|  |  |
| --- | --- |
|  | **Document IEG-WTPF-26-2/14** |
| **5 February 2025** |
| **English only** |
|  |  |
| Report by the Secretary-General | |
| COMPILATION OF RESPONSES TO THE ONLINE OPEN CONSULTATION (NOVEMBER 2024 – JANUARY 2025) | |
| **Purpose**  This document compiles responses received during the Online Open Consultation period (November 2024 – January 2025) on the Second Draft of the Secretary General's report. The compilation includes both detailed contributions and commentary intended to inform the development of the next draft report.  **Action required**  The Informal Expert Group on WTPF-26 is invited to:   **take note** of the feedback received through the public consultation process;   **consider** the proposed amendments and suggestions when reviewing the Second Draft.  \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_  **References**  [*IEG-WTPF-26 webpage*](https://www.itu.int/en/council/Pages/ieg-wtpf-26.aspx) | |

Pursuant to [Resolution 2 (Rev. Bucharest, 2022)](https://www.itu.int/en/council/Documents/basic-texts-2023/RES-002-E.pdf), the 2024 session of the ITU Council decided through [Decision 641](https://www.itu.int/md/S24-CL-C-0136/en) that the seventh WTPF will be convened in 2026 (WTPF-26) on the following theme:

“**Accelerating an inclusive, sustainable, resilient, and innovative digital future**: In this regard, the WTPF-26 will discuss opportunities, challenges, and policies to address the following:

 bridging digital divides, particularly on gender and age as well as skills and connectivity

 green digital transformation: climate change and environmental sustainability

 resilience of telecommunication/ICTs

 space connectivity

 strengthening ICT-centric innovation ecosystems and entrepreneurship"

A compilation of the responses received has been set out below. The responses have been categorized into two sections for the purpose of this compilation: Contributions and Commentary on the Draft Report.

NOTE: Please note that due to the different formats used by the online respondents:

 Inputs to the “Comment box” of the online form - serving either as sole contribution or summary - have been copied and pasted;

 When available, indicated summaries have been copied and pasted;

 Unless a summary is submitted, documents of up to 1 000 words have been copied and pasted, as well as hyperlinked.

# SECTION I – CONTRIBUTIONS

**1 CONTRIBUTION**: Abdelkrim Khetib, Independent Consultant, Algeria

**SUMMARY:** This contribution proposes an initiative titled "Bridging the Digital Divide: Accelerating 5G Deployment in Disconnected Nations" that outlines a comprehensive framework for deploying 5G technology in underserved countries through ITU coordination. The proposal includes innovative financing models, strategic partnerships, and capacity building programs to ensure sustainable implementation.

**KEY POINTS:**

 Enable universal access to 5G technology for member countries lacking adequate digital connectivity or financial means.

 Implementation Framework:

 Installation of pilot 5G sites in strategic locations

 Flexible financing models including deferred payment systems backed by ITU guarantees

 Public-private partnerships with equipment providers

 Comprehensive training and capacity building programs

 Roadmap for transition to 6G technology

 Environmental sustainability commitments

 Focus on digital inclusion and accessibility.

**RECOMMENDATION:** The contribution recommends that this initiative be presented to the ITU Council for consideration, with specific suggestion for Algerian representation to lead the presentation of this dossier.

*Full contribution available* [*here*](https://www.itu.int/en/consultations/Pages/wtpf-26/display-WTPF-26.aspx?ListItemID=9) *- 15 000 words*

**2 CONTRIBUTION**: Andrew Benson Greene, No Affiliation, United States of America

**SUMMARY:** The contribution discusses the WTPF-26 consultation themes based on the author's experience since WSIS 2003, including work in post-conflict regions. It addresses digital divides, green digital transformation, digital resilience, space connectivity, and innovation ecosystems, with specific focus on implementation in developing regions.

**KEY POINTS:**

 Examines digital divide challenges across urban-rural, economic, and gender dimensions

 Discusses environmental considerations in digital infrastructure development

 Addresses digital resilience needs based on experience in Sierra Leone

 Outlines opportunities and challenges in space connectivity for remote regions

 Describes approaches to strengthen innovation ecosystems and youth participation.

*Full contribution available* [*here*](https://www.itu.int/en/consultations/Pages/wtpf-26/display-WTPF-26.aspx?ListItemID=11) *- 1 000 words*

**3 CONTRIBUTION:** Marshall Gray, Mindful Disability Supports, Australia

**SUMMARY:** The contribution proposes amendments to the ITU Secretary-General's report for WTPF-26, focusing on AI applications in healthcare and disability support services. The submission draws from experience in operating healthcare platforms and participation in ITU innovation training.

**KEY POINTS**:

 Proposes integration of AI in healthcare support planning and service delivery

 Addresses assistive technologies for accessibility and inclusion

 Discusses global health platforms for disability support services

 Outlines considerations for ethical AI implementation and data privacy

 Presents case studies of healthcare platforms in Australia.

*Full document available* [*here*](https://www.itu.int/en/consultations/Pages/wtpf-26/display-WTPF-26.aspx?ListItemID=12) *- 1 500 words*

**4 CONTRIBUTION**: Raymond Sabogu-Sumah, National Communications Authority, Ghana

**SUMMARY:** The contribution provides specific text amendments and additions to the draft report, with focus on green digital transformation and space connectivity policy considerations.

**KEY POINTS:**

 Addition to Section 5.5:

– New question 5.5.7: "How do policy makers bridge the lack of information gap on the amount of emissions from ICT industries in respective countries?"

 Additions to Section 7.7:

– New question 7.7.5: "How can terrestrial and space based connectivity complement each other without dwindling the revenue of existing legacy terrestrial networks operating in national economies? How can satellite Direct-to-Device connectivity service providers work with local Operators to sustain their operations?"

*Full document available* [*here*](https://www.itu.int/en/consultations/Pages/wtpf-26/display-WTPF-26.aspx?ListItemID=14)

# SECTION II – COMMENTARY ON THE DRAFT REPORT

1 Hive Ventures, Malta

**GENERAL COMMENTS**: Investments in water infrastructure modernization are crucial to address inefficiencies such as leakage and high operational costs. Policies should prioritize the adoption of digitalization and IoT technologies to optimize water supply systems, making them more efficient and sustainable. Governments can incentivize municipalities and utilities to deploy advanced monitoring tools for leak detection and integrate cost-effective IoT solutions to reduce energy demands. By aligning with the estimated $525 billion needed globally by 2025, targeted infrastructure investments can significantly enhance water network performance and resilience. Policymakers should include hidden hydropower in national energy strategies, providing funding and technical support to explore this untapped potential. Encouraging innovation in this area can not only boost renewable energy production but also power essential water infrastructure sustainably.

2 Yao Amevi Amessinou Sossou, Individual, Benin

**COMMENT ON SECTION 4.1:** Bridging Digital Divides The draft effectively highlights the complexity of digital divides, including gaps in skills, age, and gender equity. However, I think something is missing. It would benefit from acknowledging the transformative role of digital healthcare technologies and tools in bridging these divides. Digital healthcare can significantly enhance access to services in underserved areas and address disparities in gender and age, particularly for older persons and marginalized groups. Incorporating healthcare as a key component of Universal and Meaningful Connectivity (UMC) would strengthen the framework’s relevance and impact. Additionally, emphasizing actionable strategies and measurable outcomes, such as access to digital health services and improvements in digital health literacy, would provide a clearer roadmap for addressing this interrelated challenge**.**

3 Ashwini Sathnur, Zero Hunger Champion, United Nations World Food Programme, India

**GENERAL COMMENT:** **T**he latest frontiers of technologies and the emerging markets has brought an enormous leap in the multiple sectors approach such as the information and communication technologies and human health and space connectivity and so on and so forth. Thus capacity building and the skills development of the society is the primary necessity in the current and the future of networks. Thus the roles and responsibilities of the knowledge management processes and activities are totally vital to build on the momentum of the digital economy.

Additional points from supplementary document:

 Notes impact of digital financial services and AI on multiple sectors

 Highlights role of 5G technologies and initiatives

 Observes positive correlation with quality employment opportunities in communities.

*Comment and supplementary document available* [*here*](https://www.itu.int/en/consultations/Pages/wtpf-26/display-WTPF-26.aspx?ListItemID=16).

*\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_*