ITU COUNCIL CONTRIBUTION TO THE HIGH-LEVEL POLITICAL FORUM ON SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT (HLPF) 2020

General Introduction

The International Telecommunication Union (ITU) is the United Nations specialized agency for information and communication technologies (ICTs). ITU allocates global radio spectrum and satellite orbits, develops the technical standards that ensure networks and technologies seamlessly interconnect, and strive to improve access to and use of ICTs to underserved communities worldwide. ITU is committed to connecting all the world's people - ensuring that everyone, regardless of age, gender, ability, location, or financial means have available, accessible and affordable access to (ICTs).

Through ITU's work, we support everyone's fundamental right to communicate.

The Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and targets stimulate global action in the coming years in areas of critical importance for humanity and the planet. As acknowledged by the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, "The spread of information and communications 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".

Indeed, increased connectivity, digital technologies, information systems, digital skills and Internet use have the potential to reduce poverty and create jobs through applications and services, such as e-agriculture and digital finance; help end poverty and hunger; monitor and mitigate climate change and sustaining our natural resources; as well as improved efficiency and transparency. All three pillars of sustainable development – economic development, social inclusion and environmental protection – need ICTs as key catalysts. The development potential of ICT as crosscutting enablers must therefore be fully harnessed for achieving the SDGs.

1. Key policies and measures to ensure "accelerated action and transformative pathways" for realizing the decade of action and delivery for sustainable development

a. Critical gaps in implementing the 2030 Agenda within the area of responsibility of the intergovernmental body (bearing in mind interrelations with other goals and targets)

The digital divide has many faces. There are gaps in coverage, speed and affordability, gaps between developing and developed nations, between cities and villages, between the young and the older, and between men and women online.

Access to accessible, affordable, reliable and secure telecommunication/ICT networks, including broadband, and to related services and applications, can facilitate economic, social, environmental and cultural development and implement digital inclusion through these means. The lack of adequate infrastructure and access to ICTs , as well as the lack of digital accessibility and knowledge of digital skills limits opportunities to access inclusive education and labour markets of those left unconnected.

In pursuance of its mission, ITU annually monitors the digital divide, including the gender digital divide, to assess and track who has access to telecommunication/ICT networks, and where.

The 2019 edition of ITU's Measuring digital development: Facts & figures 2019[1] shows Internet use continuing to grow worldwide – but also highlights some worrying trends, such as slowing growth in user numbers and a widening digital gender gap that is increasing the imbalance between men's and women's use of technology.

Although mobile cellular networks now cover most of the planet, with 97% of the global population within reach of a mobile signal, and at least 93% of the global population able to access 3G or higher mobile broadband services, only 4.1 billion people – or just over 53% of the global population – are actually online. A staggering 3.6 billion remain totally unconnected from the transformational power of the Internet.

Most alarmingly, in the world's 47 Least Developed Countries (LDCs), where online services and applications could potentially have the greatest impact in accelerating development and improving people's lives, more than 80% of the population is still offline. And even that dismaying figure often hides a much wider gap at the national level; ITU data show that in the most extreme case, a mere 2% of the population is using the Internet.

Of just as great concern this year is evidence that the digital gender gap is actually growing, despite concerted global efforts to redress this imbalance.

ITU's figures indicate that women are lagging behind men in their ability to take advantage of the power of digital technologies in almost two thirds of countries worldwide. What's more, that gap has been getting bigger in the world's major developing regions – Africa, the Arab States and Asia and the Pacific – with the widest gaps found in the most disadvantaged nations.

[1] Measuring digital development: Facts & figures 2019

Only in the emerging economies of the Commonwealth of Independent States and the highly-connected countries of Europe has the digital gender divide slowly been narrowing. And the Americas stands alone in achieving near-parity in men's and women's digital use.

Overall, the proportion of all women using the Internet globally is 48%, compared with 58% of all men. More men than women use the Internet in every single region of the world except the Americas. ITU's found that a substantially higher proportion of men had mobile phones than women in 61 countries, with near-parity or a gender divide in favour of women in just 24 nations.

Affordability and lack of digital skills remain some of the key barriers to the uptake and effective use of the Internet, especially in the world's Least Developed Countries. In 40 out of 84 countries for which data are available, less than half the population has basic computer skills, such as copying a file or sending an e-mail with an attachment.

b. Priority measures to: i. accelerate action

- **WSIS Action Lines and Alignment with the SDG Process**
  2020 marks an important milestone for the World Summit on the Information Society that 15 years ago had resolved on the implementation mechanism based on 11 WSIS Action Lines moderated/facilitated by UN agencies, including ITU Facilitating WSIS Action Line C2,C5, C6 and Co-Facilitating WSIS Action Lines C1, C3, C4, C7, C9, C11. Since 2005 significant progress has been achieved. In addition, significant efforts were dedicated to ensure alignment between WSIS and SDG processes as resolved in 2015 by the UNGA on the occasion of overall 10 years review of WSIS. In this respect a special Matrix developed by the UN agencies, continue to serve as a guiding tool on links between WSIS Action Lines and SDGs, depicting impact pathways of ICTs on SDGs.

  WSIS Forum has become the world's largest annual gathering of the 'ICT for sustainable development' community. The WSIS Forum, co-organized by ITU, UNESCO, UNDP and UNCTAD, in close collaboration with all WSIS Action Line Facilitators/Co-Facilitators, has proven to be an efficient mechanism for coordination of multi- stakeholder implementation activities, information exchange, creation of knowledge, sharing of best practices and continues to provide assistance in developing multi-stakeholder and public/private partnerships to advance development goals. The 2020 WSIS Forum (WSIS+15) will provide an opportunity to serve as a platform to track the achievements of WSIS Action Lines in collaboration with the UN Agencies involved and provide information and analyses of the implementation of WSIS Action Lines since 2005.

- **Connect 2030 Agenda for global telecommunication/information and communication technology, including broadband, for sustainable development**

  The ITU 2018 Plenipotentiary Conference (PP-18), by Resolution 200 (Rev. Dubai, 2018) agreed to reaffirm a shared global vision for the development of the telecommunication/ICT sector, under the Connect 2030 Agenda envisaging an information society, empowered by the interconnected world, where telecommunications/ICTs enable and accelerate social, economic and environmentally sustainable growth and development for everyone. By adopting the Connect 2030 Agenda, ITU membership commits to:

  - Growth – enable and foster access to and increased use of ICTs,
  - Inclusiveness – bridge the digital divide and provide broadband for all,

- Sustainability – manage challenges resulting from ICT development,
- Innovation - enable innovation in telecommunications/ICT in support of the digital transformation of society,
- Partnership – strengthen cooperation among the ITU membership and all other stakeholders in support of all ITU strategic goals.

The Connect 2030 Agenda endorses the high-level strategic goals and targets set out in the ITU Strategic Plan (2020-2023)[2] , as well as the global broadband targets, inspiring and inviting all stakeholders and entities to work together to implement the Connect 2030 Agenda[3] , contributing to the implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.

- **Broadband Commission for Sustainable Development[4] 2025 Targets: "Connecting the Other Half",** announced in January 2018 aim to**:** boost the importance of broadband on the international policy agenda; expand broadband access in every country as key to accelerating progress towards national and international development targets to facilitate achieving of SDGs.

ii. ensure transformative pathways to realize the decade of action for achieving the 2030 Agenda

- **Bridging the Digital Divide: Connecting the unconnected and leaving no one offline**

Connecting the unconnected remains the number one priority for ITU. The prospects for widespread use of the Internet remain poor, particularly for LDCs. Nearly 3.6 billion people remain unconnected from the Internet and thus unconnected from the digital products and services that could dramatically improve their lives.

ITU continues to provide guidelines, toolkits, software tools and capacity building to support members to close the connectivity gap. Building on previous ITU projects and partners, ITU continues supporting members to plan, design and implement last mile connectivity solutions. This include identifying the unconnected areas and selecting sustainable technical, financial and regulatory solutions to ensure affordability, accessibility to relevant connectivity services.

The Last Mile Connectivity project was launched to drive new collaborative strategies to ensure that people at the bottom of the social pyramid achieve "meaningful universal connectivity". This project will enable partners to share resources and take a more holistic approach that treats broadband as a basic public utility and tool for socio-economic development.

GIGA - Connecting Every School to the Internet: With some 3.6 billion people in the world without access to the Internet, of whom 360 million are young people, ITU and UNICEF have joined forces with an aim to connect every school to the Internet by 2030. While for many countries, GIGA will provide the means for countries to develop the right "fit for purpose" core infrastructure network, GIGA will also bring the power of meaningful connectivity to fast track young people's access to the information and digital public goods they need, and empowered to shape the future they want. GIGA will accomplish its objectives through leveraging the combined

[2] Strategic Plan of the Union 2020-2023 (https://www.itu.int/en/connect2030/Documents/Resolution-71-PP18.pdf)

[3] Overview of the Connect 2030 Agenda Goals and Targets (https://www.itu.int/en/connect2030/Pages/default.aspx)

[4] ITU/UNESCO Broadband Commission for Sustainable Development was established in 2010 by ITU and UNESCO with the aim of boosting the importance of broadband on the international policy agenda, and expanding broadband access in every country as key to accelerating progress towards national and international development targets.

convening platforms of ITU and UNICEF to facilitate global cooperation, leadership, and innovation in finance and technology.

- **Collaborative ICT Policy and Regulatory Approaches for Digital Transformation**
  To facilitate the transformation of industry and government institutions, and to bring the advantages to ICTs and digital transformation to people, ICT regulators and policy are focusing on driving inclusive and cross-sectoral approaches and collaboration for digital transformation. ITU provides policy makers and regulators with economic and digital regulatory tools, processes and procedures to support collaborative regulatory approaches across sectors and stakeholders, and foster an informed, inclusive and evidence-based rule-making and decision-making process, with a social and economic impact in mind. ITU Studies indicate that the regulatory regime always has a positive and significant impact on every pillar of the digital ecosystem development index. The importance of the regulatory and institutional variable in driving digital ecosystem growth and increase in the ICT regulatory tracker is significantly correlated (with a coefficient higher than 0.60) with an increase in the pillars measuring the development of infrastructure of digital services, connectivity of digital services, household digitization and digital factors of production.

- **Bridging the gender digital divide**

  New data released by ITU Facts and figures 2019 reveal that in most countries worldwide women are still trailing men in benefiting from the transformational power of digital technologies. This focused action would be in line with efforts towards achieving SDG 5.B "Enhance the use of enabling technology, in particular information and communications technology, to promote the empowerment of women".

  Girls in ICT Day: Initiatives led by ITU include, the International Girls in ICT Day that takes place every fourth Thursday of April to encourage more girls and young women to take up ICT careers and studies. From its launch in 2011 through 2019, the campaign had reached 357,000 girls in 171 countries. The #GirlsinICT hashtag has reached over hundred million Twitter accounts while the ITU Girls in ICT Portal has received over 1 million page views, helping to raise visibility for the importance of attracting more women and girls to ICT studies and careers. The next International Girls in ICT Day is 23 April 2020. The day is now a UN observance.

  EQUALS: The Global Partnership to Bridge the Gender Digital Divide: ITU has been leading EQUALS, the Global Partnership for Gender Equality in the Digital Age with the goal to establish a network of organizations working together to ensure that women are given access, are equipped with skills, and develop the leadership potential of girls and women to work in the ICT industry. The partnership has five co-founders: GSMA, ITC, ITU, UNU, and UN Women; 70 partners and 26 Research group members, all working together to address the digital gender divide. The global framework of action focuses on four complementary and cross-cutting areas of action: (1) Access, (2) Skills, (3) Leadership and (4) Research. Under this initiative, ITU contributes with the annual flagship event the EQUALS in Tech Awards (formerly GEM-TECH Awards). The latest edition was held on 27 November 2019 in Germany in the context of the Internet Governance Forum. More than 300 nominations were put forward this year from stakeholders across the globe. The Awards celebrated four winners in the categories of Access, Skills, Research and Leadership. The EQUALS in Tech Awards was made possible through partnership with the Swiss Federal Office of Communication (OFCOM), the Internet Society and support from Inmarsat.

  Girls Can Code Initiatives: ITU and partners have launched initiatives at the regional level such as African Girls Can CODE Initiative and Americas Girls Can Code (AGCCI) aims to train and empower girls and young women aged 17 to 20 years old to become computer programmers, creators and designers. The key objectives are to promote ICTs for girls and digital skills for young women and girls; encourage countries to mainstream ICT studies to provide girls and young women with more opportunities to learn digital skills; establish a network of women in

ICTs who will act as role-models; and create an online community platform for sharing coding experiences.

- **Affordability of ICTs**

  In 2018, the Broadband Commission for Sustainable Development set as a target for 2025 that entry-level broadband services should be made affordable in developing countries, corresponding to less than 2 per cent of monthly Gross National Income (GNI) per capita. In 2019, in 61 countries, a fixed-broadband subscription including 5 GB of data costs less than 2 per cent of GNI per capita. A mobile-broadband subscription with a 1.5 GB data package costs less than 2 per cent of GNI per capita in 89 countries, including four LDCs.

  Although considerable progress has been made in recent years, affordability remains a challenge in many countries, especially LDCs.

  New technologies make it easier / possible to provide PwD accessibility features in devices with sufficient computational power, such as smart phones, and therefore help them overcome barriers. However, affordability is an additional barrier for PwD, who are therefore double challenged to equally access digital information products and services.

- **Accessibility of ICTs**

  Globally 1.1 billion people currently live with some form of disability (WHO Report). The number of older persons is expected to grow to more than 2.1 billion by 2050 (2017 UN. Report in Aging Population), the majority of which will live in less developed regions, while over 1 billion youth are in danger of hearing loss due to their unsafe listening habits (ITU-WHO Make Listening Safe Initiative). This means that in the next 30 years the number of persons affected by a form of disability could touch half of the world's population, all of whom will require accessible ICTs. Accessible ICTs provide equal access to digital information, communication and functionalities to all users and therefore position digital accessibility as essential to ensure that no one is left behind in the digital age.

  The importance of ICT accessibility to persons with disabilities, as recognized by Article 9 of the United Nations Convention for the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (UNCRPD) and Art. 18 of the Tunis Commitment, under the auspices of the World Summit on the Information Society (2005) which strives "to promote universal, ubiquitous, equitable and affordable access to ICTs, including universal design and assistive technologies, for all people, especially those with disabilities, everywhere, to ensure that the benefits are more evenly distributed between and within societies." Countries that have adopted ICT accessibility policies and which use government purchasing power by requiring accessible ICTs in their calls for tender have shown the greatest progress in ensuring that accessible ICTs are available for persons with disabilities to ensure that persons with disabilities can live independently and participate fully in all aspects of life.

  Inclusiveness is also one of ITU's 5 strategic goals, renewed by Member States at the last Plenipotentiary Conference in 2018 who also committed through target 2.9 of this goal to implement digital accessibility globally calling explicitly to "enabling accessible environments for all people, including for persons with disabilities in ALL countries by 2023".

  To support CRPD, SDG goal 10 and ITU target 2.9 implementation, ITU provides expert advice and makes resources available -including guidelines, toolkits, trainings- and establishes regional platforms (such as Accessible Americas, Accessible Europe, Accessible Arab States, etc.) to share good practices, challenges and leverage capacities in the topic. These resources are available to all ITU members and stakeholders. The aim of these resources is to enable adoption of appropriate digital accessibility policies and implementation of strategies to ensure that all people,

including those with disabilities, can equally access digital information products and services and thus to contribute to the development of inclusive digital societies globally.

- **ICT Skills/Digital Literacy**

  Actions in line with the call in the Political declaration adopted at the SDG Summit in September 2019, to "promote and support quality education and lifelong learning to ensure that all children, youth and adults are empowered with the relevant knowledge and skills to shape more resilient, inclusive and sustainable societies that are able to adapt to rapid technological change. We will foster international cooperation to support developing countries in addressing their constraints in access to technologies and education".

  Digital literacy frameworks, new methods of teaching and learning in view of digital developments, as well as new capacity building concepts and initiatives in the digital age have been emerging in line with the evolution digital economy.

  Digital Transformation Centres Initiative(DTC) : A special ITU initiative on Digital Training Centres was launched in in September 2019. Initiative aims to deliver skills training at basic and intermediate levels through a network of digital training centres. This is designed to address the challenge of lack of digital skills as a barrier to effective participation in the digital economy mainly for people at the lower levels of the social pyramid. The initiative is attracting partners from the digital ecosystem involving private sector players like CISCO, development agencies, donor governments, and other training providers. Phase 1 of the initiative runs for 19 months from March 2020, with 11 DTCs selected globally.

- **Confidence and Security in Use of ICTs**

  We are in an era of massive technological advancements, driven by frontier digital technologies. They hold great promise in revolutionizing the way we do things - offering potential solutions to many of the world's problems.

  While progress has been made worldwide by countries in increasing commitment on cybersecurity related efforts, according to the ITU Global Cybersecurity Index (GCI)[5], a certain gap is still present in terms of adoption of cybersecurity practises and institutionalization on cybersecurity national frameworks. For instance, only 58% of the countries around the world developed and implemented national cybersecurity strategies, and only 56% declared to possess a Computer Incident Response capability (CERT/CIRT/CSIRT).

  Building trust in the usage of these new technologies will be crucial in ensuring that the all the world's people enjoy the benefits of ICTs, especially considering that in today's world, everything depends on ICTs – and particularly on the networks which underpin them. This includes essential national infrastructure and services such as: government services; financial services; emergency services; water supplies and power networks; food distribution chains; aircraft and shipping; navigation systems; industrial processes and supply chains; healthcare; public transportation; and even our children's education.

  Standardization also has a key role to play. Interoperability of new security products and services should be ensured from the early design stage.

  Collaboration and cooperation among all stakeholders are key for strengthening confidence and security in the use of ICTs.

[5] https://www.itu.int/dms_pub/itu-d/opb/str/D-STR-GCI.01-2018-PDF-E.pdf

- **Digital Financial Services and Financial Inclusion Global Initiative (FIGI)**

  According to the World Bank Findex Study of 2017, some 1.7 billion people in developing countries still lack a viable alternative to the cash economy and informal financial services, but two thirds of them have access to a mobile phone. There is thus a huge opportunity to bridge the financial inclusion gap through digital financial services (DFS). Yet, the industry has found it challenging to scale services for the unbanked mostly due to regulatory frameworks being out of step. In recent years, ITU has been instrumental to developing technical standards, conducting research, publishing reports, and assisting countries in key areas that underpin the enabling policy and regulatory environment for Digital Financial Services and financial inclusion.

  The Financial Inclusion Global Initiative (FIGI), Global Symposium for Regulators (GSR), Regional Initiatives, and various ITU Study Groups and ITU-T Focus Groups contribute to defining the standards and frameworks to enable new and more accessible, interoperable and affordable digital financial products that better respond to the needs of unbanked people in the world today, most notably rural and remote communities. FIGI is a joint project of the World Bank Group, Committee on Payments and Market Infrastructures of the Bank of International Settlements, and the ITU, and supported by the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation. Significant challenges remain to quickly and effectively leverage ICTs and emerging technologies to drive full financial inclusion, including amongst others development of technical standards and adopting a whole-of-government approach underpinned by collaborative regulatory approaches, in particular between the financial and ICT/telecommunications sectors.

2. Contribution of the intergovernmental body to accelerated action and transformative pathways and realizing the decade of action and delivery for achieving the 2030 Agenda within its area of responsibility (including its cooperation with ECOSOC and other intergovernmental bodies)

The International Telecommunication Union (ITU) is governed by the Plenipotentiary Conference and the Administrative Council. The Plenipotentiary Conference is the supreme organ of the Union and the decision making body, which determines the direction of the Union and its activities. At the Plenipotentiary conference 2018 in the United Arab Emirates (29 October to 16 November 2018) ITU members approved the Strategic plan for the Union for 2020-2023 (Resolution 71, Revised Dubai 2018), updating the Strategic Plan. This Strategic Plan, covering the timeframe 2020-2023, is the first Strategic Plan fully within the timeframe of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.

The ITU Secretariat, the Council Working Group and members at the Plenipotentiary Conference have worked on drafting this new Strategic Plan with both clear links to the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and a vision to have an impact in achieving the SDGs. It includes a whole section entitled "Linkages with the Sustainable Development Goals" where the most relevant SDG Goals for ITU are clearly highlighted: **SDG 9** (Industry, Innovation and Infrastructure) and **Target 9.c, SDG17** (Partnership for the Goals) as a means of implementation, **SDG 4** (Quality Education including **Target 4.b**) and **SDG 5** (Gender Equality including **Target 5.b**) as well as others where Information Communication Technologies (ICTs), enabled by ITU activities, will have the biggest impacts, such as **SDG 11** (Sustainable Cities and Communities), **SDG 10** (Reduced Inequalities), **SDG 8** (Decent Work and Economic Growth), **SDG 1** (No Poverty), **SDG 3** (Good-Health and Well-Being).

In addition, the revised Resolution 200 entitled "Connect 2030 Agenda for global telecommunication/information and communication technology, including broadband, for sustainable development" closely aligns with the SDGs and their timeframe.

The outcome document of the 2015 high-level meeting of the General Assembly on the overall review of the implementation of the outcomes of the World Summit on the Information Society (UNGA Resolution A/70/125), called for close alignment between the WSIS process and the 2030 Agenda.

The ITU Plenipotentiary Conference 2018 (PP-18) also re-enforced the linkages between the World Summit on the Information Society (WSIS) Action Lines and the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development; most notably those where ITU is the sole Action Line facilitator C2 (Information and communication infrastructure), C5 (Building confidence and security in the use of ICTs) and C6 (Enabling environment).

The effective implementation of the WSIS Action Lines can help accelerate the achievement of the SDGs. To that end, the WSIS SDG Matrix , coordinated by ITU and developed in collaboration with the different UN Action line Facilitators, clearly shows the linkage between each Action line and the 17 SDGs. In addition, the WSIS Forum, held annually, serves as a key multi-stakeholder platform for discussing the role of ICTs as a means of implementation of the SDGs and targets, and is constantly evolving and strengthening the alignment between these and the WSIS Action Lines.

The outcomes of the Forum are submitted to the HLPF . As a key partner in the WSIS process ITU also contributes to the Commission on Science and Technology for Development (CSTD), by providing a report of its WSIS implementation activities in order to populate the UN Secretary-General's annual report, and also provide inputs to be considered in the preparation of the annual ECOSOC Resolutions on the Assessment of the progress made in the implementation of and the follow-up to the outcomes of the World Summit on the Information Society, highlighting the cross-cutting role of ICTs in achieving the SDGs.

The governing bodies of the ITU Sectors have also embedded the SDGs as key goals in their activities. In this regard, 2017 marked an important milestone for the global discussion on the contribution of the ICT to the achievement of SDGs. The 7th ITU World Telecommunication Development Conference (WTDC-17), 9-20 October 2017, Buenos Aires, Argentina, was held under the overall theme of "ICT for Sustainable Development Goals" (ICT④SDGs). WTDC-17 provided a unique opportunity for the ITU Membership to discuss the future of the telecommunications and ICT sector and its contribution to the sustainable development WTDC-17 established clear links between ITU-D objectives, outcomes and outputs, and relevant WSIS Action Lines and SDG goals and targets. The mapping of the ITU-D Study Group Questions and WSIS Action Lines and SDGs provides additional guidance on the contribution of the Study Groups to both processes. In this sense all actions carried out by ITU-D are contributing to the achievement of SDGs and the WSIS implementation. Also, at the regional level a series of ITU Regional Development Forums are being held on the annual basis, providing platforms for coordinating implementation of the regional initiatives, projects, actions facilitating achievement of SDGs through ICTs. Moreover, in lines with the guidance of the membership, ITU Regional Offices contribute to the series of the UN Regional Forums on Sustainable Development (being part of HLPF process), actively highlighting enabling role of ICTs for achievement of SDGs and developing partnerships leading towards ICT4SDG projects.

3. Selected recommendations for accelerating progress and moving on transformative pathways for realizing the decade of action, for possible use in drafting the HLPF declaration.

Key selected recommendations:

- Enabling policy and regulatory environments conducive to sustainable telecommunication/ICT development, in particular incentives and financing solutions to create environments that are conducive to investment in ICT infrastructure in underserved and rural areas;
- The development and use of accessible telecommunications/ICTs and applications to equally empower people and societies for sustainable development and promoting digital inclusion for all, in particular for empowering women and girls, persons with disabilities and other people with specific needs;
- Providing concentrated assistance to Least Developed Countries (LDCs), Small Island Developing States (SIDS), Landlocked Developing Countries (LDCs) and countries with economies in transition;
- Building confidence and security in the use of telecommunications/ICTs;
- Assisting Member States to enhance their capacities on and improve the use of telecommunication/ICTs in mitigating and adapting to climate change;
- Pressing need for governments to focus on measures to develop digital skills, particularly in the developing world;
- Developing and strengthening partnerships to mobilize resources to promote sustainable telecommunication/ICT development.