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| **Agenda item: PL.2** | **Document C24/5-E** |
| **9 April 2024** |
| **Original: English** |
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| Report by the Secretary-General | |
| PREPARATION FOR THE 2026 WORLD TELECOMMUNICATION/ICT POLICY FORUM (WTPF-26) | |
| **Purpose**  Resolution 2 (Rev. Bucharest, 2022) of the Plenipotentiary Conference resolves to hold the world telecommunication/ICT policy forum (WTPF) preferably back-to-back with the World Summit on the Information Society (WSIS) forum, taking account of the need to ensure adequate preparation by Member States. This document provides some background information on WTPF and highlights instructions received from the Plenipotentiary Conference (Bucharest, 2022).  **Action required by the Council**  Resolution 2 (Rev. Bucharest, 2022) instructs the ITU Council to:   1. **decide** on the duration, date, venue, agenda and themes of any future WTPF; 2. **adopt** a procedure for preparation of the report by the Secretary-General to WTPF.   The Council is invited **to provide guidance** on the above.  **Relevant link(s) with the Strategic Plan**  Advancing universal connectivity and sustainable digital transformation; convening platform.  **Financial implications**  As the preparatory work will start in 2024 and 2025, 80 000 CHF will be required for the hiring of an SSA as indicated in Doc [C24/19](https://www.itu.int/md/S24-CL-C-0019/en).  \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_  **Reference**  [*Resolution 2*](https://www.itu.int/en/council/Documents/basic-texts-2023/RES-002-E.pdf) *(Rev. Bucharest, 2022) of the Plenipotentiary Conference; Document* [*PP-22/207*](https://www.itu.int/md/S22-PP-C-0207/en) *of the Plenipotentiary Conference* | |

1. [Resolution 2](https://www.itu.int/en/council/Documents/basic-texts-2023/RES-002-E.pdf) (Rev. Bucharest, 2022) resolves to hold the world telecommunication/ICT policy forum (WTPF) preferably back-to-back with the World Summit on the Information Society (WSIS) forum, taking account of the need to ensure adequate preparation by Member States.

2. The Plenipotentiary Conference (Bucharest, 2022) also instructed the Council to schedule a WTPF in 2026.

3. Resolution 2 (Rev. Bucharest, 2022) instructs the Council to:

1. decide on the duration, date, venue, agenda and themes of any future WTPF;
2. adopt a procedure for preparation of the report by the Secretary-General to WTPF;
3. that the procedure referred to in *instructs the ITU Council* 2 should include, as appropriate, participation open to all Member States and Sector Members, and online public consultations open to all interested stakeholders, taking into account the past practices followed and experience acquired by ITU, including in respect of the preparatory process, in the holding of previous WTPFs.

4. Document C23/13 on the Preparations for the 2026 world telecommunication/ICT policy forum (WTPF) was **noted** by Council-23, with councillors stating that final decision on the proposals could be taken at Council-24.

5. Council-23 appointed Mr David Bedard (Canada) as the chair of the informal group of experts (IEG) to advise the Secretary-General on further elaboration of the Secretary-General’s report to WTPF and of draft opinions associated with it.

6. The proposed timeline for the preparation for WTPF-2026 is as follows:

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| **Timeline** |  |
| **September 2024 (as part of CWG-Cluster)** | First meeting of the IEG (2 days) |
| **February 2025**  **(as part of CWG-Cluster)** | Second meeting of the IEG (2 days) |
| **September 2025  (as part of CWG-Cluster)** | Third meeting of the IEG (3 days) |
| **February 2026**  **(as part of CWG-Cluster)** | Fourth meeting of the IEG (3 days) |
| **Mid-2026 (*preferably back-to-back* with WSIS Forum 2026)** | Proposed dates for WTPF-26 |

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