

Report by the Secretary-General

COLLABORATION WITH THE UNITED NATIONS SYSTEM

Summary

This report presents an overview of ITU's activities in relation with the UN system during the period of June 2013-May 2014.

Action required

This report is transmitted to Council for information.

References

[Documents C08/INF/8](#), [C11/INF/6](#), [C12/INF/1\(Rev.1\)](#), and [C13/INF/10-E](#)

COLLABORATION WITH THE UNITED NATIONS SYSTEM

1. As a United Nations Specialized Agency, ITU collaborates, participates and interacts within the United Nations system, through its governance processes, subsidiary mechanisms and its inter-agency coordination networks, with the objectives to strengthen synergies and fosters greater cooperation and information-sharing in order to deliver its programmatic, operational, and management mandates in a more coherent and coordinated manner. The ITU Secretary-General meets and consults on a regular basis with the UN Secretary-General (UNSG) to discuss and assess the work of the United Nations and the Union, the priorities set and the challenges in moving forward the agenda of both organizations.
2. The ITU General Secretariat, assisted by the UN Liaison Office in New York, coordinates ITU's external relations and ensures that its voice and mandate is heard in the UN system. ITU has consistently followed the issues for discussion that are related to ITU's mandate and activities and has provided a source of knowledge and expertise as a potential partner in the decision-making process, ensuring strategic issues concerning ICTs for development, World Summit for the Information Society (WSIS) follow-up process, and Broadband Commission outcomes, among others of interest, are well reflected in relevant resolutions of the intergovernmental bodies of the United Nations, mainly the General Assembly (UNGA), the Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC), and the Commission on Science and Technology for Development (CSTD). During the past year, significant efforts, through its liaison work, active participation, partnerships, initiatives and timely inputs to reports, have increased the ITU's visibility as the UN leading specialized agency for ICTs and the potential of ICTs to promote human development.

PARTICIPATION IN THE INTERGOVERNMENTAL PROCESSES OF THE UN, OTHER SPECIALIZED AGENCIES AND RELATED ORGANIZATIONS

United Nations General Assembly (UNGA)

3. The ITU Secretary-General attended the annual inaugural of the General Debate of the 68th United Nations General Assembly. Activities during this week included, among others: participation in plenaries, panel discussions, thematic side-events, report launches and bilateral meetings. In supporting the 2013 High-Level Meeting on Disability and Development (HLMDD), ITU led work on the report "*The ICT Opportunity for a Disability-Inclusive Development Framework*" and Inter-Agency side event advocating in favour of a post-2015 development agenda that highlights a call for available, affordable and accessible ICTs to significantly improve the inclusion of persons with disabilities in all aspects of society.

4. During the 68th Session of the UNGA, ITU participated and contributed in the following: The Second Committee organizational meeting in follow-up to ITU Council Resolution 1334 on WSIS+10; the Third Committee's Informal consultations on resolution [A/RES/68/167](#), "The right to privacy in the digital age" (under Agenda Item 69 (b)); the draft resolution A/RES/68/220 "Science, Technology and Innovation for Development" (under Agenda Item 21 (b)); and the resolution [A/RES/68/198](#) "ICTs for Development" (under Agenda Item 16). Efforts to include the work of ITU in these resolutions are reflected in language that acknowledges ITU's work in a number of areas, including WSIS, the ITU/UNESCO Broadband Commission for Digital Development, the BYND 2015 Youth Summit and Transform Africa Summit 2013. In addition, ITU followed the negotiations related to resolution [A/RES/68/243](#) on "Developments in the field of information and telecommunications in the context of international security", resolution [A/RES/68/75](#) on "International cooperation in the peaceful uses of outer space" and resolution [A/RES/67/298](#) "Developing cooperation for better connectivity and telecommunications transit routes in the Trans-Eurasian region". ITU also participated as a panellist on the role of the UN which focused on mobile technologies and was convened by the UN Security Council.

5. ITU has provided ICT-related inputs to a number of the UN Secretary-General's annual reports presented to the 67th and 68th General Assemblies, including, among others: Mainstreaming sustainable development, Commission on the Status of Women/Gender Equality, youth, education, Least Developed Countries (LDCs), including the Implementation of the Istanbul Programme of Action (IPoA) for the Least Developed Countries, Small Island Developing States (SIDS), landlocked developing countries for the implementation of the Almaty Programme of Action (APoA), persons with disabilities, climate change, NEPAD, Millennium Development Goals (MDGs), World Summit on the Information Society (WSIS) implementation and follow-up, ICTs for development, and the Quadrennial Comprehensive Policy Review (QCPR).

Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC) and Functional Commissions

6. As a highlight, in July 2013, the UN Economic and Social Council's (ECOSOC) Annual Ministerial Review was dedicated to the theme "*Science, technology and innovation, and the potential of culture, for promoting sustainable development and achieving the Millennium Development Goals*". In addition to a keynote address by the ITU Secretary-General, activities included a stand at the 'Innovation Fair'; co-sponsorship of a Ministerial Breakfast, "*Be healthy, Be Mobile*" with the International Federation of Pharmaceutical Manufacturers; and on Implementation Forum announcement of the m-Powering Development initiative. In honour of this occasion, ITU and Cisco launched the report "Planning for Progress: Why National Broadband Plans Matter". In addition, in support of ECOSOC's Annual Ministerial Review, ITU's work on Mobiles4Midwives was also presented during the partnership workshops organized by UNDESA in New York, which strives to attempt to ensure that every child has a birth record.

7. ITU continued to participate actively in the Commission on Science and Technology for Development (CSTD) annual session and provided input to the annual Report of the Secretary-General on progress made in the implementation of and follow-up to the outcomes of the WSIS. Efforts to include the work of ITU in these [resolutions](#) are reflected in language that acknowledges ITU's work in a number of areas, including WSIS, the Broadband Commission, the BYND 2015 Youth Summit and establishment of an ITU Focus Group on Smart and Sustainable Cities. ITU also participated in the CSTD Working Group on Enhanced Cooperation (WGEC).

8. ITU participates actively in the annual sessions of the UN Statistical Commission (UNSC). On behalf of the Partnership on Measuring ICT for Development, ITU submitted a report on ICT statistics to the UNSC meeting in 2014, which considered the topic of ICT statistics as an item for discussion. ITU introduced the report during the session.

Governing Bodies of other UN Specialized Agencies

9. ITU attends, as an observer, meetings of governing bodies of sister UN specialized agencies and related organizations. Over the period in review, ITU attended the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization's (UNESCO) General Conference (and Executive Board); where it closely followed and participated in the discussion under item 5.22 on Internet-Related Issues: Including access to information knowledge, freedom of expression, privacy and ethical dimensions of the Information Society. ITU also followed the governing bodies of the World Health Organization, World Meteorological Organization, the Human Rights Council and WTO's Council for Trade in Services. ITU also participates in the UN Governing Bodies Secretariat Group (UNGBS).

UN Summits and Conferences

10. As the lead UN Agency responsible for organizing the WSIS in 2003 and 2005, ITU has continued to play a key role in the implementation and follow-up of the WSIS, in coordination with other lead Action Line UN Agencies, through the annual WSIS Forum, and ensuring an inclusive WSIS+10 consultation and preparation process of a High-Level event in 2014. In addition, ITU continues to participate actively in the Internet Governance Forum (IGF). At the 8th IGF in Bali, Indonesia, in October 2013, three Dynamic Coalition meetings and several workshops were organized or co-organized by ITU. An ITU-UNICEF Joint Open Forum on Child Online Protection was organized in order to officially launch a public consultation on the updated version of the COP Guidelines for Industry. Furthermore, one of the phases of the ITU Secretary-General's informal consultation ('Open Talks') on the role of governments in the multistakeholder model of Internet Governance was also held at IGF 2013, in an open and inclusive town hall meeting format.

11. ITU participated in the 19th session of the Conference of the Parties to the UNFCCC and the 9th session of the Conference of the Parties serving as the Meeting of the Parties to the Kyoto Protocol (COP19/CMP9) which took place from 11 to 22 November 2013 in Warsaw, Poland. ITU is also working in collaboration with the UN-System on the United Nations Secretary-General's Climate Summit to be held in New York on 23 September 2014 during the 69th UN General Assembly. ITU also continues to follow-up on the Rio+20 processes and provides inputs to the Global Sustainability report. ITU has provided inputs, including proposals, and is participating in preparations for the [Third International Conference on Small Island Developing States](#) to take place in Apia, Samoa, on 1-4 September 2014. Within the framework of the Istanbul Declaration and the Istanbul Programme of Action (IPoA) for the decade 2011-2020, ITU provided input to and is participating in the preparations for the Benin Ministerial Conference on "New Partnerships for the Development of Productive Capacities in the LDCs" in Benin during 2014.

COORDINATION WITHIN THE UN SYSTEM AND WITH OTHER SPECIALIZED AGENCIES

Chief Executive Board for Coordination (CEB) and its subsidiary bodies

12. Executive Heads of UN system organizations meet twice a year, under the chairmanship of the Secretary-General of the UN to coordinate and cooperate on a whole range of substantive and management issues faced by United Nations system organizations. The CEB is supported by three High Level Committees: High-Level Committee on Programmes (HLCP), High-Level Committee on Management (HLCM) and United Nations Development Group (UNDG), in which ITU also takes part.

13. The ITU Secretary-General attended the CEB's second regular session held in New York, from 25-26 November 2013, which addressed among its items the issue of system-wide concern of Cybersecurity /Cybercrime and Policies on Information. During the meeting, the UN Secretary-General noted the need for a substantive discussion on this issue, as well as the need to take action to protect the work of the UN system, and the populations that it serves. At this session, the CEB endorsed a UN system-wide framework on cybersecurity and cybercrime adopted by the HLCP in October 2013, and welcomed the initiative by HLCM to develop an enhanced system-wide capacity to address cybersecurity threats to UN agencies. Subsequently, the UN Secretary-General called for ITU, together with UNESCO, UNODC, UNDP, UNCTAD, in close coordination with HLCP, HLCM and UNDG, to develop a system-wide comprehensive and coherent strategy for addressing the issue of cybersecurity, for discussion at the 2nd regular session of 2014.

14. During the Fall session of the HLCP which took place from 17-18 October 2013 in Geneva, ITU, together with UNODC, coordinated the discussions on cybersecurity and cybercrime. The resulting framework document was endorsed and forwarded to CEB for approval. During this period, ITU has also continued to contribute to the joint UN initiatives in response to the CEB/HLCP Climate Change Action Framework and the newly established Task Team on "Urban Risk Management and Climate Smart Cities" led by UN Habitat.

15. ITU participates in the work of the High-Level Committee on Management responsible for ensuring coordination in administrative and management areas across the UN system and in the work of its sub-committee, including the steering Committee on Safety and Security, the ICT Network and the Human Resources Network. Within the ICT network, ITU is the lead agency on information and system security and the ITU Secretary-General continues as its Chair. In response to the request formulated in the Quadrennial Comprehensive Policy Review (QCPR) of Operational Activities for Development of the UN System, it was agreed that the Chair of the ICT Network would lead a study to examine the feasibility of establishing interoperability among the Enterprise Resource Planning (ERP) systems of the UN organizations. The Committee further agreed to form a project steering group under the leadership of the ICT Network Chair, including managers of agencies, funds and programmes, as well as member states and industries.

16. ITU has also followed the UN Development Group (UNDG) meetings, which unite the UN Funds, Programmes, Agencies, Departments, and offices that play a role in development. The ITU Secretary-General and UNDP Administrator have continued to work to ensure ICTs are part of the UN Development Assistance Framework (UNDAF), particularly in light of the Funding Modalities in Support of the Resident Coordinator System, which was presented to ITU Council in 2013. Since Council, a joint letter to the RCs urging them to incorporate information and communication technologies (ICTs) for Development into the UN Development Assistance Frameworks (UNDAs) has been sent. ITU Council (6-15 May 2014), is expected to take a decision on the level of ITU contribution to the Resident Coordinator System.

Participation in other inter-agency networks

17. ITU also participates and contributes to the work of various Inter-Agency mechanisms and networks, among them the following:

- Inter-Agency Network on Women and Gender Equality (IANWGE) and the United Nations System-wide Action Plan (UNSWAP) for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women
- Inter-Agency Network on Youth Development (IANYD) and the System-wide Action Plan on Youth (Youth-SWAP)
- Inter-Agency and Expert Group on MDG Indicators
- Inter-Agency and Expert Group on Gender Statistics
- Inter-Agency Support Group for the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities
- Inter-Agency Consultative Group of the United Nations system and international organizations on the Implementation of the Istanbul Programme of Action for the least developed Countries for the Decade 2011-2020
- Inter-Agency Standing Committee Sub Working Group on Emergency Telecommunication / Emergency Telecommunication Cluster
- Interagency Task Force on Non Communicable Diseases
- Inter-Agency Task Force on Africa
- Inter-Agency Task Force on the establishment of a Technology Bank and Science, Technology and Innovation
- Committee for the Coordination of Statistical Activities (CCSA) among international organizations
- MDG Gap Task Force
- United Nations Environment Management Group (EMG)
- United Nations Geographic Information Working Group (UNGIWG)
- United Nations Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space (COPUOS)
- UN System Task Team on the Post-2015 UN Development Agenda (UNTT)
- Executive Committee on Economic and Social Affairs (ECESA)
- The United Nations Communication group
- UN Governing Bodies Secretariat Group (UNGBS)
- The UN International Committee on Global Navigation Satellite Systems (ICG)
- UN Strategic Planning Network (UNSPN)
- United Nations Group on the Information Society (UNGIS)

18. In support to the Youth SWAP, during the [ITU Global Youth Summit "BYND 2015"](#) held in Costa Rica on 9-11 in September 2013, awareness on the role of ICT was raised among the 600 participating youth from 68 countries along with over 4,000 others who joined the discussion virtually from 50 hubs in 30 countries. The [Youth Declaration of the ITU Global Youth Summit](#) was developed through a specially designed online crowdsourcing platform, which was later transmitted by the President of Costa Rica to the UN General Assembly. The Summit had a Twitter reach of 16 million.

19. ITU continued to participate very actively to the work of the Inter-Agency Support Group for the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (see also paragraph 3). In 2013, ITU also participated in the thematic workshop "Inclusion of and Accessibility for Persons with Disabilities", organized in Paris, 26 November 2013, as well as presenting the work of the World Standards Cooperation (WSC) in the field of accessibility. ITU contributed to the implementation of the UN Convention through the 2013 IASG Joint Strategy and Plan of Action, by submitting an overview of the ITU most recent actions and activities. Along with the all United Nations agencies based in Geneva, ITU substantially contributed to the Celebration of the 2013 International Day of Persons with Disabilities, 3 December 2013.

20. ITU joined the UN Strategic Planning Network (UNSPN), an informal body of strategic planning and results based management units of each UN organization. ITU participated in the conference held in Rome, Italy, from 21-22 November 2013, and will co-organize, together with the ITC, the next meeting in Geneva in 2014. ITU has agreed to create and manage a collaborative platform for exchange of knowledge within the network.

21. ITU has also continued to participate in the UN Group on the Information Society, with the ITU Secretary-General serving as Chair in 2014.

KEY INITIATIVES WITH OTHER UN FUNDS, PROGRAMMES AND SPECIALIZED AGENCIES

At the International level

UN System-wide

22. As a committed partner in the United Nations system, ITU endeavours to develop joint initiatives with sister organizations within the UN system and contributes to the “Delivering as One” objective. Examples of ongoing and new initiatives ITU has undertaken during the period with UN sister agencies, funds, programmes and other relevant partnerships are as follow:

23. ITU has contributed significantly to the work of the Partnership on Measuring ICT for Development and its Task Groups over the past year. ITU has been re-elected as a member of the Steering Committee and is currently chairing the Committee. ITU is also leading the Partnership Task Group on WSIS and co-leading with UNCTAD the Partnership Task Group on Gender. A comprehensive, final quantitative assessment report on the achievements of the WSIS targets is currently being finalized and will be released during the WSIS High-level event in June 2014. A stocktaking report on measuring ICT and gender has been prepared and was presented during the 11th World Telecommunication/ICT Indicators Symposium held in Mexico from 4-6 December 2013. A report on ICT statistics was prepared under the leadership of ITU for discussion at the annual session of the UN Statistical Commission in March 2014.

24. ITU is collaborating with the UN System for its participation in Expo 2015, which will take place in Milan, Italy from 1 May to 31 October 2015. In recognition of the fact that food is central to humankind, life and sustainable development, the theme of Expo 2015 is “Feeding the Planet, Energy for Life”.

25. ITU continues to work with the New Partnership for Africa’s Development (NEPAD), the African Union Commission (AUC), the United Nations Economic Commission for Africa (UNECA), the African Development Bank (ADB), the World Bank and other partners in the following up the Connect Africa Summit Initiative which provides the forum and platform for coordination of various projects and activities leading to NEPAD objectives in the development of ICT infrastructure in Africa. ITU also provided technical assistance to AUC in conducting a feasibility study and business plan for the Africa Observatory of Science, Technology and Innovation (AOSTI) online platform. ITU participated in the AFRICA-NEPAD’s High-Level Panel Discussion on Africa's Innovation in Governance, Pan-Africanism & the African Renaissance, as well as the UN Briefing on “Promoting Pan-Africanism and African Renaissance”.

26. The intergovernmental organizations coalition (IGOs), composed of approximately 40 UN agencies, including the UN, WHO, WIPO, OECD, and ITU, expressed serious concerns to the Internet Corporation for Assigned Names and Numbers (ICANN), on the increased potential of the misleading registration and/or use of IGO names and acronyms in the internet domain name system, especially under the recent new Generic Top Level Domains (new gTLDs). As part of the IGO coalition, ITU has sustained its effort to discuss the issue of protecting IGO names and acronyms in the new gTLD with various constituencies of ICANN, including the Governmental Advisory Committee (GAC) and the ICANN Board.

With Specialized agencies and related organizations/entities

27. Leveraging the synergies between the Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) and ITU, both organizations are cooperating with the aim to address such issues as policy interventions related to mobile agricultural information systems and guidelines for implementing an e-Agriculture policy, including the technical policies that might be required.

28. The ITU Secretary-General and the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) Director-General continued their close cooperation as co-vice chairs of the Broadband Commission for Digital Development (see [Document C13/INF/4](#)).
29. The ITU, UNESCO, Intergovernmental Oceanographic Commission (IOC), World Meteorological Organization (WMO) Joint Task Force organized the 3rd joint workshop on Submarine Communications Networks for Climate Monitoring and Disaster Warning which took place in Madrid in September 2013 during the Green Standards Week.
30. ITU sponsored the Common Alerting Protocol (CAP) Implementation Workshop (held at the WMO Headquarters in Geneva, Switzerland, 23-24 April 2013) together with WMO and OASIS in order to facilitate the adoption of the CAP standard (Recommendation ITU-T X.1303) for all-hazards, all-media public alerting.
31. ITU continues its joint work plan with the World Health Organization (WHO) to use [mobile technology to address Non-communicable Diseases \(NCDs\)](#) through scalable mHealth solutions. A joint ITU-WHO “[National e-Health Strategy toolkit](#)” was published as a practical guide to provide a strategic framework and method for the development of a national eHealth vision, action plan and monitoring and evaluation framework. Four regional workshops in Africa and Asia were organized with WHO to showcase eHealth innovations that address women’s and children’s health and to strengthen human capacity at the government level to conduct national eHealth strategy development and planning. ITU will also jointly publish with WHO a Baseline Review report to assess the use of ICT for Women’s and Children’s Health which is a first systematic assessment of its kind based on the data collected through the WHO Global eHealth Observatory Survey. This work is done in the framework of the Commission on Information and Accountability for Women’s and Children’s health. Technical assistance in collaboration with WHO was provided to Costa Rica to launch an mHealth for Smoking Cessation intervention at the national level as a model to be replicated by other countries. A second programme was launched in 2013 in Senegal with WHO to use mobile for Diabetes Prevention and Control. In addition, ITU and WHO continue to work together on human exposure to electromagnetic fields (EMFs) due to radio systems and mobile equipment. A joint session between ITU-T Study Group 16, WHO and IEEE 11073 PHD WG on standardization for personal health devices was celebrated on 29 October 2013 (<http://itu.int/en/ITU-T/e-Health/Pages/201310.aspx>). ITU has also provided emergency telecommunication including satellite mobile and terminals to the WHO and UNHCR that helped them better communications in the field during their response and relief work.
32. ITU, in partnership with the World Bank, Interpol and the World Economic Forum, supported and led the organization of specific sessions during the conference “Global Cybersecurity Cooperation: Challenges and Visions” organized by the Government of the Republic of Azerbaijan in Baku, on 2-3 December 2013. The conference brought together around 200 high-level delegates from different stakeholder groups to discuss global cybersecurity-related issues.
33. ITU and Universal Postal Union (UPU) are strengthening their long-standing partnership by working on new international standards for inclusive financial services, including mobile money. Levering these new standards, and building on past collaboration in the field, ITU and UPU are also working with industry and other partners to implement projects in post offices located in rural and remote areas. ITU and UPU are also exploring collaboration in the roll-out of postal services, including secure email for members. ITU also continues to be involved in the UPU’s “Addressing the world - An address for everyone” initiatives that aim to create synergies between UN agencies, intergovernmental organizations, academia, NGOs, development banks and the private sector in order to find shared solutions to the issue of addressing.
34. ITU continues to liaise with the World Intellectual Property Organization (WIPO) in areas of overlapping interest, such as the inclusion of patents in standards. In this context, a representative from WIPO is a regular participant at the meetings of TSB Director’s Ad Hoc Group on Intellectual Property Rights. Furthermore, the two agencies are exploring areas of potential technical cooperation aiming at the exchange of information between patent databases maintained by each agency. In addition, ITU representatives participate in WIPO-organized events with relevance to ITU’s activities (such as the 9th Session of the Advisory Committee on Enforcement, 3-5 March 2014).

35. ITU and the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF) are closely collaborating on the ITU Child Online Protection (COP) Initiative framework. UNICEF is working with ITU to update the COP Guidelines for Industry. Open consultations (online and at IGF 2013) were conducted by ITU and UNICEF with all stakeholders in order to collect views on the draft guidelines (expected to be ready in mid-2014). Furthermore, during the Global Youth Summit: BYND2015, the two agencies joined forces to organize a Global Video Competition, in which video concepts created by young people on online safety were selected. The winning concept from a young lady of Costa Rica has been produced as an animated video currently used by UNICEF and ITU to raise awareness on COP.

36. Meetings with United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA) were held to forge effective collaboration in regard to birth registration in conjunction with ITU's initiative Mobiles for Midwives.

37. Together with the United Nations University (UNU), UNEP Basel Convention and CEDARE, ITU organized a workshop on e-waste during the Green Standards Week that took place from 16 to 20 September 2013. In addition UNU is supporting the 3rd ITU Green ICT Application Challenge to promote smart sustainable cities and environmental sustainability in urban areas. ITU contributes to Solving the E-waste Problem (StEP) Initiative which is an initiative of various UN organizations coordinated by UNU with the overall aim to solve the e-waste problem.

38. ITU is engaged in ongoing discussions with the UN Capital Development Fund (UNCDF) to explore ways to collaborate and support ITU's development work.

39. ITU continues to work closely with the Office of the High-Representative for LDCs, Landlocked Developing Countries and Small Island Developing States through various means, including organizing joint side events. ITU and the UNOHRLLS jointly organized a forum on "ICT to enhance sustainable development of LLDCS" during the Global South-South Development expo that was held in Nairobi from 28 October to 1 November 2013. This event formed part of the preparatory process to the ten year review of the Almaty programme of Action for land-locked countries. All participants from member states spoke highly of ITU and noted the development work delivered by ITU.

40. ITU continues to liaise with the UN Special Advisor for Youth, Mr Ahmad Alhendawi, on the successful follow-up to the BYND 2015 event. The Youth Envoy has asked ITU to partner with his office and the UN Millennium Campaign to 'crowdsource' additional youth input for the post-2015 sustainable development agenda.

41. ITU collaborates with the United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees (UNRWA) and the Palestinian Government is undergone to ensure the best possible coordination and benefits from the "Connect a School, Connect a Community" project consisting in connecting 15 schools in Palestine.

At the Regional and National levels

42. ITU is regularly engaged with the UN Country Teams and UN Resident Coordinators in the region, as well as collaborating with the UN Regional Commissions (UN Economic Commission for Africa (UNECA), UN Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia (UN-ESCWA), UN Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (ESCAP), UN Economic Commission for Europe (UNECE), UN Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean (ECLAC)), and other UN system entities on a wide range of issues, among them: Child Online Protection, digital literacy and inclusion of women, girls and persons with disability, smart water management, population estimation surveys, sustainable conformity assessment, interactive terrestrial transmission maps, electronic business, and intelligent transport systems.

COLLABORATION WITH THE JOINT INSPECTION UNIT OF THE UNITED NATIONS SYSTEM (JIU) AND UNITED NATIONS REFORM

43. During this period, ITU continued to collaborate with the JIU, providing timely contributions, both direct and through the CEB, on system wide project reviews. ITU has also incorporated JIU's online Follow-up System put in place to track the status of acceptance, implementation and impact achieved of the recommendations addressed by JIU to the participating organizations, including the management of consideration of JIU Reports by Governing Bodies. The programme of work for 2013 adopted by the Unit comprised 12 new projects, including two feasibility studies. Out of the ten topics, eight were system-wide and two were management and administration reviews of single organizations. In addition, four reviews were carried forward from 2012 and one from 2011, which were finalized by mid-2013. For further details please see [JIU Report A/68/34](#).

44. The UN system has also been engaged in a reform process to strengthen it and to make it more effective, efficient, coherent and accountable. ITU has been engaged in implementing together with other partners, as appropriate, a number of reform initiatives in key areas which include: Human Resources Management; Procurement; Accountability (Enterprise Risk Management, Results Based Management); Accounting Standards (IPSAS); and Enterprise Resource Planning (UMOJA).

POST-2015 UNITED NATIONS DEVELOPMENT AGENDA

45. Member States and the UN System have continued to review the fulfilment of the MDGs and, as the deadline approaches, have embarked in the Post-2015 UN Development Agenda and Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) processes, towards the formulation of a single development framework which embodies one coherent set of goals, that integrates in a balanced manner the three dimensions of sustainable development, and also promotes peace and security, democratic governance, the rule of law, gender equality and human rights for all. The UN system, including ITU, is involved in supporting this intergovernmental process and to also set the vision for coherent system-wide action.

46. Convinced of the key role of ICTs and broadband can play in the fulfilment of, and accelerating progress towards the MDGs and future SDGs, ITU has been actively advocating the inclusion and recognition of these technologies through its participation in the [UN System Task Team on Post-2015 UN Development Agenda \(UNTT\)](#) and the [Technical Support Team \(TST\) to the Open Working Group \(OWG\) on SDG](#).

47. To date, ITU has provided input to five [Thematic Think Pieces](#) and the [report of the UNTT](#), over [12 Issue Briefs](#), the [UN Secretary-General's Reports](#) and [Report of the High-Level Panel of Eminent Persons on the Post-2015 Development Agenda](#). For the period in review, ITU continued liaison with the UN Task Team through various meetings and reviewed numerous TST Issue Briefs on: Economic Growth and Industrialization; Macroeconomic policy questions; Science Technology & Innovation; Conflict prevention, peace, rule of law and governance; Social Equity; Gender Equality; Global partnership for achieving sustainable development; and needs of countries in special situations, African countries. ITU also contributed to the statistical notes that were submitted to the OWG on the issues that were discussed by the OWG, in particular to the statistical note on "Science, Technology and Innovation, Knowledge-sharing and Capacity-building".

48. In order to draw attention to the impact that ICTs can have as a catalytic enabler for all three pillars of sustainable development: economic growth, social inclusion and environmental sustainability, ITU has drafted a short Issues Brief on ICT4D in a sustainable development context to be circulated to the Technical Support Team for their input and information, and ultimately to the Members of the OWG. In addition, this brief will also further support the high-level meeting hosted by the President of the General Assembly on "[Contributions of South-South, triangular cooperation, and ICT for development to the Post-2015 Development Agenda](#)" to take place on 20-21 May 2014, geared towards encouraging the global community to work toward building consensus and elaborating concrete action for the implementation of the Post-2015 Development Agenda.

49. Together with other partners on the Broadband Commission, the ITU/UNESCO Broadband Commission has also hosted side-events, drafted publications, Open Letters and Manifesto geared to promote relevance and the visibility of ICTs and broadband in the future sustainable development framework.

50. Also, recognizing the unique role, challenges and opportunities for youth in a deeply interconnected world, ITU organized the “BYND 2015 Global Youth Summit” (on 9-11 September 2013), hosted by the Government of Costa Rica and which counted with collaboration from other organizations in the UN system, as well as partners from government, industry, media and civil society. The [outcome document](#) was submitted as a contribution to the discussions on the Post-2015 Development Agenda in the field of communications technology for development.

51. ITU hosted a side-event during the OWG session: Transformative Solutions: Broadband Infrastructure as a Catalyst for a Sustainable Future. Panellists included Representatives from the Permanent Mission of Rwanda to the UN, the International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies, Ericsson, the Earth Institute, UN-OHRLS and ITU.

52. The TSB Director participated at WIPO’s event co-organized with INSEAD and Cornell University during the 6th session of the OWG: “Innovation and Sustainable Development: Data and Evidence to Support Policy-Makers”.

53. ITU is also supporting the call by the [Sustainable Development Solutions Network for an urban sustainable development goal as part of the Post-2015 Development Agenda](#), as a goal recognizing the importance of access to broadband and mobile technology.

54. Moreover, in context of the WSIS process, two substantive sessions were dedicated to the Post-2015 Development Agenda during the WSIS Forum in 2013, i.e. UNGIS Substantive Session (13 May 2013) and the High-Level Substantive Session on ICTs and Post 2015 Goals (16 May 2013), which addressed the role of ICTs for sustainable development and triggered important discussions on the creation of synergies between the Post-2015 Development Agenda and the WSIS+10 process. At this meeting, UNGIS endorsed a [Joint Statement](#) on the dialogue on the Post-2015 Development Agenda, keeping with its mandate to promote policy coherence and programme coordination in the UN system, as well as providing guidance on issues related to inclusive Knowledge Societies and especially on ICTs in support of internationally agreed development goals. The 30 members of UNGIS submitted in May 2013 the Joint Statement to the UN Secretary General and the UN Task Team.
