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| **Informal Experts Group on WTPF-21 Second meeting - Geneva, 10-11 February 2020** |  |
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| Compilation of responses to the Online Open Consultation |
| (November - December 2019) |

Based on the procedure for preparation of the report by the Secretary-General is set out in [Decision 611](https://www.itu.int/md/S19-CL-C-0128/en), the [second draft of the Secretary-General’s Report to the WTPF-21](https://www.itu.int/en/wtpf-21/Pages/sg-report.aspx) was made available for online open consultations.

A compilation of the responses received has been set out below. The responses have been categorized into three sections for the purpose of this compilation: Contributions, Draft Opinions and Commentary on the Draft Report.

*NOTE: Please note that due to the different formats used by the online respondents:*

* *Inputs to the “Comment box” of the online form - serving either as sole contribution or summary - have been copied and pasted;*
* *When available, indicated summaries have been copied and pasted;*
* *Unless a summary is submitted, documents of up to 1000 words have been copied and pasted, as well as hyperlinked.*

**SECTION I. CONTRIBUTIONS**

1. **[Association for Proper Internet Governance, Switzerland](https://www.itu.int/en/consultations/Pages/wtpf-21/display-WTPF-21.aspx?ListItemID=17)**

**Summary**: Many of the questions raised in this open consultation are addressed, with evidence-based justifications, in the UNCTAD Digital Economy Report 2019; Value Creation and Capture: Implications for Developing Countries. A key conclusion that can be drawn from study of this report is that it is not appropriate at this time to lock in the current laissez-faire policies regarding data flows and taxation of the digital economy. In the body of this contribution we cite some portions or the report which appear to of particular relevant to this consultation. The report presents quite a bit of data, and analyses various well-known trends. It appears to us that it can be summarized as noting that "Key questions for governments include how to assign ownership and control over data; how to build consumer trust and protect data privacy; how to regulate cross-border data flows (CBDFs); and how to build the appropriate capabilities for harnessing digital data for development."

1. **[Association for Proper Internet Governance, Switzerland](https://www.itu.int/en/consultations/Pages/wtpf-21/display-WTPF-21.aspx?ListItemID=19)**

**Summary**: The World Bank, one of the biggest promoters of information and communication technology in developing and emerging countries, admitted self-critically in its 2016 World Development Report Digital Dividends that digital change had lagged far behind its (self-imposed) expectations. Digitalisation, it said, was threatening to destroy jobs in Africa, Asia and Latin America. It was also increasing social inequality because it is often only the better-off who participate in digital change while others – perhaps because of poverty or illness – are excluded from it. The publication Global Justice 4.0: The impacts of digitalisation on the Global South (Bread for the World) discusses the extent to which digital technology can help tackle poverty and social inequality, and makes nine specific proposals that would help make digitalisation fair.

1. **[Association for Proper Internet Governance, Switzerland](https://www.itu.int/en/consultations/Pages/wtpf-21/display-WTPF-21.aspx?ListItemID=21)**

**Summary: ​​​​**The key policies for mobilizing new and emerging telecommunications/ICTs for sustainable development are largely the factors that we have discussed in our submissions to CWG-Internet, in particular the urgent need to reduce the cost of connectivity in developing countries. This can be achieved by fostering competition (which may include functional separation), funding infrastructure, taking steps to reduce the cost of international connectivity, supporting the development of local content, capacity building, and a proper governance system. It is also necessary to improve trust and security. It is urgent to recognize that market failures are partly the cause of the current lack of security of the Internet. Steps must be taken to address the externalities arising from lack of security (entities that do not secure their systems sufficiently do not bear all the costs of security breaches), and to address information asymmetries (consumers have no way of knowing which services are sufficiently secure). At the same time, it is imperative to protect human rights, protect data privacy, protect consumers and workers (in particular against abuse by dominant platforms), curtail unnecessary and disproportionate mass surveillance, address the issue of job destruction and wealth concentration engendered by the Internet’s current governance mechanisms, address the ethical issues arising from automation and artificial intelligence, and deal with platform dominance. The body of this submission includes specific recommendations.

1. [**Bournemouth University, UK**](https://www.itu.int/en/consultations/Pages/wtpf-21/display-WTPF-21.aspx?ListItemID=23)

**Proposal:** As a result of this review, BU would like to invite Member States and Sector Members, as well as engaged Associates, Academia and stakeholders to:

* take into consideration also the human / citizen aspects of emerging technologies and how their adoption can be facilitated, e.g. by means of raising awareness on their principles of operation or by providing guarantees on issues such as privacy and trust;
* encourage and support “co-creation” approaches that are inclusive of experts from Academia and the industry, as well as stakeholders such as local authorities, policy makers and the general public;
* consider how emerging technologies, such as AI, Big Data and IoT, can act as technological enablers for more sustainable economic and development models, such as the Circular Economy.

1. **[ARTICLE 19](https://www.itu.int/en/consultations/Pages/wtpf-21/display-WTPF-21.aspx?ListItemID=24)**

**Summary:** ​ARTICLE 19 is pleased to present high-level considerations in response to the second draft of the report of the Secretary-General. The submission sets out three general concerns that cut across the draft: 1. The scope set out in the report risks falling outside the ITU’s core mandate. 2. The draft of the report makes several assumptions that are premature and advance technology solutionism. 3. The concept of trust is not clearly defined and is not an appropriate policy aspect for this report. In response to these three considerations, we provide several recommendations for improving future drafts of the report.

1. **[ICANN](https://www.itu.int/en/consultations/Pages/wtpf-21/display-WTPF-21.aspx?ListItemID=25)**

**Summary:** ICANN is grateful to have the opportunity, as a member of the Informal Group of Experts, to contribute to this consultation on the second draft of the Report by the Secretary General. We believe the subject matter to be relevant and pertinent; namely policies for enhancing the ability of new and emerging technologies to contribute to sustainable development, which of course includes enhancing Internet connectivity. The latter being pertinent for ICANN.

In line with the Decision 611 (of Council 2019) we support the focus of the WTPF being, primarily, on how such emerging technologies can contribute to sustainable development. The time we have should, therefore, in the main, be utilised to determine policies, processes and practices for enhancing the contribution of technologies to sustainable development, rather than focusing on the technologies themselves.

1. [**Instituto Federal de Telecomunicaciones**](https://www.itu.int/en/consultations/Pages/wtpf-21/display-WTPF-21.aspx?ListItemID=27)

**Proposals**:

* **Section 2 “Themes for WTPF-21”, paragraph 2.3.**

In the paragraph 2.3 regarding the several factors, such as competition, transparency, flexibility and the active participation of all relevant stakeholders, that promotes investment and innovation for the mobilization of the digital technologies; we consider important to emphasize the implications of those factors in the themes understudy in this report.

The telecommunications market characterized by the convergence, which allows offering a combination of services like video, voice and data services through the same telecommunications infrastructure. However, as convergence continues, it is important to continue promoting competition among different networks and applications in order to influence investment and innovation for digital technologies with a better quality and affordability.

On the other hand, the “participation of all relevant stakeholders” is also important for the mobilization of the digital technologies. As mentioned in the “Report of the UN Secretary-General’s High-level Panel on Digital Cooperation”: “The speed and scale of change is increasing – and the agility, responsiveness and scope of cooperation and governance mechanisms needs rapidly to improve. We cannot afford to wait any longer to develop better ways to cooperate, collaborate and reach consensus. We urgently need new forms of digital cooperation to ensure that digital technologies are built on a foundation of respect for human rights and provide meaningful opportunity for all people and nations”.

Improve the participation of relevant stakeholders is an urgent matter if we want to accomplish the full potential of new and emerging digital technologies and trends. In the same way, strengthening trust is another important factor in the mobilization of digital technologies, specially talking about transparency issues.

In this sense, we consider that the outcomes of the WTPF-21 should be oriented towards “competition policy”, “transparency” and the “participation of all relevant stakeholders”.

* **Section 2.8 “Some themes for consideration”, subsection “Artificial Intelligence (AI)”.**

We agree that one of the themes for consideration of the WTPF should be “Artificial Intelligence”. AI will be central to the achievement of the United Nations' Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) by improving human health, commerce, communications and more. In this sense, we also agree with the proposed policy questions because they focus in the benefits and challenges of the AI, as well as the participation of the stakeholders.

However, we consider that this section should also focus in the ITU´s work as a convener of the different stakeholders. We need a multi-disciplinary approach to developing and debating AI. In this regard, we consider that ITU, as a specialized UN agency, is a key partner for the development and support of the cross-sector collaboration, thanks to the 193 Member States and some 900 private sector companies, universities, and other international and regional organizations as members.

One example of the power of the ITU as a convener is the “AI for Good Global Summit”, which has attracted more than 500 participants, bringing together different stakeholders from academia, industry, governments and international organizations.

On the other side, it will also important to include in the Report the different activities and groups created in particular under the scope of the ITU-T considering the important role that the ITU should play in order to standardize the data in order to facilitate the interoperability of this technology.

* **Section 2.8 “Some themes for consideration”, subsection 2.8.2 “Internet of Things (IoT).**

The IoT has the potential to contribute to the fulfillment of the Sustainable Development Goals, thanks to the benefits that thanks to the benefits that can lead to different sectors such as energy, health, transport, agriculture, among others.

In this regard, is important to elaborate as part of the content of the report, an specific section for all the work that the ITU has developed in themes related to the IoT; for example, the studies and standards under the scope of ITU-T, the studies on the technical and operational aspects of radio networks and systems for IoT of the ITU-R; and the work of the ITU-D Study Groups.

This section should also emphasize the need to improve the coordination regulation across all sector if we want to maximize the benefits of the IoT; this implies the coordination between the telecommunications sector with other organizations such as WHO, UNESCO, ILO, IEA, etc. In this sense, this section should also analyze how all stakeholders can be included in active dialogue in order to promote a more coherent policy-making and implementation regarding the IoT.

* **Section 2.8 “Some themes for consideration”, subsection 2.8.3 “5G”.**

We agree with the statement that the 5G could play a key role in transforming cities and rural communities into smart cities/communities - allowing citizens and communities to participate in the benefits of the digital economy. However, the deployment of this technology involves many challenges and problems. One of these is the investment on infrastructure that is required for the deployment.

The investment that is required for the deployment of the 5G can be very high, and the investment needed for the deployment in rural areas is bigger. Consequently, the operators are less likely to allocate funds to 5G in rural areas, which could increase the digital divide. For that reason, this section should also pay attention to different business models such as community networks in order to minimize costs, in this senses also is necessary to include in the report, specific activities, studies and standards developed by the three Sectors of ITU.

**SECTION II. OPINIONS**

1. [**Association for Proper Internet Governance, Switzerland**](https://www.itu.int/en/consultations/Pages/wtpf-21/display-WTPF-21.aspx?ListItemID=16)

**Opinion X: A call to own our digital future**

The Sixth World Telecommunication/ICTs Policy Forum (Geneva, 2021),

*noting*

a) the Delhi Declaration of the JustNet Coalition[[1]](#footnote-1);

b) the Digital Justice Manifesto of the JustNet Coalition[[2]](#footnote-2),

*considering*

a) that a digital society is upon us;

b) that data must be recognized as a key economic resource,

*is of the view that*

1. Data subjects must own their data – individually and collectively;

2. Our data requires protection from abuse;

3. We need the tools to control our data;

4. Data commons need appropriate governance frameworks;

5. Data protection, sharing and use require new institutions;

6. Data-creating work ought to come with data rights;

7. Data should be processed close to the point of its origin;

8. Cross-border data flows must be decided nationally;

9. Techno-structures need to be reclaimed as personal and public spaces;

10. We should own our software and be able to control it;

11. Key digital infrastructures need to be governed as public utilities;

12. Techno-structures must be decentralised for open use, with interoperability;

13. Global digital monopolies should be broken;

14. Societies’ datafication needs to be managed democratically;

15. Digital standards must be developed by public interest bodies;

16.The digital has to be governed in a local-to-global manner,

*invites*

Member States and Sector Members to work in a collaborative manner to implement the above principles.

1. **[Association for Proper Internet Governance, Switzerland](https://www.itu.int/en/consultations/Pages/wtpf-21/display-WTPF-21.aspx?ListItemID=18)**

**Opinion X: Collaboration to address digital economy issues**

The Sixth World Telecommunication/ICTs Policy Forum (Geneva, 2021),

*noting*

the UNCTAD Digital Economy Report 2019; Value Creation and Capture: Implications for Developing Countries,

*is of the view that*

1. individual governments will need considerable freedom to regulate the digital economy for legitimate public policy and development objectives. The handling and regulation of digital data are particularly complex challenges, as they involve human rights, trade, economic value creation and capture, law enforcement and national security. Thus, finding suitable policies that can factor in all the various dimensions of digital data and data flows is difficult, but increasingly necessary;

2. on the other hand, many policy challenges can only be effectively addressed at regional or international levels. For example, the highly fragmented nature of laws and regulations affecting the protection and security of data, and the cross-border flows of such data, is a far from optimal situation, as it causes uncertainty about which rules apply in different situations. Other areas in which regional or global policies may be needed include competition, taxation and trade. Finding suitable solutions in these areas will require effective international collaboration and policy dialogue, with the full involvement of developing countries. Any consensus will have to include sufficient flexibilities to satisfy all countries,

*invites*

Member States and Sector Members to collaborate accordingly.

1. **[Association for Proper Internet Governance, Switzerland](https://www.itu.int/en/consultations/Pages/wtpf-21/display-WTPF-21.aspx?ListItemID=20)**

**Opinion X: Helping to make digitilization fair**

The Sixth World Telecommunication/ICTs Policy Forum (Geneva, 2021),

*noting*

the Bread for the World Study Global Justice 4.0: The impacts of digitalisation on the Global South,

*is of the view that the following measures should be taken*

1. Use public infrastructure to close the digital gap;

2. Control and regulate digital monopolies;

3. Enlarge the scope of trade policy to allow states to put protective measures in place if they enable the state to pursue an economic policy tailored to local need, including in particular data localization requirements;

4. Promote national and regional platforms;

5. Create cooperative platforms;

6. Take a broader view of digital centres;

7. Open up education and adapt education policy;

8. View social policy in international terms;

9. Support local SMEs, including financially,

*invites*

Member States and Sector Members to collaborate to implement such measures.

1. **[Association for Proper Internet Governance, Switzerland](https://www.itu.int/en/consultations/Pages/wtpf-21/display-WTPF-21.aspx?ListItemID=22)**

**Opinion X: Policies to foster sustainable development**

The Sixth World Telecommunication/ICTs Policy Forum (Geneva, 2021),

*noting*

a) submissions and discussions that have taken place in CWG-Internet,

b) submissions and discussions that have taken place in the present WTPF;

*is of the view that the following recommendations should be considered*

1. Recognize that access is a fundamental right and to take steps to provide access if market forces do not result in affordable access for all,

2. Invite IETF, ISOC, ITU, and OHCHR to study the issues of privacy, encryption and prevention of inappropriate mass surveillance, which include technical, user education, and legal aspects,

3. Invite IETF, ISOC, ITU, UNCITRAL, and UNCTAD to study the issue of externalities arising from lack of security, which has technical, economic, and legal aspects. In particular, UNCITRAL should be mandated to develop a model law on the matter,

4. Since the right of the public to correspond by telecommunications is guaranteed by Article 33 of the ITU Constitution (within the limits outlined in Article 34), invite IETF, ITU, OHCHR, and UNESCO jointly to study the issue of takedown, filtering, and blocking, which includes technical, legal, and ethical aspects,

5. Invite UNESCO and UNICTRAL to study the ethical issues of networked automation, including driverless cars, which include ethical and legal aspects. As a starting point, the study should consider the IEEE Global Initiative for Ethical Considerations in Artificial Intelligence and Autonomous Systems,

6. Invite ILO and UNCTAD to study the issues of induced job destruction, wealth concentration, and the impact of algorithms on social justice and that UNCTAD compile and coordinate the studies made by other agencies such as OECD, World Bank, IMF,

7. Invite ITU, UNCITRAL and UNESCO to study issues related to IoT (including security of IoT devices, use of data from IoT devices, decisions made by IoT devices, etc.), which include technical, legal, and ethical aspects (for a partial list of such aspects, see Recommendation ITU-T Y.3001: Future networks: Objectives and design goals). The studies should take into account Recommendation ITU-T Y.3013: Socio-economic assessment of future networks by tussle analysis,

8. Invite UNCTAD and UNCITRAL to study the issues related to the economic and social value or data, in particular “big data” and the increasing use of algorithms (including artificial intelligence) to make decisions, which issues include economic and legal aspects. In particular, UNCITRAL should be mandated to develop model laws, and possibly treaties, on personal data protection, algorithmic transparency and accountability, and artificial intelligence; UNCTAD should be mandated to develop a study on the taxation of robots; and the UN Conference on Disarmament should consider taking measures with respect to lethal autonomous weapons,

9. Invite UNCTAD to study the economic and market issues related to platform dominance, and to facilitate the exchange of information on national and regional experiences, and that the ILO be mandated to study the worker protection issues related to platform dominance and the so-called “sharing economy”,

10. Invite the Inter-Parliamentary Union (IPU) and the UN HCHR to study the potential effects of platform dominance on elections and democracy,

11. Invite all stakeholders to consider whether it would be appropriate to include a general provision on OTT cost and price transparency in a future international instrument, for example in a future version of the International Telecommunication Regulations (ITRs),

12. Invite UNCITRAL to study the issue of intermediary liability, with a view to proposing a model law on the matter;

*invites*

Member States and Sector Members to consider the above recommendations.

**SECTION III. COMMENTARY ON THE DRAFT REPORT**

1. [**Internet Distinction, USA**](https://www.itu.int/en/consultations/Pages/wtpf-21/display-WTPF-21.aspx?ListItemID=26)

2.7 In this regard, some of the broad questions that could be addressed while considering policies to mobilize new and emerging telecommunications/ICTs for sustainable development are set out below.

The following questions address to three perspectives on how to approach policies for mobilizing new and emerging telecommunications/ICTs for sustainable development, then questions addressing opportunities and challenges, followed by a more detailed set f questions directed toward effective policymaking regarding the enabling environment for fostering sustainable development with respect to these new and emerging digital technologies.

2.7.1 Some experts suggested that the Report should focus primarily on the issue of policies for mobilizing new and emerging telecommunications/ICTs, which, being broader in scope, encompasses any related issues of opportunities and challenges. It was further recommended that this Report should avoid being overly prescriptive. (This approach also takes up questions of opportunities and challenges in mobilizing new and emerging technologies for sustainable development, how to foster an environment that safeguards users, and how benefits could be made more accessible to all, questions which are listed further below.)

* Looking ahead, what are the new and emerging telecommunications/ICTs that ITU membership considers to be key enablers of the global transition to the digital economy?
* Given the inter-connections or -dependencies in the use and deployment of such telecommunications/ICTs, what is the role that policy-makers and other stakeholders can play in fostering an enabling environment that creates an agile ecosystem to enable sustainable use of new and emerging telecommunications/ICTs?
* How does ITU membership envision the role of new and emerging telecommunications/ICTs in contributing to sustainable development, keeping in mind the current and future needs of both developing and developed countries as well as all segments of the population?
* What are the trends and best practices in developing joined-up, including whole-of-government, multi-stakeholder collaborative policy approaches that are forward-looking, flexible and evidence-based that can contribute to this goal?

2.7.2 Some experts expressed the view that the focus of this question should be on inclusion, consumer trust, digital literacy and specifically finding innovative ways to mobilize new and emerging telecommunications/ICTs for sustainable development, as these are the key aspects to be considered given the theme of the Forum. (This approach also takes up questions of how to build an enabling environment for investment, how to ensure regulatory and market environments help mobilize new and emerging technologies for sustainable development, and how the global community can contribute to building trust in new and emerging digital technologies by means of local and inclusive innovation ecosystems, questions which are listed further below.)

* What policies are needed to promote education, skills and training to develop a skilled workforce?
* How can policy-makers and other stakeholders help to identify, retain and develop the necessary skills base?
* How can the global community continue building local and inclusive innovation ecosystems that enhance consumer trust and enable the deployment and use of new and emerging telecommunications/ICTs for sustainable development?

2.7.3 Other experts were of the opinion that maintaining focus on the broader issues of trust and innovation would be better. These experts stressed that building trust in new and emerging telecommunications/ICTs will be key to promoting wider engagement with these technologies, and that the concept of “trust” is wider than just consumer trust and digital literacy.

* What measures can be taken to promote multi-stakeholder collaboration in order to enable developing countries to access the benefits generated by a digital economy?
* What are the ways in which stakeholders can work together to drive progress to promote interoperability in, and facilitate greater access to, new and emerging telecommunications/ICTs for sustainable development?

2.7.4 Opportunities and challenges associated with new and emerging telecommunications/ICTs to foster sustainable development

* What are the key opportunities and challenges facing the mobilization of such new and emerging digital technologies for sustainable development?
* How do these emerging digital technologies address challenges in sustainable development faced by developing countries?
* What are relevant new policies and strategies to maximize the opportunities and address the challenges of these technologies while fostering innovation for sustainable development?
* What are the challenges associated with new and emerging telecommunications/ICTs and what are the opportunities/uses/applications/capacities they bring?
* How can these challenges be addressed?
* What policies associated with these emerging technologies will facilitate country efforts, particularly in developing and least developed countries, to promote innovation and contribute toward sustainable development?
* What are the issues for their development and deployment?
* How do developing countries benefit from these emerging telecommunications/ICTs, including such areas as promoting advanced data processing?
* How do we maximize the benefits of these emerging telecommunications/ICTs?
* How do these emerging technologies address those furthest left behind?
* How do these emerging telecommunications/ICTs address issues across diverse sectors such as health, education, employment, transportation, agriculture, nutrition, disability, youth empowerment, social inclusion, gender equality and poverty reduction?
* How can policy-makers and other stakeholders promote policies and strategies to support the implementation of new and emerging telecommunications/ICTs to provide benefit and access to all?
* Along with the challenge of connecting the unconnected through infrastructure, what can be done to promote affordable access for everyone, particularly women and girls, to build the skills necessary to leverage a changing environment where people can learn, share, and engage; to foster incentives for continued innovation; and an environment of trust and inclusion? How can better international cooperation by all stakeholders contribute to these efforts?
* How do we assure freedoms of speech, press and association, privacy, data and consumer protection as challenges and opportunities connected with new and emerging digital technologies for sustainable development?
* How do we assure confidence and security in new and emerging digital technologies both in terms of prevention of harm and in terms of fundamental liberties as limits on government action in the name of cybersecurity?
* What are policy challenges in various areas including, inter alia, equality and equity (inclusion), trust, interoperability, transparency and accountability?
* How do we these new and emerging telecommunications/ICTs address issues such as the empowerment of end users, digital inclusion, self-determination, autonomy, independence of communities?
* How can policy-makers and other stakeholders foster an environment that safeguards users, especially the most vulnerable populations, in new and emerging digital technologies?
* What are key safeguards to consider to ensure that the use and application of new and emerging telecommunications/ICTs benefits all?
* How can emerging technology players and other stakeholders contribute to the security, safety and trust of users?
* How can all stakeholders safeguard users and promote affordability, accessibility, and inclusive access of new and emerging telecommunications/ICTs across countries and populations?
* How do we assure trust, accountability, accuracy, truth and scientific rigor, and guard against bias in the use of emerging digital technologies?

2.7.5 Effective telecommunications/ICT policies with regard to mobilizing new and emerging digital technologies to foster sustainable development

* How can we achieve the potential of emerging telecommunications/ICTs and enable the global transition to the digital economy through an enabling policy environment that promotes investment and innovation through competition, transparency, flexibility and the active participation of all relevant stakeholders?
* What approaches might be considered regarding new and emerging telecommunications/ICTs to help foster an environment that promotes competition and improves the range of all services to businesses, consumers, academic institutions, etc.?
* What principles should guide stakeholders in promoting an enabling policy environment for mobilizing new and emerging telecommunications/ICTs?
* What are the economic impacts of new and emerging telecommunications/ICTs on the enabling environment with respect to, inter alia, competition, regulatory exposure, and substitutability of new and emerging digital technologies and the traditional telecommunications environment, with respect to international trade and commercial law or other legal frameworks?
* How do new and emerging telecommunications/ICTs bring about ubiquitous connectivity and other social and economic benefits?
* How do we address, inter alia, infrastructure needs, investment, regulatory environment, training and skills development, market environment, institutional cooperation, the role of development aid, etc., to promote innovation and contribute toward sustainable development, particularly in developing and least developed countries?
* What approaches might be considered regarding new and emerging telecommunications/ICTs to help the creation of an environment in which all stakeholders are able to prosper and thrive?
* How can new and emerging digital technology players and telecom operators best engage with one another at a local and international level? Are there model partnership agreements that could be developed?
* How can new and emerging telecommunications/ICTs contribute to economic development?
* How do new and emerging telecommunications/ICTs promote sustainable development?
* What are the key uses or applications of new and emerging telecommunications/ICTs and what are the main challenges in regard to their deployment?
* What policy imperatives drive us to harness the potentials of new and emerging telecommunications/ICTs?
* What challenges and opportunities drive us to develop systems for new and emerging telecommunications/ICTs to best support them with respect to their cross-sectoral, public and private nature?
* What tools, technologies and techniques apply with respect to fully harnessing the potentials of new and emerging telecommunications/ICTs?
* What policy or regulatory approaches can mobilize investment and innovation related to new and emerging telecommunications/ICTs?
* What policies can help ensure that the regulatory and market environments help mobilize new and emerging digital technologies and trends for sustainable development?
* How can stakeholders promote the development and use of new and emerging technologies to support sustainable development?
* What policies can help mobilize the application of new and emerging technologies for sustainable development?
* What steps can stakeholders take to foster environments for innovation as well as new business models to maximize benefits for all while minimizing costs?
* How can the global community continue building local and inclusive innovation ecosystems that enable the use and building of trust in new and emerging digital technologies?
* How can policy-makers build an enabling environment for investment?
* How can we facilitate greater collaboration and knowledge sharing between the innovator and investment communities to accelerate the development of these innovations?
* How can we align funding mechanisms with innovators and manage risk while advancing competition and vibrant civil society participation?
* How can stakeholders and policy makers foster skills development related to promoting an enabling policy environment for new and emerging telecommunications/ICTs?
* What types of technologies and business models should be considered in relation to connectivity access and adoption of new and emerging telecommunications/ICTs in unique markets?

**2.8 Some themes for consideration**

[Decision 611](https://www.itu.int/md/S19-CL-C-0128/en) (Council 2019) lists some themes for consideration[[3]](#footnote-5) as indicated below. Some experts noted that the following sub-themes should be addressed in the Secretary-General's Report through the lens of new and emerging telecommunications/ICTs. They recommended against including standalone sections on these sub-themes to align more closely with the WTPF-21 theme and the ITU's mandate. Other experts were of the view that [Decision 611](https://www.itu.int/md/S19-CL-C-0128/en) (Council 2019) recognized the following themes explicitly and therefore, recommended that each of them should be discussed separately and incorporated as standalone sections in the Report.

**2.8.1 Artificial Intelligence (AI)**

**2.8.2 Internet of Things (IoT)**

**2.8.3 5G**

**2.8.5 OTTs**

**2.8.6 Mobilizing New Solutions for Connectivity**

**2.8.7 Mobilizing an Enabling Policy Environment for New and Emerging Telecommunications/ICTs**

**2.8.7 (Etc.)**

1. https://justnetcoalition.org/delhi-declaration [↑](#footnote-ref-1)
2. https://justnetcoalition.org/digital-justice-manifesto [↑](#footnote-ref-2)
3. Some experts suggested considering other themes such as Virtual Reality, however, some other experts stated that Virtual Reality is not a priority issue or technology for consideration by the Forum given that the focus is on mobilizing new and emerging telecommunications/ICTs for sustainable development. [↑](#footnote-ref-5)