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| **Council 2017Geneva, 15-25 May 2017** |  |
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| **Agenda item: PL 1.3** | **Document C17/51-E** |
| **31 March 2017** |
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| Report by the Chairman of the Council Working Group on International Internet-Related Public Policy Issues (CWG-Internet) |

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| SummaryThis report summarizes the main results of the eighth and ninth meetings of CWG-Internet, held on 13-14 October 2016 and 6-7 February 2017, in line with PP-14 Resolutions 102 (Rev. Busan, 2014) and 140 (Rev. Busan, 2014), and Council Resolutions 1305 (2009), 1336 (Mod. 2015), and 1344 (Mod. 2015).Action requiredThe Council is invited to **note** the report and **provide guidance** with respect to item 3.2.\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_References[*Resolution 102 (Rev. Busan, 2014)*](http://www.itu.int/en/action/internet/Documents/Resolution_102_pp14.pdf)*,* [*Resolution 140 (Rev. Busan, 2014)*](http://www.itu.int/en/action/internet/Documents/Resolution_140_pp14.pdf)*Council Resolutions* [*1305*](http://www.itu.int/md/S09-CL-C-0105) *(2009),* [*1336 (Mod. 2015*](http://www.itu.int/md/S15-CL-C-0113/en)*),* and [*1344 (Mod. 2015)*](http://www.itu.int/md/S15-CL-C-0112/en) |

**1 Introduction**

**1.1** The ITU Council Working Group on International Internet-related Public Policy Issues (CWG-Internet) was established as a separate group by Council Resolution 1336 (Mod. 2015), in accordance with Resolutions 102 and 140 of the ITU Plenipotentiary Conference (Rev. Busan, 2014). CWG-Internet is limited to Member States, with open consultation to all stakeholders.

**1.2** The terms of reference for CWG-Internet, specified in Council Resolution 1336 (Mod. 2015), are to identify, study and develop matters related to international Internet-related public policy issues, including those issues identified in Council Resolution 1305 (2009), and in this regard, as appropriate:

a) Disseminate its outputs throughout ITU’s membership and to all relevant international organizations and stakeholders actively involved in such matters for their consideration in their policy-making processes;

b) Consider and discuss the activities of the Secretary-General and the Directors of the Bureaux in relation to implementation of Resolution 102 (Rev. Busan, 2014) and prepare inputs into these activities as appropriate;

c) Initiate and conduct open consultations with all stakeholders in an open and inclusive manner; and the output of the open consultations will be presented for consideration in the deliberations of the Council Working Group.

**1.3** Plenipotentiary Conference Resolution 102 (Rev. Busan, 2014) instructed the Council to revise its Resolution 1344, 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.

**1.4** Council Resolution 1344 (Mod. 2015) decided the modality of open consultation for the CWG-Internet.

**2 CWG-Internet activities**

**2.1** The CWG-Internet held its eighth and ninth meetings in Geneva, Switzerland, on 13-14 October 2016 and 6-7 February 2017, respectively.

**2.2** The Reports of the [eighth](https://www.itu.int/md/S16-RCLINTPOL8-C/en) and [ninth](https://www.itu.int/md/S17-RCLINTPOL9-C/en) meetings of CWG-Internet were approved by the Group.

**2.3** These Reports were disseminated throughout ITU’s membership and to all relevant international organizations and stakeholders actively involved in such matters for their consideration in their policy-making processes.

**2.4** The CWG-Internet further conducted two rounds of Online and Physical Open Consultations:

a) From February to September 2016 on “Building an enabling environment for access to the Internet”, followed by a physical open consultation meeting on 11 October 2016;

b) From October 2016 to January 2017 on the “Developmental Aspects of the Internet”, followed by a physical open consultation meeting on 3 February 2017.

**2.5** All responses received to the Online Open Consultations, as well as the brief summaries of the physical consultation meetings approved by the meeting participants, are publicly available on the [ITU CWG-Internet website](http://www.itu.int/en/council/cwg-internet/Pages/open-consultations.aspx).

**3 Conclusions**

**3.1** The Council is invited to note the reports of the eighth and ninth meetings of the CWG-Internet.

**3.2** Considering the lack of consensus during the discussions that took place at the ninth meeting on the various submitted proposals for the topic of the next open consultation, the Group agreed to defer the issue to Council 2017 for its consideration and any required action, as appropriate (see Section 5.4 of the [9th meeting report](https://www.itu.int/md/S17-RCLINTPOL9-C/en)). The two topics under consideration by the CWG-Internet for the next open consultation are included in Annex 1 (“Bridging the Digital Gender Divide” and “Public Policy considerations for OTTs”). The Council is invited to provide guidance on the topic of the next consultation and launch the consultation.

**3.3** On behalf of CWG-Internet, the Chairman extends his personal thanks to all the ITU Member States who made contributions and participated in the work of the Group, the Secretary-General, Deputy Secretary-General, Directors of TSB, BR, and BDT, and the General Secretariat, in particular Mr Preetam Maloor and Ms Despoina Sareidaki, for their efficient assistance during the eighth and ninth meeting of the CWG-Internet.

 **Chairman: Majed M. Al-Mazyed**

 **(KINGDOM OF SAUDI ARABIA)**

ANNEX

Bridging the Digital Gender Divide

CWG-Internet invites all stakeholders to submit contributions on achieving gender equality for Internet users, focusing on the following questions:

1. What approaches and examples of good practices are available to increase Internet access and digital literacy of women and girls, including in decision-making processes on Internet public policy?

2. What approaches and examples of good practices are available to promote the access and use of ICTs by SMEs in developing and least-developed countries, particularly those owned/managed by women, in order to achieve greater participation in the digital economy?

3. Which are the available sources and mechanisms for measuring women's participation in the digital economy with focus on SME's and micro-enterprises?

4. What measures/policies could be envisioned in order to foster the role of women as entrepreneurs and managers of SMEs, specifically in developing and least-developed countries?

5. What are the gaps in addressing these challenges? How can they be addressed and what is the role of governments?

**Public Policy considerations for OTTs**

“Considering the rapid development of information and communications technology (ICT) which led to the advent of Internet-based services commonly known as “over-the-top” (hereafter: OTT), all stakeholders are invited to submit their inputs on the following key aspects from policy prospective:

• What are the opportunities and implications associated with OTT?

• What are the policy and regulatory matters associated with OTT in general and personal authentication in particular? How do OTT players address the concerns related to abuse in OTT services?

• How do the OTT players and other stakeholders offering app services contribute in aspects related security, safety and privacy of the consumer?

• What regulatory approaches which might be considered regarding OTT to help the creation of environment in which all stakeholders are able to prosper and thrive? What public policies are needed to prevent not authenticated abuse in OTT services?

• How can OTT players and operators best cooperate at local and international level? Are there model partnership agreements that could be developed?

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