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| **Contribution submitted by Saudi Arabia (Kingdom of), Jordan (Hashemite Kingdom of), Ghana, South Africa (Republic of), Egypt (Arab Republic of), Russian Federation, Cuba** |
| DRAFT OPINIONS for wtpf-21 |

**Opinion [X] – Artificial Intelligence for Sustainable Development**

**Opinion [Y] - Building Confidence and Security in the Era of New and Emerging Technologies**

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**OPINION [X] –New and emerging technologies, in particular Artificial Intelligence for Sustainable Development**

The sixth World Telecommunication/ICT Policy Forum (X, 2021),

recalling

*a)* Resolution 70/1 of the United Nations General Assembly (UNGA) on transforming our world: the 2030 agenda for Sustainable Development;

*b)* Resolution 70/125 of the UNGA on the outcome document of the High-level meeting on UNGA in the overall review of the implementation of the outcomes of WSIS;

*c)* relevant WSIS Action Lines and relevant UN Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs),

considering

*a)* that the expansion of telecommunication/ICTs networks, spreading access to Internet and global interconnectedness has great potential to accelerate human progress, to bridge the digital divide and to develop knowledge societies;

*b)* that e breakthrough technologies, especially new and emerging technologies such as Big Data, Internet of Things (IoT), IMT-2020, Artificial Intelligence (AI), have brought about many eras of significant and non-linear change that profoundly alters economic systems and social structures, and particularly Artificial Intelligence (AI) is one of the main catalysts of the Fourth Industrial Revolution (4IR);

*c)* that AI has emerged as a general-purpose technology with widespread applications throughout the economy and society;

*d)* that AI, IoT, IMT-2020, Big Data evolutions are enormous and that countries will harvest its benefits, however, developing countries are at the highest risk of being left behind,

recognizing

*a)* that ICTs has a significant impact on economic and social progress, and more efforts need to be done to accelerate attaining SDGs by leveraging ICTs;

*b)* that the advancements in certain SDGs are correlated with telecommunication/ICT development;

*c)* new and emerging digital technologies are enablers of the global transition to the digital economy and inclusive economic growth;

*d)* that new and emerging technologies have great potential to benefit humanity and bolsters our shared values to advance the SDGs and to overcome global challenges such as poverty, hunger, health, education, and environment;

*e)* that the combination of AI with other new and emerging technologies has the potential to dramatically accelerate the benefits of digital transformation for different industries, societies and human life in general;

*f)* that that AI should be designed in a way that enables their decisions/actions to be explained and humans to be accountable for their use;

*g)* that the ITU, being the UN specialized Agency for Telecommunication/ICT, plays an important leading role in the implementation of WSIS outcomes and achieving the SDGs;

*h)* the ongoing work in the ITU and particularly in ITU study groups related new and emerging technologies, including AI, IoT, Big Data, cloud computing, IMT-2020, Distributed ledger technologies and machine learning,

is of the view

1 that policy challenges related to new and emerging technologies need to be addressed at the regional and international levels, with the full involvement of all countries and especially developing countries;

2 that Member States, Sector Members, and all other interested stakeholders should undertake and prioritize all efforts to foster an enabling environment for the greater growth and development of new and emerging technologies and particularly AI;

3 that there is need to identify practical applications of smart platforms and applications powered by AI and supporting strategies to improve the quality and sustainability of life on our planet, ensure trusted, safe and inclusive development of new and emerging technologies and equitable access to their benefits;

4 that Member States, Sector Members, and other interested stakeholders need to work closely together to address common challenges in the use of AI, IoT, Big Data, etc. such as trust, transparency, bias, accountability and representativeness;

5 that while new and emerging technologies can foster innovation, policy makers need to work together to guarantee and safe and secure technological environment and sustainable future for all;

6 that the ITU should play a role in helping its membership to take advantage of the opportunities and address the challenges caused by AI and other new and emerging technologies;

7 that all stakeholders should be encouraged to implement projects, programs, and initiatives related to AI so that all stakeholders from all nations could benefit from the use of AI to address the SDGs;

8 that constructive strategies, policies, guidelines or principles are needed to maximize the benefits of AI and other new and emerging technologies;

9Member States, Sector Members and other interested stakeholders need to collaborate to harness the benefits of AI, IoT, Big Data, etc. for developing countries and overcome the challenges;

10 Member States, Sector Members, and other interested stakeholders need to cooperate in addressing the critical issues of interoperability, security, trust, identification, and standardization in the use of the new and emerging technologies,

Invites Member States, Sector Members, and all other stakeholders

1 to work collaboratively to utilize the unlimited potentials that AI and other new and emerging technologies can provide to advance in achieving the SDGs;

2 to promote public policies and strategies at the national, regional, and international levels to overcome AI challenges in the use of new and emerging technologies and in particular AI;

3 to support the participation of developing countries stakeholders in the initiatives, entities, organizations and institutions involved in various aspects of the new and emerging technologies, especially AI,

Invites the Secretary-General

to support the processes and activities that enable ITU membership to take advantage of the opportunities and address the challenges caused by AI and other new and emerging technologies.

**OPINION [Y] – Building Confidence and Security in the Era of New and Emerging Technologies**

The sixth World Telecommunication/ICT Policy Forum (X, 2021),

recalling

*a)* Resolution 70/1 of the United Nations General Assembly (UNGA) on transforming our world: the 2030 agenda for Sustainable Development;

*b)* UNGA Resolution 70/125, on the outcome document of the UNGA high-level meeting on the overall review of the implementation of the outcomes of the World Summit on the Information Society (WSIS);

*c)* relevant WSIS Action Lines and relevant UN Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs);

*d)* UNGA Resolution 68/167, on the right to privacy in the digital age;

*e)* the cybersecurity-related provisions of the Tunis Commitment and the Tunis Agenda for the Information Society and the outcome document of the UNGA high-level meeting on the overall review of the implementation of WSIS;

*f)* Resolution 101 (Dubai, 2018), Resolution 102 (Dubai, 2018), Resolution 133 (Dubai, 2018), and other relevant Resolutions of the ITU Plenipotentiary Conference;

*g)* the United Nations Secretary-General’s High-level Panel on Digital Cooperation and the Declaration of Digital Interdependence,

noting

*a)* the increasing dependency of governments, businesses and individual users on telecommunications/information and communication technologies (ICTs) to deliver essential services and exchange of information;

*b)* that as telecommunications/ICTs rapid expansion and reaching more than half world population, decisions taken by private sector are gradually affecting millions of people across national borders;

*c)* that the rapid pace of new and emerging technologies development gives the advantage to individuals all over the world to communicate and at the same time enhances the capacity of governments, companies and individuals to undertake surveillance, interception and data collection, which may violate privacy,

noting with concerns

that the growing number of cyber threats and cyberattacks, and the lack of international convergence approaches to mitigate cyber threats and cyberattacks, while ad hoc responses increase fragment and silos, leading to competing standards and approaches, lessening trust and discouraging cooperation,

considering

*a)* that advances in new and emerging information and communication technologies, continue to be an important enabler of achievement of the SDGs as well as social, economic, environmental and cultural development;

*b)* that the new and emerging technologies, considering AI is one of the main recent technologies, have brought significant and non-linear change in many aspects of our life including economic social aspects,

recognizing

*a)* that in the context of multi -stakeholders approach, government, private sector, other organizations, and individual users must be aware of relevant cybersecurity risks and preventive measures and should assume responsibility and take steps to enhance the security and build confidence in the use of telecommunications/ICTs, particularly those that apply new and emerging technologies;

*b)* that emerging and new information and communication technologies are rapidly changing, bringing new opportunities and challenges, and policy-makers need to keep pace with change to utilize the opportunities and overcome the challenges;

*c)* that security and building confidence are the main challenges in the era of emerging and new technologies;

*d)* the need for respect for national sovereignty and relevant international laws in the context of security and building confidence in new and emerging information and communication technologies;

*e)* that innovation is the driver of many ICTs including emerging and new technologies, such as AI, quantum technologies and 5G, which requires that all stakeholders continuously adapt to such innovations taking into account the needed measures to build safe cyberspace;

*f)* the fact that ICTs are critical factors for economic development, employment growth, and social welfare, and threats on ICTs are threats on economic and social welfare of States;

*g)* that governments are pursuing digital transformations by adopting digital technologies, including new and emerging technologies, to deliver their services to the public; attiring security and building confidence in these services are crucial factors to achieve the digital transformations and to meet national needs and priorities;

*h)* the important role played by the private sector, civil society, and technical communities in ICTs;

*i)* that there is a persistent need to address the major obstacles and challenges in the cyberspace;

*j)* that the ITU Global Cybersecurity Agenda (GCA) encourages international cooperation by proposing strategies for solutions to enhance confidence and security in the use of telecommunications/ICTs,

is of the view

*a)* that there is now an urgent need for global and united commitment to implement a multi-stakeholders approach to secure and build confidence in cyberspace and to propose priorities for action;

*b)* that private sector companies, especially social media and e-commerce platforms companies, are expected to develop clearer guidance on procedures and mechanisms needed to build confidence with both consumers and governments to reach mutual trust and to quickly address any violations including those for children;

*c)* that activities related to data processing (e.g. surveillance, storing, modifying, disseminating,…etc.,) by governments, private sector companies, or any other organizations should not violate international, regional, or national laws;

*d)* to call all stakeholders, including governments, to respect and protect the right to privacy, and to develop recommendations on measures to mitigate any violations in cyberspace;

*e)* to utilize and contribute to the GCA framework to further guide the ITU, as UN specialized agency in ICTs, on its efforts to build confidence and security in the use of ICTs,

invites Member States, Sector Members, and all other stakeholders

to work collaboratively and build confidence and security in use of ICTs especially in application of including new and emerging information and communication technologies.

Invites the Secretary-General

to support the activities related to this opinion,

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