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| **Agenda item: PL 2** | **Document C23/13-E** |
| **16 May 2023** |
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| Report by the Secretary-General | |
| PREPARATION FOR THE 2026 WORLD TELECOMMUNICATION/ICT POLICY FORUM (WTPF-26) | |
| **Purpose**  Resolution 2 (Rev. Bucharest, 2022) of the Plenipotentiary Conference resolvesto hold the world telecommunication/ICT policy forum (WTPF) preferably back-to-back with the World Summit on the Information Society (WSIS) forum, taking account of the need to ensure adequate preparation by Member States. This document provides some background information on WTPF and highlights instructions received from the Plenipotentiary Conference (Bucharest, 2022).  **Action required by the Council**  Resolution 2 (Rev. Bucharest, 2022) instructs the ITU Council to:   1. **decide** on the duration, date, venue, agenda and themes of any future WTPF; 2. **adopt** a procedure for preparation of the report by the Secretary-General to WTPF.   The Council is invited **to provide guidance** on the above.  **Relevant link(s) with the Strategic Plan**  Advancing universal connectivity and sustainable digital transformation; convening platform.  **Financial implications**  CHF 307 000.  \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_  **References**  [*Resolution 2*](https://www.itu.int/en/council/Documents/basic-texts-2023/RES-002-E.pdf) *(Rev. Bucharest, 2022) of the Plenipotentiary Conference; Document* [*PP-22/207*](https://www.itu.int/md/S22-PP-C-0207/en) *of the Plenipotentiary Conference* | |

1. The ITU World Telecommunication/ICT Policy Forum (WTPF) was established by the Plenipotentiary Conference (Kyoto, 1994) and is covered by the provisions of Resolution 2 (Rev. Bucharest, 2022) of the Plenipotentiary Conference. WTPF was successfully convened in 1996, 1998, 2001, 2009, 2013 and 2021. The report on WTPF-21 is available in ITU Council Document [C22/5](https://www.itu.int/md/S22-CL-C-0005/en).

2. As per Resolution 2 (Rev. Bucharest, 2022), the purpose of WTPF is to provide a venue for exchanging views and information and thereby creating a shared vision among policy-makers worldwide on challenges and opportunities arising from the new and emerging telecommunication/ICT services and technologies, and to consider any other policy issue in telecommunications/ICTs which would benefit from a global exchange of views, in addition to the adoption of opinions reflecting common viewpoints.

3. WTPF should continue to give special attention to the interests and needs of the developing countries, where new and emerging telecommunication/ICT services and technologies can contribute significantly to telecommunication/ICT infrastructure development.

4. In order to ensure that they are well focused, discussions at WTPF shall be based solely on a single report by the Secretary-General, and contributions from participants based on that report, prepared in accordance with a procedure adopted by the Council and based on the proposals of Member States and Sector Members, and on the views of Associates, Academia and stakeholders.

5. WTPF shall not produce prescriptive regulatory outcomes; however, it shall prepare reports and adopt opinions by consensus for consideration by Member States, Sector Members and relevant ITU meetings.

6. WTPF shall be open to all Member States and Sector Members; however, if appropriate, by decision of a majority of the representatives of Member States, a special session may be held for Member States only.

7. Resolution 2 (Rev. Bucharest, 2022) resolves to hold WTPF preferably back-to-back with the World Summit on the Information Society (WSIS) forum, taking account of the need to ensure adequate preparation by Member States.

8. The Plenipotentiary Conference (Bucharest, 2022) also instructed the Council to schedule a WTPF in 2026.

9. Resolution 2 (Rev. Bucharest, 2022) instructs the Council to:

1. decide on the duration, date, venue, agenda and themes of any future WTPF;
2. adopt a procedure for preparation of the report by the Secretary-General to WTPF;
3. that the procedure referred to in *instructs the ITU Council* 2 should include, as appropriate, participation open to all Member States and Sector Members, and online public consultations open to all interested stakeholders, taking into account the past practices followed and experience acquired by ITU, including in respect of the preparatory process, in the holding of previous WTPFs.

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