## WTPF Backgrounder Series

# Frequently Asked Questions (FAQ)

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## WHAT

The fifth World Telecommunication/Information and Communication Technology Policy Forum (WTPF-13) is a high-level international event where ITU Members come together to exchange views on the key policy issues arising from today's fast-changing information and communication technology (ICT) environment.

Organized by ITU, the Forum is designed to foster debate, develop fresh insight, and build multistakeholder consensus expressed in the form of 'Opinions' illustrating a shared vision to guide ongoing global ICT policies, regulatory, standardization and development efforts worldwide.
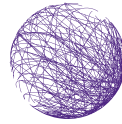
WTPF-13 offers a unique opportunity to join top-level decision-makers from around the world for in-depth debates on the international public policy issues that are driving the evolution of tomorrow's networks and services.

The Forum will welcome high-level delegates from ITU's 193 Member States and around 700 Sector Members, including members of the Internet community, industry, civil society and academia. WTPF-13 is also open to representatives from UN agencies, the media and the general public.

ITU will also host a high-level Strategic Dialogue on 13 May 2013, the day before the opening of WTPF-13. This year's Strategic Dialogue builds on the positive vision of the importance of broadband as a basic platform for progress.

## WHY

The ever-accelerating pace of technological change is creating new opportunities, as well as new challenges. The global nature and impact of the 'network of networks' that constitutes the Internet today »

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### Series

**World Telecommunication/ICT Policy Forum**
Geneva, Switzerland, 14-16 May 2013

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means that global dialogue is now more important than ever. Convened at the request of ITU membership, WTPF-13 presents an opportunity for dialogue to listen to the perspectives of others, debate the issues as you see them, and build a spirit of cooperation and improved understanding.

WTPF-2013 will examine international Internet-related public policy matters, and will enable all stakeholder groups to contribute their unique perspective to the discussions, based on their roles and responsibilities within the Internet ecosystem.

## WHERE, WHEN

The fifth World Telecommunication/ICT Policy Forum will be held in the Geneva International Conference Center (CICG) in Geneva, Switzerland, over three days on 14-16 May 2013.

## WHO

WTPF-13 is open to all ITU members. In addition, the ITU Secretary-General has invited those members of the Informal Experts Group (IEG) who are not ITU members, to attend WTPF-13 as the Secretary-General's Special Guests.  As with previous WTPFs, ITU will strive to be as flexible and inclusive as possible in the participation and attendance practice for WTPF-13.
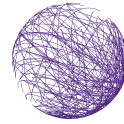
ITU is a multistakeholder membership organization, with members from across government, private sector, civil society and the research and academic communities. We actively encourage all ICT-related organizations dealing with issues related to telecommunications and ICTs to apply for ITU membership, including technology-related NGOs.

## HOW

At the request of ITU members, this year's Forum will examine international Internet-related public policy matters. The ITU Secretary-General's Report serves as an input background document to stimulate discussion at the Forum. It includes inputs and contributions from experts from all stakeholder groups and was developed through an open and inclusive preparatory process (which included three meetings of the IEG, convened in Geneva over 2012 and 2013, and over 70 written contributions). All WTPF-related documents are open to the public.

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Participation in the IEG was open to all stakeholders irrespective of whether they belonged to entities that were ITU members or not. Around 150 experts from all stakeholder groups were members of the IEG.

**All WTPF-related documents are open to the public.**

Six draft Opinions were developed by collaborative consensus by the expert group:

1. Fostering an enabling environment for the greater growth and development of broadband connectivity
2. Promoting Internet Exchange Points (IXPs) as a long term solution to advance connectivity
3. Supporting Capacity Building for the deployment of IPv6
4. In support of IPv6 adoption and transition from IPv4
5. Supporting Multistakeholderism in Internet governance
6. On supporting operationalizing the enhanced cooperation process

WTPF-13 will debate these Opinions and possibly converge on approved, non-binding Opinions, which would guide the ongoing policy-making, technical standardization and development efforts within ITU and at a broader international level.

**DISCLAIMER**

This document is intended as a backgrounder to WTPF-13 to support media in their reporting. It should not be considered an official document of the conference. For further information please contact pressinfo@itu.int.