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| **13 February 2017** |
| **English only** |
| Report by the Secretary-General | |
| COMPILATION OF RESPONSES RECEIVED TO CIRCULAR LETTER CL-16/32 : CONSULTATION ON THE POSSIBLE THEME, DATES AND PLACE FOR THE NEXT  WORLD TELECOMMUNICATION/ICT POLICY FORUM (WTPF) | |

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| Summary  Through Circular letter CL-16/32, Member States and Sector Members were invited to submit their views on the possible theme, dates, and place for the next WTPF.  A total of 5 inputs were received in response to the circular letter. All inputs received are listed without edits in this document.  Action required  This report is transmitted to the Council **for information**.  \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_  References  [Resolution 2 (Rev. Busan, 2014)](http://www.itu.int/en/council/Documents/2015/resolution2-pp14.docx); [Resolution 101 (Rev. Busan, 2014)](http://www.itu.int/en/action/internet/Documents/Resolution_101_pp14.pdf) [Circular letter CL-16/32](https://www.itu.int/md/S16-SG-CIR-0032/en) |

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|  | 10 July 2016 | Kingdom of Saudi Arabia | With reference to the Secretary-General’s circular letter, ref. CL-16/32 (27 June 2016), on participation in the consultations on the possible theme, dates and place of the next World Telecommunication/ICT Policy Forum (WTPF), I would like to advise you that the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia proposes the following themes relevant to public telecommunication/ ICT policy for discussion within the framework of the preparations for the forum to enable the forum to express its opinions thereon:   1. Building confidence and security in cyberspace; 2. Emerging economic challenges in rolling ICT networks; 3. Regulatory and technical aspects of OTT services.   The Kingdom believes that it is important to hold WTPF before the 2018 plenipotentiary conference, with perhaps the most suitable time being in the first quarter of 2018 or, at the latest, the second quarter. |
|  | 13 December 2016 | Russian Federation | Further to your Circular Letter CL-16/32 of 27 June 2016, the Administration of the Russian Federation considers it expedient to hold the World Telecommunication/ICT Policy Forum (WTPF) in 2018 on dates as close as possible to the dates of the ITU Council session and/or the World Summit on the Information Society Forum.  We propose that the following topics be discussed at the WTPF:   1. Requirements and approaches with respect to the new regulatory environment associated with ICT development (Internet of Things, etc.) 2. Regulation in the field of open Internet and OTT services 3. Development prospects for the International Telecommunication Union within the context of implementing the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. |

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|  | 20 December 2016 | United States of America | **Introduction**  The Secretary General has issued CL-16/32 for further consultation on the theme, dates and location for a possible next World Telecommunication/ICT Policy Forum (WTPF). The consultation follows a discussion at ITU Council 2016 where no consensus was reached as to the need for or timing of such a forum.  **Background**  Resolution 101 (Busan, 2014) instructs the Secretary General to submit a report to the Council based on input from Member States and Sector Members on the “need” to convene a sixth WTPF. The Secretary General sought to fulfil this obligation by issuing Circular 15-40 in November 2015 to solicit ideas for a theme, policy issues and timing for a sixth WTPF. After discussion at Council 2016 (see summary record notes C16/116), the Secretary General has continued the consultation regarding a possible meeting. Although no consensus was reached as to the need for or timing of the meeting, two key themes emerged. First, the ITU Secretariat made the point that sufficient lead time is required to prepare for a meeting, thus precluding a meeting in 2017, and second, with a heavy preparatory calendar leading into the Plenipotentiary Conference, there was little time to hold a meeting prior to PP-18.  **Discussion**  The United States continues to be of the view that whether a sixth WTPF should be held is a subject best taken up at a plenipotentiary conference. The United States agrees that telecommunication/ICT policy discussions on emerging issues are important, but the broad slate of ITU, UN and other existing and planned events provides ample opportunities for discussion of pressing telecommunication/ICT policy issues and we continue to believe there is no need for a WTPF for the foreseeable future. As we stated in our contribution to the last consultation and is reflected in C16/INF/3(Rev.2), ITU already has the co-organized WSIS Forum and the Council Working Group on International Internet Public Policy (CWG-Internet) open consultation; regular meetings of the Development, Standardization and Radiocommunication sectors with their respective world conferences and assemblies; ITU Telecom World; and the Global Symposium for Regulators. Outside of the ITU, we have the annual Internet Governance Forum and a number of ministerial-level meetings. Between now and PP-18, there will be a busy schedule of regional preparatory meetings for WTDC and PP-18. Issues identified during these processes can be discussed at PP-18 and the need for a WTPF discussed at that time.  **Proposal**  The United States proposes that PP-18 take up the question of whether a sixth WTPF should be held, and if so, what topic should be discussed and when it should be held. |
|  | 10 January 2017 | Sweden, Netherlands, United Kingdom, Czech Republic, Germany, Norway & Portugal | Thank you for the letter (CL 16/32) of 27 June 2016 in which we were invited to submit suggestions on the possible theme, dates and place for the next World Telecommunication/ICT Policy Forum (WTPF).  We note the decision by the Council that the Secretary-General should continue consultations on the possible theme, dates and place for the next WTPF, and submit a report to the 2017 session of the Council.  Some European member states responded to your previous consultation of 10 November 2015 and their general ideas about a future WTPF is still valid. However, taking into account the discussions at Council 2016, we note that several member states support arranging a WTPF.  Taking into account the already planned conferences in 2017 and 2018 we are of the opinion that the first realistic opportunity to arrange a WTPF would be in 2019.  With regard to a possible theme for a WTPF in 2019 or 2020 we would suggest “ICTs for the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development”.  This is an important issue for ITU and its members in the coming years and will have an impact on work and priorities in ITU. |
|  | 13 January 2017 | Turkey | Pursuant to your letter referenced above concerning the consultation on the possible theme, dates and place for the next World Telecommunication/ICT Policy Forum (WTPF), I would like to submit our proposal for theme and timing of a potential WTPF.  WTPF provides a unique platform to discuss emerging issues pertaining to telecommunication/ICT matters where all concerned parties could express their views. Therefore, outputs of WTPF in the form of Opinions are very important for future work of ITU and Telecommunication/ICT environment at large. Within this view, we believe that a potential WTPF could be organized in the first half of 2018. Such a timing could make possible for Plenipotentiary Conference in 2018 to use outputs of WTPF as inputs for its work.  Furthermore, your referenced letter states that inputs submitted for Council 2016 would be taken into consideration provided concerned party informs the secretariat in writing. We are in the opinion that inputs submitted to Council 2016 should also be referenced in work of Council 2017 without any further action that should be taken by the parties which have already submitted their valid inputs or positions to Council 2016, unless the parties concerned state otherwise. We strongly believe that this approach would guarantee that no contribution is forgotten in the course of the work.  Concerning a possible theme for a potential WTPF, we would like to propose “Enhanced Cooperation for Cybersecurity”. The reason why we value this theme is because cybersecurity is one of the main elements in building confidence and security in the information and communications market. Moreover, cybersecurity violations have become an important risk factor that may cause destructive effects on national economies. Providing adequate levels of cybersecurity requires an interdisciplinary approach including technical, economic and social aspects. Therefore, cooperation of governmental institutions and private sector plays a key role in handling cybersecurity-related issues. Additionally, considering the cross-border nature of the internet, the measures taken by only one country are usually inadequate and therefore international cooperation against cybercrime is vital. To achieve this, we believe that there is a need for a platform that governments, private sector and civil society could discuss cybersecurity-related issues and possible cooperation methods. In light of the foregoing, we propose “Enhanced Cooperation in Cybersecurity” as a possible main theme for World Telecommunication Policy Forum. |