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| Note by the Secretary-General | |
| CONTRIBUTION FROM THE FEDERATIVE REPUBLIC OF BRAZIL  TOPICS FOR THE PUBLIC CONSULTATIONS OF CWG-INTERNET | |

I have the honour to transmit to the Member States of the Council a contribution submitted by the Federative Republic of Brazil.

Houlin ZHAO

Secretary-General

CONTRIBUTION FROM THE FEDERATIVE REPUBLIC OF BRAZIL

TOPICS FOR THE PUBLIC CONSULTATIONS OF CWG-INTERNET

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| Summary  Brazil proposes the approval of two topics, one for each of the next two physical open consultations of CWG-Internet to be held in October 2019 and February 2020.  Action required  Council should discuss and approve the following topics for the next two physical open consultations of CWG-Internet:   * Community networks: October/2019; * Artificial Intelligence: February/2020.   \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_  References  [Resolution 102 (Rev. Dubai, 2018)](https://www.itu.int/en/council/Documents/basic-texts/RES-102-E.pdf), [Resolution 1336 (C11, last amended C15)](https://www.itu.int/md/S15-CL-C-0113/en), [Resolution 1344 (C12, last amended C15)](https://www.itu.int/md/S15-CL-C-0112/en), [Document WG-Internet 12/5](https://www.itu.int/md/S19-RCLINTPOL12-C-0005/en), [Document WG-Internet 12/6](https://www.itu.int/md/S19-RCLINTPOL12-C-0006/en), [Document WG-Internet 12/9](https://www.itu.int/md/S19-RCLINTPOL12-C-0009/en), [Document WG-Internet 12/10](https://www.itu.int/md/S19-RCLINTPOL12-C-0010/en) |

**BACKGROUND**

The 12th meeting of CWG-Internet in February 2019 could not come to a consensus decision on the topic for the 7th Physical Open Consultation of CWG-Internet, to be held in October/2019 during the cluster of meetings of Council Working Groups (CWGs). The Chair’s report seeks the guidance of the 2019 Session of the ITU Council on the topic.

**DISCUSSION**

There is a valid precedent for the annual Council Session deciding on two topics for the two subsequent physical open consultations of the CWG-Internet. The 9th meeting of CWG-Internet held in February 2017, after lengthy discussions that took most of the time of the meeting, could not reach a consensus on the topic for open consultation for its September meeting. In fact, the meeting even discussed holding two topics in one consultation. Without consensus, the meeting forwarded the two topics to the 2017 Session of Council for decision.

Council 2017 reviewed the topics and the questions and decided to hold:

• the 5th Physical Open Consultation of the CWG-Internet on 18 September 2017 on “Public policy considerations on OTTs,” and

• the 6th Physical Open Consultation of the CWG-Internet on 22 January 2018 on “Bridging the digital gender divide.”

Brazil participated actively in the discussions at Council 2017 and believes that Council took the best decision possible. By deciding on one topic per consultation, Council allowed full attention from every stakeholder (i.e., ITU secretariat; ITU membership; external stakeholders) to each topic and allowed the maximum amount of time for discussions at both the physical consultation and the CWG-Internet meeting.

**PROPOSAL**

Brazil proposes that the 2019 Session of Council decide on the topics for next two physical open consultations of CWG-Internet, according to the following schedule:

**7th Physical Open Consultation of CWG-Internet, October/2019**

**Topic:** The role of Community Networks in advancing connectivity to remote, unserved or underserved communities

**Background:** The 12th meeting of CWG-Internet discussed two proposals for an open public consultation on the general topic of “Community Networks.” According to the proposals, there are experiences in the deployment of community networks that have proven to be successful in many countries in providing access to broadband connectivity. In Brazil’s point of view, those proposals heed the call of [Resolution 203 (Rev. Dubai, 2018)](https://www.itu.int/en/council/Documents/basic-texts/RES-203-E.pdf) “Connectivity to broadband networks”, particularly in Invites the Member States 2, 4 and 6.

Brazil corroborates that community networks can collaborate to raise Internet services’ penetration, assisting the attainment of Sustainable Development Goals 9 and 17 and the reduction of the digital divide. Although public policies for Internet expansion in Brazil are being addressed in a wider context, the contributions of Community Networks should be highlighted.

Public policies for broadband expansion in Brazil are a component of the “Structural Plan of Telecommunications Network (PERT),” submitted to public consultation in July 2018. In addition to a diagnosis of the Brazilian broadband infrastructure, PERT also indicates specific projects to overcome Internet gaps in Brazil, including in remote, unserved or underserved communities.

While PERT is still under analysis by the Board of Directors of the National Telecommunication Agency (ANATEL), other projects that contribute to Internet expansion have been approved, such as the creation of the Committee of Small Telecommunication Service Providers (Resolution nº 698/2018). Nowadays, there are more than 12,000 small telecommunications service providers in Brazil, and this number increases continuously, with around 200 new small broadband service providers each month.

According to Anatel’s indicators, small telecom service providers represented 17% of overall Internet accesses in 2017, and today they represent 23%. The expectation of the Agency is that the recently created Committee could facilitate this expansion even further, helping to promote regulatory improvements, capturing the demands from these specific stakeholders, elaborating studies and promoting actions for the provision of services by small operators.

Given these regulatory actions and aiming to expand society’s access to broadband services, Brazil is in favour of an open discussion on the role of Community Network in advancing connectivity in remote, unserved and underserved areas. A CWG Physical Open Consultation presents an ideal forum to promote an inclusive debate and exchange of experiences and best practices.

**Questions:**

* + How can community networks be best defined and how are they modeled in your country?
  + Which new technologies have the highest potential to increase the population covered by broadband infrastructure of Community Networks?
  + What kind of regulation and funding is necessary for Community Networks?
  + In your country, do the Community Networks generally use their own Backhaul or they use other operator’s infrastructure, especially small operators’ infrastructure (considering their increased presence in rural and remote areas)?
  + What kind of community engagement and collective actions are necessary for a community network to flourish? What can be done to facilitate and enhance these practices? What are the challenges of extending connectivity infrastructure and affordable services to end users?

**8th Physical Open Consultation of CWG-Internet, February/2020**

**Topic:** Harnessing the mutual development of Artificial Intelligence and ICTs for Sustainable Development

**Background:** Artificial Intelligence (AI) technologies are already a reality in all walks of life, and they have an enormous potential for continuous disruptive changes in our global economy and society. AI is both the key to unprecedented gains in general productivity and socioeconomic growth and for truly achieving the 2030 Sustainable Development Goals, but also the source of major concerns in terms of the extinction of jobs and skills, a potential increase in income inequality both within and among countries, and of political instability due to this income and technology gap.

Aside these socioeconomic concerns, the development and dissemination of AI itself requires attention and careful planning. A future in which machines make unethical and inappropriate decisions that affect life for humans is not far-fetched anymore. There are reported cases of “Narrow AI” applications having reached biased conclusions based on race and self-driving cars that have harmed and killed people. Furthermore, “Artificial General Intelligence (AGI)” applications with cognitive superpowers and capable of self-improvement and self-determination are a potential danger to humankind if not developed with fail-safe mechanisms, with a benevolent mindset, and with human rights and ethics at their core.

Such a revolutionary, disruptive technology with an almost limitless potential for positive and negative externalities undoubtedly requires incentive and fostering, but also some level of regulation and oversight. Thus, the greatest challenges in the development and adoption of AI are basically twofold:

* + Making it ethical, benevolent and beneficial to humans;
  + Spreading its positive externalities and socioeconomic gains to all countries and peoples.

These challenges require key developments in the industry and in public policy such as capacity and skill-building, labour market restructuring, social security and unemployment benefits, incentives to innovation, and being fully inserted and taking benefit from the global economic and financial system. All these developments are enabled and/or vastly enhanced by telecommunications/ICT.

Gaps in the development, uptake and dissemination of AI should be considered as components of the digital divide, which is currently determined only by the gap in access, use and skills of telecommunications/ICT. In fact, AI will increasingly bring about a shift in the skill requirements for human jobs towards ICTs. And for that, people need to be able to have access to the Internet. Bridging the digital divide is a must for AI to flourish in a beneficial and equitable way.

Given the intersection and interdependence between AI and ICTs, the Physical Open Consultation of CWG-Internet can provide an inclusive, multistakeholder platform for discussion on the issues pertinent to AI and ICTs, and on how their mutual development may contribute to the achievement of the 2030 Sustainable Development Goals and beyond. As the UN Agency on telecommunications/ICT, the ITU plays a role in providing a platform for the presentation of perspectives from different stakeholders and to raise awareness of the challenges in terms of public policy, international cooperation and socioeconomic inclusion.

**Questions:**

* + What are the national and international policy concerns in the development of an ethical, beneficial and inclusive AI?
  + What features should a national strategy contain to foster the development of AI?
  + How do AI technologies support or challenge the development of telecommunications/ICT? Conversely, how can ICTs enhance and disseminate inclusively the positive externalities of AI?
  + Should a global ethical framework be established to foster a common set of agreed principles for the development of AI? What elements should it contemplate?
  + In Machine Learning, one of the most common applications of AI, there are at least three instances where people directly intervene: data selection and preparation; solution design and definition of success; and intention to use the system. What kind of care needs to be taken for Machine Learning to be developed in a safe, fair and inclusive manner?
  + How can personal data be safeguarded and protected in AI’s learning and training in terms of privacy and other legal issues?
  + How can governments and the private sector collaborate in providing the labor market with access to ICTs and the proper ICT skills necessary in an increasingly AI-driven economy?
  + What actions can be taken by each stakeholder to accelerate the development of ethical and beneficial AI?
  + Should there be an international framework on AI? What would be a proper global governance structure for the development of AI?

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