



The Secretary-General

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Ref: WSIS/HLPF2018
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H.E. Ms Marie Chatardová
The President of the Economic and Social Council

Subject: Substantive inputs to the 2018 HLPF on the WSIS Forum 2018, coordinated and hosted by International Telecommunication Union (ITU)

Dear Madam,

With reference to your letter inviting all stakeholders to provide substantive inputs to the 2018 HLPF showcasing our contribution towards the 2030 Agenda and to the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and their targets, the ITU has the pleasure to submit as a formal input, the multistakeholder outcomes of the WSIS Forum 2018 that was held from 19 to 23 March at the ITU Headquarters in Geneva (www.wsis.org/forum).

As you may know, the WSIS Forum represents the world's largest annual gathering of the ICT for development multistakeholder community and is a global multistakeholder platform facilitating the implementation of the WSIS Action Lines for advancing sustainable development. The WSIS Forum builds upon the outcomes of the UN General Assembly Overall Review of the implementation of the WSIS outcomes (UNGA Resolution 70/125) that recognized the necessity of holding this Forum on an annual basis and called for a close alignment between WSIS and the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.

The WSIS Forum is co-organized by ITU, the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO), the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD) and the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), with the engagement of other United Nations Agencies, including World Intellectual Property Organization, the United Nations Department of Economic and Social Affairs, the Food and Agriculture Organization, the International Labour Organization, the International Trade Centre, the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime, the United Nations Environment Programme, the Universal Postal Union, the World Meteorological Organization, the World Health Organization, the World Food Programme, United Nations Women and the United Nations Regional Commissions.

With the objective of strengthening the alignment of the WSIS with the SDGs, the overall theme for WSIS Forum 2018 was *Leveraging ICTs to Build Information and Knowledge Societies for Achieving the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs)*. In order to highlight the contribution of the WSIS Action Lines in accelerating the achievement of the SDGs, the ITU coordinated, with the UN Action Line Facilitators, UNDESA, UNESCO, UNCTAD, ITU, FAO, ITC, UPU, WHO, WMO, UNEP a document that focuses on the impact of the respective Action Lines on the HLPF 2018 theme "WSIS Action Lines supporting transformation towards sustainable and resilient societies". It further seeks to encourage and promote effective multistakeholder cooperation in implementation of WSIS action lines and the SDGs. The report is available here: <http://www.itu.int/net4/wsis/forum/2018/#outcomes>.

In addition, it is my pleasure to submit the following documents as an input for HLPF 2018 and as an official contribution from ITU as a multistakeholder outcome of the WSIS Forum 2018, also available here <https://www.itu.int/net4/wsis/forum/2018/#outcomes>.

1. WSIS Forum 2018 Outcome Document
2. WSIS Forum 2018 High Level Track Outcomes and Executive Brief
3. WSIS Forum 2018: WSIS Action Lines—SDGs Heatmap: Building on the [WSIS-SDG Matrix](#) developed by UN WSIS Action Line Facilitators, a mapping tool was made available to emphasize the linkages between the Action Lines and the SDGs identified by WSIS Stakeholders in their respective sessions and workshops:
<http://www.itu.int/net4/wsis/forum/2018/Pages/Agenda/#heatmap>
4. WSIS Stocktaking Report 2018
5. WSIS Stocktaking Success Stories 2018 (WSIS Prize 2018 winners)

As the current Chair of the [United Nations Group on the Information Society \(UNGIS\)](#), that comprises 32 UN members, it is my pleasure to inform you that during the UNGIS leaders breakfast and the working-level meeting, the UNGIS has decided to submit a joint statement to the HLPF 2018 and organize joint side events to highlight the impact of ICTs, in particular WSIS Action Lines on SDGs.

ITU, being the United Nations Agency for the ICTs plays an important role in the implementation of the WSIS outcomes and 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. The above mentioned outcomes of the WSIS Forum 2018 highlight the importance of linking the two processes to ensure that ICTs play a key role in achieving the SDGs by 2030.

Yours faithfully,



Houlin ZHAO

Secretary-General