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| **Council 2019 Geneva, 10-20 June 2019** |  |
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| **Agenda item: PL 2.6** | **Document C19/78-E** |
| **27 May 2019** |
| **Original: English** |
| Note by the Secretary-General | |
| Contribution from Argentina, THE Bahamas (Commonwealth of),  Brazil (Federative Republic of), Canada and the United States of America | |
| Draft New Decision on the Sixth World Telecommunication/Information and Communication Technology Policy Forum | |

I have the honour to transmit to the Member States of the Council a contribution submitted by Argentina, the Bahamas (Commonwealth of), Brazil (Federative Republic of), Canada and the United States of America.

Houlin ZHAO

Secretary-General

DRAFT New DECISION XXX

(adopted at the [tenth] Plenary Meeting)

Sixth World Telecommunication/Information and Communication Technology Policy Forum

The Council,

recognizing

that the World Telecommunication/ICT Policy Forum (WTPF) as established by Resolution 2 of the Plenipotentiary Conference (Kyoto, 1994) and successfully convened in 1996, 1998, 2001, 2009 and 2013, has provided a venue for discussion of global and cross-sectoral issues by high-level participants, thus contributing to the advance of world telecommunications, as well as to the establishment of procedures for the conduct of the forum itself,

considering

*a)* that the purposes of the Union are, *inter alia*, to promote, at an international level, the adoption of a broader approach to the issues of telecommunication/ICT in the global information economy and society, to promote the extension of the benefits of the new telecommunication technologies to all the world’s inhabitants and to harmonize the actions of Member States and Sector Members in the attainment of those ends;

*b)* that 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 telecommunication/ICTs which would benefit from a global exchange of views, in addition to the adoption of opinions reflecting common viewpoints,

considering further

*a)* that the continued development of convergence, next-generation networks and emergence of the digital economy have significant implications for several domains, particularly for capacity building, especially in developing countries;

*b)* that a study of how telecommunication/ICTs are enabling and influencing the digital economy is a topic of high interest to ITU Member States and Sector Members;

*c)* that to foster the development of telecommunication/ICTs in support of the digital economy and help developing countries make their transition to the digital economy is one of the strategic goals of the Union;

*d)* that WTPF should continue to give special attention to the interests and needs of the developing countries[[1]](#footnote-1)1, where modern technologies and services can contribute significantly to telecommunication infrastructure development,

decides

1 to convene the sixth World Telecommunication/ICT Policy Forum in Geneva, Switzerland, collocated with the WSIS Forum 2021, for a duration of three days according to the Draft Agenda shown in Annex 2 of this Decision;

2 that the Policy Forum would study how new and emerging telecommunication/ICTs are enabling the global transition to the digital economy and discuss opportunities, challenges andthe policies to foster development of telecommunications/ICTs networks, user connectivity and skills necessary to support the digital economy;

3 that in accordance with Resolution 2 (Rev. Dubai, 2018), the agenda and 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, taking into account the past practices followed and experience acquired by ITU, including in respect of the preparatory process, in holding of previous WTPFs;

4 that the World Telecommunication/ICT Policy Forum shall prepare reports and adopt opinions by consensus for consideration by Member States, Sector Members and relevant ITU meetings, however, it shall not produce prescriptive regulatory outcomes;

6 that 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;

7 that the report of the Secretary-General shall be developed according to the Terms of Reference shown in Annex 1 of this Decision;

8 that arrangements for the Policy Forum shall be in accordance with applicable Plenipotentiary and Council decisions for such fora, in particular:

1. Forum Meetings shall be conducted in line with the General Rules of Conferences, Assemblies and Meetings of the Union;
2. Discussions at WTPF shall be based solely on a single report by the Secretary-General, and contributions from participants based on that report; and
   1. the proposals of Member States and Sector Members, and on the views of Associates, Academia and stakeholders, and
   2. WTPF shall not consider drafts of any new Opinions that were not presented during the preparatory period foreseen for drawing up the Secretary-General's report prior to the forum.

**Annexes:** 2

Annex 1

Terms of Reference for Developing Secretary General’s Report for the Sixth World Telecommunication/ICT Policy Forum

1 Taking into account the past experience and to allow ample time for developing the Secretary-General’s Report on the topic identified in *decides* 2 of this Decision, the Secretary-General shall convene an Expert Group on the World Telecommunication/Policy Forum (EG-WTPF) that

1. shall have a Chairman and six Vice-Chairmen, one from each ITU region, nominated by Council and taking into account competency and qualification as well as enhancing gender balance;
2. shall be open to all Member States and Sector Members;
3. should, to the maximum extent possible, provide remote participation and webcasting and transcription;
4. shall conduct online public consultations open to all interested stakeholders;
5. shall prepare a progress report to the 2020 session of the Council;

2 Drafts of the Secretary-General’s report incorporating comments from the membership shall be circulated within the two weeks following each EG-WTPF for further comments from the membership,

3 The final report of the Secretary-General shall be circulated, with an invitation to comment, at least six weeks before the opening of the Policy Forum.

ANNEX 2

Draft Agenda  
Sixth World Telecommunication/Information and  
Communication Technology Policy Forum

1. Inauguration of the sixth World Telecommunication/ICT Policy Forum

2. Election of the chairman

3. Opening remarks and presentations

4. Organization of the work of the Forum

5. Presentation of the Secretary-General’s report

6. Presentation of comments by the membership on the report

7. Discussion

8. Consideration of draft opinions

9. Adoption of the chairman’s report and opinions

10. Other business

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1. 1 These include the least developed countries, small island developing states, landlocked developing countries and countries with economies in transition. [↑](#footnote-ref-1)