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|  | **Document C25/108‑E** |
| **15 August 2025** |
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| **SUMMARY RECORD**  **OF THE**  **SECOND PLENARY MEETING** | |
| Wednesday, 18 June 2025, from 1435 to 1745 hours  **Chair**: Ms C. Flutur (Romania) | |

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|  | **Subjects discussed** | **Documents** |
| 1 | Presentation on the 2026 plenipotentiary conference | ‑ |
| 2 | Preparations for the 2026 plenipotentiary conference | [C25/4](https://www.itu.int/md/S25-CL-C-0004/en) |
| 3 | Report on the 2024 Global Standards Symposium and 2024 World Telecommunication Standardization Assembly | [C25/24](https://www.itu.int/md/S25-CL-C-0024/en), [C25/INF/14](https://www.itu.int/md/S25-CL-INF-0014/en) |
| 4 | Report by the Chair of Council Working Group on international Internet‑related public policy issues | [C25/51](https://www.itu.int/md/S25-CL-C-0051/en) |
| 5 | ITU Internet activities: Resolutions 101, 102, 133, 180 and 206 of the Plenipotentiary Conference | [C25/33](https://www.itu.int/md/S25-CL-C-0033/en) |
| 6 | Report of the Chair of CWG‑WSIS&SDG on the outcomes of the 41st and 42nd meetings | [C25/8](https://www.itu.int/md/S25-CL-C-0008/en) |
| 7 | WSIS+20 report on ITU's contribution to the implementation of and follow‑up to the WSIS outcomes and its role in achieving the SDGs | [C25/61](https://www.itu.int/md/S25-CL-C-0061/en)**,** [C25/80](https://www.itu.int/md/S25-CL-C-0080/en) |
| 8 | Condolences on the passing of Nigel Hickson | ‑ |
| 9 | Statements by councillors | ‑ |

# 1 Presentation on the 2026 plenipotentiary conference

1.1 The observer for Qatar outlined preparations for the 2026 plenipotentiary conference (PP‑26), to be held at the Doha Exhibition Conference Centre. After announcement of the chair designate in early 2024, an ITU delegation had visited Qatar and confirmed that the venue met requirements for space, technology, security, location and access. Conference roles and responsibilities had been defined: the Qatar Communications Regulatory Authority was responsible for content, the Qatar Permanent Committee for Organizing Conferences for logistics.

1.2 The host country agreement and site plan were being finalized, and the delegates' hotel platform would be launched shortly. The ITU team would return to Qatar in November 2025 to observe the organization of the Second World Summit for Social Development.

1.3 Qatar promised a world‑class conference in an environment blending tradition and modernity. With ITU, it was finalizing a digital platform for communication, registration and programme visibility. Branding guidelines, beginning with the logo, would be issued.

1.4 Councillors viewed a brief video on the inspiration behind the PP‑26 logo.

1.5 The Secretary‑General thanked Qatar for its strong collaboration and commitment to a successful PP‑26.

# 2 Preparations for the 2026 plenipotentiary conference (Document [C25/4](https://www.itu.int/md/S25-CL-C-0004/en))

2.1 The Secretary of the Plenary introduced Document C25/4, providing an update on preparations for PP‑26 and planned improvements. The secretariat and host country met monthly online to exchange information, discuss preparatory elements and finalize the host country agreement. Preparation of the chair‑designate had begun.

2.2 The document included, in annex, the Guidelines on ethical aspects of certain campaign activities prior to the plenipotentiary conference, which the Council was asked to re‑endorse.

2.3 Several councillors and one observer thanked the Government of Qatar for hosting PP‑26 and for its efforts. One councillor recalled that the Arab States region had a long track record of successfully hosting ITU events.

2.4 Several councillors commended the regional and interregional preparatory process. It was suggested that three interregional meetings be held, as in 2018 and 2022, preferably in Geneva and alongside other ITU meetings, in order to take advantage of the high diplomatic presence and avoid travel costs. The meetings should be held in a format and at a time that facilitated both remote and in‑person participation.

2.5 The councillor from Saudi Arabia announced his administration's willingness to host the last interregional meeting before PP‑26.

2.6 Councillors supported efforts to increase participation by women and youth. The role of youth should be clearly defined to promote genuine engagement on their part. A councillor proposed repeating the ITU Academy's 2022 course on the Plenipotentiary Conference and negotiation skills for women delegates, and including first‑time and young delegates. First‑time participants should also benefit from training for leaders of working or study groups.

2.7 Several councillors acknowledged the benefit of a defined ministerial segment but stressed the need for sufficient time or alternative sessions to maximize high‑level involvement and promote more dynamic participation.

2.8 Several councillors stressed that conference documents should above all be comprehensive. Reductions in volume should not undermine Member States' ability to take informed decisions.

2.9 One councillor said that, as the guidelines on ethical aspects of certain campaign activities provided clear measures to avoid the appearance of unethical behaviour and as candidates were often publicly announced in advance of official communication to the Secretary‑General, the requirement that an appointed staff member be placed on special leave without pay upon official communication of candidacy for an election should be removed from Regulation 12.2 of the ITU Staff Regulations and Staff Rules.

2.10 One councillor supported reducing campaign materials for greater environmental responsibility and recommended recycling where materials were used. He also proposed that the secretariat explore electronic voting options, drawing on best practices at other United Nations organizations.

2.11 Mr Ahmad Abdulla AlMuslemani, chair designate of PP‑26, confirmed support for holding ministerial-level meetings during the first three days of the conference to enhance political dialogue. The host country would follow United Nations sustainability standards, including reducing paper and energy use. Qatar aimed to foster inclusive participation by women and youth, through experience sharing and pre-conference training. As chair, he would work to build consensus and promote collaboration, drawing on experiences from the chairs of PP‑18 and PP‑22. He emphasized in particular the value of the inter-regional preparatory process, which had been adopted in advance of PP-18, and said that he was fully engaged in that process ahead of PP-26. An effective and collaborative preparatory process would ensure a successful conference. He also added that geographical balance in leadership would be ensured based on regional proposals.

2.12 The councillor from Romania, speaking as host of PP‑22, expressed appreciation for the facilities being prepared in Doha, the secretariat's strong support and the interregional coordination process, which would save time and reduce late sessions. She supported the planned training initiatives and environmental measures and endorsed the guidelines on campaign activities.

2.13 The Secretary of the Plenary confirmed that the secretariat would continue to provide training materials on conference processes. She welcomed Saudi Arabia's offer to host the last interregional preparatory meeting, at which remote participation would be facilitated. Regarding the requested amendment of Regulation 12.2 of the Staff Regulations and Staff Rules, that matter fell within the remit of the Council. The Guidelines on ethical aspects of certain campaign activities, unchanged and already endorsed in 2017 and 2021, were not legally binding; re‑endorsement would provide continued guidance for the upcoming election campaigns.

2.14 The Chair proposed that the Council note Document C25/4 and re‑endorse the Guidelines on ethical aspects of certain campaign activities.

2.15 It was so **agreed**.

# 3 Report on the 2024 Global Standards Symposium and 2024 World Telecommunication Standardization Assembly (Documents [C25/24](https://www.itu.int/md/S25-CL-C-0024/en), [C25/INF/14](https://www.itu.int/md/S25-CL-INF-0014/en))

3.1 The Director of the Telecommunication Standardization Bureau (TSB) expressed sincere gratitude to the Government of India for its exceptional hospitality and the arrangements made for the 2024 Global Standards Symposium (GSS‑24) and the 2024 World Telecommunication Standardization Assembly (WTSA‑24).

3.2 The Deputy to the Director of TSB introduced the secretariat's report on the two events (Document C25/24) and invited councillors to consult Document C25/INF/14 for further details on the events.

3.3 Several councillors commended the outcomes of both events, noting that GSS-24 inputs had facilitated WTSA-24 outcomes, which included new and revised resolutions on ITU‑T's work in key areas, such as sustainable digital transformation, digital public infrastructure and digitalization of societies, and the consolidation of Study Groups 9 and 16 into the newly established ITU-T Study Group 21.

3.4 Another councillor welcomed the increasing focus on standardization in artificial intelligence (AI) and sustainability, and the progress made by the Network of Women in ITU‑T. He supported the call for nomination of women for ITU‑T leadership positions.

3.5 The Secretary‑General thanked the Government of India for its hospitality and for its seamless organization of both events. The WTSA‑24 outcomes reflected a shared commitment to responsible digital transformation.

3.6 The councillor from India expressed his government's gratitude to the Member States, leadership and staff of ITU for their support in making WTSA‑24 a success.

3.7 The Council **noted** the report contained in Document C25/24.

# 4 Report by the Chair of Council Working Group on international Internet-related public policy issues (Document [C25/51](https://www.itu.int/md/S25-CL-C-0051/en))

4.1 The Chair of the Council Working Group on international Internet‑related public policy issues (CWG-Internet) introduced Document C25/51, summarizing the outcomes of the group's 20th and 21st meetings, on 4 October 2024 and 19‑20 February 2025, respectively.

4.2 Several councillors, noting that CWG-Internet membership was limited to Member States, suggested extending it to Sector Members, in particular those in the technical community, whose expertise and experience were highly relevant. One councillor asked whether the terms of reference had to be amended by the Plenipotentiary Conference via revision of Resolution 102 (Rev. Bucharest, 2022). One observer, recalling that CWG-Internet membership had been the subject of diverging views in past Council discussions, said that the matter should be raised at PP‑26. The Secretary of the Plenary confirmed that the terms of reference, enshrined in a PP resolution, could be amended only by the Plenipotentiary Conference.

4.3 Several councillors, referring to the ongoing open consultation on landlocked developing countries (LLDCs), encouraged the secretariat to explore targeted outreach and capacity building for LLDCs, which depended on transit countries for connectivity. Member States were urged to participate actively in the consultation.

4.4 Several councillors recommended that future CWG-Internet reports include summaries and progress updates on implementation of past recommendations, to facilitate assessment of whether consultations led to concrete outcomes or remained primarily discussion platforms. An observer noted that the present report did not contain any recommendations to the Council.

4.5 One councillor requested implementation of Council Resolution 1305 (C09, last amended C24), in particular *instructs the Secretary‑General* 2, to enhance the effectiveness of CWG‑Internet and its consultations. Another councillor stressed the importance of CWG-Internet fulfilling areas of its mandate beyond consultations.

4.6 Another councillor highlighted the role of public policy in promoting multilingualization of the Internet and ensuring meaningful connectivity for LLDCs as priority areas for ITU.

4.7 The Chair of CWG-Internet urged Member States to submit proposals to the next meeting and invited broad participation in open consultations. The management team had engaged with stakeholders and would continue such efforts, including at the upcoming Internet Governance Forum in Norway.

4.8 The Council **noted** thereport contained in Document C25/51.

# 5 ITU Internet activities: Resolutions 101, 102, 133, 180 and 206 of the Plenipotentiary Conference (Document [C25/33](https://www.itu.int/md/S25-CL-C-0033/en))

5.1 A representative of the General Secretariat introduced Document C25/33, which contained a report summarizing ITU activities related to PP Resolution 101 (Rev. Bucharest, 2022), on Internet Protocol-based networks; Resolution 102 (Rev. Bucharest, 2022), on 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), on roles of administrations of Member States in the management of Internationalized (multilingual) domain names; Resolution 180 (Rev. Bucharest, 2022), on promoting deployment of Internet Protocol version 6; and Resolution 206 (Dubai, 2018), on OTTs.

5.2 The councillor from Paraguay reiterated his country's request, made at meetings of CWG-Internet, for reports on ITU Internet activities to refer to Resolution 1 (Dubai, 2012) of the World Conference on International Telecommunications, on special measures for landlocked developing countries and small island developing states for access to international optical fibre networks. He suggested including data from the reports *Facts and Figures: Focus on Small Island Developing States* and *Facts and Figures: Focus on Landlocked Developing Countries*, as those data would highlight gaps and guide development of the next strategic plan for the Union.

5.3 One councillor proposed that CWG-Internet and the relevant ITU-T study group consider creating separate ITU-T focus groups for AI and the Internet of Things, with a broader focus on socio-economic sectors, not limited to digital agriculture.

5.4 The councillor from Cuba requested revision of § 2.9 of Document C25/33 to report more accurately on incidents covered by WTSA Resolution 69 (Rev. Hammamet, 2016), on non-discriminatory access and use of Internet resources. Many Internet resources could not be accessed in Cuba owing to unilateral actions; thus, the reported, meagre total of 37 such incidents since 2009 did not reflect reality. Sanctions imposed on Cuba by the United States, in violation of international law, limited access to technologies and equipment that were produced under licence, formed of more than 10 per cent of United States-origin components or protected by a United States patent, which included mobile antennas and computer systems. It was impossible to access certain websites and search engines, in addition to specialized information needed for education. Cuba, after being a member of GSMA since 2003, had been denied the right to participate since 2020, owing to unilateral measures. However, it had been able to participate at events on the margins of the Mobile World Congress in Barcelona thanks to the host country. As long as unilateral measures remained in place, it would be impossible for Cuba to achieve the strategic objectives of universal connectivity and a sustainable digital transformation. In order to achieve universal connectivity, she called on ITU to ensure implementation of Article 1 of the ITU Constitution and Resolution 69 (Rev. Hammamet, 2016), and on Member States to refrain from imposing unilateral measures on others.

5.5 The councillor from the United States of America said that economic sanctions were a lawful, appropriate and effective tool for addressing threats to national security and stability. Sanctions were not punitive, but rather aimed at changing behaviours and containing the ability of bad actors to take advantage of the United States' financial system or threaten the country or its allies or partners. Sanctions could be lifted in the event of sufficient behavioural change.

5.6 The councillor from Cuba reiterated that the application of economic sanctions resulted in the Cuban people being deprived of access to technologies and their own potential development in the field of ICTs and telecommunications.

5.7 The Council **noted** the report in Document C25/33 and **invited** Council Member States to submit any views in writing by midday Geneva time on Friday, 20 June 2025, with a view to transmitting the report to the United Nations Secretary‑General, along with a compilation of the views of Council Member States and the related summary records, with a cover note.

# 6 Report of the Chair of CWG‑WSIS&SDG on the outcomes of the 41st and 42nd meetings (Document [C25/8](https://www.itu.int/md/S25-CL-C-0008/en))

6.1 The Chair of the Council Working Group on the World Summit on the Information Society (WSIS) and Sustainable Development Goals (CWG‑WSIS&SDG) introduced the report in Document C25/8, summarizing the main outcomes of the group's 41st and 42nd meetings.

6.2 Many councillors expressed appreciation for the report and reaffirmed their commitment to the WSIS process. Broad support was voiced for its continuation beyond 2025. Given the need for complementarity and the avoidance of duplication, it is important to align and integrate the objectives of the Global Digital Compact (GDC) and the Pact for the Future within the WSIS process—particularly with regard to AI and data governance. As prior discussions on these topics have been contentious, it would be unnecessarily burdensome to relitigate them.

6.3 One councillor recalled that her country had disassociated itself from the Pact of the Future and its annexes at adoption. It viewed the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development as legally non-binding aspirations subject to national interpretation. Her country maintained reservations concerning references to the 2030 Agenda, United Nations Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), Pact for the Future and GDC.

6.4 Another councillor said that contributions from all stakeholders should inform the WSIS+20 review process. WSIS, with its unique mandate and process, should remain distinct from other mechanisms. The WSIS action lines, designed to be technology neutral, remained valid in the face of new and emerging technologies and should not be reopened. His country supported making the mandate of the Internet Governance Forum permanent and implementing the broadly supported São Paulo Multistakeholder Guidelines.

6.5 One councillor called for stronger regional implementation of WSIS action lines through tailored initiatives addressing the specific needs of different regions in support of digital transformation and sustainable development.

6.6 The Council **noted** the report contained in Document C25/8.

# 7 WSIS+20 report on ITU's contribution to the implementation of and follow-up to the WSIS outcomes and its role in achieving the SDGs (Documents [C25/61](https://www.itu.int/md/S25-CL-C-0061/en), [C25/80](https://www.itu.int/md/S25-CL-C-0080/en))

7.1 The Chief of the Strategic Planning and Membership Department introduced the report in Document C25/61, which incorporated guidance and input from the 2024 meetings of the Council and CWG‑WSIS&SDG. Outcomes of the WSIS+20 High-Level Event to be held in July 2025 and a summary of submissions from the ITU call for input on the WSIS+20 review could be incorporated into the report. The WSIS+20 review by the United Nations General Assembly in December 2025 would provide an opportunity to assess progress, identify challenges and strengthen collaboration.

7.2 The observer for the Russian Federation introduced Document C25/80 and invited councillors to consider the proposals contained therein for the WSIS process beyond 2025.

7.3 Many councillors welcomed the report and expressed their support for the WSIS process and the contribution of ITU to achieving the SDGs. They looked forward to the WSIS+20 High‑Level Event to be held in July 2025 and encouraged all stakeholders to participate. The WSIS action lines provided a strong framework for discussion of digital governance, and the multistakeholder mechanisms successfully established under WSIS should be strengthened. One councillor stressed the importance of the framework to developing countries and the global South, especially in facilitating access to emerging technologies. Another councillor called for the WSIS+20 review process to focus on outstanding WSIS deliverables, while two others emphasized the need to avoid duplication in WSIS processes, particularly in relation to the GDC, while ensuring complementarity.

7.4 Several councillors expressed their support for the proposals contained in Document C25/80 on the WSIS process beyond 2025; however, a number of councillors, while in favour of continuing the process, said that the Council should await the outcome of the United Nations General Assembly high-level meeting on the WSIS+20 review, scheduled to take place on 16‑17 December 2025, before taking a decision.

7.5 The Council **noted** the report contained in Document C25/61 and **agreed** to postpone consideration of the proposals contained in Document C25/80 until after the United Nations General Assembly high-level meeting on the WSIS+20 review.

# 8 Condolences on the passing of Nigel Hickson

8.1 The Chair of CWG‑Internet said that the working group had suffered a great loss with the passing of its vice‑chair from the Europe region, Mr Nigel Hickson, a committed professional on global Internet governance whose presence and voice in the Internet community would be deeply missed.

8.2 The Chair of the Council was joined by several councillors and one observer in expressing condolences to the Administration of the United Kingdom.

8.3 The Secretary‑General also expressed heartfelt condolences to Nigel Hickson's family and friends. She was honoured to have worked alongside him for many years and knew that he would be remembered with deep respect and gratitude.

8.4 The councillor from the United Kingdom thanked councillors for their condolences on the passing of Nigel Hickson, who would be greatly missed by colleagues and friends around the world.

# 9 Statements by councillors

9.1 The councillors from Australia and Brazil announced their countries' candidacy for re‑election to the Council.

The Secretary‑General: The Chair:

D. BOGDAN‑MARTIN C. FLUTUR

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