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| DRAFT OPINIONS for wtpf-21 | |

[**Opinion [X]**](#OP1) **– Artificial Intelligence for Sustainable Development**

[**Opinion [X]**](#OP2) **- Building Confidence and Security in the Era of New and Emerging Technologies**

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**OPINION [X] – Artificial Intelligence for Sustainable Development**

The sixth World Telecommunication/ICT Policy Forum (X, 2021),

recalling

*a)* Resolution 70/1 of the United Nations General Assembly (UNGA) on transforming our world: the 2030 agenda for Sustainable Development;

*b)* Resolution 70/125 of the UNGA on the outcome document of the High level meeting on UNGA in the overall review of the implementation of the outcomes of WSIS;

*c)* relevant WSIS Action Lines and relevant UN Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs),

considering

*a)* that the new breakthrough technologies have brought about many eras of significant and non-linear change that profoundly alters economic systems and social structures, and the upcoming era of distributive change is widely known as fourth industrial revolution and AI is one of the main components of that period;

*b)* that the spread of telecommunication/ICTs and global interconnectedness has great potential to accelerate human progress, to bridge the digital divide and to develop knowledge societies;

*c)* that AI evolution is enormous and that countries will harvest its benefits, however developing countries are at the highest risk of being left behind,

recognizing

*a)* that ICTs has significant impact on economic and social progress, and more efforts need to be done to accelerate attaining Sustainable Development Goals by leveraging ICTs;

*b)* that the advancements in certain SDGs is more likely to be correlated with ICT development;

*c)* that AI has great potential to benefit humanity and bolsters our shared values to advance the SDGs and to overcome global challenges such as poverty, hunger, health, education, and environment,

*d)* that that AI should be designed in way that enable their decisions to be explained and humans to be accountable for their use,

is of the view

1 that Member States, Sector Members and all other interested stakeholders should undertake and prioritize all efforts to foster an enabling environment for the greater growth and development of Artificial Intelligence (AI);

2 that there is need to identify practical applications of AI and supporting strategies to improve the quality and sustainability of life on our planet, ensure trusted, safe and inclusive development of AI technologies and equitable access to their benefits;

3 to encourage all stakeholders to implement projects, programs, and initiatives related to AI so that all stakeholders from all nations could benefit from the use of AI to address the SDGs;

4 that constructive policies, guidelines or principles are needed to maximize the benefits of AI,

invites

1 Member States, Sector Members, and all other stakeholders to work in a collaborative manner to utilize the unlimited potentials that AI can provide to advance the SDGs;

2 Member States, Sector Members, and all other stakeholders to promote public policies at the national, regional and international levels to overcome AI challenges.

**OPINION [X] – Building Confidence and Security in the Era of New and Emerging Technologies**

The sixth World Telecommunication/ICT Policy Forum (X, 2021),

recalling

*a)* Resolution 70/1 of the United Nations General Assembly (UNGA) on transforming our world: the 2030 agenda for Sustainable Development;

*b)* UNGA Resolution 70/125, on the outcome document of the UNGA high-level meeting on the overall review of the implementation of the outcomes of the World Summit on the Information Society (WSIS);

*c)* relevant WSIS Action Lines and relevant UN Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs);

*d)* UNGA Resolution 68/167, on the right to privacy in the digital age;

*e)* the cybersecurity-related provisions of the Tunis Commitment and the Tunis Agenda for the Information Society and the outcome document of the UNGA high-level meeting on the overall review of the implementation of WSIS;

*f)* ITU Plenipotentiary-18 Resolution 101 (Dubai, 2018), Resolution 102 (Dubai, 2018), Resolution 133 (Dubai, 2018), and relevant Resolutions;

*g)* the United Nations Secretary-General’s High-level Panel on Digital Cooperation and the Declaration of Digital Interdependence;

noting

*a)* the increasing of dependency of governments, businesses, and individual users on telecommunications/information and communication technologies (ICTs) to deliver essential services and exchange of information;

*b)* that as telecommunications/ICTs and their services are spreading very fast and reaching more than half world population, decisions taken by private sector companies are gradually affecting millions of people across national borders;

*c)* that the rapid pace of new and emerging technologies development gives advantage to individuals all over the world to communicate and at the same time enhances the capacity of governments, companies and individuals to undertake surveillance, interception and data collection, which may violate privacy,

noting with concerns

that the growing number of cyberthreats and cyberattacks, and the lack of international convergence approaches to mitigate cyberthreats and cyberattacks, while ad hoc responses increase fragment and silos, leading to competing standards and approaches, lessening trust and discouraging cooperation;

considering

*a)* that advances in new and emerging technologies, continue to be an important enabler of achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) as well as social, economic, environmental and cultural development;

*b)* that the new and emerging technologies, considering AI is one of the main recent technologies, have brought significant and non-linear change in many aspects of our live including economic social aspects;

recognizing

*a)* that in the context of multi stakeholders approach, government, private sector, other organizations, and individual users must be aware of relevant cybersecurity risks and preventive measures and must assume responsibility and take steps to enhance the security and build confidence in telecommunications/ICTs, particularly in new and emerging technologies;

*b)* that emerging and new technologies are rapidly change, bringing new opportunities and challenges, and policy-makers need to keep pace with change to utilize the opportunities and overcome the challenges;

*c)* that security and building confidence are main challenges in the era of emerging and new technologies;

*d)* the need for respect for national sovereignty and relevant international laws in the context of security and building confidence in emerging and new technologies;

*e)* that innovation is the driver of many ICTs including emerging and new technologies, such as AI, social networks, quantum technologies and 5G, which requires that all stakeholders continuously adapt to such innovations taking into account the needed measures to build safe cyberspace;

*f)* the fact that ICTs are critical factors for economic development, employment growth and social welfare, and threats on ICTs are threats on economic and social welfare of States;

*g)* that governments are pursuing digital transformations by adopting digital technologies, including new and emerging technologies, to deliver their services to the public; attiring security and building confidence in these services are crucial factors to achieve the digital transformations and to meet national needs and priorities;

*h)* the important role played by private sector, civil society and technical communities in ICTs;

*i)* that there is a persistent need to address the major obstacles and challenges in the cyberspace;

*j)* that the ITU Global Cybersecurity Agenda (GCA) encourages international cooperation by proposing strategies for solutions to enhance confidence and security in the use of telecommunications/ICTs,

is of the view

*a)* that there is now an urgent need for global and united commitment to implement multi-stakeholders approach to secure and build confidence in cyberspace and to propose priorities for action;

*b)* that private sector companies, especially social media and e-commerce platforms companies, are expected to develop clearer guidance on procedures and mechanisms needed to build confidence with both consumers and governments to reach mutual trust and to quickly address any violations including those for children;

*c)* that activities related to data processing(e.g. surveillance, storing, modifying , disseminating ,…etc.,) by governments, private sectors companies, or any other organizations should not violate international, regionals, or national laws;

*d)* to call all stakeholders, including governments, to respect and protect the right to privacy, and to develop recommendations on measures to mitigate any violations in cyberspace;

*e)* to utilize and contribute to the GCA framework in order to further guide the ITU, as UN specialized agency in ICTs, on its efforts to build confidence and security in the use of ICTs,

invites

Member States, Sector Members, and all other stakeholders to work in a collaborative manner secure and build confidence in ICTs including new and emerging technologies.