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|  | **Document IEG-WTPF-26-1/3-E** |
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| Contribution by Zambia | |
| FIRST DRAFT OUTLINE OF THE REPORT BY THE ITU SECRETARY-GENERAL FOR THE SEVENTH WORLD TELECOMMUNICATION/INFORMATION AND COMMUNICATION TECHNOLOGY POLICY FORUM 2026 | |
| **Purpose**  Originally established by the Plenipotentiary Conference (Kyoto, 1994) of the International Telecommunication Union (ITU), the World Telecommunication/Information and Communication Technology Policy Forum (WTPF) has been successfully convened in 1996, 1998, 2001, 2009, 2013 and 2021. By its [Resolution 2 (Rev. Bucharest, 2022)](https://www.itu.int/en/council/Documents/basic-texts-2023/RES-002-E.pdf), the Plenipotentiary Conference of the ITU resolved to hold the next WTPF in 2026.  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 (Resolution 2 (Rev. Bucharest, 2022)).  **Action required**  The Informal Expert Group on WTPF-26 is invited **to note** and **consider** the following comments by Zambia to the draft of the first Report by the ITU Secretary-General to the 7th WTPF-26.  \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_  **References**  *Resolution* [*2 (Rev. Bucharest, 2022)*](https://www.itu.int/en/council/Documents/basic-texts-2023/RES-002-E.pdf)*; Decision* [*641 (C24)*](https://www.itu.int/md/S24-CL-C-0136/en) | |

*a)* The report presents a comprehensive and yet concise overview of the mandate and the work plan for the IEG-WTPF-26 as stated in Decision 641 (C24).

*b)* Given the trends and nature of emerging technologies, the approved theme for WTPF-26 of “**Accelerating an inclusive, sustainable, resilient, and innovative digital future**” is both timely and ideal. This theme will allow for effective gathering and sharing of best practices and experiences to further enhance access, adoption and usage of digital technologies which will inform policies of the future.

*c)* Whilst the historical context was clearly presented, but it may be useful to briefly highlight any **major outcomes or impacts of previous WTPFs** to emphasize the forum's relevance and success.

*d)* Under section 1.4 Non-Binding Nature, the clarification that the WTPF-26 will not produce prescriptive regulatory outcomes is important, but it might be worth mentioning how the non-binding opinions have been used in the past to influence policy or regulatory frameworks.

*e)* The timetable is comprehensive and well detailed, this will be excellent for planning purposes. Zambia agrees with the proposed schedule and work plan.

*f)* Aside from discussing challenges and opportunities relating to the 2026 theme for the WTPF, future reports and discussions should consider including:

i) **Policy Recommendations:** non-binding recommendations for Member States, Sector Members, and other stakeholders. Suggestions could be grouped into categories such as regulatory approaches, capacity-building initiatives, public-private partnerships, or international cooperation.

ii) **Potential Impact:** Analysis of the potential impact of implementing the recommendations. Consideration of how these recommendations might influence global or regional ICT policies or practices.

iii) **Stakeholder Roles:** Description of the roles that different stakeholders (governments, private sector, civil society, etc.) could play in advancing the recommendations.

*g)* Overall, the first draft was well-organized and follows a logical sequence, making it easy to navigate. The inclusion of historical context about previous World Telecommunication/Information and Communication Technology Policy Forums (WTPFs) was equally helpful for tracking the evolution of these forums. Consideration could however be made to include key outcomes from each forum to take stock of successes, avert duplicity as well as enhance current and future efforts as proposed under item *c)*.

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