|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **Agenda item: PL 2** | **Document C25/51-E** |
| **17 April 2025** |
| **Original: English** |
|  |  |
| Chair, Council Working Group on international Internet-related public policy issues |
| REPORT BY THE CHAIR OF THE COUNCIL WORKING GROUP ON INTERNATIONAL INTERNET-RELATED PUBLIC POLICY ISSUES (CWG-INTERNET) |
| **Purpose**This Report summarizes the main results of the twentieth and twenty-first meeting of Council Working Group on international Internet-related public policy issues (CWG-Internet), held on 4 October 2024 and 19-20 February 2025 respectively, in line with PP Resolutions 102 (Rev. Bucharest, 2022) and 140 (Rev. Bucharest, 2022), and Council Resolutions 1305 (Mod. 2019) and 1336 (Mod. 2019).**Action required by the Council**The Council is invited **to note** the Report.**Relevant link(s) with the Strategic Plan**Membership Driven**Financial implications**Within the allocated budget 2024-2025.\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_**References***PP Resolutions* [*102 (Rev. Bucharest, 2022)*](https://www.itu.int/en/council/Documents/basic-texts-2023/RES-102-E.pdf) *and* [*140 (Rev. Bucharest, 2022)*](https://www.itu.int/en/council/Documents/basic-texts-2023/RES-140-E.pdf)*; Council Resolutions* [*1305 (Mod. 2019)*](https://www.itu.int/md/S19-CL-C-0136/en) *and* [*1336 (Mod. 2019)*](https://www.itu.int/md/S19-CL-C-0140/en) |

# 1 Introduction

1.1 The [ITU Council Working Group on International Internet-related Public Policy Issues (CWG-Internet)](https://www.itu.int/en/council/cwg-internet/Pages/default.aspx) was established as a separate group by Council Resolution 1336 (Mod. 2019), in accordance with Resolutions 102 and 140 of the ITU Plenipotentiary Conference (Rev. Bucharest, 2022). CWG-Internet is limited to Member States, with open consultation to all stakeholders.

1.2 The Terms of Reference for CWG-Internet are specified in Council Resolution 1336 (Mod. 2019).

1.3 Plenipotentiary Conference Resolution 102 (Rev. Bucharest, 2022) instructed the Council:

– to direct the CWG-Internet, limited to Member States, with open consultation to all stakeholders, and to conduct such open consultation according to the guidelines mentioned in the resolution;

– taking into account the annual reports presented by the Secretary-General and the Directors of the Bureaux, to take appropriate measures in order to contribute actively to the implementation of this resolution and international initiatives related to this resolution, within the mandate of ITU;

– to consider the reports of CWG-Internet and take the necessary actions;

– to report to the 2026 plenipotentiary conference on the activities undertaken and achievements in respect of the implementation of this resolution, including proposals for further consideration as appropriate.

# 2 CWG-Internet activities

2.1 CWG-Internet held its twentieth and twenty-first meetings of CWG-Internet on 4 October 2024 and 19-20 February 2025, respectively, at the ITU Headquarters in Geneva, Switzerland.

2.2 The reports of the [twentieth](https://www.itu.int/md/S24-RCLINTPOL20-C-0006/en) and [twenty-first](https://www.itu.int/md/S25-RCLINTPOL21-C-0010/en) meetings were approved by the Group.

2.3 In the twentieth meeting, the Group discussed the results of the open consultation as well as contributions received from members, and launched the next open consultation on the following topic and questions as agreed by the Group at its [nineteenth meeting](https://www.itu.int/md/S24-RCLINTPOL19-C-0007/en):

 ***The role of public policy in promoting multilingualization of the Internet***

*1 What could ITU, 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?*

2.4 At the twenty-first meeting, the Group discussed the results of the open consultation as well as contributions received from members, and approved the following action:

ITU Secretariat will launch the next round of Open Consultations (February – September 2025) on the topic:

 ***Ensuring meaningful connectivity to the Internet for landlocked developing countries (LLDCs)***

 *1 What strategies can be adopted to ensure meaningful connectivity to the Internet for LLDCs?*

 *2 What unique challenges do LLDCs face in attaining meaningful connectivity to the Internet, and what specific policies and measures can be taken, in particular, regarding the following:*

*– affordability*

*– quality of bandwidth or communications*

*– investment*

*– infrastructure*

*– enabling environment*

*– security and resilience.*

 *3 What can ITU Membership, governments and other stakeholders, including those from transit countries, do to ensure meaningful connectivity to the Internet for LLDCs?*

# 3 Conclusion

3.1 The Council is invited to note this report.

3.2 On behalf of CWG-Internet, the Chair extends his personal thanks to all the ITU Member States who made contributions and participated in the work of the Group, the Vice-Chairs, the Secretary-General, Deputy Secretary-General, Directors of TSB, BR, and BDT, and the General Secretariat for their efficient assistance during the twentieth and twenty-first meetings of the CWG-Internet.

 Wojciech Berezowski (Poland)
 Chair, CWG-Internet