13 April 2012

**FIRST DRAFT OF THE SECRETARY-GENERAL’S REPORT**

**for the fifth World Telecommunication/Information and Communication Technologies Policy Forum 2013**

**1. Preamble**

**1. 1 Introduction**

**1.1.1** The ITU World Telecommunication/ICT Policy Forum (WTPF) was established by the 1994 Kyoto Plenipotentiary Conference and is covered by the provisions of Resolution 2 of the 2010 Guadalajara Plenipotentiary Conference.

**1.1.2** The purpose is to provide a forum where ITU Member States and Sector Members can discuss and exchange views and information on emerging telecommunication/ICT policy and regulatory matters especially on global and cross-sectoral issues.

**1.1.3** By Decision 562, the 2011 Council decided that the Policy Forum would discuss all the issues raised in Resolution 101 (Rev. Guadalajara, 2010), Resolution 102 (Rev. Guadalajara, 2010), and Resolution 133 (Rev. Guadalajara, 2010) .

**1.1.4** Plenipotentiary Resolutions 101, 102 and 133 were adopted by membership in Guadalajara (2010) and related activities are already being undertaken by ITU within the framework of its Strategic, Operational and Financial Plans. ITU Secretariat prepares annual reports to Council on ITU Internet activities related to the implementation of Plenipotentiary Resolution 101: “Internet Protocol (IP)-based Networks”; Resolution 102: “ITU’s role with regard to international public policy issues pertaining to the Internet and the management of Internet resources, including domain names and addresses”; and Resolution 133: “Roles of administrations of Member States in the management of Internationalized (multilingual) domain names”.

**1.1.5** The Council Working Group on International Internet-Related Public Policy Issues (CWG-Internet) was established as a separate group by Council [Resolution 1336](http://www.itu.int/md/S11-CL-C-0099/en), in accordance with Resolutions 102 and 140 of the 2010 Plenipotentiary Conference. CWG-Internet is limited to Member States, with open consultation to all stakeholders. Previously, this group was established as the Dedicated Group as an integral part of WG WSIS, open only to all Member States, in accordance with Resolution 75 (WTSA, 2008), and Council Resolution 1282 (Mod. 2008). The*terms of reference* for the CWG-Internet are:

to identify, study and develop matters related to international Internet-related public policy issues, and including those issues identified in Council Resolution 1305 (2009); in this regard, as appropriate:

1. disseminate its outputs throughout ITU’s membership and to all relevant international organizations and stakeholders actively involved in such matters for their consideration in their policy making processes;
2. consider and discuss the activities of the Secretary-General and the Directors of the Bureaux in relation to implementation of Resolution 102 (Rev. Guadalajara, 2010) and to prepare inputs into these activities as appropriate;
3. initiate and conduct open consultations with all stakeholders in an open and inclusive manner; and the output of the open consultations will be presented for consideration in deliberations of the Council Working Group.

2009 Council [Resolution 1305](http://www.itu.int/md/S09-CL-C-0105) invites Member States to recognize the scope of work of ITU on international Internet-related public policy matters, represented by the list of topics in [Annex 1](http://www.itu.int/md/S09-CL-C-0105) which was established in accordance with decisions of ITU membership at the Plenipotentiary Conference, Council and world conferences; and to elaborate their respective position on each of the international Internet-related public policy issues referenced in the list of topics and to contribute actively to the work of ITU on these issues.

**1.1.6** The WTPF shall prepare reports and adopt opinions by consensus for consideration by Member States, Sector Members and relevant ITU meetings, bearing in mind items 1.1.4 and 1.1.5, and therefore the need to avoid a contradiction between the themes and the discussions at WTPF and ongoing activities undertaken as part of ITU’s mandate under the aforementioned Plenipotentiary Resolutions (and other decisions of ITU Conferences and Assemblies) and the terms of reference of CWG-Internet.

**1.1.7 NOTE:** *This first draft report only presents the references to topics in Plenipotentiary Resolutions 101, 102 and 133, without including any material regarding the topics themselves. Future drafts will include material on the subject matter of the topics.*

**1.1.8** This report, together with other background information relating to the themes of the 2013 WTPF will be posted on the ITU website, at: <http://www.itu.int/wtpf>.

# 1.2 Preparatory process for the Secretary-General’s Report

**1.2.1** By Decision 562, the 2011 Council decided that

* in accordance with Resolution 2 (Rev. Guadalajara, 2010), the themes shall continue to be based on a report by the Secretary-General, including input from any conference, assembly or meeting of the Union, and on contributions from Member States and Sector Members;
* that arrangements for the fifth WTPF shall be similar to those of the previous Fora. In particular:

a) discussions shall be based on a report from the Secretary-General, incorporating the contributions of ITU Member States and Sector Members, which will serve as the sole working document of the Forum, and shall focus on key issues on which it would be desirable to reach conclusions;

b) the final report of the Secretary-General shall be circulated at least six weeks before the opening of the Policy Forum;

c) the report of the Secretary-General shall be developed in the following manner:

1. the Secretary-General shall convene a balanced, informal group of experts, each of whom is active in preparing for the Policy Forum in his/her own country, to assist in this process;
2. a first draft of the report shall be circulated, based on available material, with an invitation to comment, not later than four months before the opening of the Forum;
3. a second draft, incorporating comment from the membership, with an invitation to comment, shall be circulated ten weeks before the opening of the Forum;
4. participation in the Forum shall be open to Member States, Sector Members and small and medium-sized enterprises with attendance, as observers, by the public;
5. the Secretary-General shall encourage ITU Member States, Sector Members and other interested parties, to make voluntary contributions to help defray the costs of the Policy Forum and facilitate the attendance of the LDCs;
6. Forum Meetings should be conducted in line with the Rules of Procedure used at the previous two Fora.

**1.2.2** A circular letter (DM12-1003) containing the planned schedule for the preparatory process of the fifth WTPF was sent to membership on 1 February 2012 and can also be found on the ITU website at: <http://www.itu.int/en/membership/Pages/letters.aspx> . The proposed timetable, included in the letter, is given below:

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| **9 March 2012** | Deadline for membership to submit materials considered relevant for the first draft of the Secretary-General’s Report.  |
| **13 April 2012** | Online posting and circulation to membership of the first draft of the Secretary-General’s report (drawn up on the basis of available material). |
| **15 May 2012** | Deadline for receipt of membership comments on the first draft and additional materials for the second draft. Deadline for nominations for a balanced group of experts, to advise the Secretary-General on the further elaboration of the report and of draft opinions associated with it. |
| **5 June 2012** | First meeting of the group of experts.Preliminary second draft of the Secretary-General’s report. |
| **31 July 2012** | Online posting and circulation of second draft (incorporating comments and broad outlines for possible draft opinions). |
| **30 September 2012** | Deadline for receipt of comments on second draft. |
| **Jan-Feb 2013** | Second meeting of the group of experts. |
| **1 March 2013** | Finalizing the Report of the Secretary-General, and deadline for its publication. |
| **13 May 2013** | Proposed date for Strategic Dialogue |
| **Collocated with WSIS Forum 2013 (May 13-17, 2013)** | Proposed dates for 5th WTPF on Internet-related public policy issues |

# 2. Themes for the WTPF

**2.1** By Decision 562, the 2011 Council decided that the Policy Forum would discuss all the issues raised in Resolution 101 (Rev. Guadalajara, 2010), Resolution 102 (Rev. Guadalajara, 2010), and Resolution 133 (Rev. Guadalajara, 2010) .

**2.2** Resolution 101 (Rev. Guadalajara, 2010) on “IP-Based Networks” and Resolution 102 (Rev. Guadalajara, 2010) on “ITU’s role with regard to international public policy issues pertaining to the Internet and the management of Internet resources, including domain names and addresses”, were initially adopted in 1998 and subsequently amended, most recently at PP-10.

**2.3** Resolution 133 (Rev. Guadalajara, 2010) on the “Role of administrations of Member States in the management of internationalized (multilingual) domain names” was initially adopted in 2002 and subsequently amended, most recently at PP-10.

**2.4** Issues raised in Plenipotentiary Resolutions 101, 102 and 133 that are under consideration for the purposes of this report, bearing in mind item 1.1.6, have been extracted from the aforementioned plenipotentiary Resolutions and are listed in the sub-sections below. For the reader’s convenience, the list of topics contained within the issues under consideration (listed below) is given in the Annex of this report.

**2.4.1 Resolution 101: IP-Based Networks**

1. Advances in the global information infrastructure, including the development of IP-based networks and especially the Internet, and future IP developments, continue to be an issue of crucial importance, as an important engine for growth in the world economy in the twenty-first century.
2. The increased use of the Internet introduces new additional applications in telecommunication/ICT services based on its highly advanced technology, e.g. the utilization of e-mail and text messaging, voice over IP, video, and real-time TV (IPTV) over the Internet, which has become commonplace, even though there are challenges regarding quality of service, uncertainty of origin, and the high cost of international connectivity.
3. Current and future IP-based networks and future IP developments will continue to introduce dramatic changes in the way we acquire, produce, circulate and consume information.
4. IP-based networks have evolved to a widely accessible medium used for global commerce and communication, and there is therefore a need to identify the global activities related to IP-based networks with respect to, for example:
	1. infrastructure, interoperability and standardization;
	2. Internet naming and addressing;
	3. dissemination of information about IP-based networks and the implications of their development for ITU Member States, particularly the developing countries;
5. that significant work on IP-related issues and the future internet being conducted within ITU and many other international bodies.
6. that the quality of service of IP-based networks should be consistent with ITU-T recommendations and other recognized international standards.
7. It is in the public interest that IP-based networks and other telecommunication networks should be both interoperable and provide, at a minimum, the level of quality of service provided by traditional networks, consistent with ITU-T recommendations and other recognized international standards.

**2.4.2 Resolution 102: ITU’s role with regard to international public policy issues pertaining to the Internet and the management of Internet resources, including domain names and addresses**

1. Advances in the global information infrastructure, including the development of IP-based networks and the Internet, taking into account the requirements, features and interoperability of next-generation networks (NGN) and future networks, are of crucial importance as an important engine for growth in the world economy in the twenty-first century.
2. The development of the Internet is essentially market-led and driven by private and government initiatives.
3. The private sector continues to play a very important role in the expansion and development of the Internet, for example through investments in infrastructures and services.
4. Management of the registration and allocation of Internet domain names and addresses must fully reflect the geographical nature of the Internet, taking into account an equitable balance of interests of all stakeholders.
5. The management of the Internet is a subject of valid international interest and must flow from full international and multistakeholder cooperation on the basis of the outcomes of the two phases of the World Summit on the Information Society (WSIS).
6. As stated in the WSIS outcomes, all governments should have an equal role and responsibility for international Internet governance and for ensuring the stability, security and continuity of the existing Internet and its future development and of the future internet, and that the need for development of public policy by governments in consultation with all stakeholders is also recognized.
7. The WSIS outcomes provide the framework for discussions on Internet-related public policy issues:
8. §§ 71 and 78a) of the Tunis Agenda with regard to the establishment of enhanced cooperation on Internet governance and the establishment of the Internet Governance Forum (IGF), as two distinct processes.
9. The relevant WSIS outcomes in §§ 29-82 of the Tunis Agenda concerning Internet governance.
10. The management of the Internet encompasses both technical and public policy issues and should involve all stakeholders and relevant intergovernmental and international organizations in accordance with §§ 35 a)-e) of the Tunis Agenda which recognizes that:
11. Policy authority for Internet-related public policy issues is the sovereign right of States. They have rights and responsibilities for international Internet-related public policy issues.
12. The private sector has had, and should continue to have, an important role in the development of the Internet, both in the technical and economic fields.
13. Civil society has also played an important role on Internet matters, especially at community level, and should continue to play such a role.
14. Intergovernmental organizations have had, and should continue to have, a facilitating role in the coordination of Internet-related public policy issues.
15. International organizations have also had and should continue to have an important role in the development of Internet-related technical standards and relevant policies.
16. Member States represent the interests of the population of the country or territory for which a ccTLD has been delegated. Countries should not be involved in decisions regarding another country's ccTLD.
17. The role of governments includes providing a clear, consistent and predictable legal framework, in order to promote a favourable environment in which global ICT networks are interoperable with Internet networks and widely accessible to all citizens without any discrimination and to ensure adequate protection of public interests in the management of Internet resources, including domain names and addresses.
18. WSIS recognized the need for enhanced cooperation in the future, to enable governments, on an equal footing, to carry out their roles and responsibilities, in international public policy issues pertaining to the Internet, but not in the day-to-day technical and operational matters that do not impact on international public policy issues.

**2.4.3 Resolution 133: Role of administrations of Member States in the management of internationalized (multilingual) domain names**

1. The Tunis Agenda for the Information Society adopted by WSIS made a commitment to advance the process for the introduction of multilingualism in a number of areas including domain names, e-mail, Internet addresses and keyword look-up.
2. There is a need to promote regional root servers and the use of internationalized domain names in order to overcome linguistic barriers to Internet access.
3. Considering the continuing progress towards integration of telecommunications and the Internet; and the fact that that Internet users are generally more comfortable reading or browsing through texts in their own language and that, for the Internet to become more widely available to a large number of users, it is necessary to make the Internet (DNS system) available in non-Latin based scripts, taking into account the progress recently made in this regard.
4. Recalling the results of WSIS, there should be a commitment to working earnestly towards multilingualization of the Internet, as part of a multilateral, transparent and democratic process, involving governments and all stakeholders, in their respective roles.
5. The current domain name system does not fully reflect the diverse and growing language needs of all users.
6. Internationalized Internet domain names, and more generally ICTs and the Internet, must be widely accessible to all citizens without regard to gender, race, religion, country of residence or language.
7. Internet domain names should not privilege any country or region of the world to the detriment of others, and should take into account the global diversity of languages.
8. Recalling the results of WSIS and the needs of linguistic groups, there is an urgent need to:
	1. advance the process for the introduction of multilingualism in a number of areas, including domain names, e-mail addresses and keyword look-up.
	2. implement programmes that allow for the presence of multilingual domain names and content on the Internet and the use of various software models in order to fight against the linguistic digital divide and to ensure that everyone can participate in the emerging new society.
	3. strengthen cooperation between relevant bodies for the further development of technical standards and to foster their global deployment.
9. The existing role and sovereignty of ITU Member States is recognized with respect to allocation and management of their country code numbering resources as enshrined in Recommendation ITUT E.164.
10. There are a number of challenges with regard to intellectual property and the deployment of internationalized domain names, and adequate solutions should be explored.
11. The roles played by (a) the World Intellectual Property Organization (WIPO) - with regard to dispute resolution for domain names and (b) by the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organisation (UNESCO) - with regard to promoting cultural diversity and identity, linguistic diversity and local content - are recognized. It is also recognized that ITU enjoys close cooperation with both WIPO and UNESCO.
12. It is paramount to maintain global interoperability as domain names expand to include non-Latin character sets.

**Annex**

Issues under consideration, given in Section 2.4, contain the following list of topics:

**From Resolution 101**

1. Utilization of E-Mail and text messaging
2. Utilization of Voice over IP
3. Utilization of video, real-time TV (IPTV)
4. Challenges regarding quality of service
5. Challenges regarding uncertainty of origin
6. Challenges regarding high cost of Internet connectivity
7. Identifying the global activities related to IP-based networks with respect to infrastructure, interoperability and standardization; Internet naming and addressing; dissemination of information
8. Future Internet
9. Quality of service
10. Interoperability

**From Resolution 102 (*but only those not already listed above*)**

1. ccTLD issues
2. Enhanced cooperation and facilitating cooperation and discussions
3. IGF and Internet governance
4. Relevant WSIS outcomes in §§ 29-82 of the Tunis Agenda concerning Internet governance
5. Roles and responsibilities of different stakeholder groups as stated in §§ 35 a)-e) of the Tunis Agenda
6. Clear, consistent and predictable legal frameworks in order to promote a favorable environment in which global ICT networks are interoperable with Internet networks and widely accessible to all citizens without any discrimination and to ensure adequate protection of public interests in the management of Internet resources, including domain names and addresses

**From Resolution 133 (*but only those not already listed above*)**

1. Multilingualism
2. Regional [DNS] root servers
3. Intellectual property issues regarding Internationalized Domain Names (IDN)
4. Role of WIPO in dispute resolution for domain names; Role of UNESCO in promoting cultural diversity and identity, linguistic diversity and local content; and close cooperation of both organizations with ITU
5. Ensuring the sovereignty of Member States with regarding to E.164 numbering plans whatever the application in which they are used