|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **Council 2020** |  |
|  |  |
|  |  |
| **Agenda item: PL 2.9** | **Revision 1 to Document C20/5-E** |
| **5 October 2020** |
| **Original: English** |
| Report by the Secretary-General | |
| PREPARATIONS FOR the World Telecommunication/ICT Policy Forum (WTPF-21) | |

|  |
| --- |
| Summary  Resolution 2 (Rev. Dubai, 2018) *resolves* to hold WTPF preferably back-to-back with the WSIS Forum 2021, taking account of the need to ensure adequate preparation by Member States. This document provides an update on the current status of the preparatory process for WTPF-21.  Action required  The Council is invited to **note** the Report and to **provide further guidance** regarding (a) the confirmation on rescheduling WTPF-21 to 2022, and (b) the procedure and schedule for the preparatory process.  \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_  References  Document [C13/64(Rev1)](https://www.itu.int/md/S13-CL-C-0064/en);[Resolution 2 (Rev. Dubai, 2018)](https://www.itu.int/en/council/Documents/basic-texts/RES-002-E.pdf); [Council Decision 611](https://www.itu.int/md/S19-CL-C-0128/en); [C19/119](https://www.itu.int/md/S19-CL-C-0119/en); [C20/5](https://www.itu.int/md/S20-CL-C-0005/en) |

1. In accordance with Resolution 2 (Rev. Dubai 2018), by [Decision 611 (Council 2019)](https://www.itu.int/md/S19-CL-C-0128/en), the 2019 session of ITU Council decided to convene the sixth WTPF in Geneva, Switzerland, for a duration of three days, preferablyback to back with the WSIS Forum 2021 (WTPF-21). It was further agreed at this 2019 Council session that the approach taken for WTPF-13 would be replicated for WTPF-21, namely by having the WSIS Forum 2021 and WTPF-21 overlap possibly by two days so as to limit additional costs and make the most of the presence of high-level participants.

2. By [Decision 611](https://www.itu.int/md/S19-CL-C-0128/en) (Council 2019), ITU Council decided that the theme for WTPF-21 is as follows:

“*Policies for mobilizing new and emerging telecommunications/ICTs for sustainable development:*

The WTPF-21 would discuss how new and emerging digital technologies and trends are enablers of the global transition to the digital economy. Themes for consideration include AI, IoT, 5G, Big Data, OTTs etc. In this regard, the WTPF-21 will focus on opportunities, challenges and policies to foster sustainable development.”

3. In accordance with [Decision 611](https://www.itu.int/md/S19-CL-C-0128/en) (Council 2019), the ITU Secretary-General has convened an Informal Experts Group (IEG), each of whom is active in preparing for WTPF-21 in this regard. Member States, Sector Members, Associates, and Academia of ITU, as well as the State of Palestine and Organizations which have the right to attend ITU Conferences and meetings as observers, were invited to nominate their experts.

4. Council 2019 confirmed Mr Fabio Bigi, Italy, as the chairman of the IEG.

5. The IEG has held three meetings: on 23-24 September 2019, 10-11 February 2020 and 14-16 September 2020. The IEG has gathered over 140 nominated experts. The list is available at <https://www.itu.int/en/wtpf-21/Documents/IEG-WTPF-21-nominated-experts.pdf>.

6. So far, the IEG-WTPF-21 has been following the procedure and schedule for preparation of the WTPF-21 as set out in Annex 2 of [Decision 611](https://www.itu.int/md/S19-CL-C-0128/en) (Council 2019). However, due to the current global health crisis, the meeting of the Virtual Consultation of Councillors in June 2020 asked the secretariat to review possible rescheduling of WTPF-21 to 2022, and to prepare a revised schedule for the preparatory process for discussion at the September 2020 meeting of the IEG-WTPF.

7. Accordingly, a draft revised schedule for preparation of the WTPF-21 Report by the Secretary-General was presented by the secretariat to the third meeting of the IEG-WTPF-21 (attached as an Annex to this Report) and was discussed by the Group. There was no agreement reached among the members on this revised schedule. The Group seeks further guidance from Council regarding (a) confirmation on rescheduling WTPF-21 to 2022, and (b) the procedure and schedule for the preparatory process.

8. All documents related to the preparatory process are available on the IEG website: <https://www.itu.int/en/wtpf-21/Pages/ieg-wtpf-21.aspx>. These include the various drafts of the Secretary-General’s Report to WTPF-21, contributions received from IEG members (including possible draft Opinions) and the feedback received from the online open public consultation process.

**Appendix - Procedure and draft schedule for Preparation of the WTPF Report by the Secretary‑General as presented to the third meeting of the IEG-WTPF-21**

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **1 August 2019** | A First Draft outline of the report by the Secretary-General shall be posted online for comments |
| **21 August 2019** | Deadline for receipt of comments on the First Draft  Deadline for nominations for a balanced group of experts to advise the Secretary-General on further elaboration of the report and of draft opinions associated with it |
| **1st IEG Meeting (September 2019 during the CWG cluster)** | First meeting of the group of experts to discuss the First Draft of the report by the Secretary-General and the comments received |
| **1 November 2019** | The Second Draft of the report by the Secretary-General will be posted online, incorporating discussions from the 1st IEG meeting  This draft will also be made available online for open public consultations |
| **23 December 2019** | Deadline for receipt of comments on the Second Draft, and for contribution on broad outlines for possible draft opinions  Deadline for inputs from the open public consultations |
| **2nd IEG Meeting (January/February 2020 during the CWG cluster)** | Second meeting of the group of experts to discuss the Second Draft of the report by the Secretary-General and the comments received, including from the open public consultation |
| **1 April 2020** | The Third Draft of the report by the Secretary-General will be posted online, incorporating discussions from the 2nd IEG meeting and including outlines of draft Opinions  This draft will also be made available online for open public consultations |
| **15 June 2020** | Deadline for receipt of comments on the Third Draft, and for contribution on possible draft Opinions  Deadline for inputs from the open public consultations |
| **3rd IEG Meeting (14-16 September 2020)** | Third meeting of the group of experts to discuss the Third Draft of the report by the Secretary-General, as well as the possible draft Opinions and the comments received, including from the open public consultation |
| **1 November 2020** | The Fourth Draft of the report by the Secretary-General will be posted online incorporating discussions from the 3rd IEG meeting, with the possible draft Opinions as an annex  This draft will also be made available online for open public consultations |
| **23 December 2020** | Deadline for receipt of comments on the Fourth Draft and for contribution on the possible draft Opinions  Deadline for receipt of comments from the open public consultation |
| **4th IEG Meeting (January-February 2021 during the CWG cluster)** | Fourth meeting of the group of experts to discuss the Fourth Draft of the report by the Secretary-General, including the possible draft Opinions, and the comments received |
| **1 April 2021** | The Fifth Draft of the report by the Secretary-General will be posted online, incorporating discussions from the 4th IEG meeting, and including the text of the possible draft Opinions as an annex  This draft will also be made available online for open public consultations |
| **15 July 2021** | Deadline for receipt of comments on the Fifth Draft, including the possible draft Opinions  Deadline for receipt of comments from the open public consultation |
| **5th IEG Meeting (September 2021 during the CWG cluster)** | Fifth meeting of the group of experts to discuss the Fifth Draft of the report by the Secretary-General and the comments received, including the draft Opinions |
| **1 November 2021** | The Sixth Draft of the report by the Secretary-General will be posted online incorporating discussions from the 5th IEG meeting and including the draft Opinions as an annex |
| **23 December 2021** | Deadline for receipt of comments on the Sixth Draft, including the text of the draft Opinions |
| **6th IEG Meeting (January 2022 during the CWG cluster)** | Sixth meeting of the group of experts to finalize the Draft Report by the Secretary-General, including the final text of the draft Opinions to be submitted to the sixth WTPF |
| **15 March 2022** | The final report of the Secretary-General to WTPF will be posted online, including the draft Opinions |
| **1-3 June 2022 (back to back with WSIS Forum 2022)** | Sixth World Telecommunication/Information and Communication Technology Policy Forum |

\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_