



## General Secretariat (SG)

Geneva, 23 December 2020

Ref.: **CL-20/55**  
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To: Member States  
Sector Members  
Associates  
Academia  
Organizations which have the right to attend ITU conferences and meetings as observers

Subject: Second Online Open Consultation on the Draft Guidelines for utilization of the Global Cybersecurity Agenda (GCA)

Dear Sir/Madam,

As per the schedule in the Circular Letter [CL-20/18 \(dated 18 March 2020\)](#) for preparation of the Draft Guidelines for utilization of the GCA (Draft Guidelines), an [Online Open Consultation of all WSIS stakeholders on the Draft Guidelines](#) was held on 23 April 2020 (First Online Open Consultation). Further to this, a revised version of the Draft Guidelines was prepared, taking into account the inputs received, for presentation to the 2020 session of the ITU Council (Council 2020) for its consideration and approval, along with the ITU Secretariat report on how the ITU is currently utilizing the GCA (ITU Secretariat Report).

Given the ongoing global health emergency, two Virtual Consultations of Councillors (VCC) were held in 2020, from 9-12 June 2020 and 16-20 November 2020 respectively. However, since the Draft Guidelines and ITU Secretariat Report were not on the agendas of these VCCs, the presentation of these documents has been postponed to the next session of ITU Council which is currently scheduled to take place from 8-18 June 2021.

In light of this, and the stakeholder feedback received from the First Online Open Consultation highlighting the need for further consultations on the Draft Guidelines, it is proposed to organize a second Online Open Consultation on the Draft Guidelines for all WSIS stakeholders on 1 March 2021 (Second Online Open Consultation). Taking into account the inputs received at this Second Online Open Consultation, a revised version of the Draft Guidelines will be posted on the ITU website by 7 May 2021.

Accordingly, an updated schedule for preparation of the Draft Guidelines is set out in the Annex attached hereto. In advance of the Second Online Open Consultation, all interested stakeholders are invited to submit their contributions on the [latest version of the Draft Guidelines \(dated 5 May 2020\)](#) in writing to [contributions@itu.int](mailto:contributions@itu.int) by 15 February 2021. Information relating to the practicalities of participating in the Second Online Open Consultation will be made available shortly on the [GCA website](#). In the meantime, if you have any questions, please feel free to contact Mr. Preetam Maloor ([preetam.maloor@itu.int](mailto:preetam.maloor@itu.int)).

Yours faithfully,

(Signed)

Houlin Zhao  
Secretary-General

*Annex: Updated schedule of GCA Consultation*

## ANNEX

### Updated schedule of GCA Consultation

9 April 2020	A draft of the guidelines, prepared by ITU Secretary-General and based on the <a href="#">inputs received from Member States</a> was posted online.
23 April 2020	The <a href="#">first Online Open Consultation</a> was held to discuss the draft of the guidelines and inputs received.
5 May 2020	A revised version of the <a href="#">Draft Guidelines</a> , taking into account the inputs received, was posted online.
15 February 2021	Deadline for all interested WSIS stakeholders to provide written inputs on the revised version of the <a href="#">Draft Guidelines</a> .
1 March 2021	<a href="#">Second Online Open Consultation</a> to be held to discuss the Draft Guidelines and inputs received.
10 March 2021	Deadline for all Second Online Open Consultation participants to provide final written inputs and comments on the <a href="#">Draft Guidelines</a> .
7 May 2021	The final revised Draft Guidelines for utilization of the GCA by ITU, that takes into account the inputs received, to be posted online.
8-18 June 2021	Draft Guidelines for utilization of the GCA to be presented to the 2021 physical session of the ITU Council for Council's consideration and approval, along with the ITU Secretariat report on how the ITU is currently utilizing the GCA.

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