**DRAFT FOR COMMENTS:**

**Outcomes Report (Draft)**

**ITU’s Secretary-General’s Academia Consultation**

**Bangkok, 13 November 2016**

The consultation brought together some 100 participants, representing 57 organizations and 26 countries, as well as ITU leadership and specialists. The Consultation was chaired by the ITU Secretary-General, who was joined by the Directors of the Radiocommunication Bureau and the Telecommunication Standardization Bureau. The university participants were divided almost evenly between ITU members and non-members.

The event provided a platform to have an open discussion with Academia and other stakeholders on three topics: a new ITU Journal/Magazine; an Advisory Board of Academia to the Secretary-General; and, a platform/consultation mechanism to strengthen cooperation between ITU and Academia.

In preparation to this Consultation, ITU received approximately 80 written contributions, which are available [here.](http://www.itu.int/en/join/academia/Documents/SG%20Academia%20Consultation_contributions_3%20November.pdf) As a follow-up action, the ITU Secretary-General invited to send new ideas/proposals until 15 December.

## ITU Journal/Magazine

## Launch and Evolution

Many noted that it would likely take some time to develop a product with a recognized reputation and high ranked indexing. Some proposed to start with a flexible online format, with shorter articles written for the wider ICT community, which would be widely shared and cited. This approach would allow ITU to build the network of scholars, quickly attract quality papers, build an audience of traditional and non –traditional communities, and open the door to advertising, while also looking for external funding and working towards indexing. ITU could start with a small Editorial Board and then build over time.

## Scope

Many advised that the publication involve the wider ICT community of academia, industry, governments and civil society. Some highlighted that the publication should be in line with ITU’s broader mandate and mission, and focus on using technology for social impact/to help achieve the SDGs. Several noted that a multidisciplinary publication in the field of ICTs does not exist, while many established Journals already offer pure, specialized academic research and recommended that ITU not compete with such publications. It was mentioned that there is an opportunity to work together with IEEE for the call for papers as well as other networks. It is not currently easy for some researchers to publish their papers as they do not fit the more specialized, narrow focus of existing publications. The Journal/Magazine should also serve as practical guide for policy makers. Some professors invited ITU to look at other models. The multidisciplinary applied research could be a unique selling point. ITU should have a look how to strengthen cross-disciplinary discussion and reduce the communications gap between different types of readers (Academia, industry and policy makers). Some emphasized the potential of developing collaboration/partnerships with others, such as the Institute of Electrical and Electronics Engineers (IEEE), the International Federation for Information Processing (IFIP), the Association for Computing Machinery (ACM) and also associating with other Journals and university presses etc.

## Editorial Board

Many contributions and interventions addressed the issue of the Editorial Board. Below is a summary of the points raised:

* Many participants proposed that ITU should start from targeted scholars by using ITU network (business, government, and academia) and network of professors/experts with relevant experience on the topic/issue. In the beginning, the Editorial doesn't require to have the whole set-up of experts in all fields. ITU could start by inviting professors on the specific topic and grow/expand gradually. Some professors also mentioned that it could be a good idea to find a lead person, specialized in a certain topic and let this person invite papers and promote the ITU Journal/Magazine through its network.
* There was discussion about the creation of the Editorial Board immediately versus first focusing on collaboration with other Journals.
* Taking into consideration the multi-disciplinary scope, some expressed the need for the Editorial Board to include experts on both technology and market issues, while others asked if two boards would be necessary. The creation of the editorial board is needed as soon as possible. The Board would define the scope, IP, type of content/articles, guidelines and other issues. Some also proposed that it could be an additional value to reuse experience and scholars from Kaleidoscope rather than to start from the scratch. Many expressed that Editorial Board should not only have academics but also industry and other stakeholders. ITU was advised to check various models such as United Nations presses (such as WHO), IEEE publications (such as the IEEE Communications Magazine), university presses (MIT and Harvard) and others.
* There is a need of a strong editorial board that could keep a balance between technology and policy/business. Many participants raised about the challenge to have the journal that include 2 areas: technical and policy/business. It is important that the policy and business people talk to engineers and there is also a balance between technology and business papers. Some also highlighted that would like to see top world universities on the Editorial Board. As an option, some proposed to have at least two type of experts on the board – expert in technology area and another expert in non-technical area.
* Many participants also highlighted the importance of collaboration with other Journals, like working with other Editorial boards.
* The role of reviewers would be important in the Editorial Board.
* The Secretary-General mentioned that for the time being the board of editors would be on a voluntary basis. The Chief Editor role is very important.

## Content

Each issue could feature articles, analysis, case studies, interviews, book presentations, tutorials, policy reviews.

## Index and ranking

Many mentioned that it might take several years, even up to 10 years to be indexed.

## Proposals on the names

At the moment, the name for the Journal/Magazine was not defined. The professors are invited to submit their proposals on the names to ITU.

## Topics

The following topics were proposed for upcoming issues: Artificial Intelligence, Robotics, IoTs and 3D printing. Many advised to have a look at the conferences/ events in these areas organized by universities. Some also proposed that ITU Journal/Magazine should be closely linked with ITU ongoing activities. It was suggested to avoid pure-academic style research, but rather focus on ITU key activities, which have an impact on daily lives.

## Funding

Even with external support from active professors, funding will be required to produce a high quality publication on a regular basis. ITU could possibly secure support from foundations, Member States and industry, including through advertising.

## Open Access

The publication should adopt an open access mandate, supporting the importance of free dissemination of scientific ideas and discoveries.

## Payment/Authorship

No Article Processing Charges (APCs) in the beginning, however, in the future it might be considered.

## Follow-up Actions

The Secretary-General asked for support on the format of publishing and the platform that might be considered for this purpose. In addition, it is important to understand how to get quality papers. The Secretary-General invited participants to circulate the information within their network. He invited professors to send proposals on the names, candidates for Editor-in-Chief and editorial committee until 15 December. The idea is to launch ITU Journal/Magazine in 2nd or 3rd quarter of 2017. He added that ITU may organize a similar consultation during next ITU TELECOM World in Busan. The Secretary-General also asked the audience several questions, including: how can we share research results?; and, how can we attract other universities?

## Advisory Board

The participants emphasized that it is important to define the mission of the board.A wide range of views were expressed: advising on strategic priorities & needs for SG/Elected Officials versus advising on more specific programmes, actions and incentives involving Academia. Many suggested that the advisory board should have a clear vision of the needs of the SG. Academia could come with ideas, but ITU should share its expectations. The Advisory Board could help the SG identify how academia research could be better used to improve the work of ITU. Many participants noted that the duration of tenure for Advisors should be a fixed term.

The composition/criteria of the board should be defined (Regional, Gender Balance, others?). Some mentioned about establishing two groups: one is for technical issues and another for specific issues.

Many participants highlighted about the importance to keep this Advisory Board open for members and non-members and work on various emerging ICT related topics. Many participants also suggested to look for new ways to engage with Academia community and look for the tools/platforms to discuss with the university community. For longer term, ITU could get support from foundations. The issue of individual membership was also raised. Some highlighted that it would be easier for Academics to be involved in ITU activities through individual fees rather than membership per institution.

The frequency: Advisory board could meet after conferences, as an effective way for follow-up and work with Academics.

The Secretary-General highlighted that we are at the starting point for the future development of the Advisory Board and that we will work through the various issues raised. He suggested that all interested participants at the meeting, and those who wish to join after, could be considered as a type of advisory board or committee.

## The Consultation Mechanism

The Consultation mechanism should not be limited only to the membership model. The value for this Consultation mechanism should be clearly defined. ITU should take into consideration the career expectations of Academics. A number of ideas were put forward, including: establish special interest groups on various topics; issue calls for proposals (partnerships); and, launch a programme to promote academic exchanges (with specific topic). The benefits, value and costs should be carefully evaluated prior establishing consultation mechanism. Several participants proposed to continue to have a platform where Academia could meet (members and non-members). The solution might be the Advisory Committee. Some also proposed to have an online & offline mechanism/platform that could serve as a hub for students, teachers, researchers & community at large.