|  |  |
| --- | --- |
|  | **Document CWG-Internet-20/6** |
| **4 October 2024** |
| **English only** |
|  |  |
| Report by the Chair of CWG-Internet |
| REPORT OF THE TWENTIETH MEETING OF THE COUNCIL WORKING GROUP ON INTERNATIONAL INTERNET-RELATED PUBLIC POLICY ISSUES (CWG-INTERNET) |
| **Purpose**This is the report of the twentieth meeting of CWG-Internet, held on 4 October 2024.**Action required**The Council Working Group on International Internet-related Public Policy issues is invited to **approve** this report.\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_**References**[*CWG-Internet website*](https://www.itu.int/en/council/cwg-internet/Pages/default.aspx) |

**1. Introduction**

**1.1.** The twentieth meeting of the CWG-Internet was held on 4 October 2024.

**1.2** Mr Tomas Lamanauskas, Deputy Secretary-General, welcomed participants to the twentieth meeting of CWG-Internet. He highlighted the recent developments on digital at the UN, including the Summit of the Future and the Global Digital Compact, that have also emphasized the importance of the WSIS process. Noting the mandate and status of the CWG-Internet, anchored in WSIS, and recognized and upheld by the Plenipotentiary Conference since 2010, the DSG encouraged members to leverage the rich repository of stakeholder perspectives gathered through the open consultations and invited them to contribute to the WSIS+20 review process.

**1.3** The Chair thanked the DSG for his presence and support for the meeting. He thanked members for their continued support and commitment to the CWG-Internet, noting also the diverse set of inputs received for the open consultation. The Chair urged members to consider the outcomes of the consultation in their work, and invited them to engage in the discussions of the meeting with a spirit of consensus and collaboration.

**2.** **Agenda of the meeting: CWG-Internet-20/1R2**

**2.1** The Chair presented the Agenda (CWG-Internet-20/1 (Rev. 2)). The Agenda was adopted.

**2.2** Some members highlighted the upcoming WSIS+20 process, which will include a review of the Tunis Agenda for the Information Society, and the Geneva Plan of Action. They noted that ITU will be providing its report of its related activities through CWG-WSIS&SDG. Taking into account ITU's internet-related resolutions which heavily draws from the WSIS Outcome documents, they stressed that CWG-Internet should contribute to this effort by sharing its meeting reports with CWG-WSIS&SDG. This proposal was agreed by the group.

**3. Secretariat report on ITU Internet Activities: Resolutions 101, 102, 133, 180 and 206:** [**CWG-Internet-20/2**](https://www.itu.int/md/S24-RCLINTPOL20-C-0002/en)**:**

**3.1** This report summarizes ITU’s activities related to Plenipotentiary Conference (PP) Resolution 101 (Rev. Bucharest, 2022), “Internet Protocol-based networks”; 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”; Resolution 133 (Rev. Bucharest, 2022), “Roles of administrations of Member States in the management of Internationalized (multilingual) domain names”; Resolution 180 (Rev. Bucharest, 2022), “Promoting deployment of Internet Protocol version 6” and Resolution 206 (Dubai, 2018), “OTTs”.

**3.2** Members thanked the secretariat for the Report, noting that it presents an effective overview of current activities within the Union on relevant PP 22 resolutions.

**3.3** A member highlighted in particular the relevance of the activities presented in section 2.9 of the Report regarding the ongoing work in ITU-T on security aspects related to quantum technologies, noting the new implications, risks and opportunities that such technologies present. A member requested secretariat to continue to coordinate intersectorally on participation in upcoming events and conferences on quantum technologies.

**3.4** A member suggested that an annex could be added to future reports that presents a matrix of the relevant PP 22 resolutions and the corresponding activities that are being carried out by the sectors in a checkbox format.

**3.5** The Chair asked the secretariat to take the comments into consideration in preparation of future versions of the Report. The group noted the Internet Activities Report.

**4. Presentation by secretariat of the Global Digital Compact**

**4.1** The Global Digital Compact, as an annex to the Pact for the Future, was adopted at the Summit of the Future in September 2024. It sets out the goal for an inclusive, open, sustainable, fair, safe and secure digital future for all, and recognizes the nexus between GDC implementation and the WSIS process. Noting the overlap between many of the topics covered by the GDC, as well as the mandate of CWG-Internet contained in the relevant Council decisions, secretariat presented the GDC to the CWG-Internet for consideration and feedback, if any. The contribution was noted.

**5. Discussion of responses from the Open Consultation**

**5.1 Summary of the online open consultation and physical open consultation meeting:** [**OPCWGINT-11/3**](https://www.itu.int/md/S24-OPCWGINT11-C-0003/en)

**5.1.1** The CWG examined the summary of the online open consultation and physical open consultation held on 3 October 2024.

**5.2 Related Contributions from Member States**

**5.2.1** The CWG also examined the contribution submitted by the United States of America on the common themes of the online open consultation contributions. The summary of the contribution (as submitted) is provided below:

**5.2.2** [**CWG-Internet-20/5**](https://www.itu.int/md/S24-RCLINTPOL20-C-0005/en)**: Contribution from the United States of America - Common themes of Open Consultation online contributions**

**Summary**

This contribution seeks to provide a summary of common themes that emerged in the written contributions. This document is intended to guide discussions on the value of public open consultations held by the Council Working Group on international Internet-related public policy issues.

**5.3 Discussion on** [**OPCWGINT-11/3**](https://www.itu.int/md/S24-OPCWGINT11-C-0003/en) **and** [**CWG-Internet-20/5**](https://www.itu.int/md/S24-RCLINTPOL20-C-0005/en)

**Discussions**

**5.3.1** The group noted both documents [OPCWGINT-11/3](https://www.itu.int/md/S24-OPCWGINT11-C-0003/en) and [CWG-Internet-20/5](https://www.itu.int/md/S24-RCLINTPOL20-C-0005/en).

**5.3.2** The group thanked all stakeholders for their active participation in the online and physical open consultation on “*The developmental aspects to strengthen the Internet”,* welcoming in particular the new stakeholder representatives and groups who joined this consultation meeting*.*

**5.3.3** Noting the substantive output from the open consultation, members expressed support for the contributions received from stakeholders for the open consultation.

**5.3.4** Some members were of the opinion that the CWG-Internet should discuss and propose a way forward in respect of the consultation submissions received. During the discussion of the meeting report, taking into account Council Resolution 1336 (Terms of Reference) and Document C16/120, some members expressed a view that secretariat should be invited by the CWG-Internet to prepare a brief analysis of the consultation submissions for presentation to the next meeting of the group. Some members noted that Council Resolution 1336 (Terms of Reference of the Council Working Group) does not ask for an analysis but asks the secretariat to prepare a brief draft summary of the written contributions. There was no agreement in the group on the proposal and any proposals relating to revising the modalities of the group should be submitted to Council or PP26.

**5.3.5** Some members expressed the opinion that, despite the topic covering several different areas, many of the contributions submitted to the consultation contained a common theme that emphasized cooperation among all stakeholders is essential in order to address the challenges. They further stated that Contribution 5 submitted to this meeting also points to international multistakeholder cooperation and platforms such as the IGF and others for this purpose.

**5.3.6** Some members invited the meeting to consider allowing stakeholders to attend the CWG-Internet meetings to enable the group to benefit from more ideas, experience, expertise and perspectives from all parts of the world. Some members were of the opinion that, based on the relevant Council and PP22 resolutions, the CWG-Internet meeting is open to Member States only and that the open consultation process allows expert or multistakeholder inputs on identified topics. For any change of modalities, these members suggested that proposals could be submitted to Council or PP26.

**5.3.7** As regards to the proposal contained in Contribution 5, some members expressed their support for the proposal stating (1) their support for open, transparent and multi-stakeholder governance of the Internet, noting that open consultations are essential to building collaboration and trust since the discussions of the CWG-Internet are closed; (2) their encouragement to the secretariat to continue to market the open consultation sessions widely through their network, regional offices and UN channels, and support participation from different countries and stakeholder networks, including by reducing barriers to participation such as submission and registration processes, and taking into account requirements for different languages and timezones; and (3) that consultation topics need to be focused on specific subjects but should not be overly prescriptive in a manner that restricts the diversity of views and voices that are essential.

**5.3.8** The Chair informed the group that, similar to last year, an information session on the open consultation process will also be organized at the Internet Governance Forum in Riyadh in December 2024, with the aim to enable participation of stakeholders from other regions and time zones.

**5.3.9** The Chairman invited the group to consider the output from the consultation in its deliberations.

**6. Introduction/Discussion of other contributions from Member States**

The Chair invited each of the contributors (in the order listed in the Agenda) to briefly present their proposals to the group. The CWG examined the various contributions, which were noted by the group. The summaries of the contributions (as submitted by the authors of the documents) and the corresponding discussions are provided below:

**6.1** [**CWG-Internet-20/3**](https://www.itu.int/md/S24-RCLINTPOL20-C-0003/en)(Paraguay, Armenia, Azerbaijan, Central African Rep., Mexico, Nepal (Republic of), Zambia): Proposal to discuss about connectivity aspects for LLDCs

**6.1.1 Summary**

This contribution aims to address the challenges that Landlocked Developing Countries (LLDCs) face in accessing and using the Internet due to, among other factors, affordability, limited technical infrastructure, poor connectivity and International public policy issues.

**6.1.2 Discussions**

1. Members thanked the contributors for this proposal and welcomed the contribution. The contribution was noted.
2. Noting the multi-region interest in this subject, members were of the opinion that the proposal contained in this contribution will be helpful to enable countries obtain more information on the challenges and needs of LLDCs, on aspects such as connectivity, affordability, and relevant global measures that can be adopted, with the aim of overcoming barriers that hinder inclusion in the digital sphere.
3. Some members highlighted challenges within their own countries and regions, including on aspects such as resilience and connectivity, and offered to share their experiences at the next meeting of the group. These members also invited the contributors to bring these proposals to the upcoming IGF meeting in Riyadh.
4. Noting the broad support for the contribution, the Chair suggested that the proposal in the contribution could be further discussed informally among interested members and invited the contributors to submit to the next meeting of the CWG-Internet a revised proposal presenting an option for an open consultation topic and questions for the next cycle of consultations.

**6.2** [**CWG-Internet-20/4**](https://www.itu.int/md/S24-RCLINTPOL20-C-0004/en)(Russian Federation, Belarus, Tajikistan, Uzbekistan): Implementation of the Tunis Agenda for the information society and further steps to improve Internet governance.

**6.2.1 Summary**

The purpose of this contribution is to facilitate discussions within the Council Working Group on International Internet-related Public Policy Issues (CWG-Internet) regarding the implementation of the Tunis Agenda’s provisions on Internet governance. It aims to address challenges concerning the reliability and stability of the global Internet, while gathering feedback, considerations, and proposals from Member States on how to overcome these issues. This includes mitigating risks to critical infrastructure system operators and exploring ways to improve the international Internet governance system. Additionally, the contribution seeks to expand the International Telecommunication Union's (ITU) role in Internet governance, strengthen the role of states in ensuring the Internet's integrity, sustainability, and stability, and encourage the development of appropriate regulatory legal frameworks to support these objectives.

**6.2.2 Discussions**

1. Members welcomed the contribution. The contribution was noted.
2. Some members recalled the CWG-WSIS&SDG discussion on the Global Digital Compact as well as the information session organized by the secretariat, noting that agreement was reached at the CWG-WSIS&SDG to engage the Union on the areas that relate to its expertise and mandate, with respect to WSIS+20 review process and further implementation of the GDC. Some of these areas relate to the Tunis Agenda and Geneva Plan of Action, and overlap with the mandate of the CWG-Internet as set out in the relevant Council and PP22 resolutions. These members invited the group to consider how the CWG-WSIS&SDG and CWG-Internet can collaborate on these matters.
3. Some members expressed that, while the CWG-Internet may not be the appropriate venue for this contribution, they noted that the WSIS+20 review will be taking place next year and there will be an open consultation process seeking inputs on how the Tunis Agenda and Geneva Plan of Action have been implemented over the last 20 years, and contributions such as this one could be submitted to that process.
4. The Chair reminded the members that the meeting reports of the CWG-Internet’s will be shared with CWG-WSIS&SDG.

**7 Actions**

**7.3.1** As agreed at the nineteenth meeting of the CWG-Internet in February 2024, ITU secretariat will launch the next round of Open Consultations (October 2024 – January 2025) on the topic:

*The role of public policy in promoting multilingualization of the Internet (after next cluster of CWGs:*

*1. What could ITU and its members and other stakeholders do to ensure that the Internet becomes more multilingual in nature and thus accessible for more of the global population?*

*2. What are the benefits and challenges of multilingualization of the Internet, including through universal acceptance of Internationalized Domain Names (IDNs), or the lack thereof, in terms of technical, economic, security, cultural and capacity-building?*

**7.3.2** The summary of the tenth online consultation and the physical consultation on “*The developmental aspects to strengthen the Internet*” will be submitted as part of the Chair’s report to Council.

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

**7.3.4** The meeting reports of CWG-Internet will be shared with CWG-WSIS&SDG.

**8 Presentation of Chair’s Report**

 The report of the twentieth meeting of the CWG-Internet was approved by the CWG-Internet and was posted on the CWG-Internet website (<http://www.itu.int/en/council/cwg-internet>).

**9 Any other business**

 The group thanked the Chair and secretariat for their effective organization and management of the group.

**10 Closing of the Meeting**

 In closing, the Chair thanked all the ITU Member States who made contributions and participated in the work of the group (including those who participated remotely), the Vice-Chairs, the ITU Elected Officials and the secretariat for their efficient assistance during the meeting.

 **Mr Wojciech BEREZOWSKI (Poland),
 Chair, CWG-Internet**