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**Chairman, Working Group on WSIS (WG-WSIS)**

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

**Summary**

This report summarizes the main results of the 23rd Meeting of the Working Group on WSIS (WG-WSIS), held on 19-20 February 2014 in line with PP-10 Resolutions 140 and 172. An Addendum to this document will reflect outcomes of a session of the 24th Meeting to be held on 5 May 2014.

**Action required**

The Council is requested **to consider** the report.

**Reference**

*Resolution 140 (Rev. Guadalajara, 2010), Resolution 172 (Guadalajara, 2010), Council Resolution 1332, Council Resolution 1334 (MOD 2013), Council Resolution 1336, Report of 21st and 22nd CWG WSIS meeting.*

**1. Introduction**

1.1 ITU Council Working Group on WSIS (WG-WSIS) held its 23rd meeting on 19-20 February 2014 in Geneva. The work of the WG-WSIS is conducted in line with Resolution 140 of the Plenipotentiary Conference (Rev. Guadalajara, 2010) and Resolution 172 (Guadalajara, 2010), and consequently Council Resolution 1334. The Terms of Reference of the WG-WSIS are listed in the Annex to Council Resolution 1332. More than 65 delegates, representing ITU Member States and Sector Members, participated in the meeting. The meeting was chaired by Prof. Dr Vladimir Minkin (Russian Federation), Chairman of the WG-WSIS.

**2. Adoption of the agenda**

2.1 The agenda (WG-WSIS-23/01) reflecting the distribution of documents was adopted as drafted.

### **3. Welcoming Remarks of Elected Officials**

3.1 Mr Houlin Zhao, Deputy Secretary-General, ITU welcomed the participants of the 23rd Meeting of the Working Group on WSIS and congratulated the Chairman, Professor Minkin and the Vice Chairs, Saudi Arabia and Switzerland, and the Membership for their vision, hard work and guidance to this group. He highlighted that one of the key achievements of this group is the value of multistakeholder participatory consultations that has been deeply instituted and established over the years. The WSIS+10 High-Level Event Multistakeholder Preparatory platform (MPP) initiated by the “*instructs*” from Council 2013, is a perfect example of an open and inclusive mechanism. The ITU membership has strongly commended the multistakeholder approach as the way forward. He updated the meeting on the third physical meeting of the MPP, held on 17-18 February 2014 where the 1st readings of the chapters from the WSIS+10 Statement and Vision was completed. He drew attention to the upcoming WSIS+10 High-Level Event highlighting the fact that it will be an extended version of the WSIS Forum. Over the years the WSIS Forum has become an outcome-oriented event, not only identifying emerging trends but also gathering multistakeholder consensus on WSIS-related matters. The WSIS+10 High-Level Event is planned to be held from 10-13 June 2014, in Geneva. He also mentioned the ongoing efforts towards quantitative and qualitative assessment. Mr Zhao brought to notice all the ten-year reports submitted to date. He also informed the meeting about the progress in the WSIS Stocktaking Process, including WSIS Project Prizes, and of the chairmanship of ITU UN Group on the Information Society for the year 2014. He invited the ITU membership to the World Telecommunication Development Conference (WTDC) that will be held in Dubai from 30 March to 10 April.

3.2 Mr Malcolm Johnson, Director of Telecommunication Standardization Bureau, welcomed all participants and provided an update on key activities undertaken by ITU-T relevant to the implementation of WSIS outcomes. He referred to the newest standards that help in bridging broadband gap as well as ongoing work on emerging trends in the ICT ecosystem, emphasizing the Internet of Things and smart technologies. He highlighted that there is an increased number of academic memberships and Sector Members.

### **4. Implementation and follow-up to the resolutions related to WSIS:**

- a) PP-10 Resolutions 140 (Rev. Guadalajara, 2010) and 172 (Guadalajara, 2010) and Council Resolutions 1332 and 1334 (Modified 2012 and 2013)**
- b) UN resolutions and relevant reports (CSTD, ECOSOC and UNGA)**

4.1 The General Secretariat provided information and updates on the relevant decisions, resolutions and reports at the UN level.

4.2 Meeting took note on the briefing reiterating the importance of the decisions on the modalities of the Overall Review of the WSIS Outcomes to be developed by the end of March 2014, while noting information that according to the UNGA Resolution A/68/198 on Information and Communications Technologies for Development, the president of General Assembly appointed two co-facilitators (Tunisia and Finland) to convene open intergovernmental consultations for finalizing the modalities of the overall review of the implementation of WSIS Outcomes.

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

5.1 The General Secretariat provided briefings on the following:

- 5.1.1 The ITU Contribution to the Implementation of the WSIS Outcomes 2013: ([WG-WSIS-23/07](#))
- 5.1.2 WSIS Forum

- 5.1.3 World Telecommunication and Information Society Day 2014: ([WG-WSIS-23/09](#))
- 5.1.4 WSIS Stocktaking Process including WSIS Project Prizes 2014: ([WG-WSIS-23/12](#))
- 5.1.5 UN Group on the Information Society (UNGIS)
- 5.1.6 Partnership on Measuring the ICTs for Development: ([WG-WSIS-23/10](#))
- 5.1.7 Roadmaps for Action Lines C2, C5, C6
- 5.1.8 Connect the World
- 5.1.9 BYND 2015 Summit
- 5.1.10 ITU and the Post 2015 Development Agenda ([WG-WSIS-23-16](#))

5.2 The Group also noted with appreciation the information documents presented. It was noted that this year 17 prizes will be awarded instead of 18.

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

**a) Follow-up activities to the PP-10 Resolution 172 and Council Resolution 1334, including the outcomes of the UN General Assembly and implications for ITU.**

**b) Preparations to the WSIS+10 High-Level Event**

6.1 The General Secretariat provided briefings on the following:

- 6.1.1 Preparatory process: Update on WSIS+10 MPP ([WG-WSIS-23/13](#))
- 6.1.2 Draft agenda and structure of WSIS+10 High-Level Event
- 6.1.3 10 Year Country and WSIS Action Line Reports
- 6.1.4 10 Year AL C2 Report ([WG-WSIS-23/04](#))
- 6.1.5 10 Year AL C5 Report ([WG-WSIS-23/05](#))
- 6.1.6 10 Year AL C6 Report C6 ([WG-WSIS-23/06](#))
- 6.1.7 ITU WSIS+10 Report ([WG-WSIS-23/11](#))

6.2 The Group took note with appreciation of the briefings and information reports, while providing the following:

- 6.2.1 It was highlighted that all UN Agencies mandated by Tunis Agenda to perform specific task related to the implementation of the WSIS outcomes are involved in the organization of the WSIS+10 High-Level Event, as an extended version of the WSIS Forum, and the preparatory process leading towards the elaboration of the outcome documents. The Agencies are part of the process under their respective mandates.
- 6.2.2 The countries and other stakeholders are invited to provide their proposals for the agenda and innovations in the format of the WSIS Forum component of the WSIS+10 High-Level Event.
- 6.2.3 The WSIS+10 High-Level Event is scheduled to be held 10-13 June 2014, subject to consultations with Council Members.
- 6.2.4 The secretariat should take into account all the parallel events relevant to the WSIS Process in order to ensure wide participation.
- 6.2.5 Information on the High-Level Segment of the WSIS+10 High-Level Event should be shared with all WSIS Stakeholders as soon as possible to facilitate arrangements for highest possible representation of the WSIS Stakeholders.
- 6.2.6 With reference to the Partnership on Measuring ICT for Development request was made to provide preview of the report before the High-Level Event.

- 6.2.7 Additional information should be provided on the targets as well as efforts made towards the development of the Global Cybersecurity Index.
- 6.2.8 It was suggested that additional work is needed to facilitate the discussion on new targets for the WSIS beyond 2015 subject to the outcomes of the WSIS review.
- 6.2.9 There is a need for executive summaries of the ten-year implementation reports to be provided by Action Line Facilitators for further consideration and consultation to support the review of the ten-year implementation of Action Lines in the WSIS+10 MPP process.
- 6.2.10 Action Line Facilitators are encouraged to submit their respective ten-year implementation reports.
- 6.2.11 Countries are invited to submit their ten year country reports to the WSIS+10 MPP process.
- 6.2.12 It was noted that the WSTID 2014 celebrations will be held on 16 May as 17 May is a Saturday, a non-working day in Geneva for several organizations.

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

- 7.1 The Chairman presented the document [WG-WSIS-23-14](#) on *Adapting ITU to its role in building the information society while implementing the outcomes of the World Summit on the Information Society (Res. 140)* - Contribution by Chairman.
- 7.2 The meeting noted the document with appreciation and after discussion agreed to include the revised version to the four-year report as follows:
  - 7.2.1 In accordance to the instructs of PP Resolution 140 and Council Resolution 1332, the following presents series of key adaptations that have been carried out since the 2010 Plenipotentiary Conference.
  - 7.2.2 The **WSIS Task Force**, chaired by the Deputy Secretary-General of ITU, is an effective and efficient mechanism to coordinate substantive and policy issues on implementation of the outcomes of the WSIS ensuring smooth adaptation of ITU in its role in building the information society.
  - 7.2.3 The Sectors and the General Secretariat have appointed the **ITU Focal Points for WSIS** that are accountable for WSIS Implementation and coordination in their respective areas. The focal points regularly attend the WSIS Task Force and integrate the strategic decisions of the Task Force in the sector activities. List of ITU-WSIS Focal Points is available here:
    - [http://www.itu.int/itu-wsis/focal-points\\_al.html](http://www.itu.int/itu-wsis/focal-points_al.html)
    - [http://www.itu.int/itu-wsis/focal-points\\_oth.html](http://www.itu.int/itu-wsis/focal-points_oth.html)
  - 7.2.4 Since the Plenipotentiary Conference 2010, specific tasks, objectives and deadlines have been developed for implementing WSIS activities and incorporating them in the **operational plans** of the General Secretariat and three Sectors. Thereby the implementation role of the Sectors has been strengthened and the links between WSIS-related activities enhanced.
  - 7.2.5 The **Broadband Commission**, created on the initiative of ITU, has been recognized at the international level as a unique advisory and monitoring platform, with the aim of strengthening communication on the new paradigm of Broadband as a key enabler for sustainable development.
  - 7.2.6 **Mechanism for regular reporting** on WSIS-related activities of ITU encompassing the actions of three Sectors and the General Secretariat has been established. An annual publication on ITU's contribution to the implementation of the WSIS outcomes has been successfully launched since 2011, providing yearly updates on the tasks carried out by ITU at the operational and policy level, covering all assigned mandates with reference to the WSIS

Process. It has paved the way for elaboration of the ten year report to the Plenipotentiary Conference 2014.

7.2.7 Since 2011, the **WSIS Action Line Roadmaps** of ITU's activities in its role as the sole facilitator for Action Lines C2, C5, C6 have become a reference point for stakeholders as well as a useful managerial tool for implementing the actions relevant to the Union.

7.2.8 A culture of **multistakeholder processes and open consultations** has been established by the WSIS Process thereby strengthening its ability to facilitate multistakeholder engagement. The WSIS+10 High-Level Event Multistakeholder Preparatory Platform (MPP) initiated by the "*instructs*" from Council 2013, is a good example of an open and inclusive mechanism. This is increasingly being adapted in the ITU work processes as a good practice.

7.2.9 Since its beginning, the **WSIS Forum**, hosted by ITU in collaboration with other UN Action Line facilitators, has become an efficient global platform for coordination of the implementation of the WSIS Outcomes. It attracts more than 1800 stakeholders annually providing ITU the opportunity to facilitate international cooperation, identify the emerging trends in 11 WSIS Action Lines, as well as engage new stakeholders in the work of the Union.

7.2.10 **WSIS Stocktaking Process, including WSIS Project Prizes**, has become a unique platform for collection of ICT-related projects providing significant contribution to the transfer of knowledge and sharing best practices at the global level, necessary to accelerate the process of building inclusive Information Society.

7.3 The Russian Federation presented Contribution [WG-WSIS-23/08](#).

7.3.1 The contribution was noted with thanks and several observations were made with respect to the proposal.

## 8 Working Definition of the term ICT

8.1 Chairman presented document [WG-WSIS-23/03](#) providing an update on the work of the Correspondence Group established to elaborate a working definition of the Term "ICT". TDAG 2013 endorsed the work of the Correspondence Group, noted the definition and directed the report of the Group to the Council and its Working Groups.

8.2 The Group noted the document on the working definition of the term ICT.

## 9 Summary of the 22nd Meeting

9.1 A Summary of the 22nd Meeting of the WG-WSIS was approved by the Group and posted on the WG-WSIS website ([www.itu.int/wg-wsis](http://www.itu.int/wg-wsis)).

9.2 In closing the meeting, the Chairman extended his personal thanks to all ITU Member States and Sector Members who participated in the work of the WG-WSIS especially: the Russian Federation; Dr Hamadoun Touré, Secretary-General; Mr Houlin Zhao, Deputy Secretary-General and Chairman of the ITU WSIS Task Force; Mr Malcolm Johnson, Director of Telecommunication Standardization Bureau; other elected officials; and the General Secretariat for the efficient assistance provided during meeting.

9.3 The Group thanked the Chairman of the working group for efficient chairmanship and guidance. The Group also thanked the secretariat for their support.

Prof. Dr Vladimir Minkin  
(Russian Federation)