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CONSTRUCTION, INSTALLATION AND PROTECTION
OF CABLES AND OTHER ELEMENTS OF OUTSIDE
PLANT

**Guidance for information and communication
technology manufacturers on setting 1.5°C
aligned targets compliant with
Recommendation ITU-T L.1470**

ITU-T L-series Recommendations – Supplement 38

ITU-T L-SERIES RECOMMENDATIONS

ENVIRONMENT AND ICTS, CLIMATE CHANGE, E-WASTE, ENERGY EFFICIENCY; CONSTRUCTION, INSTALLATION AND PROTECTION OF CABLES AND OTHER ELEMENTS OF OUTSIDE PLANT

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Supplement 38 to ITU-T L-series Recommendations

Guidance for information and communication technology manufacturers on setting 1.5°C aligned targets compliant with Recommendation ITU-T L.1470

Summary

Supplement 38 to ITU-T L-series Recommendations supports information and communication technology (ICT) organizations in setting science-based targets for greenhouse gases (GHGs) according to the decarbonization pathways described in detail in Recommendation ITU-T L.1470, aligned with the *Special report: Global warming of 1.5°C* by the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC), and is intended for provision to the Science Based Targets Initiative (SBTi) for use as a sectoral target-setting approach. Supplement 38 to ITU-T L-series Recommendations focuses exclusively on ICT manufacturers. Guidance for additional sub-sectors, including semi-conductor manufacturers and printed circuit board (PCB) manufacturers, is for further study.

NOTE 1 – The term "ICT manufacturers" refers to organizations that have the financial and organizational control of the design and production of ICT goods, including software providers.

NOTE 2 – Guidance for ICT network and datacentre operators have earlier been published as [SBT-I 2020b] and [ITU-T L-Suppl.37].

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FOREWORD

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The World Telecommunication Standardization Assembly (WTSA), which meets every four years, establishes the topics for study by the ITU-T study groups which, in turn, produce Recommendations on these topics.

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In some areas of information technology which fall within ITU-T's purview, the necessary standards are prepared on a collaborative basis with ISO and IEC.

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Supplement 38 to Recommendation ITU-T L.1470

Guidance for information and communication technology manufacturers on setting 1.5°C aligned targets compliant with Recommendation ITU-T L.1470

1 Scope

This Supplement supports information and communication technology (ICT) companies in setting science-based targets for greenhouse gases (GHGs) according to a set of new decarbonization pathways described in detail in [ITU-T L.1470] and aligned with [IPCC 1.5] and is intended for provision to the Science Based Targets Initiative (SBTi) for use as a sectoral target-setting approach.

At the time of publication, this Supplement focuses exclusively on ICT manufacturers of networks, data centres and user devices, and supports them in setting science-based targets focusing on both their manufacturing processes and support activities.

NOTE 1 – The term "ICT manufacturers" refers to organizations that have the financial and organizational control of the design and production of ICT goods, including software providers.

NOTE 2 – Guidance for ICT network and datacentre operators have earlier been published as [SBT-I 2020b] and [ITU-T L-Suppl.37].

2 References

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3 Definitions

3.1 Terms defined elsewhere

This Supplement uses the following terms defined elsewhere:

3.1.1 end-user [ITU-T L.1470]: The actual user of the products or services.

NOTE 1 – The end-user consumes the product or service. An end-user can optionally be a subscriber.

NOTE 2 – The end-user could be either a company or a consumer.

3.1.2 ICT goods [ITU-T L.1410]: Tangible goods deriving from or making use of technologies devoted to or concerned with: the acquisition, storage, manipulation (including transformation), management, movement, control, display, switching, interchange, transmission or reception of a diversity of data; the development and use of the hardware, software, and procedures associated with this delivery; and the representation, transfer, interpretation, and processing of data among persons, places and machines.

3.1.3 ICT manufacturer [ITU-T L.1470]: Organization which has the financial and organizational control of the design and production of ICT goods.

NOTE – In line with 3.1.2 this also includes software providers.

3.1.4 ICT organization [ITU-T L.1420]: An ICT organization is an organization, the core activity of which is directly related to the design, production, promotion, sales or maintenance of ICT goods, networks or services.

3.1.5 ICT supplier [ITU-T L.1470]: Organization that provides information and communication technology (ICT) products or services to an ICT organization.

3.1.6 operator [ITU-T L.1470]: An organization operating networks, data centres or services.

3.1.7 ICT end-user: A company or consumer which is the user of an ICT good.

3.2 Terms defined in this Supplement

None.

4 Abbreviations and acronyms

1.5DS	1.5° Scenario
2DS	2° Scenario
B2DS	Below 2° scenario
ERF	Emission Reduction Factor
GHG	Greenhouse Gas
ICT	Information and Communication Technology
PCB	Printed Circuit Board
SBT	Science-Based Target
SDA	Sectoral Decarbonization Approach
SME	Small- or Medium-sized Enterprise

5 Conventions

None.

6 Background information

6.1 Structure

This Supplement is divided into four main parts plus appendices. This clause is a general introduction. Clause 7 briefly explains the trajectories and how the target setting methodology has been developed. Clause 8 provides instructions to assist companies setting targets. Clause 9 addresses the specific aspects of scope 3 emissions, which are often the largest source of emissions for ICT manufacturers. The appendices give more detailed explanations of the underlying methodologies and additional reference material.

6.2 Practical applications

ICT organizations wishing to set a science-based target recognized by SBTi need to consider the GHG emissions associated with their internal operations including their direct emissions (scope 1) and the emissions related to the energy used for their operation (scope 2) as specified in [GHGP 2015]. In this context, if an ICT organization has value chain (scope 3) emissions over 40% of total scope 1, 2 and 3 emissions, a scope 3 target should be defined. This target should be ambitious, measurable and clearly demonstrate how the main sources of value chain GHG emissions in line with current best practice will be considered.