



**WSIS
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**6-10 July 2026
Geneva, Switzerland**

Session Outcome Document

High Level Dialogue: Strengthening the Resilience of Telecommunication Submarine Cables

ITU/Portugal/Nigeria

10 July 2026, 13:00 – 14:00 CEST

<https://www.itu.int/net4/wsis/forum/2026/Agenda/Session/476>

Key Issues discussed:

- Submarine cables carry over 99 per cent of intercontinental data traffic yet remain highly exposed to fishing activity, anchoring, natural hazards and infrastructure congestion, with disproportionate impact in regions where redundancy is limited.
- Restoration and repair timelines are lengthening in some regions due to complex permitting processes, fragmented regulatory frameworks and limited availability of repair vessels, extending outage duration and economic impact.
- Small island developing States, least developed countries and other underserved regions remain highly dependent on a small number of cable systems, leaving them particularly vulnerable to connectivity disruptions.
- Changing weather patterns and environmental pressures are emerging as significant risk factors affecting coastal landing infrastructure, seabed stability and long-term network planning.
- Stronger coordination between governments and industry, including clearer permitting procedures and improved inter-agency coordination, was highlighted as essential to accelerating deployment and repair.
- Panellists underscored the value of improved risk identification and monitoring, enhanced seabed mapping, better data-sharing and incident reporting, alongside greater route diversity to reduce reliance on heavily trafficked corridors.
- Submarine Telecommunications Cable resilience is a shared responsibility requiring coordinated cooperation across governments, industry and international organizations, in line with the Abuja and Porto Summit Declarations.

Key Outcomes of the session

- IAB Co-Chair H.E. Minister Bosun Tijani (Nigeria) committed to championing the report and its recommendations in Nigeria and across the West Africa region, encouraging fellow governments to draw on its findings.
- Speakers highlighted the recent launch of the [IAB Report of the Working Groups 2026](#) as a practical reference tool that stakeholders will use to channel good practices and guidelines on submarine cable resilience.
- Participants reaffirmed their commitment to sustaining the multi-stakeholder collaboration built through the IAB, with governments, industry and international organizations agreeing to continue working together beyond the Body's conclusion.

Key Recommendations and Forward-Looking Actions

- Governments and regulators are encouraged to draw on the IAB Report of the Working Groups 2026 when updating national policies and regulatory frameworks for submarine cable resilience.
- Regional champions, building on Nigeria's commitment across West Africa, should be identified in other regions to drive uptake of the report's guidelines and good practices.
- ITU and ICPC should sustain the multi-stakeholder cooperation built through the IAB and support continued dissemination of the report.