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| **Council Working Group on International Internet-related Public Policy Issues Thirteenth meeting – Geneva, 19-20 September 2019** |  |
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| CONTRIBUTION TO THE SEPTEMBER 19-20 ITU COUNCIL WORKING GROUP ON INTERNATIONAL INTERNET-RELATED PUBLIC POLICY ISSUES (CWG-INTERNET) | |

**Introduction**

The United States is pleased to submit this contribution to the ITU Council Working Group on International Internet-related public policy issues (CWG-Internet) for consideration during its September 19-20 meeting.

**Discussion**

Pursuant to Resolution 102 (Rev. Dubai, 2018), the United States believes that the primary purpose of this CWG-Internet is to reach agreement on a specific topic for open consultations. The CWG-Internethas not convened open consultations with interested stakeholders since January 2018. In light of the considerable attention devoted to Resolution 102 at the 2018 Plenipotentiary Conference, we believe it is important that the CWG-Internet solicit the views of diverse stakeholder groups, including private industry, civil society, and the technical community in addition to governments themselves. Proactively encouraging contributions on Internet-related matters from non-government entities is the most effective means of fully informing discussions in the CWG-Internet.

**Proposal**

The United States is mindful that several proposals were discussed, but not agreed, during the February 2019 CWG-Internet meeting. Due to the lack of consensus during the February CWG-Internet meeting, the ITU Council attempted to reach agreement on a topic during its June 2019 meeting. Unfortunately, Council was also unable to reach consensus and referred the matter back to the Council Working Group. Consistent with the instruction from the Plenipotentiary Conference, we believe it is imperative that the CWG-Internet reach consensus on topics for open consultations during this meeting. Further delay only serves to deprive membership of the benefits that come from open consultations. Without compromise, the CWG-Internet will continue to be unable to fulfill its mandate from PP-18 and Council.

In order to reach consensus at this meeting, we believe Member States should pursue topics that enjoy broad support. In that regard, we believe that the shared goal among Member States of expanding connectivity creates a sufficiently broad umbrella under which several topics could be discussed. We propose the following for open consultations:

1. What are the challenges and opportunities for expanding Internet connectivity, particularly to remote and under-served areas? What are the roles of governments and non-government actors in overcoming these challenges?
2. Are there particular challenges facing land-locked countries in securing affordable Internet access? What can be done to overcome these challenges?

What role does IPv6 deployment have in expanding Internet connectivity? What steps can governments and other entities play in encouraging and facilitating IPv6 deployment?

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