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|  | **Document CWG-Internet-21/10** |
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| Report by the Chair, CWG-Internet |
| REPORT OF THE TWENTY-FIRST MEETING OF THE COUNCIL WORKING GROUP ON INTERNATIONAL INTERNET-RELATED PUBLIC POLICY ISSUES (CWG-INTERNET) |
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Report of the twenty-first meeting of the
Council Working Group on international Internet-related public policy issues (CWG-Internet)

# 1 Introduction

**1.1** The twenty-first meeting of the CWG-Internet was held on 19-20 February 2025.

**1.2** Mr Tomas Lamanauskas, Deputy Secretary-General, welcomed participants to the twenty first meeting of CWG-Internet. He highlighted the recent developments on digital at the UN, including the Summit of the Future and the Global Digital Compact, that are a key milestone on the journey to the WSIS+20 review process. Noting the important and related discussions ongoing within the CWG, the DSG encouraged members to contribute to the WSIS+20 process and participate in the upcoming WSIS High-Level Event on 7-11 July 2025, also leveraging the rich repository of stakeholder perspectives gathered through the open consultations.

**1.3** The Chair thanked the DSG for his presence and support for the meeting. He thanked members for their continued support and commitment to the CWG-Internet, noting also the diverse set of inputs received for the open consultation. The Chair urged members to consider the outcomes of the consultation in their work and invited them to engage in the discussions of the meeting with a spirit of consensus and collaboration.

# 2 Agenda of the meeting: CWG-Internet-21/1(Rev.1)

**2.1** The Chair presented the Agenda (CWG-Internet-21/1(Rev.1)).

## 2.2 [CWG-Internet-21/4](https://www.itu.int/md/S25-RCLINTPOL21-C-0004/en) (Russian Federation) – Proposal for the draft agenda for CWG-Internet

The Chair invited the contributor to present the document and opened the floor for discussion.

Summary

The Russian Federation proposes to include to the Draft agenda for 21st CWG-Internet meeting a new item on WSIS+20 report on ITU's contribution to the implementation of and follow-up to WSIS outcomes and its role in achieving the SDGs. This seems appropriate due to ITU’s involving in the activities on international Internet related public policy issues within its mandate (based on Resolutions, 101, 102 and 140 (Rev. Bucharest, 2022)). Consequently, these activities as well as results of CWG-Internet activities shall be reflected in the ITU Report “WSIS+20” and to be considered by CWG-Internet within the framework of its mandate.

Discussion

**2.2.1** Some members supported the contribution, noting the relevance of the Group’s activities in the context of the WSIS+20 review and invited the Group to engage in substantive deliberations on the content of the proposal. Some members expressed the view that the matters set out in the contribution had already been discussed at the forty-second meeting of CWG-WSIS&SDG on 10-11 February 2025, and should not be duplicated in the CWG-Internet.

**2.2.2** Some members requested that this meeting report note that Internet related matters have not been discussed in the CWG-WSIS&SDG and should be deliberated upon in this Group given its mandate and activities. Some other members emphasized that the CWG-Internet has no formal role or mandate for contributing to the ongoing discussions at CWG-WSIS&SDG as it has not been requested to do so by Council or CWG-WSIS&SDG.

**2.2.3** The Chair informed the meeting that the Draft 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 will include ITU’s Internet-related activities.

**2.2.4** The contribution was noted.

**2.3** The Agenda was adopted.

# 3 Secretariat report on ITU Internet Activities: Resolutions 101, 102, 133, 180 and 206: [CWG-Internet-21/2](https://www.itu.int/md/S25-RCLINTPOL21-C-0002/en)

**3.1** This report summarizes ITU’s activities related to Plenipotentiary Conference (PP) Resolution 101 (Rev. Bucharest, 2022), “Internet Protocol-based networks”; Resolution 102 (Rev. Bucharest, 2022), “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), “Roles of administrations of Member States in the management of Internationalized (multilingual) domain names”; Resolution 180 (Rev. Bucharest, 2022), “Promoting deployment of Internet Protocol version 6” and Resolution 206 (Dubai, 2018), “OTTs”.

**3.2** The Group noted the report.

# 4 Discussion of responses from the Open Consultation

## 4.1 Summary of the online open consultation and physical open consultation meeting: [OPCWGINT12/3](https://www.itu.int/md/S25-OPCWGINT12-C-0003/en)

The CWG examined the summary of the online open consultation and physical open consultation held on 11 February 2025.

## 4.2 Discussion

**4.2.1** The group noted [OPCWGINT12/3](https://www.itu.int/md/S25-OPCWGINT12-C-0003/en).

**4.2.2** The group thanked all stakeholders for their active participation in the online and physical open consultation on “The role of public policy in promoting multilingualization of the Internet”*,* stressing the importance of the topic as noted by the valuable inputs, highlighting in particular the opportunities, challenges and multistakeholder solutions provided in the responses to the consultation. The group thanked the Vice-Chair, Europe Region, Mr Nigel Hickson, for managing the meeting efficiently and productively.

**4.2.3.** Some members suggested that more information relating to the panel discussions organized for the physical open consultation meetings should be set out in the consultation agenda in advance. Some members also suggested that, as the panel discussions are not a part of the formal process of the open consultations, they need not be recorded or referenced in detail in the open consultation summary report.

**4.2.4** Noting the substantive output from the open consultation, members expressed support for the contributions received from stakeholders for the open consultation.

**4.2.5** The Chair invited the Group to consider the output from the consultation in its deliberations.

# 5 Introduction/Discussion of contributions from Member States on proposed topics for open consultation

The Chair invited each of the contributors (in the order listed in the Agenda) to briefly present their proposals to the group. The CWG examined the various contributions, which were noted by the group. The summaries of the contributions (as submitted by the authors of the documents) and the corresponding discussions are provided below:

## 5.1 [CWG-Internet-21/5](https://www.itu.int/md/S25-RCLINTPOL21-C-0005/en) (United Kingdom) – Topic for open consultation

### 5.1.1 Summary

The contribution proposed a topic for consultation on “Policies to promote the participation of young people in international Internet-related public policy and the development of the next generation of leaders”. It is important to ensure young people are attracted to careers in this area and that they have opportunities to develop their skills and experience. Young people in developing countries face particular barriers. The contribution said that this topic would help to gather and share best practice, raise the importance of this issue, identify opportunities for more joined-up and strategic approaches and promote inclusion, outreach and support, particularly for young people in developing countries. The proposed questions were:

– Q1 – What examples of successful policies to support the development of the next generation of leaders in Internet governance? What can we learn from them?

– Q2 – What policies can governments use to support the development of the next generation of leaders in Internet governance?

– Q3 – What role can international organisations and other stakeholders play in this regard?

– Q4 – How can we ensure that all young people —particularly young people from developing and least developed countries— have access to development opportunities?

### 5.1.2 Discussion

a) Members expressed appreciation for the proposal, highlighting the importance of promoting the participation of young people in international Internet-related public policy matters.

b) Some members expressed support for the contribution as a topic for an open consultation given its relevance to the terms of reference of the Group, particularly for developing countries. Some members were of the opinion that such a topic does not fall within the list of items covered in Council Resolution 1305 (Mod. 2019) and a consultation on it would not be within the terms of reference of this Group.

c) Some members suggested that the open consultation should focus on more technical matters and avoid duplication of existing work within ITU and other fora. Some members highlighted that currently, there is no other forum that brings together different existing initiatives on this subject and this Group has the opportunity to use this consultation to bring the different initiatives together to share best practice and raise awareness.

d) The contribution was noted.

## 5.2 [CWG-Internet-21/6](https://www.itu.int/md/S25-RCLINTPOL21-C-0006/en) (Paraguay, Brazil, Canada, Dominican Republic, Nepal (Republic of), Armenia, Tanzania) – Proposal to discuss about meaningful Internet connectivity for LLDCs

### 5.2.1 Summary

The contribution presented by Paraguay, Brazil, Canada, Dominican Republic, Nepal (Republic of) and Tanzania to the Council Working Group on International Internet - related public policy highlighted the importance of achieving meaningful universal connectivity that goes beyond simply accessing the Internet or digital technologies. In this case, this poses a unique and transformative opportunity for Landlocked Developing Countries.

### 5.2.2 Discussion

Members welcomed this contribution, acknowledging the importance of this consultation topic for LLDCs, and recalling the positive discussions in this respect at the previous meeting of the Group as well. Based on the multi-regional support garnered by the document, the extensive discussions and following the drafting session, the CWG agreed on this proposal as a topic for the next open consultation.

## 5.3 [CWG-Internet-21/8](https://www.itu.int/md/S25-RCLINTPOL21-C-0008/en) (Saudi Arabia, Kuwait, South Africa, Tunisia, United Arab Emirates, Egypt) – Topic for next open consultation

### 5.3.1 Summary

The contribution by Saudi Arabia, South Africa, Egypt, the UAE, Kuwait, and Tunisia to the Council Working Group on International Internet-related Public Policy Issues addresses the challenge of misinformation and disinformation in the digital age. It emphasizes the need for technological innovations, public awareness campaigns, and stakeholder collaboration to enhance digital trust. The document proposed the topic “The Role of Stakeholders in Combating Misinformation and Disinformation to Strengthen Digital Trust” for the next open consultation.

### 5.3.2 Discussion

a) Members appreciated the importance of the matters set out within this contribution.

b) Some members expressed support for the topic proposed for consultation and emphasized the timeliness of this topic, particularly for developing countries that are working to build robust digital ecosystems and protecting their communities from harmful impact. These members highlighted the technical and policy considerations set out in the proposal as key to ITU’s work and addressing gaps in ongoing related activities in other fora. Some Member States also indicated that the work done by UNESCO regarding misinformation and disinformation is broad and does not focus on the technical aspects of misinformation and disinformation which fall within the mandate of the ITU. Some members pointed out the relevance of this topic referring to paragraph 7 of Annex 1 to Council Resolution 1305 (Mod. 2019), noting Council Resolution 1336 (Mod. 2019) which mandated the Group to decide on a topic for open consultation, drawing primarily from Council Resolution 1305 (Mod. 2019).

c) Some members did not support this topic for a consultation. They were of the opinion that the items set out in this proposal are outside the mandate of ITU, which focuses on technical matters and not content issues. They noted that paragraph 7 of Annex 1 to Council Resolution 1305 (Mod. 2019) lists six documents regarding the ITU’s mandate in issues pertaining to the use and misuse of the Internet and none of these documents refer to disinformation or misinformation. They noted that UNESCO was responsible for this topic under the WSIS Outcomes and that UNESCO was doing a wide range of work in this respect. They suggested that such a consultation would lead to duplication of work, fragmentation of ongoing discussions in other relevant fora and confusion for the stakeholders, particularly given that there is also no agreed definition of misinformation/disinformation.

d) The contribution was noted.

## 5.4 Actions

**5.4.1** Based on discussions at the meeting and a drafting exercise, the following topic and questions were agreed by the Group.

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?*

**5.4.2** The Chair invited the contributors of Documents to consider the discussions at this meeting and submit proposals to the next meeting of the Group. All members of the Group were also invited to submit proposals on topic for open consultation at the next meeting.

# 6 Introduction/Discussion of other contributions from Member States

The Chair invited each of the contributors (in the order listed in the Agenda) to briefly present their proposals to the group. The CWG examined the various contributions, which were noted by the group. The summaries of the contributions (as submitted by the authors of the documents) and the corresponding discussions are provided below:

## 6.1 [CWG-Internet-21/3](https://www.itu.int/md/S25-RCLINTPOL21-C-0003/en) (United Kingdom) – Contribution on research into the IGF

### 6.1.1 Summary

The contribution was provided to the Group for information. It summarised the results of independent research into the value and impact of the UN Internet Governance Forum. The research found that the IGF had direct impact on some issues, such as Internet Exchange Points, community connectivity and knowledge sharing. It also had some indirect impacts, for example in shaping approaches to online safety. The research into participation data showed that the IGF offers a venue for stakeholders from developing countries to engage actively in global conversations on Internet governance and helps provide a voice to individuals and groups that would otherwise have struggled to have their concerns or perspective heard.

### 6.1.2 Discussions

Members welcomed the contribution and appreciated the information shared with the Group. Members congratulated the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia on hosting the IGF in 2024. The contribution was noted.

## 6.2 [CWG-Internet-21/7](https://www.itu.int/md/S25-RCLINTPOL21-C-0007/en) (Saudi Arabia, Kuwait, South Africa, Tunisia, Egypt) – Internet public policy issues addressed by the Global Digital Compact

### 6.2.1 Summary

This contribution, submitted by Saudi Arabia, South Africa, Egypt, Kuwait, and Tunisia to the Council Working Group on International Internet-Related Public Policy Issues (CWG-Internet), highlights key public policy concerns from the Global Digital Compact (GDC) adopted in September 2024. It focuses on digital inclusion, advocating for universal and affordable internet access; cybersecurity and trust, emphasizing international cooperation to combat cyber threats and misinformation; AI governance, calling for transparent and ethical frameworks; and equitable data governance, stressing secure cross-border data flows and privacy protection. The proposal urges continued discussions within CWG-Internet to foster international cooperation and support a more inclusive, secure, and sustainable digital future.

### 6.2.2 Discussions

a) Members thanked the contributors for this proposal.

b) Some members highlighted that the GDC emphasizes that “Internet governance must continue to be global and multi-stakeholder in nature” and invited the Group to align with its principles and consider opening its membership to include all stakeholders. Some members noted that the topics in the GDC were not all relevant to the CWG-Internet.

c) Some members highlighted that this Group is limited to Member States. These members also suggested that, for the next meeting, members of the Group could submit contributions on matters relating to the GDC that are important also for the CWG-Internet to facilitate a discussion and exchange of opinions, best practice, and public policies in this regard.

d) The contribution was noted.

## 6.3 [CWG-Internet-21/9](https://www.itu.int/md/S25-RCLINTPOL21-C-0009/en) (Azerbaijan, Belarus, Kyrgyzstan, Russian Federation, Tajikistan, Uzbekistan) – RCC Input to WSIS+20 Review

### 6.3.1 Summary

The multicounty contribution by Azerbaijan, Belarus, Kyrgyzstan, Russian Federation, Tajikistan, Uzbekistan (CWG-Internet-21/9) provided the meeting with the RCC Input to WSIS+20 Review through ITU’s call for inputs, reflecting the diverse views regarding the of the WSIS process, WSIS+20 and beyond of the RCC members.

### 6.3.2 Discussions

a) Members thanked the contributors for this proposal.

b) Some members noted that the CWG-WSIS&SDG has already discussed this contribution and it has since published all contributions submitted at this time related to its consultation.

c) Some members were of the view that the Internet-related public policy issues and the work of this Group needs to be incorporated into the Draft 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. The Chair noted that the Secretariat is coordinating internally to provide inputs into this document and this will include ITU’s Internet-related activities. A member has noted that it will present its national contribution input to the WSIS+20 review.

d) The contribution was noted.

# 7 Presentation of Chair’s Report

The report of the twenty-first meeting of the CWG-Internet was approved by the CWG-Internet and was posted on the CWG-Internet website (<http://www.itu.int/en/council/cwg-internet>).

# 8 Any other business

The group thanked the Chair and secretariat for their effective organization and management of the group.

# 9 Closing of the Meeting

In closing, the Chair thanked all the ITU Member States who made contributions and participated in the work of the group (including those who participated remotely), the Vice-Chairs, the ITU Elected Officials and the secretariat for their efficient assistance during the meeting.

 Wojciech BEREZOWSKI (Poland),
 Chair, CWG-Internet