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| **Comments C-001-E**  **20 August 2019**  **English only** |
| **Comments submitted by Japan**  ON the FIRST DRAFT outline of the Report of THE ITU SECRETARY-GENERAL for the Sixth World Telecommunication/Information and Communication Technology Policy Forum 2021 |

1. **Background**

Japan welcomes the opportunity to participate in the sixth World Telecommunication/Information and Communication Technology Policy Forum (WTPF-21). We note that in accordance with Decision 611 of the 2019 Session of the ITU Council, “the WTPF-21 would discuss how new and emerging digital technologies and trends are enablers of the global transition to the digital economy. Themes for consideration include AI, IoT, 5G, Big Data, OTTs etc. and focus would lie on the opportunities, challenges and policies to foster sustainable development.”

Japan has reviewed the “First Draft Outline of the ITU Secretary-General’s Report for the Sixth World Telecommunication/Information and Communication Technology Policy Forum 2021” (the “Report”). We appreciate the list of possible questions that could be addressed included in the section 2 of the Report. The paragraphs from 2.6.1 to 2.6.6 list broad questions regarding the opportunities and challenges of new and emerging digital technologies, and the paragraphs under 2.8 propose various other questions for discussions on the five sub-themes (AI, IoT, 5G, Big Data, and OTTs).

1. **Proposal**

As a result of this review, Japan would like to propose that, at this time, the Report should focus solely on the broad questions listed in paragraphs 2.6.1 to 2.6.6, regarding new and emerging digital technologies. We question whether there is a need to include the rest of the questions on the sub-themes under paragraph 2.8, and propose the deletion of these questions from the first draft for the following reasons.

Firstly, we believe that the WTPF should address policy opportunities and challenges in a generalized setting. The sub-themes under paragraph 2.8 are just examples that represent new and emerging digital technologies. As sufficiently stated in paragraph 2.5, they embody opportunities and issues that are commonly observed. Dealing with each specific technology separately would pose a risk, not only to creating duplicated discussions but would also impede the adoption of effective, widely applicable and long-lasting opinions.

Secondly, even if the meeting agrees to discuss some specific technologies, we believe that it will be Member States and Sector Members who will choose the topics to be discussed. New and emerging technologies are not limited to AI, IoT, 5G, Big Data, and OTTs, and we need far-sighted consideration for other possible technologies. Therefore, we propose to decide what sub-themes should be included based on Members’ contributions for the Second Draft of the ITU Secretary-General’s Report or later.

Finally, focusing on one broad topic will lead to the convening of more efficient Informal Expert Group meetings. Practically speaking, we only have a limited number of people and days for each IEG meeting, which makes it difficult to hold many parallel small-group discussions. We should note that an efficient use of limited time and human resources is one of the important aspects for the success of WTPF-21.

Japan believes that these modifications will contribute to better serving the purpose of WTPF as stated in Resolution 2 (Rev. Dubai, 2018), which is to provide a venue for exchanging views and information, and thereby create a shared vision among policymakers worldwide. WTPF is there to consider policy issues in telecommunications/ICTs which would benefit from a global exchange of views, in addition to the adoption of opinions reflecting common viewpoints.

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