



THE NEW DEVELOPMENT AGENDA AND ICTS IN BRIEF

Submitted by General Secretariat

- The new post-2015 development agenda, “**Transforming our World: The 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development**” is to be adopted at the UN General Assembly Summit to be held from 25-27 September 2015.
- The agenda has four sections: a Preamble and Declaration, Goals and Targets, Means of Implementation and Global Partnerships, and Follow-up and Review.
- **PREAMBLE:** The Preamble described the agenda as “a plan of action for people, planet and prosperity that also seeks to strengthen universal peace in larger freedom.” It recognizes that eradicating poverty in all its forms and dimensions, including extreme poverty, is the greatest global challenge and an indispensable requirement for sustainable development. It indicates the universal and collaborative nature of the agenda, and pledges that no one will be left behind. It includes intentions with regard to five “areas of critical importance for humanity and the planet”: people, planet, prosperity, peace and partnership, which are known as the “five P’s.”
- **DECLARATION:** Heads of State and Government declare intentions to: end poverty and hunger everywhere; combat inequalities within and between countries; build peaceful, just and inclusive societies; protect human rights and promote gender equality and the empowerment of women and girls; and ensure lasting protection of the planet and its natural resources. The declarations covers six sections as follows:
 - The section “**Our vision,**” describes a world free of fear and want, including universal literacy and equitable and universal access to quality education, health care and social protection, and assurance of physical, mental and social wellbeing.
 - The section “**Our shared principles and commitments**”, reaffirms the Universal Declaration of Human Rights and the UN Charter, along with all major UN conferences and summits which have laid a solid foundation for sustainable development.
 - The section “**Our world today,**” addresses key challenges and opportunities to the existing inequalities within and among countries. **It also recognizes that “ the spread of information and communication technology and global**

interconnectedness has great potential to accelerate human progress, to bridge the digital divide and to develop knowledge societies, as does scientific and technological innovation across areas as diverse as medicine and energy” (para. 15).

- In the section “**The new Agenda,**” the text introduces the 17 SDGs and 169 targets. The section mentions countries and people with specific vulnerabilities such as migrants, Persons with disabilities, indigenous peoples, children and youth.
 - The section on “**Means of Implementation**” highlights the need for a revitalized Global Partnership, and notes that MOI targets under Goal 17 and under each SDG are key to realizing the agenda, and are of equal importance with the other SDGs and targets.
 - The section on “**Follow-up and review,**” the text states that governments have the primary responsibility, and that the HLPF will have the central role at the global level. The need for quality data for indicators is highlighted.
 - The section, “**A call for action to change our world,**” the text recalls the creation of the UN and its values, and states that “we can be the first generation to succeed in ending poverty; just as we may be the last to have a chance of saving the planet,” calling on all concerned to ensure that the journey is a successful one and its gains irreversible.
- **SUSTAINABLE GOALS AND TARGETS:** The SDGs contain 17 goals and 169 targets and are intended to be action-oriented, concise and easy to communicate, limited in number, aspirational, global in nature and universally applicable to all countries, and focused on priority areas for the achievement of sustainable development; Equally important is the need to assess progress towards the achievement of the goals, accompanied by targets and indicators, while taking into account different national circumstances, capacities and levels of development.
 - **There are 4 specific ICT targets in Education (4.b), Gender (5b), Infrastructure (9.c - UNIVERSAL AND AFFORDABLE ACCESS TO ICTs IN THE LEAST DEVELOPED COUNTRIES) plus ICTs as a Means of Implementation to be applied to ALL of the sustainable development goals (17.8).**
 - **In addition, there are quite a few references to technology in general which are relevant to ICTs, and of interest to ITU work in such areas as climate change, cities, energy and water efficiencies, early warning, environmentally sound technologies, programmes of action for the LDC, SIDS, LLDC, regional integration and interconnectivity, among others.**
- **MEANS OF IMPLEMENTATION:** The Agenda notes that the MOI targets under each SDG and Goal 17 are key to realizing the agenda and of equal importance with other Goals and targets; Also important are those paragraphs which make reference the Financing for Development outcome document Addis Ababa Action Agenda (AAAA), as an integral part of the 2030 Agenda for sustainable development, and to complement the means of implementation targets.

- **The AAAA’s section G) on Science, Technology, Innovation and Capacity Building (Paragraphs 114-124) is of particular importance and makes reference to ICT digital divide (para 114), as well as the Technology Bank, technology facilitation mechanism, and the United Nations inter-agency task team on science, technology and innovation for the Sustainable Development Goals.**
 - **ITU, which currently participates actively in the informal working group on technology facilitation, will form part of this Task Force, as mentioned in para 70.**
 - The Agenda also calls for a revitalized global partnership for sustainable development to address systemic issues including on science, technology, innovation and capacity-building, and data, monitoring and follow-up (para62). It describes the nature of a “revitalized and enhanced” Global Partnership that brings together governments, civil society, the private sector, the UN system and other actors and mobilizing all available resources; recognizes that private business activity, investment and innovation are major drivers of productivity, inclusive economic growth and job creation.
- **FOLLOW-UP AND REVIEW:** The document includes an introductory section as well as three distinct sections on national level, regional level and global level. The follow-up and review guiding principles, include, to highlight just a few:
 - a) be voluntary and country-led;
 - b) be open, inclusive, participatory and transparent for all people and support reporting by all relevant stakeholders;**
 - c) be people-centered, gender-sensitive, respect human rights and have a particular focus on the poorest, most vulnerable and those furthest behind;
 - d) build on existing platforms and processes, respond to national circumstances, capacities, need and priorities and minimize reporting burden on national administrations;
 - e) be based on evidence and informed by data;
 - f) benefit from the active support of the UN system and other multilateral institutions;
 - At the global level the follow-up and review will consist of the following, among other:
 - a) the High Level Political Forum (HLPF) to oversee a network of follow-up and review processes at the global level and under the auspices of ECOSOC, to carry out regular reviews of progress in line with UNGA resolution 67/290;**
 - b) the annual SDG Progress Report and the GSDR to inform the HLPF follow-up and review and inviting the ECOSOC President to conduct a process of consultations on the scope, methodology and frequency of the GSDR and its relation to the SDG Progress Report;
 - c) Thematic reviews of progress on the SDGs, including cross-cutting issues, to take place at the HLPF, and to reflect the integrated nature of the goals as well as the interlinkages between them;

- d) **the importance of system-wide strategic planning, implementation and reporting to ensure support to the implementation of the agenda by the UN development system and welcoming the ongoing ECOSOC Dialogues on the longer term positioning of the UN development system;**
- e) requesting the UN Secretary-General, in consultation with Member States, to prepare a report, for consideration at the 70th session of the UNGA in preparation for the 2016 meeting of the HLPF, which includes, *inter alia*, recommendations on voluntary common reporting guidelines;

The Technology Facilitation Mechanism (TFM)

Technology Facilitation Mechanism (TFM) for Achieving Sustainable Development Goals is to be launched on 26th September, 2015, during the UN Summit, during an event hosted by Brazil and France with the support of the Inter-agency Task Team on STI for the SDGs. The TFM intends to have the following four components:

- UN interagency task team on STI for the SDGs (IATT)
- Advisory group of 10 representatives from civil society, the private sector and scientific community
- Online platform
- A collaborative, multi-stakeholder forum on STI for the SDGs (The multi-stakeholder forum will include Member States, the UN system, civil society, private sector and academia. The 1st Forum, may possibly be hosted by France (in May or June 2016).

The UN Interagency Task Team on STI for the SDGs is initially composed of the entities that currently integrate the informal working group on technology facilitation, namely, the Department of Economic and Social Affairs, the United Nations Environment Programme, UNIDO, the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization, UNCTAD, WIPO, the World Bank and the **International Telecommunication Union**. It will be open to the participation of all United Nations agencies, funds and programmes and the functional commissions of the Economic and Social Council.

The IATT has currently various work streams, which include, among others:

- a) prepare *a comprehensive mapping* of information on existing science, technology and innovation initiatives, networks, processes, mechanisms and programmes, within and beyond the United Nations, including technology needs assessments and capacity building, where the UN system is an active participant;
- b) Prepare proposals for the modalities for *the multi-stakeholder forum on STI for SDGs*, as well as the first forum to be held during the first half of 2016;
- c) Prepare a Terms of Reference for IATT, including ideas on implementing member States decision' regarding an *advisory group of 10 representatives* of civil society, the private sector and the scientific community;
- d) prepare for an independent technical assessment on *an online knowledge hub and information-sharing platform*, with an aim of development and operationalization of

the platform, and inviting other actors to contribute information on technology facilitation activities being undertaken globally and regionally outside the UN system;

- e) Prepare for *a coordinated capacity building programme* to cooperate with all relevant stakeholders on building and strengthening technology-facilitation partnerships and collaboration in support of the SDGs;
- f) Prepare for fund-raising proposals from external resources, and other related activities.

WSIS and the new development agenda

- The cross-cutting nature of ICTs as enablers for the achievement of most, if not all SDG, as evidenced by the WSIS Matrix shows the clear and unquestionable interlinkage between the SDGs and the WSIS Action Lines.
- In this regard, the UNGA WSIS+10 overall review outcome **should strive to provide the following:**
 - o Recognize the WSIS process and its Action Lines follow-up have served to ensure that ICTs have helped to achieve broader international development objectives, such as the MDGs, and its relevance to contribution to the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and the Addis Ababa Action Agenda.
 - o Align the WSIS reporting process to contribute to the review and follow-up of the SDGs. In this regard, recognize the WSIS multi-stakeholder platform as mechanism for ICT reporting in relation to the SDG follow-up.

2016 ECOSOC Integration Segment

The ECOSOC Integration Segment is tasked to promote the integration of the economic, social and environmental dimensions of sustainable development both within the United Nations system and beyond.

ECOSOC has proposed the theme for 2016 to focus on **digital technologies for a sustainable future**, to take place at UNHQ from 2-4 May.

The proposed ECOSOC Integration Segment will explore the synergies and linkages between the new development agenda and the role of Information and Communication Technologies (ICTs) as a key cross-cutting enabler for promoting and achieving all three pillars of sustainable development. In addition, the Integration Segment will draw together the UN processes of the Rio+20 process, post-2015 development agenda and the WSIS+10 review.

ITU will be the lead organizer of the event and will contribute its analysis and expertise on ICT policy and National Broadband Plans (NBPs) in national policy-making. One track will consider the contribution of ICTs to economic growth; another track how ICTs can promote social inclusion; while the third and final track will consider how ICTs promote environmental sustainability.