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| **Council 2019 Geneva, 10-20 June 2019** |  |
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| **Agenda item: PL 2.6** | **Document C19/5-E** |
| **1 April 2019** |
| **Original: English** |
| Report by the Secretary-General | |
| PREPARATIONS FOR WTPF-21 | |

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| Summary  Resolution 2 (Rev. Dubai, 2018) *resolves* to hold WTPF preferably back-to-back with the WSIS Forum 2021, taking account of the need to ensure adequate preparation by Member States. This document provides general information on WTPF and suggests a timeline for the preparatory process for WTPF-21.  Action required  The Council is instructed to:   1. **decide** on the duration, date, venue, agenda and themes of WTPF-21; 2. **adopt** a procedure for preparation of the report by the Secretary-General to WTPF-21.   \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_  References  Document [C13/64(Rev1)](https://www.itu.int/md/S13-CL-C-0064/en);[Resolution 2 (Rev. Dubai, 2018)](https://www.itu.int/en/council/Documents/basic-texts/RES-002-E.pdf) |

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 (Rev. Dubai, 2018). WTPF was successfully convened in 1996, 1998, 2001, 2009, and 2013. The report on WTPF-13 is available in document [C13/64(Rev.1)](https://www.itu.int/md/S13-CL-C-0064/en).

2. The purpose of WTPF is to provide a venue for exchanging views and information and thereby creating a shared vision among policy-makers worldwide on the issues arising from the emergence of new telecommunication/ICT services and technologies, and to consider any other policy issue in telecommunications/ICTs which would benefit from a global exchange of views, in addition to the adoption of opinions reflecting common viewpoints.

3. WTPF should continue to give special attention to the interests and needs of the developing countries, where modern technologies and services can contribute significantly to telecommunication infrastructure development.

4. In order to ensure that they are well focused, discussions at WTPF shall be based solely on a single report by the Secretary-General, and contributions from participants based on that report, prepared in accordance with a procedure adopted by the Council and based on the proposals of Member States and Sector Members, and on the views of Associates, Academia, and stakeholders.

5. WTPF shall not produce prescriptive regulatory outcomes; however, it shall prepare reports and adopt opinions by consensus for consideration by Member States, Sector Members, and relevant ITU meetings.

6. WTPF shall be open to all Member States and Sector Members; however, if appropriate, by decision of a majority of the representatives of Member States, a special session may be held for Member States only.

7. Resolution 2 (Rev. Dubai, 2018) *resolves* to hold WTPF preferably back to back with the WSIS Forum 2021, taking account of the need to ensure adequate preparation by Member States.

8. Resolution 2 (Rev. Dubai, 2018) instructs the ITU Council

* to continue to decide on the duration, date, venue, agenda and themes of any future WTPF;
* to adopt a procedure for preparation of the report by the Secretary-General;
* that the procedure referred to in *instructs the ITU Council 2* should include, as appropriate, participation open to all Member States and Sector Members, and online public consultations open to all interested stakeholders, taking into account the past practices followed and experience acquired by ITU, including in respect of the preparatory process, in the holding of previous WTPFs.

9. The proposed timeline for the preparation for WTPF-2021 is as follows:

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| **Timeline** |  |
| **September 2019 (as part of CWG-Cluster)** | First meeting of the informal group of experts (IEG)  (2 days) |
| **February 2020**  **(as part of CWG-Cluster)** | Second meeting of the informal group of experts (IEG)  (2 days) |
| **September 2020  (as part of CWG-Cluster)** | Third meeting of the informal group of experts (IEG)  (3 days) |
| **February 2021**  **(as part of CWG-Cluster)** | Fourth meeting of the informal group of experts (IEG)  (3 days) |
| **WSIS Forum 2021  (17-21 May 2021)** | Proposed dates for WTPF-21 |

10. Previous discussions on the Theme for a potential WTPF were carried out in Council 2016 and Council 2017, a background of which is provided below:

* In 2015 Member States and Sector Members were invited through [Circular Letter CL-15/40](https://www.itu.int/md/S15-SG-CIR-0040/en) to submit their suggestions on a possible theme and policy issues related to telecommunications/ICTs, which could benefit from an exchange of views at a WTPF, together with a time-frame during which it could be held. A total of 19 inputs were received in response to the circular letter. All inputs received are available in information [Document C16/INF/3(Rev.2)](http://www.itu.int/md/S16-CL-INF-0003/en).
* The 2016 session of the ITU Council considered [Document C16/59(Rev.1)](https://www.itu.int/md/S16-CL-C-0059/en) which included the inputs received in response to CL-15/40. The Council agreed that, given the importance of the Forum, the ITU Secretary-General should continue consultations on the possible theme, dates and place for the next WTPF, and submit a report to the 2017 session of the Council.
* Member States and Sectors were invited, through [Circular Letter CL-16/32](https://www.itu.int/md/S16-SG-CIR-0032/en), to submit their views on the possible theme, dates and place for the next WTPF. A total of 5 inputs were received in response to the circular letter. All inputs received are available in information Document [C17/INF/3](https://www.itu.int/md/S17-CL-INF-0003/en).

The Council is invited to take into account the discussions in previous Council meetings in its deliberation.

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