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| Member States of the European Conference of Postal and Telecommunications Administrations (CEPT) |
| ECP 4 - REVISION TO RESOLUTION 102: |
| ITU's role with regard to international public policy issues pertaining to the Internet and the management of Internet resources, including domain names and addresses |
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RESOLUTION 102 (Rev. Bucharest, 2022)

ITU's role with regard to international public policy issues pertaining to the Internet and the management of Internet resources, including domain names and addresses

The Plenipotentiary Conference of the International Telecommunication Union (Bucharest, 2022),

recalling

*a)* relevant resolutions of the United Nations General Assembly (UNGA), including UNGA Resolution 70/1, on transforming our world: the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, and UNGA Resolution 70/125, on the outcome document of the UNGA high-level meeting on the overall review of the implementation of the outcomes of the World Summit on the Information Society (WSIS);

*b)* the WSIS+10 statement on the implementation of WSIS outcomes and vision for WSIS beyond 2015, which were adopted at the ITU-coordinated WSIS+10 High-Level Event (Geneva, 2014), based on the Multistakeholder Preparatory Platform (MPP) process, together with other United Nations agencies and inclusive of all WSIS stakeholders, were endorsed by the Plenipotentiary Conference (Busan, 2014) and were submitted to the UNGA overall review;

*c)* the results of the World Telecommunication/Information and Communication Technology (ICT) Policy Forum in regard to issues related to Resolutions 101, 102 and 133 (Rev. Guadalajara, 2010) of the Plenipotentiary Conference;

*d)* Resolutions 47 and 48 (Rev. Dubai, 2012) and 49, 50, 52, 64, 69 and 75 (Rev. Geneva, 2022) of the World Telecommunication Standardization Assembly (WTSA),

recognizing

*a)* all relevant resolutions of the Plenipotentiary Conference;

*b)* all relevant WSIS outcomes;

*c)* Internet-related activities of ITU, undertaken within its mandate with respect to the implementation of this resolution and other relevant ITU resolutions;

*d)* that emerging telecommunications/ICTs will transform both the Internet and the digital economy, have the potential to increase prosperity, health and welfare and will have an impact on overall achievement of Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs);

*e)* that the Internet delivers social, economic, cultural and environmental development that can bring out the best in humanity;

*f)* that skills and literacy are essential for individuals to experience the benefits of Internet connectivity;

*g)* that greater Internet connectivity narrows the digital divide for all citizens, but in particular for vulnerable groups including remote rural and underserved communities and members of vulnerable groups, as well as for women and children;

*h)* that increased availability of online services will contribute to bringing sustainable social and economic, health, environmental and equitable development to all the world's inhabitants,

considering

*a)* that the purposes of the Union are, *inter alia*:

i) to promote and enhance participation of entities and organizations in the activities of the Union and foster fruitful cooperation and partnership between them and Member States for the fulfilment of the overall objectives as embodied in the purposes of the Union;

ii) to promote, at the international level, the adoption of a broad approach to the issues of telecommunications/ICTs in the global information economy and society, by cooperating with other world and regional intergovernmental organizations and those non-governmental organizations concerned with telecommunications and other stakeholders;

iii) to promote the extension of the benefits of new telecommunication technologies to all the world's inhabitants including marginalised groups and those with specific needs regardless of characteristics such as age or gender;

iv) to harmonize the actions of Member States and Sector Members and promote fruitful and constructive cooperation and partnership between Member States and Sector Members in the attainment of those ends;

v) to maintain and extend international cooperation among all its Member States for the improvement and rational use of telecommunications/ICT of all kinds;

vi) to promote and offer technical assistance and capacity building to developing countries[[1]](#footnote-1)1 in the field of telecommunications and to promote the mobilization of the material, human and financial resources needed for its implementation as well as to promote connectivity and access to information;

*b)* the need for preserving and promoting multilingualism on the Internet for a human-centred, permissionless-innovation supportive and development-oriented information society, where everyone can create, access, utilize and share information and knowledge resulting in an inclusive information society;

*c)* that advances in the global information infrastructure, including the development of Internet Protocol (IP)-based networks and the Internet, taking into account the requirements, features and interoperability of next-generation networks (NGN) and future networks, are of crucial importance as an important engine for growth and prosperity in the world economy in the twenty-first century;

*d)* that the development of the Internet is essentially market-led and driven by private and government initiatives;

*e)* that the private sector continues to play a very important role in the expansion and development of the Internet, for example as the largest investor in infrastructures and services including sustained investment in network innovation and upgrade;

*f)* that the public sector and public-private and regional initiatives continue to play a very important role in the expansion and development of the Internet, for example through investments in infrastructures and services;

*g)* that management of the registration and allocation of Internet domain names and addresses must fully reflect the geographical nature of the Internet, taking into account an equitable balance of interests of all stakeholders;

*h)* that the existing arrangements are working efficiently and effectively to make the Internet the highly robust, dynamic and geographically diverse technology that it is today;

*i)* that the development and improvement of human capacity, including provision of assistance with capacity development, is a fundamental part of an inclusive Information Society, and that developing countries[[2]](#footnote-2)2 face specific challenges in digital skills development;

*j)* that ITU partners with UN organizations, governments, the private sector, international and intergovernmental organizations, civil society, the technical community, academia and other stakeholders to advance programs and initiatives that aim to improve ICT education and equip people, including youth, with digital skills and improve their digital literacy;

*k)* the role played by ITU in the successful organization of the two phases of WSIS, and that the Geneva Declaration of Principles and the Geneva Plan of Action, adopted in 2003, and the Tunis Commitment and the Tunis Agenda for the Information Society, adopted in 2005, have been endorsed by UNGA;

*l)* that UNGA agreed, at its high-level meeting on 15-16 December 2015, that Internet governance should continue to follow the Tunis Agenda;

*m)* that the management of the Internet is a subject of valid international interest and must flow from full international and multistakeholder cooperation on the basis of the outcomes of the two phases of WSIS;

*n)* that, as stated in the WSIS outcomes, all governments should have an equal role and responsibility for international Internet governance and for ensuring the stability, security and continuity of the existing Internet and its future development and of the future Internet, and that the need for development of public policy by governments in consultation with all stakeholders is also recognized;

*o)* that many entities and organizations, including world and regional intergovernmental organizations and non-governmental organizations, have important roles with regard to international public policy issues pertaining to the Internet and the management of Internet resources and it is important to foster fruitful cooperation and partnership between them;

*p)* that many UN organizations, including WSIS Action Line Facilitators and Co-Facilitators are dealing with international Internet-related public policy issues;

*q)* work being carried out by the Commission on Science and Technology for Development (CSTD) relevant to this resolution;

*r)* work being carried out by the Telecommunication Development Bureau to develop its capacity-building activities in the field of Internet governance,

recognizing further

*a)* that the Internet Corporation for Assigned Names and Numbers (ICANN), the regional Internet registries (RIRs), the Internet Engineering Task Force (IETF), the Internet Society (ISOC), the World Wide Web Consortium (W3C) and other entities and organisations are addressing technical and policy issues related to IP-based networks;

*b)* that ITU is also dealing with some technical and policy issues related to IP-based networks, including the existing Internet and evolution to NGN as well as studies into the further development of the Internet;

*c)* that ITU performs worldwide coordination of a number of radiocommunication-related and telecommunication-related resource allocation systems and acts as an international forum for policy discussion in this area;

*d)* that significant effort has been put in by ITU on ENUM, ".int", internationalized domain name (IDN), and country code top-level domain (ccTLD) issues through workshops and standardization activities;

*e)* §§ 71 and 78 a) of the Tunis Agenda with regard to the establishment of enhanced cooperation on Internet governance and the establishment of the Internet Governance Forum (IGF), as two distinct processes;

*f)* the relevant WSIS outcomes in §§ 29-82 of the Tunis Agenda concerning Internet governance and §§ 55-65 of UNGA Resolution 70/125, on the outcome document of the UNGA high-level meeting on the overall review of the implementation of the WSIS outcomes which highlighted the cross-cutting contribution of information and communications technology to the Sustainable Development Goals and poverty eradication, and noted that access to information and communications technologies has also become a development indicator and aspiration in and of itself;

*g)* that ITU should be encouraged to facilitate cooperation with all stakeholders as referred to in § 35 of the Tunis Agenda;

*h)* that ITU is a member, in an observer capacity, of the Governmental Advisory Committee of ICANN, a member of the Technical Liaison Group of ICANN through the ITU-T, and has cooperated with the Regional Internet Registries, the IETF, W3C, the Internet Exchange Federation and other entities and organisations dealing with technical and policy issues related to IP-based networks;

*i)* that Member States represent the interests of the population of the country or territory for which a ccTLD has been delegated;

*j)* that countries should not be involved in decisions regarding another country's ccTLD;

*k)* without prejudice to the latter, that cooperation, capacity building and best practice exchange between ccTLD operators are essential to improve, among others, Internet safety and quality of service;

*l)* to take account of the results of the Working Group on Enhanced Cooperation on public policy issues pertaining to the Internet,

emphasizing

*a)* that the management of the Internet encompasses both technical and public policy issues and should involve all stakeholders and relevant intergovernmental, regional and international organizations, in accordance with §§ 35 a) – e) of the Tunis Agenda;

*b)* that emerging telecommunications/ICTs will transform the Internet, and policy-makers need to keep pace with change in the Internet to harness the benefits of that transformation for growth and prosperity as well as for affordably connecting the unconnected;

*c)* that the role of governments includes providing a clear, consistent and predictable legal framework, in order to promote a favourable environment for investment and development in which global ICT networks are interoperable with Internet networks and are widely accessible to all citizens without any discrimination and to ensure adequate protection of public interests in the management of Internet resources, including domain names and addresses;

*d)* that WSIS recognized the need for enhanced cooperation in the future, to enable governments, on an equal footing, to carry out their roles and responsibilities, in international public policy issues pertaining to the Internet, but not in the day-to-day technical and operational matters that do not impact on international public policy issues;

*e)* that membership of the CWG-Internet has been limited to Member States only and other entities and organisations have not so far been able to participate in meetings of the Group;

*f)* that ITU, for its part, is supporting the process towards enhanced cooperation as one of the relevant organizations referred to in § 71 of the Tunis Agenda, and that the Council Working Group on international Internet-related public policy issues (CWG-Internet) should be open for the first half of the meeting to all stakeholders and to the second half of the meeting to Member States, Sector Members and Associates and should continue its work on Internet-related public policy issues;

*g)* that ITU can play a positive role by offering all interested parties a platform for encouraging discussions and for the dissemination of information on the management of Internet domain names and addresses and other Internet resources within the mandate of ITU,

noting

*a)* that CWG-Internet has furthered the objectives of Resolution 75 (Rev. Geneva, 2022) of WTSA and Resolution 30 (Rev. Kigali, 2022) of the World Telecommunication Development Conference (WTDC) regarding public policy issues pertaining to the Internet;

*b)* that although the physical open consultation meetings of the CWG-Internet have been very well attended and have been a successful platform, stakeholders have so far been unable to attend CWG-Internet meetings;

*c)* that one of the purposes of the Union is to promote and enhance participation of entities and organizations in the activities of the Union;

*d)* that the management of the Internet’s telecommunication/ICT dimensions encompasses both technical and public policy issues and should involve all stakeholders and relevant intergovernmental and international organizations;

*e)* that a multi-stakeholder approach should be adopted, as far as possible, at all levels in the coordination of the activities of international and intergovernmental organizations and other institutions concerned with Internet governance, as expressed in §37 of the Tunis Agenda;

*f)* that there is a need to promote greater participation and engagement in the telecommunications/ICTs - related discussions of Governments, the private sector, civil society, international organizations, the technical and academic communities and all stakeholders from developing countries;

*g)* Resolutions 1305, 1336 and 1344 adopted by the ITU Council;

*h)* that CWG-Internet shall include in its work all relevant decisions of this conference and all other resolutions relevant to the work of the group as stated in Council Resolution 1305 and the annex thereto;

*i)* the continued importance of openness, inclusiveness and transparency in the development of international Internet public policy issues, in line with § 35 of the Tunis Agenda;

*j)* the need for development of international Internet public policy by governments in consultation with all stakeholders;

*k)* ongoing activities in relevant ITU Telecommunication Standardization Sector (ITU‑T) and ITU Telecommunication Development Sector (ITU‑D) study groups relevant to this resolution,

resolves

1 to explore ways and means, in accordance with the Tunis Agenda, for greater reciprocal collaboration and coordination between ITU and relevant organizations involved in the development of IP-based networks and the future Internet in the context of emerging telecommunications/ICTs, including, but not limited to, the Universal Acceptance Steering Group, the Internet Corporation for Assigned Names and Numbers (ICANN), the regional Internet registries (RIRs), the Internet Engineering Task Force (IETF), the Internet Society (ISOC) and the World Wide Web Consortium (W3C), including through cooperation agreements, as appropriate, in order to promote greater participation and engagement by Member States, Sector Members and Associates in Internet governance, so as to ensure maximum benefits to the global community and promote affordable international connectivity;

2 that ITU shall assist Member States to identify and access the advice and support that is available from other relevant entities and organisations with responsibilities for international public policy issues pertaining to the Internet and the management of Internet resources, as appropriate;

3 that the sovereign and legitimate interests, as expressed and defined by each country, in diverse ways, regarding decisions affecting their ccTLDs, need to be respected and ensured, upheld and addressed via flexible and improved frameworks and mechanisms;

4 to continue to undertake activities on international Internet related public policy issues within ITU's mandate, including in CWG-Internet, in collaboration and cooperation with relevant organizations and stakeholders, as appropriate, with special attention to the needs of developing countries;

5 to continue the CWG-Internet activities as listed in the relevant Council resolutions;

6 to open the first half of the CWG-Internet meeting to all stakeholders and the second half of the meeting to Member States, Sector Members and Associates,

instructs the Secretary-General

1 to continue to participate in international discussions and initiatives on the management of Internet domain names and addresses and other Internet resources within the mandate of ITU, to promote fruitful and constructive cooperation and partnership with relevant organisations with responsibilities for Internet resources and to promote the importance of affordable Internet connectivity for sustainable development taking into account future developments of the Internet, the purposes of the Union and the interests of its membership as expressed in its instruments, resolutions and decisions;

2 to take the necessary steps for ITU to continue to play a facilitating role in the coordination of international public policy issues pertaining to the Internet, as expressed in §35 d) of the Tunis Agenda, interacting as necessary with other intergovernmental organizations in these domains;

3 to continue to raise awareness of the critical importance of sustainable development in discussions and initiatives on international public policy issues pertaining to the Internet and the management of Internet resources;

4 in line with § 78 a) of the Tunis Agenda, to continue to contribute as appropriate to the work of IGF;

5 to continue to take the necessary steps for ITU to play an active and constructive role in the process towards enhanced cooperation as expressed in § 71 of the Tunis Agenda;

6 to continue to take the necessary steps in ITU's own internal process towards enhanced cooperation on international public policy issues pertaining to the Internet as expressed in § 71 of the Tunis Agenda, involving all stakeholders, in their respective roles and responsibilities;

7 to take the necessary steps to open the first half of the CWG-Internet meeting to all stakeholders and the second half of the meeting to Member States, Sector Members and Associates;

8 to report annually to the Council on the activities undertaken on these subjects and to submit proposals as appropriate, and, after the endorsement of this report by Member States through consultation procedures in force, to submit the report to the Secretary-General of the United Nations;

9 to present a draft of the report referred to in *instructs the Secretary General 8* to a meeting of the CWG-Internet for comment and discussion by all stakeholders and to take account of their comments in preparing his final report to Council;

10 to continue to disseminate, as appropriate, the reports of CWG-Internet to all relevant international organizations and stakeholders actively involved in such matters for their consideration in their policy-making processes,

instructs the Directors of the Bureaux

1 to contribute to CWG-Internet concerning the activities undertaken by their respective Sectors which are relevant to the work of the group;

2 to provide advice and assistance, within the Union's expertise, and within available resources, as appropriate, in cooperation with relevant organizations, to Member States, if so requested, in order to achieve their stated policy objectives with respect to the management of Internet domain names and addresses, other Internet resources and international Internet connectivity, within the remit of ITU, such as capacity building, availability and costs related to infrastructure, and with respect to Internet-related public policy issues, as stated in the annex to Council Resolution 1305, which identifies the role of CWG-Internet, within their mandate;

3 to liaise and to cooperate with the regional telecommunication organizations pursuant to this resolution;

4 to provide information to Member States on the advice and support that is available from relevant other entities and organizations with responsibilities for international public policy issues pertaining to the Internet and the management of Internet resources, as appropriate, including how the Member States can participate in relevant activities at those institutions,

instructs the Director of the Telecommunication Standardization Bureau

1 to ensure that ITU‑T performs its role in technical issues, and to continue to contribute ITU‑T expertise and to liaise and cooperate with appropriate entities on issues related to the management of Internet domain names and addresses and other Internet resources within the mandate of ITU, such as IP version 6 (IPv6), ENUM and IDNs, as well as any other related technological developments and issues, including facilitating appropriate studies on these issues by relevant ITU‑T study groups and other groups;

2 in accordance with ITU rules and procedures, and calling upon contributions from the ITU membership, to continue to play a facilitating role in coordination and assistance in the development of public policy issues pertaining to Internet domain names and addresses and other Internet resources within the mandate of ITU and their possible evolution and to provide information to Member States, if so requested, on the roles and activities of entities and organizations with responsibilities for public policy issues pertaining to Internet domain names and addresses and other Internet resources;

3 to work with Member States, Sector Members and relevant international organizations, as appropriate, on issues concerning Member States' ccTLDs and related experiences in order to foster fruitful cooperation and partnership between them;

4 to report annually to the Council and the Telecommunication Standardization Advisory Group, and also to WTSA, on the activities undertaken and achievements on these subjects, including proposals for further consideration as appropriate,

instructs the Director of the Telecommunication Development Bureau

1 to organize international and regional forums and carry out necessary activities, in conjunction with appropriate entities, to discuss policy, operational and technical issues on the Internet in general, and on the management of Internet domain names and addresses and other Internet resources within the mandate of ITU in particular, including with regard to multilingualism, for the benefit of Member States, especially for developing countries, taking into consideration the content of the relevant resolutions of this conference, including this resolution, in addition to the content of the relevant resolutions of WTDC;

2 to continue promoting, through ITU‑D programmes and study groups, the exchange of information, fostering debate and the development and sharing of best practices on Internet issues, and to continue to play a key role in outreach by contributing to capacity building, providing technical assistance and encouraging the involvement of stakeholders from developing countries in international Internet forums and issues;

3 to continue reporting annually to the Council and the Telecommunication Development Advisory Group, and also to WTDC, on the activities undertaken and achievements on these subjects, including proposals for further consideration as appropriate;

4 to liaise with the Telecommunication Standardization Bureau and to collaborate with other relevant organizations involved in the development and deployment of IP-based networks and the growth of the Internet, aiming to make available to Member States widely accepted best practices for the design, installation and operation of Internet exchange points (IXPs),

instructs the ITU Council Working Group on international Internet-related public policy issues

1 to consider and discuss the activities of the Secretary-General and Directors of the Bureaux in relation to the implementation of this resolution;

2 to prepare ITU inputs into the above-mentioned activities as appropriate;

3 to continue to identify, study and develop matters on international Internet-related public policy issues, taking into account relevant ITU resolutions;

4 to enable and promote full and active participation and engagement by stakeholders in its work,

instructs the ITU Council

1 to revise its Resolution 1344 to direct the CWG-Internet, of which the first half of the meeting is open to all stakeholders and the second half of the meeting is open to Member States, Sector Members and Associates and to conduct consultations according to the following guidelines:

• CWG-Internet meeting will open the first half of the meeting to all stakeholders and the second half of the meeting to Member States, Sector Members and Associates;

• CWG-Internet will decide on the international Internet-related public policy issues for open consultation, drawing primarily from Council Resolution 1305;

• CWG-Internet should generally hold both open online consultation and physical open consultation meetings, with remote participation, within a reasonable period, prior to each CWG-Internet meeting;

• relevant inputs received from all stakeholders will be submitted to CWG-Internet for consideration of the issues chosen for its next meeting;

2 taking into account the annual reports presented by the Secretary-General and the Directors of the Bureaux, to take appropriate measures in order to contribute actively to international discussions and initiatives related to issues on international management of Internet domain names and addresses and other Internet resources within the mandate of ITU;

3 to consider the reports of CWG-Internet and take actions as appropriate;

4 to report to the 2026 plenipotentiary conference on the activities undertaken and achievements in respect of the objectives of this resolution, including proposals for further consideration as appropriate,

invites Member States and Sector Members

1 to participate in the discussions, and encourage other stakeholders to participate in discussions on international management of Internet resources, including domain names and addresses, and in the process towards enhanced cooperation on Internet governance and international public policy issues pertaining to the Internet, so that worldwide representation in the debates can be ensured;

2 to continue to participate actively in the discussions and development of public policy issues related to Internet resources, including international Internet connectivity, within the remit of ITU, such as capacity building, availability and costs related to infrastructure, domain names and addresses, their possible evolution and the impact of new usages and applications, cooperating with the relevant organizations, and to contribute to CWG-Internet and ITU study groups on related matters;

3 to support a resilient, inclusive and interoperable Internet that is accessible to all, and to strive to ensure universal and affordable Internet access for all citizens, including persons with specific needs, pursuant to Resolution 175 (Rev. Bucharest, 2022) of this conference, taking into account the annual reports presented by the Secretary-General;

4 to identify gaps and barriers to closing gaps in digital literacy and skills and promote policies aimed at expanding opportunities and building capacities;

5 to seek the appropriate means to contribute to enhanced cooperation on international public policy issues relating to the Internet, in their respective roles and responsibilities.

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1. 1 These include the least developed countries, small island developing states, landlocked developing countries and countries with economies in transition. [↑](#footnote-ref-1)
2. 2 These include the least developed countries, small island developing states, landlocked developing countries and countries with economies in transition. [↑](#footnote-ref-2)