

# ETSI Sustainability Summit 30<sup>th</sup> March 2023



## Event Wrap-Up / Conclusions

Cartoons to be  
shared shortly

EVENT WEBSITE: [ETSI Summit on Sustainability](#)



# Session#01: The Sustainability Challenge and Global Green Initiatives.



- **Main Messages from the Session:**
  - Much work on Sustainable ICT is already underway in multiple SDOs and Industry Associations
  - ICT is a key sector to address climate change through digitization / ICT enablement
  - Measurement frameworks & shared KPIs are key to measuring impacts and improvements made / to be made
  - ITU-T and ETSI EE have a long history of cooperation working together.
- **Main Findings from the Session:**
  - Much work has been done, but much remains to be done, cooperation is key to avoid fragmentation / duplication
  - Sustainability covers many sub-topics, inc. telco supply chain, circular economy, network efficiency, & methodologies
  - Carbon emissions are but one element, energy efficiency, circular economy & waste management are also key
- **Suggested Actions from the Session:**
  - Adopt ESG (Environmental Social Governance) goals as an integral part of the company's objectives
  - Seek to reduce scope 3 emissions, ensure alignment of major stakeholders in various supply chains
  - Standards work needed on reporting of 'avoided emissions is needed. <Early work in ETSI OEU GS 020>
  - Further investigate the concept of "digital sufficiency" / "ICT Sobriety" (*the balance of ICT deployments vs real needs*)
  - Work on sustainability is GREAT, but what needs to be done to make it GREATER? (Challenges and opportunities)

## Session#02a: The Role of ICT in Sustainability (Part 1, Operator Panel).



- **Main Messages from the Session:**
  - Sustainability is the #01 priority for Operators and indeed across the entire ICT industry
  - Creating more efficient ICT solutions is key both to ICT itself and to other industries
  - Much work has already been done, and positive impacts of sustainable approaches are visible
  - Individual action is good, but coordinated collective action is better
- **Main Findings from the Session:**
  - Many operators are already including more sustainable energy sources in their networks and do actively report on their KPIs – often this information is public
  - Network sharing can reduce CAPEX/OPEX and environmental impacts
  - Challenge is to produce ever increasing network performance (e.g. 5G→ 6G) vs reduced energy and resource consumption and reduced emissions / waste
- **Suggested Actions from the Session:**
  - Study including sustainability and energy efficiency aspects in “ALL” ETSI future deliverables
  - Putting sustainability criteria in the procurement phase towards the vendors
  - Collaboration between operators, to share their common requirements and provide shared requirements to the supply chain ecosystem

## Session#02b: The Role of ICT in Sustainability (Part 2, Solution Provider Panel).



- **Main Messages from the Session:**
  - Many vendors are looking seriously at sustainability, and have been doing so for several years
  - Several solutions are already developed for energy efficiency, waste reduction, sustainability measurements and the reporting of performance data.
  - Circular economy is an important factor and already actively used for achieving sustainability
  - EC SNS JU research projects are looking at new sustainable technologies and methodologies
- **Main Findings from the Session:**
  - Many providers are actively reporting on their sustainability KPIs & often this information is public
  - Important to capture, consolidate, analyse and share Sustainability Data
  - A.I may be used to measure and improve sustainability BUT also consumes energy – balance is key
  - We need to consider the whole end-to-end service delivery chain and all elements in it, from raw materials through to end-of-life of equipment
- **Suggested Actions from the Session:**
  - Continue and expand the publication of environmental information on products and services
  - Strive to reduce energy consumption and also extend lifecycles of ICT equipment
  - Recycling and repurposing helps to reduce waste – challenge is to take back the equipment

## Session# 03: ETSI Activities Supporting Technologies for Sustainability.



- **Main Messages from the Session:**
  - ICT also has its own carbon footprint, and needs to be deployed responsibly
  - TC ATTM, TC EE and ISG OEU have already done much for on environmental & sustainable topics
  - 3GPP is doing a lot on energy efficiency and energy saving already for 5G (and beyond)
  - <oneM2M> IoT can reduce the carbon footprint and energy consumption in many use cases
- **Main Findings from the Session:**
  - Rare metals (lithium / cobalt / nickel) and also metals such as copper will be in short supply
  - Sobriety means doing more with less – we need to consume less energy / resources
  - Extend the life-cycle of hardware and improve the efficiency of software (no bloatware)
- **Suggested Actions from the Session:**
  - Cross-SDO collaboration needed to build comprehensive, consistent & non-overlapping standards
  - Further promote the excellent work being done on sustainability inside ETSI, 3GPP & oneM2M
  - “Digital should worry about its own environmental impacts” let’s consider “what would Greta say”?
  - Consider Sobriety – doing more with less
  - Converge our digital infrastructures (turn off old networks, phase out non energy-efficient tech.)
  - Promote sustainable business (financing) models.

## Session#04: What More Can Telecoms Do? – the way forward



- **Main Messages from the Session:**
  - ICT and specifically data centres create a significant carbon footprint
  - There is a need for a clear framework and standards to avoid inaccurate 'claims'
  - Net Zero considerations apply every stage of the journey for all organizations
    - Prepare / measure / target / reduce / Remove-offset / Report / Impact
- **Main Findings from the Session:**
  - ICT has a significant Carbon footprint <example 17 Mt CO2 eq. in France>
  - There are numerous regulations and tax reductions schemes planned to reduce carbon emissions
  - The UN called for greater action on the problem of 'greenwashing' in climate action and appointed a High-Level Expert Group to investigate this. Standards and clear frameworks can help clarify this.
- **Suggested Actions from the Session:**
  - Use of ISO Net Zero guidelines is of use for the development sustainable strategies
  - Adopt an ecodesign (sustainability by design) approach
  - Seek to have products that are long life, energy efficiency, recyclable, repairable

# Workshop Overall Conclusions; Possible Next Steps for ETSI.



- **Main Messages from the Workshop:**

- ICT is part of the (sustainability) problem and also very much part of the solution
- Focus on making ICT more sustainable first, it is the #01 priority for the industry today
- Study how digitization of other industries may help them become more energy efficient
- Much work on sustainability has already been done, and much remains to be done, focus on priorities
- Cooperation is essential to ensure global standards and frameworks that can be used to enable sustainable technologies in order to rapidly reach sustainable objectives
- “The cleanest energy is the one that is not consumed” - *energy efficiency* and *ICT sobriety* are important areas to develop further
- Measurement, and the sharing of sustainability data are important steps in identifying potential and actual energy savings

- **Next Steps for ETSI**

- Compile the dense input to the workshop so it may be considered by all ETSI members
- Continue dialogue with other ESOs/SDOs/Industry Associations to encourage collaboration and avoid fragmentation of standards initiatives
- Consider having a second, longer, deeper, wider ETSI sustainability event in 2024->