|  |  |
| --- | --- |
|  | **Document CWG-Internet-22/3** |
| **19 August 2025** |
| **English only** |
|  |  |
| Contribution by the United Kingdom | |
| TOPIC FOR OPEN CONSULTATION | |
| **Purpose**  To propose a topic for the next open consultation:  *“Policies to promote the participation of young people in international internet-related public policy and the development of the next generation of leaders*”.  We have amended the draft consultation questions following discussion at the last meeting of the Council Working Group.  **Action required**  The Council Working Group on international Internet-related public policy issues is invited to **adopt** the proposal for the next open consultation. | |

**Topic for open consultation**

At its twenty-first meeting, the Council Working Group discussed an open consultation on the topic of **“Policies to promote the participation of young people in international Internet-related public policy and the development of the next generation of leaders”**. There was wide support for this important topic as well as comments about the need for more focus on technical aspects and on support for developing countries. We now propose amended questions for consultation.

International Internet-related public policy can be complex and difficult to navigate for newcomers. Young people in developing countries in particular face barriers and there is a risk that future leaders will come mainly from developed countries. This would both undermine inclusivity and prevent the global community from benefitting from global talent.

International Internet-related public policy is developing rapidly as a result of technical innovation and social and economic development. It is becoming increasingly important to ensure that policy-makers have the right skills, information and experience to keep pace. We need to ensure that there are effective opportunities for development and “pipelines” for new talent, for new ideas to emerge and for new leaders to gain experience and develop.

There are a number of programmes in this area, such as the Youth Internet Governance Forum, the ITU’s Young Professionals Program and the work of the Diplo Foundation. But there is a danger that these initiatives will take place in isolation and that young people in developing countries will not be aware of them or will face barriers to access them.

A consultation on this topic would be an opportunity for the Council Working Group to:

* gather, identify and share best practice
* identify opportunities for more joined-up and more strategic approaches and
* raise awareness of the importance of this issue.

Most importantly it would also be an opportunity to promote the need for inclusion, outreach and support programmes, particularly to ensure that young people from developing countries are able to take part. It could also help Member States to discover new opportunities for their citizens.

**Topic and questions**

We have amended the proposed questions following the discussion at the last meeting of the Council Working Group. We now propose the following:

**“Policies to promote the participation of young people in international internet-related public policy and the development of the next generation of leaders.**

* Q1 – What public policies are needed to support the development of the next generation of leaders in Internet governance?
* Q2 - What examples of best practice currently exist? What can we learn from them?
* Q3 – What technical issues and policies do young people need to understand in order to be prepared for future challenges and opportunities?
* Q4 – What barriers do young people from developing and least developed countries face and how can they be addressed?”

\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_