

## RESOLUTION 214 (BUCHAREST, 2022)

### **Artificial intelligence technologies and telecommunications/ information and communication technologies**

The Plenipotentiary Conference of the International Telecommunication Union (Bucharest, 2022),

*recalling*

- a) Resolution 70/1 of the United Nations General Assembly (UNGA), on transforming our world: the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development;
- b) UNGA Resolution 70/125, on the outcome document of the 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 (WSIS);
- c) Resolution 139 (Rev. Bucharest, 2022) of this conference, on the use of telecommunications/information and communication technologies (ICTs) to bridge the digital divide and build an inclusive information society;
- d) Resolution 140 (Rev. Bucharest, 2022) of this conference, on ITU's role in implementing the outcomes of WSIS and the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, as well as in their follow-up and review processes,

*recognizing*

- a) that ITU, being the United Nations specialized agency for telecommunication/ICTs, plays an important role in advancing international telecommunications/ICTs and related development issues, fostering an enabling environment for telecommunication/ICT development, facilitating implementation of the WSIS action lines and contributing to achieving the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) by facilitating universal access to telecommunications/ICTs;

b) the roles of other United Nations organizations in facilitating the implementation of WSIS action lines, including, *inter alia*, the roles of the World Health Organization on e-health, the United Nations Department of Economic and Social Affairs on e-government, the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development on e-business and the United Nations Food and Agriculture Organization on e-agriculture,

*noting*

a) that many other organizations and stakeholders are discussing, studying and exploring aspects of artificial intelligence (AI) and its capacity to benefit society, and developing projects, guidelines, best practices, standards and principles for AI technologies, systems and services, within their mandates, including the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization, the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development, the Global Partnership on Artificial Intelligence, and Joint Technical Committee 1 of the International Organization for Standardization and the International Electrotechnical Commission;

b) that ITU has partnered with more than 40 other United Nations agencies to convene the AI for Good platform and launched the ITU AI Repository, which seeks to identify practical applications of AI to advance the SDGs;

c) that work is already under way across ITU, including through study groups, focus groups and capacity-building activities, to examine the intersection between AI and telecommunications/ICTs to facilitate sustainable development,

*considering*

a) that a telecommunication/ICT ecosystem can support the development and deployment of many AI use cases that contribute to sustainable development;

- b) that fully realizing the benefits of AI technologies will require bridging digital divides and achieving universal access to telecommunications/ICTs;
- c) that the development of AI related to telecommunications/ICTs brings both opportunities and challenges;
- d) that ITU members are undertaking work that can help inform and assist an understanding of the potential of AI technologies in support of telecommunications/ICTs to contribute to the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development,

*resolves*

that ITU should, within its mandate and core competencies:

- i) continue the work on AI related to telecommunications/ICTs, including studies, information-sharing and capacity building on AI technologies for increasing the efficiency of telecommunications/ICTs;
- ii) foster a telecommunication/ICT ecosystem for deployment of AI technologies,

*instructs the Secretary-General, in consultation with the Directors of the three Bureaux*

- 1 to coordinate the activities of the Union to implement this resolution;
- 2 to focus ITU's efforts related to AI towards fostering robust telecommunication/ICT ecosystems in order to support AI technologies, and towards applying AI technologies to make telecommunications/ICTs more efficient;
- 3 to continue to work with other United Nations agencies to realize the benefits of AI use cases for sustainable development, such as through the AI for Good platform and the ITU AI Repository;

4 to foster information- and advice-sharing to build understanding, particularly for developing countries<sup>1</sup>, related to the deployment of AI technologies in support of telecommunications/ICTs and the associated opportunities and challenges;

5 to identify opportunities, as appropriate, for coordination and cooperation with other relevant organizations and collaboration with relevant stakeholders with regard to this resolution;

6 to report to the next plenipotentiary conference and annually to the ITU Council on any ITU activities related to AI and the implementation of this resolution,

*instructs the Directors of the three Bureaux*

to continue to support the work of their respective Sectors on AI technologies in support of telecommunications/ICTs in an effort to enable an efficient telecommunication/ICT ecosystem,

*instructs the ITU Council*

to include the report of the Secretary-General in the documents sent to Member States,

*invites Member States, Sector Members, Associates and Academia*

1 to promote the common understanding among the ITU membership that a strong telecommunication/ICT ecosystem can support AI technologies, and that AI technologies can be applied to telecommunications/ICTs to make them more efficient and capable;

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<sup>1</sup> These include the least developed countries, small island developing states, landlocked developing countries and countries with economies in transition.

2 to share their experiences and contribute to international multistakeholder discussions on the application of AI technologies to telecommunications/ICTs, including international organizations, initiatives, the private sector, civil society, academia, small and medium enterprises, and technical organizations;

3 to contribute to discussions, information-sharing, capacity building and studies on AI related to international telecommunications/ICTs, and on how it may contribute to the achievement of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development within the mandate of the Union.

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*(Bucharest, 2022)*

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