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| **Council Working Group on International Internet Related Public Policy issues (CWG-Internet)** |  |
| **Thirteenth meeting – Geneva, 19-20 September 2019** |  |
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| **5 September 2019** |
| **English only** |

Ghana, South Africa and Uganda

PROPOSAL TO HOLD OPEN CONSULTATION on “Impact of new and emerging telecommunications/ICTs on international internet public policy ISSUES for sustainable development"

1. **Background**
	1. Africa has developed a 50-year blueprint and master plan, Agenda 2063, that has been adopted as the continent’s strategic framework designed to deliver inclusive and sustainable development. The framework also seeks to align and synchronize Member State developmental objectives, with the purpose of ensuring a concrete manifestation of the pan-African drive for unity, self-determination, freedom, progress and collective prosperity pursued under Pan-Africanism and African Renaissance.
	2. The African leaders saw a need to refocus, reprioritise and transform Africa’s agenda that will ensure the following: inclusive socioeconomic development; continental and regional integration; democratic governance and peace; and security amongst other issues aimed at repositioning Africa to becoming a significant player in the global arena.
	3. To ensure that the Agenda 2063 outcomes are realized, the 50-year master plan has been broken down into 10-year sub-plans with identified key activities required to produce both quantitative and qualitative transformational outcomes. Fourteen flagship projects have been identified as key to accelerating Africa’s economic growth and development. The flagship projects encompass, *inter alia*: infrastructure; education; science; technology; arts and culture as well as initiatives to secure peace on the continent. It is on this basis that the Africa group advocate the importance of a global dialogue and approach on *harnessing new and emerging telecommunications/ICTs on international internet public policy for sustainable development*. The discussions will greatly influence the continent’s discussions on the following flagship projects, *inter alia*: Pan-African e-network; Africa outer space strategy; African virtual and e-University; cybersecurity; integrated high-speed train network; and African passport and free movement of people.
	4. It is expected that the above dialogue will facilitate the exchange of information and discussions responding to Resolution 102 (Rev. Dubai, 2018), on the following issues:
* What are the prerequisites for new and emerging telecommunications/ICT regarding international internet public policy issues?
* What are the opportunities and challenges associated with new and emerging telecommunications/ICTs for sustainable development?
* What are the challenges to the adoption and growth of the new and emerging telecommunications/ICTs for sustainable development?
* What are the best practices for promoting innovation and investment for new emerging telecommunications/ICTs for sustainable development?
* What are potential policy issues of an international nature and any regulatory aspects associated with new and emerging telecommunications/ICTs?
	1. The countries signatory to this document take this opportunity to submit this contribution to the Council Working Group on International Internet-related Public Policy Issues.
1. **Proposal**
	1. The countries signatory to this contribution document propose consideration and approval of the following topic for the next open consultations, carried out by the CWG-Internet with the stakeholders:

 *“Harnessing new and emerging telecommunications/ICTs for sustainable development”*

* 1. It is expected that the dialogue on the above topic will facilitate the exchange of information and discussions on the following issues:
* What are the preconditions and considerations for new and emerging telecommunications/ICT?
* What are the opportunities and challenges associated with new and emerging telecommunications/ICTs for sustainable development?
* What are the challenges to the adoption and growth of the new and emerging telecommunications/ICTs for sustainable development?
* What are the best practices for promoting innovation and investment for new emerging telecommunications/ICTs for sustainable development?
* What are potential policy issues of an international nature and any regulatory aspects associated with new and emerging telecommunications/ICTs?