ITU's collaborations with UNESCO, UNDP, UNCTAD, and other UN agencies highlight the value of partnerships.
- **Regional Initiatives**: Implementing regional initiatives that address the specific ICT needs and challenges of different regions promotes regional cooperation and the sharing of best practices. ITU's regional initiatives demonstrate the importance of tailored approaches.
- **Global Governance**: Developing effective global governance mechanisms for ICTs is important for addressing global challenges and promoting international cooperation.

ITU's role in promoting international standards and facilitating cross-border collaboration underscores the value of global governance.

The implementation of WSIS outcomes has provided ITU with valuable lessons that inform its future strategies and initiatives. The importance of multistakeholder collaboration, continuous capacity building and knowledge sharing, adaptability to technological advancements, addressing the digital divide, promoting cybersecurity and trust, ensuring sustainability and environmental responsibility, effective monitoring and evaluation, and fostering international and regional cooperation are key lessons learned. These insights are crucial for advancing the goals of WSIS and leveraging ICTs for sustainable development. ITU remains committed to working with its partners and stakeholders to build on these lessons and continue driving digital development globally.

V. Observations or recommendations concerning the future of WSIS and digital development, taking into account the outcomes of the Summit of the Future in September 2024

The International Telecommunication Union (ITU) has been a pivotal force in advancing the outcomes of the World Summit on the Information Society (WSIS) and continues to lead global digital transformation in alignment with the Global Digital Compact (GDC), adopted by Member States at the Summit of the Future (September 2024). As the UN's specialized agency for digital technologies, ITU fosters international collaboration, drives innovation, and ensures that digital technologies contribute effectively to achieving the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). The WSIS framework remains a foundational mechanism for these efforts, closely aligning with GDC principles through its multistakeholder processes and actionable Action Lines.

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1. Strengthening Multistakeholder Collaboration

The success of WSIS and digital development initiatives relies heavily on the active participation and cooperation of a diverse range of stakeholders:

- Maintain and enhance platforms like the **WSIS Forum** and **UNGIS** that facilitate inclusive dialogue among governments, private sector entities, civil society organizations, international organizations, and academia. These platforms provide valuable opportunities for stakeholders to share perspectives, exchange knowledge, and collaborate on solutions.
- Encourage the formation of public-private partnerships to leverage the resources, expertise, and innovation of both sectors. These partnerships can drive the development and implementation of impactful ICT initiatives.

- Engage local communities in the planning and implementation of ICT projects to ensure that initiatives are relevant and responsive to their needs. Community involvement enhances the sustainability and effectiveness of projects.

2. Promoting Digital Inclusion and Equity

Ensuring that everyone has access to ICTs and can benefit from digital opportunities is a fundamental goal of WSIS. Continued efforts are needed to promote digital inclusion and address disparities in ICT access and usage:

- Implement targeted initiatives to bridge the digital divide between urban and rural areas, high-income and low-income populations, and developed and developing countries. This includes expanding connectivity to underserved and remote areas and making ICT services more affordable through projects like the **GIGA Initiative**.
- Address the gender digital divide by promoting gender equality in the digital space. Initiatives such as the **EQUALS Global Partnership** should be expanded to provide digital skills training, mentorship, and networking opportunities for women and girls.
- Ensure that ICT products and services are accessible to persons with disabilities. Adopt and promote international accessibility standards and inclusive design practices to create digital environments that are inclusive for all individuals.

3. Enhancing Cybersecurity and Data Privacy

As digital technologies become increasingly integrated into all aspects of life, ensuring cybersecurity and protecting data privacy are critical priorities:

- Develop and implement comprehensive cybersecurity strategies that address legal, technical, organizational, and capacity-building measures. ITU's **Global Cybersecurity Agenda (GCA)** provides a valuable framework for promoting cybersecurity.
- Raise awareness and educate individuals and organizations about cybersecurity best practices. Initiatives such as ITU's **Child Online Protection (COP)** should be expanded to promote cybersecurity awareness and safe online behaviors.
- Develop and harmonize data protection regulations to safeguard privacy rights and facilitate cross-border data flows. Regulatory frameworks should balance the use of data for innovation with the need to protect individuals' privacy.

4. Leveraging Emerging Technologies

Emerging technologies such as artificial intelligence (AI), the Internet of Things (IoT), blockchain, and 5G networks offer significant opportunities for innovation and development. However, they also present challenges that need to be addressed:

- Develop frameworks for the ethical and responsible use of AI. Address issues such as bias, transparency, and accountability to ensure that AI technologies are used in ways that benefit society through initiatives like **AI for Good**.
- Ensure the security and interoperability of IoT devices and networks. Develop standards and best practices to protect IoT systems from cyber threats and ensure seamless integration with existing ICT infrastructure.
- Explore and promote the use of blockchain technology for secure and transparent transactions, supply chain management, and digital identity verification. Address challenges related to scalability, energy consumption, and regulatory compliance.
- Accelerate the deployment of 5G networks to provide high-speed, low-latency connectivity. Address challenges related to spectrum allocation, infrastructure investment, and cybersecurity to ensure the successful rollout of 5G technologies.

5. Supporting Digital Transformation and Economic Growth

Digital transformation is a key driver of economic growth and development. Continued efforts are needed to support digital transformation and ensure that all individuals and businesses can participate in the digital economy:

- Develop and implement policies that support the growth of the digital economy. This includes creating an enabling environment for digital entrepreneurship, innovation, and job creation.
- Promote the growth of e-commerce by developing regulatory frameworks that protect consumers, ensure data privacy, and facilitate cross-border trade. Support small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs) in adopting e-commerce technologies.
- Enhance financial inclusion by promoting the use of digital financial services such as mobile banking and digital payments. Ensure the security and integrity of digital financial services through robust regulatory frameworks and cybersecurity measures.

6. Ensuring Environmental Sustainability

The environmental impact of ICTs is an important consideration for the future of digital development. Efforts should be made to promote sustainability and minimize the environmental footprint of digital technologies:

- Develop and implement effective e-waste management practices, including recycling and safe disposal. Promote awareness of e-waste issues and encourage the adoption of circular economy principles in the ICT sector.
- Promote energy-efficient technologies and practices to reduce the energy consumption of ICT infrastructure. Encourage the use of renewable energy sources and eco-friendly materials in the design and operation of ICT systems.

- Foster sustainable ICT practices by promoting green ICT initiatives and encouraging organizations to adopt environmentally responsible practices. Raise awareness of the environmental impact of ICTs and advocate for sustainable development in the digital space.

7. Fostering International and Regional Cooperation

International and regional cooperation is essential for addressing global ICT challenges and promoting digital development. Continued efforts are needed to foster cooperation and collaboration among countries and regions:

- Develop and strengthen global governance mechanisms for ICTs to address global challenges and promote international cooperation. ITU's role in promoting international standards and facilitating cross-border collaboration is crucial for effective global governance.
- Implement regional initiatives that address the specific ICT needs and challenges of different regions. Promote regional cooperation and the sharing of best practices through tailored projects and programs.

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8. Promoting Digital Literacy and Skills Development

Digital literacy and skills are critical for individuals to effectively use ICTs and participate in the digital economy, as defined by WSIS Action Lines C4, with ITU as lead facilitator. Continued efforts are needed to promote digital literacy and skills development:

- Provide access to digital literacy programs and training opportunities for all individuals, particularly those in underserved and marginalized communities. ITU's digital skills training programs, through the **ITU Academy**, should be expanded to reach a wider audience.
- Support lifelong learning and upskilling to ensure that individuals can keep pace with technological advancements. Develop programs that provide opportunities for continuous learning and skill development.
- Address disparities in digital skills across different demographic groups, such as age, gender, and socioeconomic status. Implement targeted initiatives that promote digital inclusion and equity in skills development.

8. Aligning WSIS+20 with GDC and Utilizing WSIS Mechanisms

The **WSIS+20 Review** in 2025 is a critical milestone for assessing progress in digital transformation and ensuring the alignment of WSIS with the GDC. ITU will lead the preparations for this review, undertaking a comprehensive evaluation of contributions from

all stakeholders. The integration of WSIS mechanisms is essential to support the implementation and follow-up of the GDC:

- The WSIS Forum, hosted by ITU and co-organized by ITU, UNESCO, UNDP, UNCTAD, will continue to serve as a key platform for multistakeholder dialogue, facilitating the exchange of ideas and best practices. ITU will enhance the Forum's role in bridging WSIS outcomes with GDC objectives, ensuring that discussions are aligned with sustainable digital development goals.
- The **WSIS Stocktaking database**, maintained by ITU, will be instrumental in documenting and analyzing ICT-related initiatives that contribute to both WSIS and GDC objectives. By maintaining a comprehensive database of over 13,000 projects categorized under WSIS Action Lines and SDGs, the Stocktaking process provides actionable insights and best practices that inform GDC implementation strategies.
- UNGIS, with ITU as permanent secretariat, will play a crucial role in coordinating UN-wide digital efforts, ensuring that WSIS and GDC initiatives are harmonized across different UN agencies. This coordination fosters system-wide digital cooperation, promoting collective ownership of digital goals and enhancing the effectiveness of digital transformation efforts.
- ITU will leverage existing WSIS mechanisms to support GDC commitments. These initiatives will be aligned with the GDC's objectives to ensure cohesive and coordinated action across various digital development fronts.
- The WSIS+20 Review will showcase best practices and identify gaps in digital development efforts. ITU will use the WSIS Stocktaking Reports and insights from the WSIS Forum to inform the review, ensuring that lessons learned are integrated into future strategies. This comprehensive analysis will guide the development of new priorities and initiatives to keep the WSIS process relevant and effective in advancing the GDC's objectives.
- ITU will continue to support Member States by providing access to digital technologies, expertise, and resources through the WSIS Forum and UNGIS. This support includes facilitating the implementation of national strategies that align with both WSIS and GDC goals, promoting universal connectivity, digital inclusion, and sustainable digital transformation.
- ITU, also through UNGIS, will enhance collaboration among UN agencies to ensure that digital issues are addressed cohesively within the UN system. This includes integrating WSIS and GDC objectives into broader UN digital strategies and ensuring that all UN entities contribute effectively to digital development goals.

The future of WSIS and digital development requires continued efforts to strengthen multistakeholder collaboration, promote digital inclusion and equity, enhance cybersecurity and data privacy, leverage emerging technologies, support digital transformation and economic growth, ensure environmental sustainability, foster international and regional cooperation, promote digital literacy and skills development, and develop effective monitoring and evaluation mechanisms. ITU remains committed to working with its partners and stakeholders to address these opportunities and challenges, ensuring that ICTs can be effectively used for sustainable development and that the benefits of digital technologies are accessible to all individuals and communities.

VI. Please identify publications, reports and other documents by your organisation which you consider can contribute to the work of the review.

ITU Publications and Reports available at ITU Gateway for WSIS and includes the following:

1. **Annual WSIS Forum Outcome Documents**:
    - These documents summarize the discussions, action points, and recommendations from the annual WSIS Forum. They provide insights into the progress made in implementing WSIS outcomes and highlight key themes and challenges.
2. **ITU Contribution to the Implementation of the WSIS Outcomes Reports**:
    - These annual reports detail ITU's contributions to the implementation of WSIS outcomes, including initiatives, projects, and partnerships. They assess the impact of ITU's activities on digital development.
3. **WSIS Forum**
    - This website provides information on the annual WSIS Forum, including agendas, session details, outcome documents, and resources for participants.
4. **WSIS Stocktaking Reports**:
    - Global, regional, and special WSIS Stocktaking reports provide valuable insights into the development of ICTs and their impact on economic, social, cultural, and environmental aspects. They highlight trends, challenges, and opportunities in the ICT sector.
5. **Measuring the Information Society Report (MISR)**:
    - This annual publication provides a comprehensive overview of the state of ICT development worldwide. It includes a wide range of indicators that measure the impact of ICTs on development and provides policy recommendations.

6. **Global ICT Regulatory Outlook**:
    - This annual report provides an overview of the regulatory landscape for ICTs, including indicators that measure the effectiveness of regulatory frameworks and their impact on ICT development.
7. **ICT Development Index (IDI)**:
    - The IDI is a composite index that measures the level of ICT development in countries. It provides a comprehensive overview of ICT development and allows for comparisons between countries and regions.
8. **Global Cybersecurity Index (GCI)**:
    - The GCI measures the commitment of countries to cybersecurity. It assesses the level of cybersecurity development based on legal measures, technical measures, organizational measures, capacity building, and cooperation.
9. **ICT Price Basket (IPB)**:
    - The IPB measures the affordability of ICT services. It is a composite index that includes the prices of fixed-telephone, mobile-cellular, and fixed-broadband services.
10. **WSIS-SDG Matrix**:
    - This tool maps the contributions of WSIS Action Lines to specific SDGs, providing a clear framework for assessing the impact of ICTs on sustainable development.
11. **ITU Academy Publications**:
    - These include training materials, course guides, and reports on capacity-building initiatives. They provide insights into ITU's efforts to enhance digital skills and knowledge.
12. **Global Cybersecurity Agenda (GCA) Reports**:
    - These reports provide a comprehensive framework for promoting cybersecurity and building confidence in the use of ICTs. They include guidelines, best practices, and case studies.
13. **Child Online Protection (COP) Guidelines**:
    - These guidelines provide recommendations for protecting children from online risks and promoting safe and responsible use of ICTs.
14. **EQUALS Global Partnership Reports**:

- These reports focus on bridging the gender digital divide and promoting gender equality in the ICT sector. They include research findings, case studies, and recommendations.

15. **Digital Transformation Centres (DTC) Initiative Reports**:
    - These reports provide insights into the impact of the DTC Initiative, which aims to build digital skills and promote digital inclusion in underserved communities.
16. **ITU Innovation Challenges Reports**:
    - These reports highlight the outcomes of the ITU Innovation Challenges, which encourage innovation and entrepreneurship in the ICT sector.
17. **ITU-D Regional Initiatives Reports**:
    - These reports provide details on regional initiatives that address the specific ICT needs and challenges of different regions. They highlight best practices and successful projects.

Other ITU Websites and Online Resources

1. **ITU Publications Portal**:
    - ITU Publications

      This portal provides access to a wide range of ITU publications, including reports, handbooks, and databases. It offers functionalities to search, order products, and download digital content.
2. **ITU Hub**:
    - ITU Hub

      The ITU Hub offers free access to global, neutral, telecom, and ICT reports, trends, analysis, telecom data, and statistics. It covers topics such as digital skills, e-waste, satellite, 5G, and the digital divide.
3. **ITU Academy**:
    - ITU Academy

      The ITU Academy provides access to a wide range of training programs, courses, and resources for capacity building in the ICT sector. It offers online and blended learning opportunities for ICT professionals, policymakers, and other stakeholders.
4. **Global Cybersecurity Index (GCI) Website**:
    - Global Cybersecurity Index

This website provides information on the GCI, including the methodology, indicators, and results. It offers insights into the level of cybersecurity development in different countries.

5. **Child Online Protection (COP) Website**:
    - Child Online Protection

      The COP website provides guidelines, resources, and information on initiatives aimed at protecting children from online risks and promoting safe and responsible use of ICTs.

6. **ITU-D Regional Initiatives Website**:
    - This website provides information on ITU-D regional initiatives, including goals, activities, and impact. It offers resources for addressing the specific ICT needs and challenges of different regions.

ANNEX

Broadband Commission for Sustainable Development

In May 2010, the ITU and UNESCO established the Broadband Commission for Digital Development in response to UN Secretary-General Ban Ki-Moon's call to step-up UN efforts to meet the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs). Since its inception, the Commission is led by H.E. President Paul Kagame of Rwanda and Mr. Carlos Slim Helù of Mexico, co-chaired by ITU's Secretary-General and UNESCO Director-General and comprises over 50 acting Commissioners who represent a cross-cutting group of top CEO and industry leaders, senior policymakers, and heads of international agencies, with academia and organizations concerned with development including civil society, foundations, NGOs, non-profits.

The Commission constitutes a unique multistakeholder high-level platform of the most influential ICT advocates and serves as the public-private partnership fostering digital cooperation and developing actionable recommendations for achieving universal connectivity.

With its collective, multistakeholder approach, the Commission addresses the key digital challenges to accelerate sustainable and inclusive global development. Through its nonbinding recommendations, best practices and thought leadership, the Commission places universal broadband connectivity at the forefront of global policy discussions. Its Members advocate for expanding broadband access and use in every country as a key to accelerate progress towards UN's 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.

In 2011, the Commission launched its first strategic framework: *Broadband Targets for 2015,* which included four targets focused on making broadband policy universal and increasing affordability and broadband use. In 2016, the Broadband Commission recognized broadband as a fundamental element for achieving all 17 SDGs and extended its new targets timeline to 2025. The Commission's 7 "2025 Advocacy Targets" provide policy and programmatic guidance for national and international action in broadband development with the focus on policy, affordability, access, use, skills and gender equality.

The recent global events have dramatically illustrated the vital importance of broadband networks and services in driving robust, resilient and well-functioning societies and economies. In 2020, the Commission published the Agenda for Action, a repository of tangible short- and medium-term approaches for leveraging connectivity to mitigate the impact of the pandemic and ease the immediate adverse impacts for economies and societies. The Broadband Commission celebrated its 10-year Anniversary in 2020 with the publication of a special edition of its flagship State of Broadband Report, which reexamined its historical policy recommendations. The Commission also published a Manifesto endorsing its goal of Universal Connectivity.

Since 2010, the Commission meets regularly, two times per year, and convenes also during a special side-sessions at the global, regional and local multi-stakeholder conferences and fora,

including WSIS, STI, HLPF, UNGA, WEF/Davos, GSR, WTDC, UNCTAD e-commerce week, IGF, GSMA MWC, AI4Good, SDG Digital, etc. The Commission and its Members contribute to various UN processes (WSIS, GDC, HLPF, LDC, COP, TES, CSW, etc.) and its work and thought leadership is referenced in ITU and UN resolutions (i.e. A/RES/78/132 - *Information and communications technologies for sustainable development*). The Commission has issued a number of calls to action and high-level manifestos on behalf of the group's members, directed at Heads of State, key decision-makers, the United Nations and delegates.

For more than a decade, the Commission has advocated for universal, meaningful and affordable connectivity with a commitment to: contributing thought leadership, advocacy efforts, knowledge and learning resources related to the SDGs, including on education/skills, health, gender equality, etc. and leveraging its collective expertise and collaborative solutions to generate policy, regulation and technology recommendations for harnessing the power of digital connectivity to leave no-one behind.

The Commission's work and mandate is unique by bringing together a high-powered community, leaders in their fields, who embrace a range of perspectives in a multi-stakeholder approach to promoting the roll out of broadband. The Commission is pioneering and leading knowledge products on ICTs and SDGs and has a proven model for collaborative and consensus driven outcomes done by multi-stakeholder membership including:

- Over **40 Working Group** outcomes on digital development with some 300+ collaboratively developed recommendations issued. These recommended actions are addressed to each group of digital ecosystem stakeholders
- **14 editions of the Annual State of Broadband Reports** that analyzes global connectivity challenges and successes, and tracks progress toward achieving its 7 Advocacy Targets with more than 70 unique recommendations and conclusions developed by consensus by its members spanning different categories like: policy and regulations, funding and investment, environmental/social and governance issues, entrepreneurship and inclusion.

The Commission has also been instrumental in fostering and catalyzing public-private partnerships. For example, the Commission has been supportive for many high-impact initiatives such:

- EQUALS: The Global Partnership for Gender Equality in the Digital Age
- Giga: The ITU/UNICEF Global Initiative to Connect Every School to Internet by 2030
- Child Online Safety Universal Declaration

With almost 200 Members of the Commission (past and present) and a community of more than 500 External Experts in the field of ICT for development, this multi-stakeholder leaders platform believes that holistic actions and collective, collaborative efforts by all stakeholders must be taken to connect all people to the internet, to realize the goal of universal connectivity, which is essential for achieving the 17 Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).