|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **Agenda item: PL 2** | **Document C24/96-E** |
| **21 May 2024** |
| **Original: English** |
|  |  |
| Contribution by Saudi Arabia (Kingdom of), and Algeria (People's Democratic Republic of), Bahrain (Kingdom of), Cuba, Egypt (Arab Republic of), United Arab Emirates, Russian Federation, Kuwait (State of), Morocco (Kingdom of), South Africa (Republic of), and Tunisia |
| PROPOSED THEME FOR THE 2026 WORLD TELECOMMUNICATION/ICT POLICY FORUM (WTPF) |
| **Purpose**Proposed Theme for the 2026 World Telecommunication/ICT Policy Forum (WTPF)**Action required by the Council**The council is invited **to consider** and **approve** the theme proposed by this contribution to the WTPF-26.\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_**References** [*Resolution 2 (Rev. Bucharest, 2022)*](https://www.itu.int/en/council/Documents/basic-texts-2023/RES-002-E.pdf) *of the Plenipotentiary Conference* |

# Introduction:

In accordance with Resolution 2 (Rev. Bucharest, 2022), the World Telecommunication/ICT Policy Forum (WTPF) shall continue discussing and exchanging views and knowledge exchange on the new and emerging telecommunication/ICT services and technologies with a keen focus on their policy and regulatory implications, especially regarding global and cross-sectoral issues.

In our increasingly interconnected world, the stability of global communication infrastructures is essential for the functioning of digital ecosystems. This contribution explores the significance of building resilient and reliable digital systems to support an ever-growing digital economy, particularly within the domain of telecommunication/ICT policy and regulation.

# Discussion:

The digital economy is the pillar of modern society, propelling forward innovation, economic growth, and societal progress. However, the increasing complexity and interconnectivity of digital systems also expose them to various threats, including cyberattacks and natural disasters. Ensuring the resilience of these systems is essential to sustain the benefits of the digital revolution. Thus, addressing digital resilience comprehensively is vital.

Addressing digital resilience comprehensively demands a complex approach. It entails safeguarding not only physical infrastructures such as submarine cables, satellites, and terrestrial networks but also involves the implementation of robust cyber resilience protocols throughout communication network. Digital resilience includes a range of strategies, policies, and practices designed to strengthen our ability to recover from unexpected digital crises, thereby ensuring the uninterrupted operation of critical digital infrastructure.

Fostering cooperation among stakeholders is important in achieving the goal of building resilient digital systems. Collaboration between governments, regulatory bodies, industry stakeholders, and academia is essential to develop and implement effective policies and practices. This collaboration can facilitate information sharing, joint research and development initiatives, and the establishment of standards and best practices. By fostering cooperation, we can leverage collective expertise and resources to address the multifaceted challenges of digital resilience comprehensively.

# Proposal:

We propose that the theme for WTPF-26 is: “**Building Resilient Digital Systems to Support the Digital Economy.**” Considering the significance of physical and cyber resilience in communication infrastructure for sustainable socioeconomic development, WTPF 2026 will explore opportunities, challenges, and public policies to ensure the strength of our digital world for the long term.

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