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| **Council 2022 Geneva, 21-31 March 2022** |  |
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| **Agenda item: PL 1.2** | **Document C22/51-E** |
| **26 January 2022** |
| **Original: English** |
| Report by the Chairman of the Council Working Group on  International Internet-related public policy issues (CWG-Internet) | |
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| Summary  This report summarizes the main results of the sixteenth and seventeenth meetings of CWG-Internet, held on 23 September 2021 and 19-20 January 2022, 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 sixteenth and seventeenth meetings virtually on 23 September 2021 and 19-20 January 2022 respectively.

**2.2** The Reports of the [sixteenth](https://www.itu.int/md/S21-RCLINTPOL16-C-0008/en) and [seventeenth](https://www.itu.int/md/S22-RCLINTPOL17-C-0006/en) meetings of CWG-Internet were approved by the Group.

**2.3** The Meeting Reports 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. The ITU Internet Activities Report noted by the CWG-Internet at each meeting will, after consideration by the Council, also be transmitted to the UN Secretary-General.

**2.4** The sixteenth meeting of the CWG-Internet received [five contributions](https://www.itu.int/md/S21-RCLINTPOL16-C/en). It also discussed the results of the open consultation launched by the fifteenth meeting of the CWG-Internet which ran from February to September 2021 on the topic of “[The role of the Internet and international Internet-related public policy in migitating the impact of COVID-19 and possible future pandemics](https://www.itu.int/en/council/cwg-internet/Pages/consultation-feb2021.aspx)”. During this consultation, 17 responses were received from a variety of stakeholders and regions (5 Government, 1 Private Sector entity, 10 Civil Society representatives, and 1 International Organization). The ninth Virtual Meeting - Physical Open Consultation on the abovementioned topic took place on 20 September 2021 with over 150 registered participants and more than 75 in attendance. All responses received for the consultation, as well as the brief summary of the Virtual Meetings - Physical Open Consultations approved by the meeting participants, are publicly available on the [ITU CWG-Internet website](http://www.itu.int/en/council/cwg-internet/Pages/open-consultations.aspx).

**2.5** The Actions approved by the Group at the sixteenth meeting of CWG-Internet include the following:

**2.5.1** ITU Secretariat will launch the next round of Open Consultations in October 2021 on the following topic as agreed by the sixteenth meeting of the CWG-Internet*:*

The Environmental Impacts and Benefits of the Internet

* What effects does the Internet have on the environment and vice-versa?
* How can we improve the impact the Internet has on the environment and take advantage of its potential to help address climate-related issues?
* What role should stakeholders play in shaping the environmental impacts and benefits of the Internet?
* What are the policy, regulatory and other relevant matters associated with the environmental impacts and benefits of the Internet?

**2.5.2** The summary of the ninth online consultation and the virtual meeting - physical consultation on “*The role of the Internet and international Internet-related public policy in mitigating the impact of COVID-19 and possible future pandemics*” will be submitted as part of the Chairman’s report to Council.

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

**2.6** The seventeenth meeting of the CWG-Internet received [three contributions](https://www.itu.int/md/S22-RCLINTPOL17-C/en). It also discussed the results of the open consultation launched by the sixteenth meeting of the Group which ran from October to December 2021 on the topic of "[The Environmental Impacts and Benefits of the Internet](https://www.itu.int/en/council/cwg-internet/Pages/consultation-oct2021.aspx)". During this consultation, 20 responses were received from a variety of stakeholders and regions (3 Government, 5 Companies, 2 Industry Associations, 6 Civil Society entities, and 2 International Organizations). The tenth Virtual Meeting - Physical Open Consultation on the abovementioned topic took place on 11 January 2022 with 111 registered participants and over 60 active attendees participating through the online platform. All responses received for the consultation, as well as the brief summary of the Virtual Meetings - Physical Open Consultations approved by the meeting participants, are publicly available on the [ITU CWG-Internet website](http://www.itu.int/en/council/cwg-internet/Pages/open-consultations.aspx).

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

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

**2.7.2** Given the lack of consensus at the seventeenth meeting on the topics proposed for open consultation, the Group deferred the matter of topics for future consultations to the next meeting of the CWG-Internet should the PP Conference 2022 decide on the continuation of open consultations.

**2.7.3** The ITU Secretariat should endeavor to present more ITU activities related to Resolution 133 (Rev. Dubai, 2018), “*Roles of administrations of Member States in the management of Internationalized (multilingual) domain names*” in the future editions of the ITU Internet Activities Report, including the upcoming report to Council 2022.

**2.8** Notingthat this is the last report of the Chairman of CWG-Internet to Council prior to PP-22, the Chairman expresses his appreciation for the commitment and effort members have put into the work of the CWG-Internet. The Group has, through its deliberations and engagement with all stakeholders, including via the rich and diverse consultation process, played an important role in advancing the global dialogue on international Internet-related public policy issues.

**3. Conclusion**

3.1 The Council is invited to note the reports of the sixteenth and seventeenth meetings of CWG-Internet.

3.2 On behalf of CWG-Internet, the Chairman 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, including the Secretary, Ms. Sadhvi Saran, for their efficient assistance during these meetings of the CWG-Internet.

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

**(KINGDOM OF SAUDI ARABIA)**

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