|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **Informal Experts Group on WTPF-21Sixth meeting – Virtual meeting, 24, 27, 28 September 2021** |  |
|  |  |
|  | **Document IEG-WTPF-21-6/4-E** |
|  | **15 August 2021** |
|  | **English only** |
| Contribution submitted by the United States of AmericaDRAFT OPINION ON [NEW TECHNOLOGIES AND SERVICES TO FACILITATE THE USE OF TELECOMMUNICATIONS/ICTS] FOR SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT |
|  |

Following the informal meetings held in July 2021, the United States has reviewed the proposed draft opinion on “new technologies” and offers the following updated draft text as we seek to work towards a consensus opinion. Whether or not this opinion moves forward is closely tied to outstanding questions within the IEG about terminology so we have retained brackets in the text around the terminology pending further discussions.

 **[DRAFT OPINION 4:** [**New technologies and services to facilitate the use of telecommunications/ICTs]
for sustainable development**

The sixth World Telecommunication/ICT Policy Forum (Geneva, 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: Outcome document of the high-level meeting of the General Assembly 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) Resolution 71 (Rev. Dubai, 2018), on the Strategic Plan of the Union;

 *recognizing*

a) The continuous evolution of new technologies is leading to a variety of discussions and initiatives underway across the UN system in support of sustainable development;

b) that telecommunications/ICTs are an enabler of many new technologies and also new technologies can facilitate the development and deployment of telecommunications/ICTs;

c) that by facilitating the use of telecommunications/ICTs, new technologies can enable the global transition to the digital economy and accelerate the benefits of digital transformation, thereby furthering our shared goal to advance the SDGs;

d) that Artificial Intelligence (AI), Internet of Things (IoT), OTT, 5G, and Big Data have tremendous potential to facilitate the use of telecommunications/ICTs and advance sustainable development and that as countries begin to take advantage of this potential, developing countries are at the highest risk of being left behind,

e) that it is important to promote inclusive development of [new technologies to facilitate the use of telecommunications/ICT] for sustainable development and to foster equitable access to their benefits;

f) that enabling strategies and policies are needed to maximize the potential for [new technologies to facilitate the use of telecommunications/ICTs] for sustainable development;

g) that the ITU, as the UN specialized agency for telecommunications/ICTs, plays a leading role in the implementation of relevant WSIS action lines and, through them, the achievement of the SDGs;

h) the ongoing work in the ITU related to the use of [new technologies to facilitate the development and deployment of telecommunications/ICTs];

 *is of the view*

a) that Member States, through cooperation with stakeholders, should foster an enabling environment for digital innovation ecosystems, for inclusive growth and development of [new technologies to facilitate the use of telecommunications/ICTs] for sustainable development;

b) that enabling policies to harness opportunities and address challenges related to [new technologies that facilitate telecommunications/ICTs] need to be addressed at the national, regional and international levels, with the full involvement of stakeholders from all countries, especially from developing countries;

c) that the ITU, in collaboration with other UN agencies and international organizations, and within its mandate, should continue to promote information and best practice sharing among its membership and other stakeholders in their efforts to use [new technologies to facilitate telecommunications/ICTs] for sustainable development;

d) that stakeholders should be encouraged to implement projects, programmes, and initiatives related to [new technologies to facilitate the use of telecommunications/ICTs] so that all can benefit from their use to achieve the SDGs;

 *invites Member States, Sector Members, and all other stakeholders*

1. to work collaboratively to utilize the potential for [new technologies to facilitate the use of telecommunications/ICTs] to achieve the SDGs;

2. to promote public policies and strategies at the national, regional, and international levels to take advantage of opportunities and overcome challenges in the use of [new technologies that facilitate telecommunications/ICTs] for sustainable development;

3. to support the participation of stakeholders from developing countries, including from Least Developing Countries (LDCs), Land Locked Developing Countries (LLDCs) and Small Island Developing States (SIDS), in the activities of relevant entities, organizations, institutions and initiatives related to [new technologies that facilitate the use of telecommunications/ICTs] for sustainable development;

 *invites the Secretary-General*

to continue to support activities, within ITU’s mandate, that enable ITU membership to share information and best practices in order to take advantage of the opportunities and address the challenges presented by [new technologies that facilitate the use of telecommunications/ICTs] for sustainable development.]

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