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| **Council 2019 Geneva, 10-20 June 2019** |  |
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| **Agenda item: PL 1.4** | **Document C19/102-E** |
| **27 May 2019** |
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| Note by the Secretary-General | |
| CONTRIBUTION FROM the UNITED ARAB EMIRATES AND  THE KINGDOM OF SAUDI ARABIA  PROPOSAL FOR THE WORK OF OTT ACTIVITIES | |

I have the honour to transmit to the Member States of the Council a contribution submitted by the United Arab Emirates and the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia.

Houlin ZHAO

Secretary-General

Contribution from the United Arab Emirates and the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia

PROPOSAL FOR THE WORK OF OTT ACTIVITIES

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| Summary  This document summarizes the positions observed on the subject of OTT and proposes activities and way forward to undertake during the upcoming study period of 2019- 2022.  Action required  The proposal is presented for Council’s consideration.  \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_  References  [Resolution 206 ( Dubai, 2018)](https://www.itu.int/en/council/Documents/basic-texts/RES-206-E.pdf) |

Introduction

OTT services are of increasingly importance in the rapidly changing ICT landscape due to their unprecedented growth which has raised a number of regulatory and policymaking concerns requiring immediate attention.

The trade-off between bringing people online, providing a platform for exchange of information and data sharing and connecting the unconnected by closing the last mile gap against the asymmetric economic impacts on traditional telecom model together with the regulatory implications and security challenges associated therein makes OTT a topic of great interest among the stakeholders.

The Stakeholders also have divergent views on this subject of OTT services with extremes ranging from a hands-off approach to maximum regulation including the imposition of associated levy.

This was evident during the ITU PP-18 held in Dubai during October and November where Resolution 206 (Dubai, 2018) was issued after lengthy debates and discussions.

PP-18 Resolution 206 (Dubai, 2018) *instructed* the Secretary General

1. *to continue cooperation and collaboration with other relevant organizations and stakeholders and to explore opportunities for collaboration between ITU members and those of other organizations to further the objectives of this resolution;*
2. *to foster opportunities for collaboration among relevant stakeholders on capacity-building programmes in order to share information related to best practices and technical guidance on OTTs, especially for developing countries;*
3. *to submit an annual report to the Council on the activities undertaken under this resolution.*

ITU-D and ITU-T relevant Study Groups have been addressing the issue of OTT services in their relevant domain and issuing recommendations thereof. The only working definition of OTT as defined in ITU is available in the ITU-T D.262 (ex D.OTT) *Collaborative Framework for OTTs*.

Proposal

Administrations of the UAE and of Saudi Arabia believe that the OTT are one of the significant topics of interest to the ICT community and ITU being an intergovernmental agency is the most appropriate forum to discuss such topics. In view of this, these administrations propose the following:

* From the contributions submitted to various ITU meetings and related foras it is evident that there is a lack of clarity on the extent of the various forms of impacts of OTT, such as but not limited to, the economic, social, as well as the security implications of such services within the national frameworks of Administrations. This is also evident and consequently this also shows in the possible solutions which are recommended thereof. Hence, ITU should enhance its capacity building offerings for the underlying topic of OTT services especially in the developing and least developing countries at the immediate basis.
* The capacity building offerings programs shall be based on each region and shall also be tailored to the specific region’s concerns, taking into consideration the varying geographies and markets.
* The placement of these capacity building programs can be co-aligned with any other ITU regional event so as to lower the cost impact.
* ITU Secretary-General in its annual report to the Council shall identify clear milestones and key objectives which the ITU wishes to achieve for this subject including, but not limited to, capacity building, bringing together the stakeholders and also collaborating with the other UN and international organizations.
* The relevant reports in ITU-T and ITU-D on the subject of OTT services shall be updated on an annual/regular basis following the PP-18 discussions.
* ITU should play its role in closing the divergent stakeholders views in the current study cycle by organizing several multi-stakeholder gatherings with a clear objective of closing the divergence and increasing fostering a co-existent philosophy among the stakeholders.

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