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| **Council 2022 Geneva, 21-31 March 2022** |  |
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|  | **Document C22/87-E** |
| **28 March 2022** |
| **Original: English** |
| SUMMARY RECORD  OF THE  THIRD PLENARY MEETING | |
| Wednesday, 23 March 2022, from 0930 to 1240 hours | |
| **Chairman**: Mr S. BIN GHELAITA (United Arab Emirates) | |

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|  | Subjects discussed | Documents |
| 1 | ITU Internet activities: Resolutions 101, 102, 133, 180 and 206 | [C22/33](https://www.itu.int/md/S22-CL-C-0033/en) |
| 2 | ITU activities on strengthening the role of ITU in building confidence and security in the use of ICTs | [C22/18](https://www.itu.int/md/S22-CL-C-0018/en) |
| 3 | Report by the Chairman of the Council Working Group on international Internet-related public policy issues | [C22/51](https://www.itu.int/md/S22-CL-C-0051/en) |
| 4 | Four-year report of the Council Working Group on international Internet-related public policy issues | [C22/58](https://www.itu.int/md/S22-CL-C-0058/en) |
| 5 | Guidelines for the utilization of the Global Cybersecurity Agenda (GCA) | [C22/32(Rev.1)](https://www.itu.int/md/S22-CL-C-0032/en), [C22/71](https://www.itu.int/md/S22-CL-C-0071/en) |
| 6 | Report on the outcomes of the CWG-WSIS&SDG activities since Council 2021 | [C22/8](https://www.itu.int/md/S22-CL-C-0008/en) |
| 7 | Four-year report on the outcomes of the Council Working Group on WSIS&SDG since PP-18 | [C22/60](https://www.itu.int/md/S22-CL-C-0060/en) |
| 8 | Statements by ministers and councillors | - |

# 1 ITU Internet activities: Resolutions 101, 102, 133, 180 and 206 (Document C22/33)

1.1 The representative of the General Secretariat introduced Document [C22/33](https://www.itu.int/md/S22-CL-C-0033/en), which summarized ITU’s Internet activities under Resolutions 101 (Rev. Dubai, 2018), 102 (Rev. Dubai, 2018), 133 (Rev. Dubai, 2018), 180 (Rev. Dubai, 2018) and 206 (Dubai, 2018) of the Plenipotentiary Conference. A longer and more detailed version of the report had been submitted to CWG-Internet in January 2022.

1.2 Councillors welcomed the comprehensive and factual report, emphasizing the importance of the Union’s Internet activities for all Member States and the critical role of broadband in bridging the digital divide. One councillor suggested that direct links should be drawn in the report between ITU’s activities and the United Nations Secretary-General’s Roadmap for Digital Cooperation, as well as the “Our Common Agenda” initiative.

1.3 The representative of the General Secretariat said that information on ITU’s contribution to efforts by the UN Secretary-General in that field would be included in future reports. He recalled that, pursuant to *instructs the Secretary-General* 7 of Resolution 102 (Rev. Dubai, 2018), Member States’ comments on the report, as included in the summary records, would be submitted to the UN Secretary-General.

1.4 The Council **noted** the report contained in Document C22/33 and **endorsed** its transmission to the United Nations Secretary-General, along with a compilation of views of Council Member States in the related summary record, with a covering note, as a package.

# 2 ITU activities on strengthening the role of ITU in building confidence and security in the use of ICTs (Document C22/18)

2.1 The representative of the General Secretariat introduced Document [C22/18](https://www.itu.int/md/S22-CL-C-0018/en), which summarized ITU’s activities in 2021 in relation to PP Resolution 130 (Rev. Dubai, 2018), ITU’s role as sole facilitator for WSIS Action Line C5, and other decisions by the membership on strengthening the role of ITU in building confidence and security in the use of ICTs. A revised version of the document would be issued with minor editorial corrections in due course.

2.2 Councillors welcomed the information provided in the report. Given the importance of ICTs in everyday life, especially after the challenges of the COVID-19 pandemic, enhancing cybersecurity and building confidence and trust in the use of ICTs was vital. Appreciation was expressed for the Union’s role in that regard. One councillor highlighted the particular importance of its activities in the areas of capacity building, child online protection and international cooperation. Another expressed appreciation for ITU assistance in building an ICT incident response centre in his country and encouraged the Union to promote similar efforts elsewhere and engage partners to support such projects. It was suggested that ITU could help Member States to prepare for cyberthreats and attacks by developing a model incident response plan for customization at national level.

2.3 One councillor enquired about cooperation with the Cybersecurity Program of the Organization of American States (OAS), which was very active in his region but was not mentioned in section 6 of the document. Another asked for additional information on activities carried out under PP Resolution 174 (Rev. Busan, 2014) and suggested that linkages could usefully be made with confidence-building measures in outer space activities under PP Resolution 186 (Rev. Dubai, 2018). A third asked whether continuous online training and capacity building in child online protection would be provided, especially as new issues were constantly arising in that sphere.

2.4 The representative of the General Secretariat said that the list of organizations in paragraph 6.1 of the document was not exhaustive; the OAS Cybersecurity Program could be included when the document was revised. Many of the activities covered in the report were directly related to requirements under Resolution 174 (Rev. Busan, 2014), but that could be made explicit in future.

2.5 A representative of BDT described the regular cooperation that had been established between ITU and the OAS Cybersecurity Program with a view to building a common understanding of how the organizations could work together in the future. With regard to training in child online protection, various initiatives were under way, including a global project sponsored by the Administration of Saudi Arabia, to translate existing guidelines into action at country level.

2.6 The Council **noted** the report contained in Document C22/18, taking into account comments made during the meeting.

# 3 Report by the Chairman of the Council Working Group on international Internet-related public policy issues (Document C22/51)

3.1 The Chairman of CWG-Internet introduced Document [C22/51](https://www.itu.int/md/S22-CL-C-0051/en), which summarized the main results of the group’s 16th and 17th meetings, held virtually on 23 September 2021 and 19-20 January 2022, respectively. Each had discussed the results of the open consultation launched at the previous meeting, and had invited the Directors of the Bureaux to consider the consultation responses in their work, as appropriate. Given the lack of consensus at the 17th meeting on the topics proposed for open consultation, the group had deferred the matter of topics for future consultations to the next meeting of CWG-Internet, should PP-22 decide on the continuation of open consultations.

3.2 Welcoming the report, councillors expressed support for the work of CWG-Internet and the patience, professionalism and tireless efforts of its chairman. The open consultation process, in particular, was highly valued: the topics addressed had been timely and relevant, and the involvement of civil society and other stakeholders enriched the Union’s work. Indeed, consideration should be given to strengthening the multistakeholder approach through models that would allow even more active participation of all partners in discussions and outcomes. One councillor, expressing disappointment that it had not been possible to agree on a topic for open consultation at the group’s 17th meeting, emphasized the importance of continuing its work; the issues it had tackled, especially the environmental impact of the Internet, were of great relevance for the future of the telecommunication/ICT sector. Another highlighted the potential contribution of the open consultation process to PP discussions.

3.3 The Council **noted** the report contained in Document C22/51.

# 4 Four-year report of the Council Working Group on international Internet-related public policy issues (Document C22/58)

4.1 The Chairman of CWG-Internet introduced Document [C22/58](https://www.itu.int/md/S22-CL-C-0058/en), which summarized the main results of the group’s meetings held from February 2019 to January 2022, in line with PP Resolutions 102 (Rev. Dubai, 2018) and 140 (Rev. Dubai, 2018), and Council Resolutions 1305 (Modified 2019) and 1336 (Modified 2019). He urged Member States to take the decisions necessary for the work of the group to continue and to consider how that work and its impact could be strengthened. He also expressed sincere gratitude to all those who had contributed to the group’s success, despite the challenges faced.

4.2 Reiterating their appreciation for the work of CWG-Internet and its chairman, councillors expressed strong support for continuation of the group’s work for a further four years, especially in view of the vital role of the Internet in modern society, as illustrated by the huge increase in Internet usage during the COVID-19 pandemic. Several councillors, highlighting the importance of the Internet for development, suggested that developing-country participation should be encouraged through capacity-building activities and regional workshops, with particular efforts to increase participation by small island developing States and least developed countries. Another said that consideration should be given to how the work of CWG-Internet, in particular the public consultation process, could be further improved and expanded and how the civil-society representatives, academic institutions and other stakeholders involved could participate not only in the process but also in its outcomes. It was suggested that synergies should be sought with other United Nations system initiatives in the same area, while ensuring that ITU’s work remained within the scope of its mandate; and that the overarching theme of CWG-Internet’s work after PP‑22 should combine its WSIS origins with ever closer alignment with the latest developments, such as the UN Secretary-General’s Roadmap for Digital Cooperation and “Our Common Agenda” report.

4.3 The Council **noted** the report contained in Document C22/58 and **agreed** to transmit it to the Plenipotentiary Conference, together with the summary record of the meeting capturing Council Member States’ recommendations and views.

# 5 Guidelines for the utilization of the Global Cybersecurity Agenda (GCA) by ITU (Documents C22/32(Rev.1) and C22/71)

5.1 The representative of the General Secretariat introduced the report contained in Document [C22/32 (Rev.1)](https://www.itu.int/md/S22-CL-C-0032/en), which contained the draft guidelines for the utilization of the GCA by ITU. The guidelines were the result of a lengthy process of formal and informal discussion and consultations. Square brackets remained only in two provisions.

5.2 The councillor from China introduced Document [C22/71](https://www.itu.int/md/S22-CL-C-0071/en), proposing that the Council should adopt the draft guidelines and use them to guide the work of ITU, and should continuously update and revise the guidelines to take into account developments in Internet technologies and the cybersecurity situation. Several councillors expressed support for China’s proposal.

5.3 While general support was expressed for the draft guidelines as set out Document C22/32 (Rev. 1), differing views were put forward on the retention, deletion or redrafting of the two portions of text in square brackets.

5.4 Some councillors argued that, as numerous instruments existed already to guide ITU’s work in that area, there was no need to continuously adapt the guidelines, which should serve essentially as a reference for Member States. Some councillors also questioned who the intended users of the draft guidelines were, and suggested focusing paragraph 6.c towards a more streamlined directive to assist the secretariat in how to incorporate the GCA into the work of the Union.

5.5 Some councillors, meanwhile, recalled that, in Resolution 130 (Rev. Dubai, 2018), PP had resolved that the GCA framework be used to further guide the work of the Union on efforts to build confidence and security in the use of ICTs, and steps had already been taken to that end. The guidelines were therefore necessary to strengthen coherence in ITU activities, and the text in paragraphs 2.b and 6.c could be retained, as the proposed wording did not have a critical impact on the overall text or ITU’s work.

5.6 Another councillor emphasized the importance of the provisions in the text encouraging ITU to continue to support least developed countries and small island developing States in the field of cybersecurity and build partnerships with start-ups and micro, small and medium-sized enterprises.

5.7 A further councillor asked when BDT planned to start working on the Global Cybersecurity Index, and proposed that such work should be begun after the end of PP-22 to allow for sufficient time for coordination between countries and regions.

5.8 The Council **agreed** to hold informal consultations on the outstanding paragraphs in the draft guidelines and report back at a subsequent plenary meeting.

# 6 Report on the outcomes of the CWG-WSIS&SDG activities since Council 2021 (Document C22/8)

6.1 The Chairman of the Council Working Group on WSIS&SDG (CWG-WSIS&SDG) presented the report in Document [C22/8](https://www.itu.int/md/S22-CL-C-0008/en), summarizing the main results of the 37th and 38th meetings of the group.

6.2 Many councillors expressed support for the continuation of the group’s work, given its importance for sustainable development. One councillor encouraged Member States to contribute to the WSIS Trust Fund.

6.3 Two councillors expressed the hope that another session of the ICT 4 All Forum would be held, including the councillor from Tunisia, who said that his country would work with partners to that end.

6.4 The Council **agreed** to take note of the work of CWG-WSIS&SDG and to consider the recommendations in Document C22/8.

# 7 Four-year report on the outcomes of the Council Working Group on WSIS&SDG since PP-18 (Document C22/60)

7.1 The Chairman of CWG-WSIS&SDG introduced the four-year report on the outcomes of the group since PP-18, in Document [C22/60](https://www.itu.int/md/S22-CL-C-0060/en).

7.2 Councillors reiterated support for the continuation of the group’s work and for the recommendations contained in the report.

7.3 The Council **agreed** to consider the report and submit the recommendations contained therein to PP-22.

# 8 Statements by ministers and councillors

8.1 Statements were delivered by Ms Erica J. Barks-Ruggles (Ambassador, International Communications and Information Policy, United States), Mr Athanasios Staveris-Polykalas (Secretary General of Telecommunications and Post, Greece) and the councillor from Thailand, in which they reaffirmed their commitment to ITU and its work and announced that their respective countries would be standing for re-election to the Council at PP-22.

8.2 Ms Erica J. Barks-Ruggles (Ambassador, International Communications and Information Policy, United States) further announced that her country would be nominating Ms Doreen Bogdan-Martin for election to the post of Secretary-General of ITU.

8.3 The councillor from Ghana announced that her country would be putting forward Mr Edmund Yirenkyi Fianko as a candidate for election to the Radio Regulations Board at PP-22.

The Secretary-General: The Chairman:

H. ZHAO S. BIN GHELAITA

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