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| **Council 2020 Geneva, 9-19 June 2020** |  |
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| **Agenda item: PL 2.2** | **Document C20/68-E** |
| **29 May 2020** |
| **Original: Russian** |
| Note by the Secretary-General | |
| contribution from the russian federation | |
| Proposals based on the Report by the Secretary-General World Telecommunication and Information Society Day | |

I have the honour to transmit to the Member States of the Council the attached contribution submitted by the **Russian Federation.**

Houlin ZHAO  
 Secretary-General

Contribution from the Russian Federation

Proposals based on the Report by the Secretary-General  
World Telecommunication and Information Society Day

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| **Summary**  This document contains proposals based on the Report by the Secretary-General “World Telecommunication and Information Society Day”.  **Action required**  The Council is invited to consider this document and to support the following theme for the 2021 World Telecommunication and Information Society Day (WTISD-21) – Strengthening trust and security in the era of digital transformation, including in the use of ICTs in response to emergencies, such as pandemics, and in mitigating their effects.  **References**  Council Document [С20/17](https://www.itu.int/md/S20-CL-C-0017/en) |

# I Introduction

According to the Report by the Secretary-General “World Telecommunication and Information Society Day”, the proposed theme for WTISD-21 is “Trust in the Era of Digital Transformation”.

The whole world is currently in the grip of the COVID-19 pandemic and all countries are taking extraordinary measures to protect human life and the social and economic environment and to provide for the essential needs of the population. The greatest challenge, however, is proving to be eliminating the effects of the pandemic and returning to normal life.

In these trying times for all countries, the opportunities offered by telecommunication/ICT services have come very much to the fore, including in the following areas:

– facilitating human interaction around the world;

– timely sharing of information with the public;

– telemedicine;

– remote working;

– remote learning;

– other online services – financial, commercial and social – such as assistance to persons with disabilities and specific, including age-related, needs, etc.

As the leading United Nations (UN) agency in the field of telecommunications and ICTs, ITU is making a significant contribution, in close collaboration with other UN agencies and organizations, including UNESCO, WHO, UNICEF, ILO and WIPO, as well as other interested stakeholders, in combating the pandemic and its effects, including by promoting the development of telecommunication/ICT infrastructure, creating an enabling environment and strengthening trust and security in regard to the use of ICTs.

The role of ITU in these activities should be clearly demonstrated, including during WTISD-21.

At WTISD-21, a special high-level segment should be held on the theme of enhancing cooperation between governments, business communities, UN bodies, civil society and other stakeholders in order to advance the role of ICTs in the global response to COVID-19.

By WTISD-21, significant experience will have been gained in: the use of telecommunications and ICTs in emergencies, such as pandemics; dealing with the impact of such events on society’s economic, environmental and social stability; strengthening trust and security; risk reduction in regard to digital transformation as a motor for the development of a modern society; the implementation of WSIS outcomes, in particular Action Lines C2, C6, C5 and C7; and in the attainment of the Sustainable Development Goals.

# II Proposals

While supporting the main proposals contained in the Report, the Russian Federation proposes the following:

The theme of WTISD-21 should be defined as: Strengthening trust and security in the era of digital transformation, including in the use of ICTs in response to emergencies, such as pandemics, and in mitigating their effects.

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