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|  | **Document C25/111-E** |
| **1 September 2025** |
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| **SUMMARY RECORD**  **OF THE**  **FIFTH PLENARY MEETING** | |
| Wednesday, 25 June 2025, from 0930 to 1240 hours  **Chair**: Ms C. Flutur (Romania) | |

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|  | **Subjects discussed** | **Documents** |
| 1 | Report of the Chair of the Council Working Group on child online protection | [C25/15](https://www.itu.int/md/S25-CL-C-0015/en) |
| 2 | Report on Resolution 214 (Bucharest, 2022) of the Plenipotentiary Conference, on AI technologies and telecommunications/ICTs | [C25/56](https://www.itu.int/md/S25-CL-C-0056/en), [C25/96](https://www.itu.int/md/S25-CL-C-0096/en) |
| 3 | World Telecommunication and Information Society Day | [C25/17](https://www.itu.int/md/S25-CL-C-0017/en), [C25/76](https://www.itu.int/md/S25-CL-C-0076/en), [C25/89](https://www.itu.int/md/S25-CL-C-0089/en), [C25/100](https://www.itu.int/md/S25-CL-C-0100/en) |
| 4 | Strategy for the coordination of efforts among the three Sectors of the Union | [C25/27](https://www.itu.int/md/S25-CL-C-0027/en) |
| 5 | Report by the Chair of the Council Working Group on the use of the six official languages of the Union | [C25/12](https://www.itu.int/md/S25-CL-C-0012/en),[C25/78](https://www.itu.int/md/S25-CL-C-0078/en) |
| 6 | ITU's role in the implementation of the "Space2030" agenda: space as a driver of sustainable development, and its follow-up and review process | [C25/36](https://www.itu.int/md/S25-CL-C-0036/en) |

# 1 Report of the Chair of the Council Working Group on child online protection (Document [C25/15](https://www.itu.int/md/S25-CL-C-0015/en))

1.1 The Chair of the Council Working Group on child online protection (CWG-COP) introduced the report contained in Document C25/15, on the main results of the group's 21st and 22nd meetings, at which many contributions from partners and members on the challenges of and solutions for child online protection had been considered. He noted that the Telecommunication Development Bureau (BDT) had recently launched the ITU Industry Connect series, which facilitated online dialogue with and among industry stakeholders on the matter.

1.2 Councillors and observers commended the work of CWG-COP as a platform to share best practices and progress towards ensuring children's safety in an evolving digital landscape. The Internet should be a positive, safe space for children, who were among the most vulnerable users. The group's commitment to multistakeholder engagement, including young people themselves, and enhanced coordination with study groups was important. Indeed, one councillor suggested that other Council working groups would benefit from being open to all stakeholders, like CWG-COP. Several councillors noted the valuable contribution that ITU-T Study Group 17 could make on the topic, while others noted the value of the ITU Industry Connect in exchanging best practices and increasing access to useful tools and cooperation. One observer stressed the important role of industry in protecting children online.

1.3 Councillors cited examples of efforts at national and regional levels on child online protection, including with support from the secretariat; several councillors, however, called for more assistance to developing countries, which suffered from limited capacity, lack of effective policies or harmonized national strategies and bureaucratic delays, and thus struggled to keep pace with evolving threats.

1.4 One councillor stressed the need for effective policies and measures, including in areas such as consumer protection and education, while an observer called for measures to ensure that emerging technologies such as artificial intelligence (AI) could be used safely and for the benefit of children.

1.5 The Director of BDT said that CWG-COP made an important contribution to child online protection, thus rising engagement was welcome. He encouraged Member States to translate the ITU Guidelines on Child Online Protection, addressing children, parents and educators, industry and policy-makers, into local languages to ensure maximum impact. He noted that the role of industry in child online protection would be discussed at the 2025 Global Symposium for Regulators (GSR-25) and that child online protection in the context of AI and emerging technologies was also discussed within the UN Committee on the Rights of the Child. Engagement with schools was also important as it allowed teachers to educate children at an earlier stage.

1.6 The Council **noted** the report contained in Document C25/15.

# 2 Report on Resolution 214 (Bucharest, 2022) of the Plenipotentiary Conference, on AI technologies and telecommunications/ICTs (Documents [C25/56](https://www.itu.int/md/S25-CL-C-0056/en), [C25/96](https://www.itu.int/md/S25-CL-C-0096/en))

2.1 The Deputy to the Director of the Telecommunication Standardization Bureau (TSB) introduced Document C25/56, reporting on ITU's AI-related activities, guided by Resolution 214 (Bucharest, 2022) of the Plenipotentiary Conference (PP) and United Nations General Assembly Resolutions 78/265 and 78/311, across standards, skills development, governance and multistakeholder platforms. ITU engaged in multistakeholder collaboration, including with other United Nations entities. Interest in ITU's activities was growing, testament to its leading role and expertise. He noted that Document [C25/43](https://www.itu.int/md/S25-CL-C-0043/en) contained a request for additional funding to support those AI-related activities.

2.2 The councillor from Rwanda introduced the contribution contained in Document C25/96, requesting ITU assistance in assessing and advancing the AI readiness of least developed countries (LDCs) and in developing contextualized national AI policies and strategies, which were lacking in an overwhelming majority of such countries. The secretariat was requested to report to the next session of the Council on any activities undertaken in that regard.

2.3 Councillors and observers welcomed the leading role that ITU was playing on the multilateral stage in the development of AI applications and governance, noting a global recognition for its expertise in technical standards and digital development. Councillors stressed the need for ITU to continue in that role, in particular through standards development work in TSB, in order to lay the groundwork for appropriate governance and technical frameworks that ensure safe and inclusive development of AI. Several councillors noted the need, however, for standards to be practically applicable in local contexts; promoting open-source tools was important to that end.

2.4 Councillors noted the value of ITU participation and leadership in a number of multilateral platforms, in particular AI for Good and the Partner2Connect Digital Coalition. Continued involvement in such forums was important to enhancing the reach of ITU's work and expertise, while maximizing the impact of multilateral cooperation and minimizing duplication. One councillor suggested cooperation with the Coalition for Sustainable AI, while several councillors drew attention to national and regional initiatives aimed at the sustainable and inclusive development of AI. Another councillor called for increased collaboration with industry and academia, and a third recalled Resolution 74 (Rev. New Delhi, 2024) of the World Telecommunication Standardization Assembly, on enhancing participation of Sector Members from developing countries in the work of ITU-T.

2.5 Councillors and observers expressed support for increased assistance to LDCs, with the councillor from Canada identifying two Canadian institutions that could assist in that regard. Several councillors asked what capacity-building initiatives had been implemented under PP Resolution 214 (Bucharest, 2022). AI applications had the potential to contribute to achieving the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and bridging digital divides; however, contextualized capacity-building and technical assistance would be critical to ensuring LDCs' and other developing countries' access to and use and governance of AI systems in a manner adapted to their specific needs. One councillor said that engagement with regional telecommunication bodies and local academia piloting AI use cases in local contexts could be a valuable source of knowledge transfer; while another said that increased technical support could serve to identify pilot projects in key socio-economic sectors.

2.6 One councillor stressed that LDCs and other developing countries lacked institutional capacity, technical expertise and financial resources to formulate robust policies and strategies; without targeted, contextualized support they risked falling victim to another digital divide and being marginalized in the rapidly developing global AI ecosystem. ITU assistance should ensure that AI development in such countries was aligned with global best practices, fostering interoperability, trust, ethical practices and consistency across borders. Several councillors noted that the 2025 world telecommunication development conference (WTDC-25), as well as its preparatory process, would provide an apt opportunity to identify capacity-building priorities in AI, noting that skills development and knowledge sharing were crucial to harnessing AI for good. One councillor called for a dedicated African strategy on AI.

2.7 One councillor suggested that further consideration needed to be given to how, and with what tools, the secretariat would assess countries' readiness in terms of AI policy and strategy. Another councillor noted that the International Monetary Fund had launched its AI Preparedness Index Dashboard, covering 174 countries, to assess countries' level of AI preparedness, using data from different international organizations. ITU might consider building on that work. A further councillor suggested submitting Document C25/96 to the Council Working Group on WSIS and the SDGs for further study.

2.8 Several councillors said that existing ITU initiatives needed to be leveraged to provide enhanced assistance. Others, noting the rising demand for AI-related initiatives, including through TSB, said that appropriate, sustainable resources needed to be found to meet that demand. One councillor said that AI-related initiatives were a good target for allocation of budget savings as they had high impact, in particular in developing countries and marginalized communities.

2.9 The Director of BDT noted that multiple regions had been developing regional initiatives relating to the application of AI for adoption at WTDC-25. The conference would provide an excellent opportunity to identify AI-related capacity-building priorities and appropriate indicators to track progress and impact. In his view, that process should be membership driven, but the secretariat was working with other organizations to ensure harmonization and provide the best possible expertise to membership. BDT was working closely with TSB to help support efforts on striking an optimum balance between regulation of AI and fostering innovation; for example, a workshop had been organized during GSR-24 on the role and impact of AI on the development sector. Without appropriate measures, the rapid, unchecked development of AI could create further digital divides. Work was also ongoing on integrating AI into early warning systems and open-source AI within BDT. The ITU Academy offered a valuable source of skills development and awareness raising in AI. He welcomed calls for increased assistance to LDCs and all developing countries and noted that WTDC Resolution 16 (Rev. Kigali, 2022) and PP Resolution 30 (Rev. Bucharest, 2022) provided a non-technology-specific context for assistance tailored to the needs of such countries. He looked forward to WTDC-25 renewing the Union's mandates for action in that area.

2.10 The Deputy to the Director of TSB said that collaboration between ITU-T and ITU-D offered great value in terms of capacity-building for LDCs and other developing countries. He noted that work was under way to develop tools to assess AI-readiness, involving coordination with other organizations to leverage complementary work.

2.11 The Chair invited the Council to note the report contained in Document [C25/52](https://www.itu.int/md/S25-CL-C-0052/en), to note the contribution in Document C25/96 and invite the secretariat to continue work to provide technical support, within existing budgets, to LDCs in developing AI policies and capacity.

2.12 It was so **agreed**.

# 3 World Telecommunication and Information Society Day (Documents [C25/17](https://www.itu.int/md/S25-CL-C-0017/en), [C25/76](https://www.itu.int/md/S25-CL-C-0076/en), [C25/89](https://www.itu.int/md/S25-CL-C-0089/en), [C25/100](https://www.itu.int/md/S25-CL-C-0100/en))

3.1 A representative of the General Secretariat introduced the report contained in Document C25/17, on the celebration of the 2025 World Telecommunication and Information Society Day (WTISD-25) and the 160th anniversary of ITU (ITU160) and played a short video sharing highlights from the combined secretariat event. Member States were invited to contact the secretariat if they wished to use the light show from the 160th anniversary celebrations in their countries.

3.2 The councillor from Malaysia presented Document C25/76, summarizing the celebration of WTISD-25, the 2025 International Girls in ICT Day and ITU160 in Malaysia, which had brought together stakeholders from government, industry and international organizations to reflect on a shared commitment to ITU's global goals.

3.3 The councillor from Saudi Arabia introduced the multicountry contribution contained in Document C25/89 on behalf of seven countries. It proposed two themes for WTISD-26: "Empowering digital trust in an AI-driven world", which underlined the need for responsible AI development, transparency and ethical data governance; and "Space for All: Expanding connectivity beyond borders", which highlighted the role of satellite and space technologies in achieving universal access and digital inclusion.

3.4 The councillor from Nigeria introduced Document C25/100, proposing another theme for WTISD-26: "Digital Lifelines: Strengthening Resilience in a Connected World", in order to underline the importance of resilient digital infrastructure to economic stability, inclusive growth and technological innovation.

3.5 Responding to a question from the Chair, the councillors from Saudi Arabia and Nigeria confirmed that, following informal consultations, it had been agreed that "Digital Lifelines: Strengthening Resilience in a Connected World" would be proposed as the theme for WTISD‑26 and "Space for All: Expanding connectivity beyond borders" for WTISD-27.

3.6 Councillors expressed appreciation for the activities organized to celebrate WTISD-25 in Malaysia and their focus on strengthening international cooperation and inclusive digital transformation. Many councillors fully supported the themes proposed for WTISD‑26 and WTISD‑27: resilience was an important theme that cut across many areas, while the theme of space would be particularly relevant against the backdrop of the 2027 World Radiocommunication Conference. One councillor cautioned, though, that "expanding connectivity beyond borders" should not undermine national sovereignty.

3.7 One councillor underscored the need to build sustainable partnerships and financing mechanisms to support WTISD activities.

3.8 The Chair invited the Council to note the report contained in Document C25/17, further note the celebrations in Malaysia reported in Document C25/76 and approve the proposed themes for WTISD-26 and WTISD-27.

3.9 It was so **agreed**.

# 4 Strategy for the coordination of efforts among the three Sectors of the Union (Document [C25/27](https://www.itu.int/md/S25-CL-C-0027/en))

4.1 A representative of the General Secretariat introduced Document C25/27, reporting on the strategy for coordination of efforts among the three Sectors and the General Secretariat and summarizing the activities of the Inter-Sectoral Coordination Task Force (ISC-TF) and Inter-Sector Coordination Group (ISCG). The web platform linked in Document [C25/35](https://dr-birgit-woerle.ch/lipedema/?lang=en) on the implementation of PP resolutions provided concrete results of coordination on matters of mutual interest to the Sectors and the General Secretariat.

4.2 The Chair of ISCG said that coordinators had been appointed for the themes of accessibility, climate change, remote participation, sustainable digital transformation, and industry engagement. ISCG had posted the results of its mapping exercise on its website in order to facilitate coordination and avoid overlap in activities and studies between the Sectors.

4.3 Councillors welcomed progress in the strategy to strengthen coordination between the three Sectors and the General Secretariat, which would offer great value on the identified cross-cutting themes. The mapping work performed by ISCG and the PP resolution platform were commended. Several councillors said, however, that it was not clear how those and other efficiency measures were contributing to avoiding duplication in practice. More information in that regard and suitable indicators should be included in the report.

4.4 A representative of the General Secretariat said that the Coordination Committee (CoCo) had approved the inter-Sector coordination strategy and senior management had been involved in the selection of the cross-cutting themes and recommendation of coordinators for them. ISC-TF, chaired by the Deputy Secretary-General, reported periodically to CoCo and provided inputs to ISCG meetings. Measures to enhance coordination and reduce duplication included a shared secretariat for ISC-TF and ISCG and common scheduling, tools and publications. For example, ISCG would often meet in conjunction with a Sector advisory group. While ISC-TF met every second month, the thematic groups met monthly. Future reports would include indicators to reflect the impact of measures.

4.5 The Chair of ISCG said that the group usually met three times per year, where possible in conjunction with a Sector advisory group meeting to facilitate participation of its members. ISC-TF reported to each ISCG meeting. Improvements had been made to the ISCG website to ensure ease of access to information and outputs.

4.6 The Deputy to the Director of TSB said that ITU-T and ITU-R were fully aligned on arrangements to avoid overlap in work. For example, when a contribution fell across the mandate of more than one group, the study groups concerned communicated directly rather than relying on liaison statements to the advisory groups, and then informed the member accordingly. Communication between the Radiocommunication Advisory Group (RAG) and the Telecommunication Standardization Advisory Group (TSAG) was also made on simple, direct channels. Also, it had been agreed by RAG and TSAG that matters concerning satellite orbits and spectrum resources fell within the purview of ITU-R study groups, while economic and policy issues that related to satellite use were dealt with by ITU-T Study Group 3.

4.7 The Director of the Radiocommunication Bureau (BR) said that it was also important that Member States ensure coordination among their representatives involved in cross-cutting work of the different Sectors' study groups.

4.8 The Council **noted** the report contained in Document C25/27.

# 5 Report by the Chair of the Council Working Group on the use of the six official languages of the Union (Documents [C25/12](https://www.itu.int/md/S25-CL-C-0012/en), [C25/78](https://www.itu.int/md/S25-CL-C-0078/en))

5.1 The Vice-Chair of the Council Working Group on the use of the six official languages of the Union (CWG-LANG) introduced Document C25/12, summarizing the outcomes of the 16th meeting of CWG-LANG, which had analysed translation and interpretation budgets and volumes for the six official languages from 2019 to 2024. She noted that the six official languages had been treated on an equal footing and highlighted efficiency gains driven by use of new technologies. Document [CWG‑LANG-16/3](https://www.itu.int/md/S25-RCLCWGLANG16-C-0003/en) contained information on ITU Translate, the in-house machine translation tool. AI-powered interpretation, trialled during the meeting, had proved satisfactory and would be trialled at other ITU meetings. Document [C25/INF/7](https://www.itu.int/md/S25-CL-INF-0007/en) reported on the challenges and opportunities of AI-powered interpretation. Given that progress, the secretariat and Sector advisory groups would review the measures and principles for interpretation and translation at ITU.

5.2 Councillors expressed support for efforts to strengthen the Union's language services across the Union and the use of ITU Translate, AI-powered interpretation and other tools to enhance cost‑effectiveness and access to ITU resources. Linguistic inclusivity, especially for those whose native language was not among ITU's six official languages, was essential for ensuring that all Member States could engage effectively in ITU's work.

5.3 One councillor recommended piloting AI-powered translation and interpretation in study groups and other meetings to assess performance further and enhance accessibility. Selected content should also be translated into non-ITU official languages to support local capacity building and community-level engagement.

5.4 One observer, welcoming the content of Document C25/12 and the proposed next steps set out in Document C25/INF/7, called for improved harmonization of the ITU Coordination Committee for Terminology (ITU CCT) and ISCG websites, noting challenges in downloading documents and a lack of ITU Translate integration.

5.5 The Council **noted** the report contained in Document C25/12.

5.6 The observer for the Russian Federation introduced Document C25/78, proposing to revise ITU Council Resolution 1386 (C17, last amended C24), on ITU CCT, to align with relevant Sector resolutions, based on PP Resolution 154 (Rev. Bucharest, 2022), on the use of the six official languages of the Union on an equal footing. The responsibilities of rapporteurs for vocabulary should be enshrined in Council Resolution 1386, to which Sector resolutions should then only refer.

5.7 One councillor took the floor to support the proposal.

5.8 The Chair invited the Council to approvethe draft revision of Resolution 1386 (C17, last amended C24), as contained in Document C25/78.

5.9 It was so **agreed**.

# 6 ITU's role in the implementation of the "Space2030" agenda: space as a driver of sustainable development, and its follow-up and review process (Document [C25/36](https://www.itu.int/md/S25-CL-C-0036/en))

6.1 A representative of BR introduced Document C25/36, summarizing ITU's role in implementation of the Space2030 agenda. Councillors were invited to consult Document [C25/INF/3](https://www.itu.int/md/S25-CL-INF-0003/en) for the full reporting required under PP Resolution 218 (Bucharest, 2022) on: status of plans governed by Appendices 30, 30A and 30B to the Radio Regulations; the role of ITU in implementing the Space2030 agenda; the sessions of the United Nations Inter‑Agency Meeting on Outer Space Activities (UN-Space); and the measures being implemented in promoting synergies and avoiding duplication related to the use of space technology.

6.2 Councillors welcomed the report and commended the collaborative "One ITU" approach employed in impactful initiatives such as the Space Sustainability Forum, the Space Connect series, the Space Sustainability Gateway, and joint capacity building with the United Nations Office for Outer Space Affairs. Those efforts contributed directly to SDG attainment by promoting inclusive access to space resources, enhancing capacity building and fostering responsible and equitable use of space technology, especially for developing countries, where space-based services played a growing role in disaster response, climate monitoring, connectivity and bridging the digital divide.

6.3 Councillors supported ITU's initiatives under the Space 2030 agenda. They encouraged further strengthening of partnerships to enhance technical assistance and participation from countries with limited space capability, requesting information on collaboration and coordination with other United Nations bodies and the action taken to promote complementarity and avoid duplication.

6.4 One observer said that discussion of activities implemented under PP Resolutions 218 (Bucharest, 2022) and 219 (Bucharest, 2022) should focus exclusively on ITU's areas of work and noted that the activities described in the report related more closely to Resolution 219 (Bucharest, 2022) than to Resolution 218 (Bucharest, 2022) and the Space2030 agenda. Care should be taken to avoid duplication of work and unnecessary expenses. He recalled that Resolution 219 (Bucharest, 2022) called for, as a matter of urgency, studies on the issue of the increasing use of the radio‑frequency spectrum and associated orbit resources in non-GSO orbits and the long-term sustainability of those resources and that Resolution ITU‑R 74 reiterated that call.

6.5 The Council **noted** the report in Document C25/36.

The Secretary-General: The Chair:

D. BOGDAN-MARTIN C. FLUTUR

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