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| **Informal Experts Group on WTPF-21 Fifth meeting – Virtual meeting, 31 May-2 June 2021** |  |
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|  | **Document IEG-WTPF-21-5/2-E** |
|  | **30 April 2021** |
|  | **English only** |
| Contribution submitted by the Réseaux IP Européens Network Coordination Centre (RIPE NCC) | |
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The RIPE NCC has been a member of this Informal Experts Group since its inception and, as an ITU sector member, welcomes the opportunity to once again share our views from an industry perspective.

In line with our previous contributions on the draft reports, we again would like to express our desire for the WTPF to focus its opinions on aspects of telecommunications and ICTs and the role they can play in helping countries achieve the Sustainable Development Goals.

With regards to the ongoing discussions on the interpretation of Council Decision 611 (Rev. Council 2020), we are of the opinion that example emerging technologies listed in that decision could be taken as guidance, but those technologies should be addressed in the context of the role those technologies can play in supporting telecommunications/ICTs.

We are disappointed and slightly concerned that the Informal Experts Group has still not found consensus on this crucial matter, despite several efforts to have an ad-hoc group resolve the matter, and that there has not been any attempt to have a discussion around the proposals made to the ad-hoc group.

In light of the continuing pandemic, the WTPF will likely be either a hybrid or fully virtual event. Such a format will unfortunately greatly limit the ability to discuss the draft opinions in depth, highlighting the importance of achieving consensus on draft opinions within this group before the start of the forum.

We’d like to urge the members of this group to remain focussed on resolving our differences with regards to the text and the draft opinions in order to reach the consensus needed to forward them for consideration by the WTPF as outcomes of this Informal Experts Group.

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