|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **Council 2021 Virtual consultation of councillors, 8-18 June 2021** |  |
|  |  |
|  |  |
| **Agenda item: PL 1.2** | **Document C21/51-E** |
| **7 April 2021** |
| **Original: English** |
|  | |
| Report by the Chairman of the Council Working Group on  International Internet-Related Public Policy Issues (CWG-Internet) | |

|  |
| --- |
| Summary  This report summarizes the main results of the fifteenth meetings of CWG-Internet, held on 27-28 January 2021, in line with PP-18 Resolutions 102 (Rev. Dubai, 2018) and 140 (Rev. Dubai, 2018), and Council Resolutions 1305 (Modified 2019) and 1336 (Modified 2019).  **Action required**  The Council is invited to **note** the report.  \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_  References  [*Resolution 102 (Rev. Dubai, 2018),*](https://www.itu.int/en/council/Documents/basic-texts/RES-102-E.pdf)[*Resolution 140 (Rev. Dubai, 2018)*](https://www.itu.int/en/council/Documents/basic-texts/RES-140-E.pdf)  *Council Resolutions* [*1305 (Modified 2019)*](https://www.itu.int/md/S19-CL-C-0136/en) *and* [*1336 (Modified 2019)*](https://www.itu.int/md/S19-CL-C-0140/en) |

**1.** **Introduction**

1.1 The [ITU Council Working Group on International Internet-related Public Policy Issues (CWG-Internet)](https://www.itu.int/en/council/cwg-internet/Pages/default.aspx) was established as a separate group by Council Resolution 1336 (Modified 2019), in accordance with Resolutions 102 and 140 of the ITU Plenipotentiary Conference (Rev. Dubai, 2018). CWG-Internet is limited to Member States, with open consultation to all stakeholders.

1.2 The terms of reference for CWG-Internet, specified in Council Resolution 1336 (Modified 2019), are to identify, study and develop matters related to international Internet-related public policy issues, including those issues identified in Council Resolution 1305 (Modified 2019), and in this regard, as appropriate:

1. Disseminate its outputs throughout ITU’s membership and to all relevant international organizations and stakeholders actively involved in such matters for their consideration in their policy-making processes;
2. Consider and discuss the activities of the Secretary-General and the Directors of the Bureaux in relation to implementation of Resolution 102 (Rev. Dubai, 2018) and prepare inputs into these activities as appropriate;
3. Initiate and conduct open consultations with all stakeholders in an open and inclusive manner; and the output of the open consultations will be presented for consideration in the deliberations of the Council Working Group.

1.3 Plenipotentiary Conference Resolution 102 (Rev. Dubai, 2018) instructed the Council to revise its Resolution 1344, to direct the CWG-Internet, limited to Member States with open consultation to all stakeholders, and to conduct such open consultation according to the guidelines mentioned in the Resolution. In the interest of streamlining the Council resolutions in this regard, Council 2019 decided to modify Resolution 1336 to incorporate the contents of Resolution 1344 and abrogated Resolution 1344.

1.4 Council Resolution 1336 (Modified 2019) sets out the modality of open consultation for the CWG-Internet.

**2 CWG-Internet activities**

2.1 Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, CWG-Internet held its fifteenth meeting on 27-28 January 2021 virtually.

2.2 The [Report of the fifteenth meeting](https://www.itu.int/md/S21-RCLINTPOL15-C-0012/en) of CWG-Internet was approved by the Group.

2.3 The Report will be disseminated throughout ITU’s membership and to all relevant international organizations and stakeholders actively involved in such matters for their consideration in their policy-making processes.

2.4 The CWG-Internet conducted Online and Physical Open Consultations from February to December 2020 on the topic of "[Expanding Internet Connectivity](https://www.itu.int/en/council/cwg-internet/Pages/consultation-sep2020.aspx)". During this consultation, 23 responses were received from a variety of stakeholders and regions (1 Government, 4 Private Sector entities and Industry Associations, 10 Civil Society and Academia representatives, and 5 Intergovernmental Organizations). The responses provided rich inputs, sharing different views with regard to the three specific questions of the consultation. The eighth Virtual Meeting - Physical Open Consultation, on the topic of “Expanding Internet Connectivity”, took place on 25 January 2021 with over 170 registered participants and over 70 active attendees participating through the online platform.

2.5 All responses received to the Online Open Consultation, as well as the brief summary of the virtual meeting - physical open consultation approved by the meeting participants, is publicly available on the [ITU CWG-Internet website](http://www.itu.int/en/council/cwg-internet/Pages/open-consultations.aspx).

2.6 The Group is currently holding an Online Open Consultation on “*The role of the Internet and international Internet-related public policy in mitigating the impact of COVID-19 and possible future pandemics*” from February to August 2021.

2.7 The other Actions approved by the Group at the fifteenth meeting of CWG-Internet include the following:

2.7.1 The ITU secretariat will further develop the consultation repository in alignment with the recommendations made by the Group.

2.7.2 Directors of all the ITU bureaux are invited to consider the consultation responses in their work, as appropriate.

2.7.3 The ITU secretariat will include ITU’s activities relating to the Vienna Programme of Action (on addressing challenges faced by landlocked developing countries) in its Internet Activities Reports.

**3. Conclusion**

3.1 The Council is invited to note the report of the fifteenth meeting of CWG-Internet.

3.2 On behalf of CWG-Internet, the Chair extends his personal thanks to all the ITU Member States who made contributions and participated in the work of the Group, the Vice-Chairs, the Secretary-General, Deputy Secretary-General, Directors of TSB, BR, and BDT, and the General Secretariat for their efficient assistance during these meetings of the CWG-Internet.

**Chairman: Majed M. Al-Mazyed**

**(KINGDOM OF SAUDI ARABIA)**

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