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| **Agenda item: PL 3** | **Document C25/5-E** |
| **16 May 2025** |
| **Original: English** |
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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 resolves to hold the World Telecommunication/ICT Policy Forum (WTPF). Council-24 decided to convene a seventh WTPF for a duration of three days in the first half of 2026 (WTPF-26), with the dates and venue to be determined by the next session of the Council and created an Informal Expert Group (IEG) to assist with the development of the Report by the Secretary-General to WTPF-26. This document provides an update on the status of the preparatory process for WTPF-26.  **Action required by the Council**  The Council is invited to **take note** of the preparatory process.  **Relevant link(s) with the Strategic Plan**  Convening platforms.  **Financial implications**  KCHF 180 from the savings of the 2024 budget implementation (see Document [C25/43](https://www.itu.int/md/S25-CL-C-0043/en)), and KCHF 285 contained in the 2026-2027 budget (see Document [C25/47](https://www.itu.int/md/S25-CL-C-0047/en)).  \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_  **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* [*207*](https://www.itu.int/md/S22-PP-C-0207/en) *of the Plenipotentiary Conference 2022; Document* [*C24/5*](https://www.itu.int/md/S24-CL-C-0005/en)*;* [*Decision 641*](https://www.itu.int/md/S24-CL-C-0136/en) | |

# 1 Background

1.1 The ITU World Telecommunication/ICT Policy Forum (WTPF) was established by the 1994 Kyoto Plenipotentiary Conference and is covered by the provisions of Resolution 2 (Rev. Bucharest, 2022).

1.2 In accordance with Resolution 2 (Rev. Bucharest, 2022), the 2024 session of the Council approved Decision 641 (Document [C24/136](https://www.itu.int/md/S24-CL-C-0136/en)), which decided to convene the seventh WTPF (WTPF-26) for a duration of three days in the first half of 2026 (WTPF-26), with the dates and venue to be determined by the next session of the Council.

1.3 By [Decision 641](https://www.itu.int/md/S24-CL-C-0136/en) (Council, 2024), the 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”

# 2 Preparatory process for WTPF-26

2.1 In accordance with [Decision 641](https://www.itu.int/md/S24-CL-C-0136/en) (C24), the ITU Secretary-General has convened an Informal Experts Group (IEG-WTPF-26) to prepare the report by the Secretary-General to WTPF-26 (SG Report) that will form the basis of discussions at the WTPF-26. Council 2024 also appointed Mr Rodney Taylor of Barbados as the Chair of the IEG, as well as six vice-chairs representing each of the ITU regions. Member States, Sector Members, Associates, and Academia, as well as the State of Palestine and organizations that have the right to attend ITU Conferences and meetings as observers, were invited to nominate their experts to the IEG-WTPF-26 (Circular Letter [CL-24/44](https://www.itu.int/md/S24-SG-CIR-0044/en)). The IEG has held two meetings so far: on 7-8 October 2024 and 13-14 February 2025. The list of nominated experts is available [here](https://www.itu.int/en/council/ties/Documents/2025/IEG-WTPF26-Final%20list%20of%20participants.pdf).

2.2 At its first meeting, the IEG discussed the First Draft of the SG Report as well as the potential topics of possible draft Opinions based on the theme for the WTPF-26, with agreed facilitation by Vice-Chairs/thematic facilitator for each of the topics currently under discussion as follows:

– Bridging Digital Divides, led by Vice-Chair Mr Ashok Kumar (India)

– Green Digital Transformation, led by Vice-Chair Mr Muath Alrumayh (Saudi Arabia)

– Building Resilient Telecommunication/ICT Infrastructure, led by Vice-Chair Mr Dominic Ooko (Kenya)

– Space Connectivity, led by Thematic Facilitator Mr Ronaldo Neves de Moura Filho (Brazil)

– Strengthening ICT-centric Innovation Ecosystems, led by Vice-Chair Mr Tobias Kaufman (Germany)

The IEG also revised the timetable for the preparation of the SG Report that is set out as Annex 2 of [Decision 641](https://www.itu.int/md/S24-CL-C-0136/en) (C24)Decision 641 (Council 2024). The revised table is presented in the Annex to this document. In accordance with the revised timetable, a Second Draft of the SG Report was developed by the secretariat, taking into account the comments received from the IEG, and published in November 2024 for inputs from the IEG members as well as through an open public consultation, in advance of the second meeting of the Group.

2.3 At its second meeting, the IEG discussed the Second Draft of the SG Report, including the comments received through the open public consultation, as well as the outlines of the possible draft Opinions. The IEG also agreed to continue discussions on the potential draft Opinions by holding a series of informal online consultations among interested members between the second and third IEG meetings, with facilitation by the respective Vice-Chairs/Thematic Facilitators mentioned above (informal Working Groups). In accordance with the revised timetable, a Third Draft of the SG Report was developed by the secretariat, taking into account the comments received from the IEG, and published in March 2025 for inputs from the IEG members as well as through a second open public consultation, in advance of the third meeting of the Group.

2.4 At the time of drafting this report, as of 10 May 2025, each of the five informal Working Groups had convened at least once, led by the respective Vice-Chair or Thematic Facilitator. The working methods of these groups are flexible, with the secretariat providing support as needed, including through electronic meeting and collaboration tools. All IEG members have been invited to join each informal working group as desired. More sessions of the informal Working Groups will be convened as needed by the Vice-Chairs/Thematic Facilitator. The aim of these meetings is to support the IEG’s work by fostering further common understandings and potential convergence on the various possible draft Opinions.

2.5 All documents related to the preparatory process are available on the [IEG website](https://www.itu.int/en/council/Pages/ieg-wtpf-26.aspx). These include the various drafts of the SG Report, contributions received from IEG members (including on possible draft Opinions), and the feedback received from the online open public consultation process. An email reflector ([iegwtpf26@lists.itu.int](mailto:iegwtpf26@lists.itu.int)) has been set up to facilitate communications among the members of the Group between the meetings.

# 3 Organization and preparation of logistics

3.1 An internal intersectoral team is supporting the secretariat for coordinating the preparations for WTPF-26.

3.2 The WTPF website containing all related information has also been published and is available here: <https://wtpf.itu.int/2026/>. This includes the current second open online public consultation, which is open for the period March – June 2025. The website includes new functionalities, including individual pages dedicated to showcasing ITU initiatives related to the topics identified in the WTPF-26 theme.

# 4 Venue and dates

4.1 In the absence of room availabilities at Geneva International Conference Center in 2026, the Secretary-General issued a call for interest in November 2024 to Member States to host WTPF-26 via Circular Letter [CL-24/69](https://www.itu.int/md/S24-SG-CIR-0069/en), requesting that any interested Member State contact the secretariat for further information by 20 December 2024. Pursuant to this letter, the secretariat responded to requests from eight Member States with more information (overall presentation on WTPF; draft host country agreement (HCA); estimate of expenses). Follow-up emails were sent by the secretariat in mid-February 2025 requesting a confirmation of the Member State’s continued interest in hosting the event by 28 February 2025. Currently, the secretariat is advancing in discussions with a Member State for potentially hosting the WTPF‑26 in the first half of 2026 in view of taking a decision at the Council.

***Annex:*** *1*

Annex

Revised timetable for the preparation 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 (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 Meeting (January 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 |

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