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| **Agenda item: PL.2** | **Document C24/51-E** |
| **9 April 2024** |
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| REPORT BY THE CHAIR OF THE COUNCIL WORKING GROUP ON  INTERNATIONAL INTERNET-RELATED PUBLIC POLICY ISSUES  (CWG-INTERNET) | |
| **Purpose**  This report summarizes the main results of the eighteenth and nineteenth meeting of CWG-Internet, held on 18 October 2023 and 31 January-1 February 2024 respectively, in line with Resolutions 102 (Rev. Bucharest, 2022) and 140 (Rev. Bucharest, 2022) of the Plenipotentiary Conference, and Council Resolutions 1305 (C09, last amended C19) and 1336 (C11, last amended C19).  **Action required by the Council**  The Council is invited **to note** the report.  **Relevant link(s) with the Strategic Plan**  Membership Driven.  **Financial implications**  Within the allocated budget 2024-2025.  \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_  **References**  [*Resolution 102 (Rev. Bucharest, 2022),*](https://www.itu.int/en/council/Documents/basic-texts-2023/RES-102-E.pdf)[*Resolution 140 (Rev. Bucharest, 2022)*](https://www.itu.int/en/council/Documents/basic-texts-2023/RES-140-E.pdf)  *Council Resolutions* [*1305 (Mod. 2019)*](https://www.itu.int/md/S19-CL-C-0136/en)*,* [*1336 (Mod. 2019)*](https://www.itu.int/md/S19-CL-C-0140/en) | |

**1.** **Introduction**

1.1 The [ITU Council Working Group on International Internet-related Public Policy Issues (CWG-Internet)](https://www.itu.int/en/council/cwg-internet/Pages/default.aspx) was established as a separate group by Council Resolution 1336 (Mod. 2019), in accordance with Resolutions 102 and 140 of the ITU Plenipotentiary Conference (Rev. Bucharest, 2022). CWG-Internet is limited to Member States, with open consultation to all stakeholders.

1.2 The terms of reference for CWG-Internet are specified in Council Resolution 1336 (Mod. 2019).

1.3 Plenipotentiary Conference Resolution 102 (Rev. Bucharest, 2022) instructed the Council

* to direct the CWG-Internet, limited to Member States with open consultation to all stakeholders, and to conduct such open consultation according to the guidelines mentioned in the resolution;
* taking into account the annual reports presented by the Secretary-General and the Directors of the Bureaux, to take appropriate measures in order to contribute actively to the implementation of this resolution and international initiatives related to this resolution, within the mandate of ITU;
* to consider the reports of CWG-Internet and take the necessary actions;
* to report to the 2026 plenipotentiary conference on the activities undertaken and achievements in respect of the implementation of this resolution, including proposals for further consideration as appropriate.

**2 CWG-Internet activities**

2.1 CWG-Internet held its eighteenth and nineteenth meeting of CWG-Internet on 18 October 2023 and 31 January-1 February 2024, respectively, at the ITU Headquarters in Geneva, Switzerland.

2.2 The reports of the [eighteenth](https://www.itu.int/md/S24-RCLINTPOL19-C-0003/en) and [nineteenth](https://www.itu.int/md/S24-RCLINTPOL19-C-0007/en) meetings were approved by the Group.

2.3 In the eighteenth meeting, the Group discussed the contributions received, with a focus on topics proposals for the next open consultation. No consensus was reached on the topic.

2.4 At the nineteenth meeting, the Group approved the eighteenth and nineteenth meetings reports as well as the following actions:

It was agreed that two topics would be selected by the Group for the next two consultation cycles. The following topics and questions were agreed by the Group:

* ITU secretariat will launch the next round of Open Consultations (February 2024 – September 2024) on the topic:

*The developmental aspects to strengthen the Internet*

1. *How relevant multilateral and multi-stakeholder processes, including but not limited to UN-based processes such as Summit of the Future, WSIS+20 and the IGF, could address aspects related to Internet development?*
2. *What are the challenges and opportunities, good practices and favourable policy environments to strengthen the Internet, including in areas such as:*

* *fostering meaningful connectivity*
* *equitable access for all*
* *promoting a secure and resilient Internet*
* *achieving universal access*
* *the deployment of IPv6*
* *using satellite communication to reach remote and underserved remote areas*
* *ensuring services are affordable for people*
* *promoting digital inclusion and skills*
* *fostering multi-stakeholder participation and*
* *encouraging public and private sector investment in Internet infrastructure.*

1. *How can we promote international multistakeholder cooperation on public policy issues that are focused on promoting the development aspects of the Internet?*

* ITU secretariat will launch a subsequent round of Open Consultations (October 2024 – January 2025), on the topic:

*The role of public policy in promoting multilingualization of the Internet (after next cluster of CWGs:*

1. *What could ITU and its members and other stakeholders do to ensure that the Internet becomes more multilingual in nature and thus accessible for more of the global population?*
2. *What are the benefits and challenges of multilingualization of the Internet, including through universal acceptance of Internationalized Domain Names (IDNs), or the lack thereof, in terms of technical, economic, security, cultural and capacity-building?*

**3. Conclusion**

3.1 The Council is invited to note this report.

3.3 On behalf of CWG-Internet, the Chair extends his personal thanks to all the ITU Member States who made contributions and participated in the work of the Group, the Vice-Chairs, the Secretary-General, Deputy Secretary-General, Directors of TSB, BR, and BDT, and the General Secretariat for their efficient assistance during the eighteenth and nineteenth meetings of the CWG-Internet.

**Chair: Wojciech Berezowski (Poland)**