

Agenda item: PL 1.1 i)

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## REPORT OF THE COUNCIL WORKING GROUP ON WORLD SUMMIT ON THE INFORMATION SOCIETY

### Summary

This report summarizes the main results of the 21st and 22nd meetings of the Working Group on WSIS (WG-WSIS), held on 1 and 4 February and 30-31 May 2013 in line with PP-10 Resolutions 140 and 172. An Addendum to this document will reflect outcomes of a session of the 22nd Meeting to be held on 10 June 2013 (10:00-13:00).

### Action required

The Council is requested to **consider** the report and approve the proposals in sections 3 and 4 as well as in Document C13/66(Add.1).

### References

[Resolution 140 \(Guadalajara, 2010\)](#), [Resolution 172 \(Guadalajara, 2010\)](#),  
Council [Resolution 1332 \(2011\)](#), [Resolution 1334 \(modified 2012\)](#),  
[Resolution 1336 \(2011\)](#).

## 1 Introduction

1.1 Since the 2012 session of the Council the ITU Council Working Group on WSIS (WG-WSIS) held two meetings. The 21st meeting was on 1 and 4 February 2013 in Geneva. The 22nd meeting was on 30 and 31 May and 10 June 2013 (10:00-13:00) in Geneva.

1.2 The work of the WG-WSIS is conducted in line with Resolution 140 of the Plenipotentiary Conference (Guadalajara, 2010) and Resolution 172, and consequently Resolution 1334 of Council 2012. The Terms of Reference of the WG-WSIS are listed in the Annex to the Council Resolution 1332. Both meetings were attended by around 70 delegates, representing ITU Member States and Sector Members. The list of participants at, as well as the documents (including detailed meeting summaries) for, each of these meetings are available on the Group's website located at <http://www.itu.int/wg-wsis>. Meetings were chaired by Prof. Dr Vladimir Minkin (Russian Federation), the Chairman of the WG-WSIS.

1.3 The work of the group at its 21st and 22nd meetings primarily consisted of three building blocks:

- (1) ITU's activities in WSIS facilitation, implementation and follow-up, including activities according to ITU Operational Plans (PP-10 Res. 140),
- (2) Preparation to the Overall Review of the Implementation of the WSIS Outcomes (WSIS+10) (PP-10 Res. 172),
- (3) Proposals for adapting ITU to its role in building the information society (Res. 140).

1.4 Since Council 2012, the Group considered 44 contributions in total.

## **2 ITU's activities in WSIS facilitation, implementation and follow-up, including activities according to the ITU Operational Plans (PP-10 Res. 140)**

2.1 The Group considered the following documents under this agenda item.

- 2.1.1 [WG-WSIS-21/03](#): 2012 Report on the ITU Contribution to the Implementation of the WSIS Outcomes (ITU Secretariat)
- 2.1.2 [WG-WSIS-21/12](#): Briefing on WSIS Forum 2013 (ITU Secretariat)
- 2.1.3 [WG-WSIS-21/18](#): Update on activities related to the WSIS Fund in Trust of ITU (ITU Secretariat)
- 2.1.4 [WG-WSIS-21/16](#): World Telecommunication and Information Society Day 2013 (ITU Secretariat)
- 2.1.5 [WG-WSIS-21/11](#): WSIS Stocktaking Process (ITU Secretariat)
- 2.1.6 [WG-WSIS-21/07](#): WSIS Project Prizes 2013 (ITU Secretariat)
- 2.1.7 [WG-WSIS-21/14](#): Partnership on Measuring the ICTs for Development (ITU Secretariat)
- 2.1.8 [WG-WSIS-22/36](#): 2013 Report on the ITU Contribution to the Implementation of the WSIS Outcomes (ITU Secretariat)
- 2.1.9 [WG-WSIS-22/06](#): Programme Brochure and Agenda of the WSIS Forum 2013 (ITU Secretariat)
- 2.1.10 [WG-WSIS-22/11](#): The WSIS Forum 2013 Outcome document (ITU Secretariat)
- 2.1.11 [WG-WSIS-22/28](#): Update on activities related to the WSIS Fund in Trust of ITU (ITU Secretariat)
- 2.1.12 [WG-WSIS-22/22](#): Outcomes of the Action Line Facilitation Meetings on Action Lines C2 Information and communication infrastructure, C5 Building confidence and security in the use of ICTs, C6 Enabling Environment, held during the WSIS Forum 2013 (ITU Secretariat)
- 2.1.13 [WS-WSIS-22/33](#): World Telecommunication and Information Society Day 2013 (ITU Secretariat)
- 2.1.14 [WG-WSIS-22/21](#): WSIS Stocktaking Process (ITU Secretariat)
- 2.1.15 [WG-WSIS-22/04](#): WSIS Success Stories 2013 Report (ITU Secretariat)

- 2.1.16 [WG-WSIS-22/03](#): WSIS Stocktaking Report (ITU Secretariat)
- 2.1.17 [WG-WSIS-22/23](#): WSIS Project Prizes (ITU Secretariat)
- 2.1.18 [WG-WSIS-22/07](#): UNGIS Joint Statement on the Post-2015 Development Agenda at the WSIS Forum 2013 (ITU Secretariat)
- 2.1.19 [WG-WSIS-22/30](#): Partnership on Measuring the ICTs for Development (ITU Secretariat)
- 2.1.20 [WG-WSIS-22/29](#): Roadmaps for Action Lines C2, C5, and C6 (ITU Secretariat)

2.2 The Group noted with appreciation the information documents presented and made the following observations:

- 2.2.1 Member States congratulated the secretariat on the successful implementation of outcome-oriented approach for the WSIS Forum 2013 and noted the Outcome Documents as reference documents.
- 2.2.2 Members of the group appreciated the UNGIS Statement and the efforts of ITU and the UN Agencies in ensuring the link between the WSIS+10 Process and post-2015 development agenda.
- 2.2.3 Members of the group expressed their concern regarding the response rate to the questionnaire and strongly encouraged the Member States to respond to the WSIS Targets Survey that will be conducted between July and September 2013 by the Partnership on Measuring ICT for Development, which will be the last opportunity to contribute to the final quantitative Assessment Report on the Achievements of the WSIS Targets, to be launched on the occasion of the WSIS+10 High-Level Event in 2014.

### **3 Preparation to the Overall Review of the Implementation of the WSIS Outcomes (WSIS+10) (PP-10 Res. 172)**

3.1 The Group considered the following documents under this agenda item.

- 3.1.1 [WG-WSIS-21/20](#): Preparation to the Overall Review of the Implementation of the WSIS Outcomes (WSIS+10) (ITU Secretariat)
- 3.1.2 [WG-WSIS-21/05](#): Information Document: Contribution from Rwanda (Rwanda)
- 3.1.3 [WG-WSIS-21/19](#): Country Templates (ITU Secretariat)
- 3.1.4 [WG-WSIS-21/18](#): Update on activities related to the WSIS Fund in Trust of ITU (ITU Secretariat)
- 3.1.5 [WG-WSIS-21/04](#): Booklet: Identifying Emerging Trends and a Vision Beyond 2015 (ITU Secretariat)
- 3.1.6 [WG-WSIS-21/06](#): Emerging Trends in Information Society (ITU Secretariat)
- 3.1.7 [WG-WSIS-21/15](#): Contribution from WG-WSIS Chairman (WG-WSIS Chairman)
- 3.1.8 [WG-WSIS-22/05](#): WSIS Forum 2013: Statement on the WSIS+10 Visioning (ITU Secretariat)
- 3.1.9 [WG-WSIS-22/13](#): Ministerial Round Table, Main outcomes by Chairman (ITU Secretariat)

- 3.1.10 [WG-WSIS-22/28](#): Update on activities related to the WSIS Fund in Trust of ITU (ITU Secretariat)
  - 3.1.11 [WG-WSIS-22/17](#): Regional Development Forum For CIS: Summary of Discussions (ITU Secretariat)
  - 3.1.12 [WG-WSIS-22/18](#): Regional Development Forum For ASP: Summary of Discussions (ITU Secretariat)
  - 3.1.13 [WG-WSIS-22/19](#): United Nations Economic Commission for Africa (UNECA Report on WSIS+10 in Africa) (ITU Secretariat)
  - 3.1.14 [WG-WSIS-22/32](#): Plan of Action for the Knowledge and Information Society in Latin America and the Caribbean, eLAC2015 (UNECLAC/Uruguay)
  - 3.1.15 [WG-WSIS-22/31](#): Montevideo Declaration, Fourth Ministerial Conference on the Information Society in Latin America and the Caribbean (UNECLAC/Uruguay)
  - 3.1.16 [WG-WSIS-22/35](#): Emerging trends in the Information Society, including vision beyond 2015 (ITU Secretariat)
  - 3.1.17 [WG-WSIS-22/15](#): Recommendations from the ITU Sessions at the UNESCO Multi-stakeholder Event on Towards Knowledge Societies for Peace and Sustainable Development (ITU Secretariat)
  - 3.1.18 [WG-WSIS-22/16](#): UNESCO Multi-stakeholder Event on Towards Knowledge Societies for Peace and Sustainable Development : Final Recommendations (ITU Secretariat)
  - 3.1.19 [WG-WSIS-22/14](#): UNESCO Multi-stakeholder Event on Towards Knowledge Societies for Peace and Sustainable Development : Final Statement (ITU Secretariat)
  - 3.1.20 [WG-WSIS-22/10](#): A contribution was made by Rwanda on the 10 Year Country Template (Rwanda)
  - 3.1.21 [WG-WSIS-22/12](#): E-health (Rwanda)
  - 3.1.22 [WG-WSIS-22/34](#): A Contribution was made by the United Arab Emirates on the WSIS+10, WSIS Report 2013 (UAE)
  - 3.1.23 [WG-WSIS-22-09](#): 10 Year Action Line Facilitators Reporting Template (ITU Secretariat)
  - 3.1.24 [WG-WSIS-22/20](#): Contribution from the Russian Federation with proposals for the Council 2013 on ITU activities in the WSIS+10 overall review and preparation to WSIS+10 High level Event (Russian Federation)
- 3.2 The group noted all the reports with appreciation and made the following observations:
- 3.2.1 The group noted that decisions on the WSIS+10 review modalities are expected to be made in the 68th Session of the UNGA in 2013.
  - 3.2.2 The group agreed that ITU should continue its preparation towards the WSIS+10 review process.

- 3.2.3 The group endorsed the view that the high-level event on the WSIS +10 overall review, organized by ITU, be open to all WSIS Stakeholders.
- 3.2.4 All members appreciated the efforts made by Rwanda and UAE in the implementation of WSIS Outcomes, in particular reporting on achievements using the approved ten years Country Reporting Templates. Members of the group were invited to submit their country reports following the approved ten year country template.
- 3.2.5 The new formats for multi-stakeholder discussions and dialogue introduced during the WSIS Forum 2013 were appreciated by the members, in particular, the WSIS+10 Visioning Challenge organized in the “World Café” format was supported as one of the successful formats for brainstorming which also provided networking opportunities.
- 3.2.6 The group proposed that consideration be given whether the Ministerial Round Tables could be organized in the form of an open meeting, inviting all Stakeholders to attend the meeting.
- 3.2.7 All Countries highlighted that the spirit of cooperation during the WSIS Forum 2013 in particular in reference to the WSIS+10 Visioning Track was very productive and useful.
- 3.2.8 The Group noted that the Statement on the WSIS+10 Visioning served as a communication tool for underlining the importance of outcomes of the WSIS+10 Visioning Track at the WSIS Forum 2013. Some administrations drew the group’s attention to the fact that the preparation of this document was developed by the Secretariat as a press release.
- 3.2.9 The Group appreciated the outcomes of the UNESCO hosted Multi-stakeholder Event on Towards Knowledge Societies for Peace and Sustainable Development, and ITU’s contribution to this event.

3.3 The Group proposed the following at its 21<sup>st</sup> meeting proposed:

- 3.3.1 ITU, as the leading United Nations agency in the field of telecommunications/ICT, should continue, under its mandate, to play a leading role in further development of the Information Society and its complementary aspects to achieve the Knowledge Society, in close cooperation and collaboration with other WSIS Stakeholders, on an equal footing.
- 3.3.2 To invite ITU to continue the activity mentioned above, with the view that the world’s inhabitants have open access to the knowledge accumulated by mankind using, *inter alia* broadband, mobility, and environmentally friendly “green” technologies.
- 3.3.3 To recommend to the Secretary-General to submit to the UNESCO Multi-stakeholder Event “Towards Knowledge Societies for Peace and Sustainable development” in February 2013 a report on the activities of ITU in the WSIS outcome implementation, preparations to the overall review of the implementation of the WSIS outcomes and suggestions about the emerging trends and vision to ensure the future development after 2015.

- 3.3.4 To recommend that the ITU membership analyses the regional results of the implementation of the WSIS Outcomes and to consider proposals being submitted on emerging trends and vision beyond 2015, at the Regional Preparatory Forums at the WSIS+10 Review.
- 3.3.5 To recommend that the ITU membership participate actively in the WSIS+10 Plenary Sessions during the WSIS Forum 2013 in the discussion on the emerging trends and vision beyond 2015.
- 3.3.6 To invite membership to contribute to the next WG-WSIS meetings with proposals regarding emerging trends in the Information Society and including a vision beyond 2015, as well as possible options for an outcome of the 2014 event, taking into account the General Assembly decisions.

3.4 The group, at its 22nd meeting, in relation to the upcoming WSIS+10 High-Level Event the Group, taking into account the outcomes of the WSIS Forum 2013 and the WSIS+10 Visioning Track and the outcome of UNESCO-hosted multi-stakeholder event that includes ITU's contribution towards the event, proposes the following to the Council 2013:

- 3.4.1 To recognize the need to continue the WSIS Process after 2015 for the further development of the Information Society on the way to a knowledge society with a view to take full advantage of ICTs in addressing development challenges of the 21st century;
- 3.4.2 Recalling the outcomes of the WSIS Forum 2013 Ministerial Round Table where ministers "encouraged the WSIS Process to continue beyond 2015" and recognizing that the WSIS Forum has proven to be a platform to assess progress, share experiences and promote further development on the basis of the participation of all WSIS stakeholders, consider the continuation of holding such a process, in consultation with UN agencies;
- 3.4.3 To support the organization of the WSIS+10 High-Level Event to be held in Sharm el Sheikh, Egypt in April 2014, which will be an extended version of the WSIS Forum that will simultaneously address the challenge of the WSIS overall review process, while providing a platform for multi-stakeholder coordination of the implementation of the WSIS outcomes, with involvement of all necessary UN focal points and relevant stakeholders, and open to all WSIS stakeholders. Instruct the Secretary-General to take all possible measures to ensure the full engagement and participation of all UN organizations, in particular those who have been mandated by the Tunis Agenda to perform particular tasks related to the implementation of the WSIS Outcomes;
- 3.4.4 The High-level Event should provide the overall review of, not less than, the ITU implementation of WSIS 2003/2005 outcomes and proposals on a new post-2015 vision with new targets and the Action Plan after 2015 in the area of ITU's responsibility and other Agencies in case they wish so. This should be implemented taking into account decisions of the 68th Session of the UN General Assembly and will be followed by the further review and approval by the Plenipotentiary Conference 2014;
- 3.4.5 To instruct the Council Working Group on WSIS to initiate the preparatory process toward the WSIS+10 High-Level Event through an open, inclusive Multi-stakeholder Preparatory Platform;

- 3.4.6 To instruct the Council Working Group on WSIS to hold online open consultations and a necessary number of meetings, with remote participation as an integral component, that should serve as the preparatory meetings leading towards the WSIS+10 High-Level Event. These meetings should be organized in an open, inclusive and multi-stakeholder manner (Multi-stakeholder Preparatory Platform);
- 3.4.7 To instruct the ITU Secretary-General to issue an open invitation to all WSIS stakeholders, including the relevant regional organizations, inviting them to participate actively in the Preparatory Process;
- 3.4.8 To instruct the Secretary-General to submit a background document to serve as a basis for the future work of the Multi-stakeholder Preparatory Platform that should include proposals from the members, taking into account the outcomes of WSIS Forums, in particular in 2013, UNGIS, CSTD and UNESCO meetings in 2013.
- 3.4.9 The Multi-stakeholder Preparatory Platform is expected to develop two drafts of the outcome documents for submission to the WSIS+10 High-Level Event by 1 March 2014, (for ITU and other interested UN Agencies);
- Draft WSIS+10 Declaration
  - Draft WSIS+10 Agenda for WSIS Beyond 2015.
- 3.4.10 To encourage all WSIS Stakeholders to provide financial means to facilitate the participation of WSIS stakeholders in the Multi-stakeholder Preparatory Platform, from the developing and least developed countries.
- 3.4.11 To instruct the Secretary-General, based on the existing WSIS Stocktaking process, to provide an effective mechanism for ten years of reporting by countries and action line facilitators based on available templates, in order to ensure that the outcomes of the High-Level Event take into account the current level of implementation of the WSIS outcomes, new trends and innovations, as well as challenges for WSIS beyond 2015.
- 3.4.12 To encourage Member States, WSIS Action Line Facilitators, and Stakeholders to provide ten Years country and WSIS Action Line Facilitators reports respectively, based on the templates agreed by multi-stakeholder consensus, to the first physical meeting in a draft form and the final versions to the second meeting at the latest.
- 3.4.13 To encourage Member States to respond to the WSIS Targets survey that will be conducted between July and September 2013 by the Partnership on Measuring ICTs for Development, which will be the last opportunity to contribute to the final quantitative Assessment Report on the Achievements of the WSIS Targets, to be launched on the occasion of the WSIS+10 High-Level Event in 2014.
- 3.4.14 To invite relevant regional organizations to engage actively and to participate in the preparation for the High-Level Event and to submit regional vision and proposals to the Council Working Group on WSIS.

#### **4 Proposals for adapting ITU to its role in building the information society (Res. 140)**

4.1 There were no proposals for this item at the 21st and 22nd meetings of the group. Members of the group were encouraged to prepare their proposals for the future meeting of WG-WSIS.

4.2 Chairman noted that the Group should formulate a response for the PP request to the 2013 session of Council, as referenced below:

*resolves:*

4. *“that ITU should continue to adapt itself, taking into account technological developments and its potential to contribute significantly to building an inclusive information society”*

*requests the Council*

2. to oversee ITU's adaptation to the information society, in line with *resolves* 4 above;

#### **5 Final conclusions by Chairman**

5.1 Chairman extends his personal thanks to all the ITU Member States and Sector Members who participated in the work of the WG-WSIS especially to: Russian Federation; Rwanda; UAE for its contribution; the Vice-Chairmen Mr Majed Almazyed, Saudi Arabia, and Mr Frederic Riehl, Switzerland; as well as Dr Hamadoun Touré, Secretary-General, and Mr Houlin Zhao, Deputy Secretary-General and the Chairman of the ITU WSIS Task Force, other elected officials and the General Secretariat for the efficient assistance provided during the meetings.

Prof. Dr. Vladimir Minkin  
(Russian Federation)