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| **Council 2022 Geneva, 21-31 March 2022** |  |
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| **Agenda item: PL 1.2** | **Document C22/58-E** |
| **18 February 2022** |
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| Report by the Chairman of the Council Working Group on International Internet-Related Public Policy Issues (CWG-Internet) | |
| four-year Report of the CWG-Internet | |

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| Summary  This report summarizes the main results of the meetings of CWG-Internet, held from February 2019 to 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 consider** this report and **to submit** its recommendations to the Plenipotentiary Conference as appropriate.  \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_  References  [*Plenipotentiary Conference Decision 11 (Rev. Dubai, 2018)*](https://www.itu.int/en/council/Documents/basic-texts/DEC-011-E.pdf)  [*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)  Council documents [*C19/51*](https://www.itu.int/md/S19-CL-C-0051/en)*,* [*C20/51*](https://www.itu.int/md/S20-CL-C-0051/en)*,* [*C21/51*](https://www.itu.int/md/S21-CL-C-0051/en)*,* [*C22/51*](https://www.itu.int/md/S22-CL-C-0051/en)  [*CWG-Internet*](https://www.itu.int/en/council/cwg-internet/Pages/default.aspx) *webpage* |

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. The Group was chaired by H.E. Majed Al-Mazyed (Saudi Arabia).

**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.

1. **CWG-Internet activities**
2. The main results of the [twelfth meeting](https://www.itu.int/md/S19-RCLINTPOL12-C) of the CWG-Internet, held on 1 February 2019, were:
   1. The Group invited Member States to send/update their submissions, as appropriate, on the previous topics including OTTs on which the CWG-Internet open consultation have been carried out.
   2. The secretariat was asked to include OTT related activities conducted in the Sectors in the Secretary-General’s Internet activities report to CWG-Internet.
   3. The Chairman would highlight to Council 2019 that no consensus was reached on a topic for open consultation, and therefore seek Council’s guidance on the matter.
3. The main results of the [thirteenth meeting](https://www.itu.int/md/S19-RCLINTPOL13-C) of the CWG-Internet, held on 19-20 September 2019, were:
   1. ITU secretariat would launch the next round of Open Consultations (October 2019 – January 2020), on the topic of “[International internet-related public policy issues on harnessing new and emerging telecommunications/ICT for sustainable development](https://www.itu.int/en/council/cwg-internet/Pages/consultation-oct2019.aspx)”.
   2. For the following round of Consultations, ITU secretariat will launch the next round of Open Consultations (February 2020 – August 2020), on the topic of “[Expanding Internet Connectivity](https://www.itu.int/en/council/cwg-internet/Pages/consultation-sep2020.aspx)”.
4. The main results of the [fourteenth meeting](https://www.itu.int/md/S20-RCLINTPOL14-C) of the CWG-Internet, held on 5-6 February 2020, were:
   1. ITU secretariat would launch the next round of Open Consultations (February 2020 – September 2020), on topic of [Expanding Internet Connectivity](https://www.itu.int/en/council/cwg-internet/Pages/consultation-sep2020.aspx).
   2. The summary of the consultation on “[International Internet-Related Public Policy Issues on Harnessing New and Emerging Telecommunications/ICTs for Sustainable Development](https://www.itu.int/en/council/cwg-internet/Pages/consultation-oct2019.aspx)” would be submitted as part of the Chairman’s report to Council 2020.
5. The main results of the [fifteenth meeting](https://www.itu.int/md/S21-RCLINTPOL15-C/en) of the CWG-Internet, held on 27-28 January 2021, were:
   1. ITU secretariat would launch the next round of Open Consultations (February– September 2021) on the topic of “[The role of the Internet and international Internet-related public policy in mitigating the impact of COVID-19 and possible future pandemics](https://www.itu.int/en/council/cwg-internet/Pages/consultation-feb2021.aspx)”
   2. The summary of the consultation on “[Expanding Internet Connectivity](https://www.itu.int/en/council/cwg-internet/Pages/consultation-sep2020.aspx)” would be submitted as part of the Chairman’s report to Council 2021.
   3. ITU secretariat would further develop the consultation repository in alignment with the recommendations made by this Group.
   4. Directors of all the ITU bureaux were invited to consider the consultation responses in their work, as appropriate.
   5. ITU secretariat would include ITU’s activities relating to the Vienna Programme of Action (on addressing challenges faced by landlocked developing countries) in its Internet Activities Reports.
6. The main results of the [sixteenth meeting](https://www.itu.int/md/S21-RCLINTPOL16-C/en) of the CWG-Internet, held on 23 September 2021, were:
   1. ITU secretariat would launch the next round of Open Consultations in October 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).
   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](https://www.itu.int/en/council/cwg-internet/Pages/consultation-feb2021.aspx)” would be submitted as part of the Chairman’s report to Council 2022.
   3. Directors of all the ITU bureaux were invited to consider the consultation responses in their work, as appropriate.
7. The main results of the [seventeenth meeting](https://www.itu.int/md/S22-RCLINTPOL17-C/en) of the CWG-Internet, held on 19-20 January 2022, were:
   1. Directors of all the ITU bureaux were invited to consider the [consultation responses](https://www.itu.int/en/council/cwg-internet/Pages/consultation-oct2021.aspx) from [The Environmental Impacts and Benefits of the Internet](https://www.itu.int/en/council/cwg-internet/Pages/consultation-oct2021.aspx) in their work, as appropriate.
   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.
   3. The ITU secretariat was requested 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.
8. **Recommendations to PP-22**
9. Expressing his appreciation for the active participation and engagement of all the members in the activities of CWG-Internet, the Chairman notes the extensive work carried out by the Group during 2019 – 2022 on a wide range of timely and relevant issues. This includes the dynamic deliberations and engagement that took place with all stakeholders every year through the rich and diverse consultation process. The results of these efforts are reflected in the unique and rich repository maintained by the ITU secretariat which contains all the consultations and stakeholder feedback received. In delivering its mandate, the CWG-Internet has played an important role in advancing the global dialogue on international Internet-related public policy issues. The Chairman invites PP-22 to consider continuing the work and mandate of the CWG-Internet and also urges Member States to consider ways for strengthening the work and impact of the CWG-Internet and submit related proposals to PP-22 for consideration.
10. 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 the meetings of the CWG-Internet.

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