# 5 August 2024

# **First Draft Outline of the Report by the ITU Secretary-General** for the Seventh World Telecommunication/Information and Communication Technology Policy Forum 2026

**1. The Seventh World Telecommunication/Information and Communication Technology Policy Forum 2026 (WTPF-26)**

1.1 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.

1.2 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)](https://www.itu.int/en/council/Documents/basic-texts-2023/RES-002-E.pdf)).

1.3 By its [Decision 641 (C24)](https://www.itu.int/md/S24-CL-C-0136/en), the ITU Council decided that the theme for WTPF-26 is as follows:

“***Accelerating an inclusive, sustainable, resilient, and innovative digital future***: In this regard, the WTPF-26 will discuss opportunities, challenges and policies to address the following:

– bridging digital divides, particularly on gender and age as well as skills and connectivity

– green digital transformation: climate change and environmental sustainability

– resilience of telecommunication/ICTs

– space connectivity

– strengthening ICT-centric innovation ecosystems and entrepreneurship”

1.4 WTPF-26 shall not produce prescriptive regulatory outcomes; however, it shall prepare reports and adopt non-binding opinions by consensus for consideration by Member States, Sector Members, and relevant ITU meetings ([Resolution 2 (Rev. Bucharest, 2022)](https://www.itu.int/en/council/Documents/basic-texts-2023/RES-002-E.pdf)).

1.5 All information relating to WTPF-26 is posted on <https://www.itu.int/en/council/Pages/ieg-wtpf-26.aspx>.

**2 Preparatory process for the ITU Secretary-General’s Report**

2.1 Discussions at WTPF-26 shall be based solely on a single report by the ITU 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, and WTPF shall not consider drafts of any new opinions that were not presented during the preparatory period foreseen for drawing up the Secretary-General’s report prior to the forum ([Resolution 2 (Rev. Bucharest, 2022)](https://www.itu.int/en/council/Documents/basic-texts-2023/RES-002-E.pdf)).

2.2 In accordance with [Decision 641 (C24)](https://www.itu.int/md/S24-CL-C-0136/en), the ITU Secretary-General shall convene a balanced, informal group of experts (IEG), each of whom is active in preparing for WTPF-26 in his/her own country, to assist in this process. In this regard, a circular letter ([CL-24/44](https://www.itu.int/md/S24-SG-CIR-0044/en)) has been sent on 14 June 2024 to Member States, the State of Palestine, Sector Members, Associates, Academia, and Organizations which have the right to attend ITU conferences and meetings as observers, calling for nomination of experts to constitute the IEG. The first meeting of the IEG will be held on 7-8 October 2024.

2.3 The preparatory process will be guided by the timetable set out as in Annex 2 of Decision 641 and in Table 1 below.

**Table 1: Timetable for the elaboration of the ITU Secretary-General’s Report**

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| **5 August 2024** | A First Draft outline of the Report by the Secretary-General shall be posted online for comments |
| **26 August 2024** | Deadline for receipt of comments on the First Draft, and for contribution on outlines for possible draft opinions  Deadline for nominations for a balanced group of experts to advise the Secretary-General on further elaboration of the report and of draft opinions associated with it |
| **1st IEG Meeting (7-8 October 2024 during the CWG cluster)** | First meeting of the group of experts to discuss the First Draft of the report by the Secretary-General and the comments received |
| **4 November 2024** | The Second Draft of the report by the Secretary-General will be posted online, incorporating discussions from the 1st IEG meeting and including outlines of draft Opinions  This draft will also be made available online for open public consultations |
| **20 December 2024** | Deadline for receipt of comments on the Second Draft and for contribution on possible draft Opinions  Deadline for inputs from the open public consultations |
| **2nd IEG Meeting (February 2025 during the CWG cluster)** | Second meeting of the group of experts to discuss the Second Draft of the report by the Secretary-General as well as the possible draft Opinions and the comments received, including from the open public consultation |
| **31 March 2025** | The Third Draft of the report by the Secretary-General will be posted online, incorporating discussions from the 2nd IEG meeting, and including the text of the possible draft Opinions as an Annex  This draft will also be made available online for open public consultations. |
| **16 June 2025** | Deadline for receipt of comments on the Third Draft, including the possible draft Opinions  Deadline for receipt of comments from the open public consultation |
| **3rd IEG Meeting (September 2025 during the CWG cluster)** | Third meeting of the group of experts to discuss the Third Draft of the report by the Secretary-General as well as the draft Opinions and the comments received, including from the open public consultation |
| **3 November 2025** | The Fourth Draft of the report by the Secretary-General will be posted online, incorporating discussions from the 3rd IEG meeting and including the draft Opinions as an Annex |
| **19 December 2025** | Deadline for receipt of comments on the Fourth Draft, including the text of the draft Opinions |
| **4th IEG Virtual Meeting (February 2026 during the CWG cluster)** | Fourth meeting of the group of experts to finalize the Draft Report by the Secretary-General, including the final text of the draft Opinions to be submitted to the seventh WTPF |
| **13 April 2026** | The final report of the Secretary-General to WTPF will be posted online, including the draft Opinions |
| **First half of 2026** | Seventh World Telecommunication/Information and Communication Technology Policy Forum |

3. **Next Steps**

This first draft outline of the report by the Secretary-General (“Report”) aims to present an overview of the mandate and the work plan for the IEG-WTPF-26 as stated in [Decision 641 (C24)](https://www.itu.int/md/S24-CL-C-0136/en). Taking into account the contributions received and discussions at the first meeting of the IEG-WTPF-26, and in keeping with past precedence, future versions of the Report will aim to outline the potential scope for discussions and present some of the policy issues under consideration among different stakeholder groups on the theme of WTPF-26. As and when the draft Opinions start to be discussed and agreed by the IEG-WTPF-26, the Report will also present them in the Annex.

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