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| Contribution by the Russian Federation | |
| PROPOSAL TO IMPROVE WORK OF COUNCIL WORKING GROUP ON INTERNATIONAL INTERNET-RELATED PUBLIC POLICY ISSUES | |
| **Purpose**  The purpose of this contribution is to facilitate discussions within the Council Working Group on International Internet-related Public Policy Issues (CWG-Internet) regarding international Internet governance. It aims to address challenges concerning the reliability and stability of the global Internet, while gathering feedback, considerations and proposals from Member States on how to overcome these issues, and prepare recommendations for Council 2026.  **Action required**  The Council Working Group on international Internet-related public policy issues is invited to **consider** this document.  \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_  **References**  [*Resolution 1305 (Modified 2019)*](https://www.itu.int/md/S19-CL-C-0136/en) | |

**I Introduction**

The processes of Internet governance and public digital policy now, more than ever, require unprecedented coordination and collaboration among various stakeholders. The number of challenges and threats in the field of Internet governance continues to grow. In the era of incredible digitalization, unresolved issues of Internet governance can become very destructive and lead to global cataclysms, calling into the question national security on the one hand, and the integrity of the global network on the other.

Unfortunately, over the past 20 years, the "appropriate roles" of many stakeholders, primarily States, have not been defined in accordance with the Tunis Agenda for the Information Society. This is a critical omission, as national administrations are now the key “actors” in the Internet governance process, where they themselves define the scope of rights, responsibilities and duties within the multistakeholder environment. At the same time, the role of States has been artificially reduced in multistakeholder model, there are no practical mechanisms for their participation in Internet governance at the international level, and work on the internationalization of the Internet governance system is carried out.

The global critical infrastructure management system should be equitable, neutral, and immune to geopolitical challenges. Today's Internet governance system does not meet these requirements. The Russian Federation consistently advocates for the internationalization of Internet governance, which includes the establishment of multilateral cooperation, the equal participation of all States along with other stakeholders in the process of global network governance, without artificially creating any "border lines" that consolidate one's privileged status.

In this regard, we would like to emphasize the relevance of the principle contained in the Tunis Agenda, according to which all stakeholders, including States, on an equal basis should play their role and perform their functions in addressing international public policy issues related to the Internet. Today, States lack a political platform that takes decisions and implementation of necessary actions related to Internet governance on international level. Internet Governance Forum (IGF) is a discussion platform for a wide range of participants, with the agenda of each forum being determined annually and changing from event to event without focusing on public policy issues. The Governmental Advisory Committee (GAC) that participates in the work of ICANN is limited to matters strictly related to ICANN's operational activities.

CWG-Internet is required to identify, study and develop matters related to international Internet-related public policy issues. Resolution 1305 of the ITU Council specifies the issues of public policy for CWG-Internet, contains relevant issues, for example:

* The security, safety, continuity, sustainability and robustness of the Internet;
* International public policy issues pertaining to the Internet and the management of  
   Internet resources, including domain names and addresses;
* Issues pertaining to the use and misuse of the Internet;
* …

Given this, CWG-Internet stands as the suitable political and intergovernmental platform for addressing international public policy issues concerning the Internet. It offers a forum for the exchange of States` opinions, best practices, and preparation for work on other specialized platforms, ensuring the international community can work collectively on these challenges.

Unfortunately, no recommendations to the ITU Council, no practical policy recommendations to Member States have been make in the last 10 years. At the same time, the CWG-Internet does not have a work plan, and its meetings are limited solely to approving the topics of open consultations.

The Russian Federation proposes to prepare roadmap/work plan for the CWG-Internet and formulate a thematic issue on international internet-related public policy issues for each of the sessions for the next four years (starting from the Plenipotentiary Conference 2026). For each of these issues, CWG-Internet should provide recommendations or any other output. This thematic issue will not limit the CWG-Internet in considering other topics and aspects, but will serve to ensure that the working group finally begins to produce practical results. For this the Russian Federation proposes to conduct a discussion on the challenges in the Internet governance model during the 22th and 23th meeting GWG-Internet. This includes analysing risks and threats related to the Internet governance, as well as assessing the challenges to the reliability and stability of the global Internet.

Member States will provide their perspectives on the gaps in States' engagement in the current Internet governance model. Member States may also share their insights on potential solutions for overcoming existing challenges, mitigating risks to the operation of critical infrastructure systems, and offer proposals for organizing an international Internet governance system.

**II Proposals**

1. The Russian Federation proposes to conduct a discussion on the challenges in the Internet governance model during the 22th and 23th meeting CWG-Internet.
2. The Russian Federation proposes to summarize considerations, comments, and views presented during the 22th and 23th meeting GWG-Internet and prepare recommendations for ITU Council 2026 to develop CWG-Internet roadmap/work plan for the next period of 2026-2030. Such plan will include both the definition of the key topics for each session and explicit final outputs on each of the CWG-Internet session.

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