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|  | **Document IEG-WTPF-26-3/3** |
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| Contribution by the United States of America |
| U.S. COMMENTS ON THE 3RD DRAFT REPORT BY THE ITU SECRETARY-GENERAL FOR WTPF-26 |
| **Purpose**This contribution provides general U.S. comments on the 3rd draft Report by the ITU Secretary-General for WTPF-26.**Action required**The Secretary-General is invited to **consider** this document in developing the next version of the report.\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_**References**[*ITU-SG WTPF26PREP Report 3*](https://www.itu.int/dms_pub/itu-s/md/24/wtpf26prep/r/S24-WTPF26PREP-R-0003%21%21MSW-E.docx) |

Ahead of the next meeting of the Informal Group of Experts on WTPF-26 (IEG-WTPF-26), the United States appreciates the opportunity to share its views on the 3rd draft Report by the ITU Secretary-General for WTPF-26. This contribution will also inform future U.S. revisions on the draft text of the five draft Opinions underway.

* Resolution 2 (Rev. Bucharest, 2022) bases WTPF discussions on the report from the Secretary General “in order to ensure that they are well focused.” As such, WTPF-26 should focus on its core goal of “discussing and exchanging views and information on telecommunication/ICT policy and regulatory matters,” without unnecessary distractions.
* For example, we support the emphasis in the report on practical policy considerations to close digital divides and develop digital skills to empower the future workforce. We welcome additional focus on promoting flexible and forward-leaning policy approaches that respond to the rapid pace of technological innovation and deployment of resilient networks. We support text that fosters growth and innovation in new telecommunications/ICT technologies to connect the unconnected, for example, through next-generation satellite constellations, consistent with members’ sovereign laws. We welcome a simplified approach to the report to focus on telecommunication/ICT policy developments to foster the investment and partnerships needed to address emerging challenges.
* On the other hand, the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) advances a program of soft global governance that is inconsistent with U.S. sovereignty and adverse to the rights and interests of Americans. Consequently, the United States will no longer reaffirm them as a matter of course. Connecting the work of the ITU to SDG metrics is not foundational to the ITU’s mission and removing these references, which were added only in recent years, will not materially impact the ITU’s work or, in this case, WTPF outcomes.

We also draw attention to the *resolves* of Resolution 2, which states “that WTPF shall not produce prescriptive regulatory outcomes.” Therefore, the language in the draft report should not provide overly prescriptive regulatory language and should reflect the fact that all WTPF discussions remain non-binding and should not create any new obligations on member states.

For example, we propose revisions like the following (in para. 3.2), which streamline the text but do not change the underlying meaning:

“Looking towards 2026 and beyond, policymakers and other stakeholders are invited to consider adopting holistic and complementary approaches for developing the integrated policy frameworks necessary to address the topics presented in the theme.”

* Relatedly, WTPF should not address any topics that go beyond the ITU’s core mission and mandate. Resolution 2 provides some latitude for WTPF to consider a wide range of “opportunities and pressing challenges arising from the new and emerging telecommunication/ICT services and technologies, especially on global and cross-sectoral issues;” however, Resolution 2 itself still falls within the bounds of the ITU’s remit. Therefore, the issue of space debris, for example, which is beyond the core mandate of the ITU, should not be considered within the scope of the space connectivity sub-theme.
* The United States strongly supports protecting women and girls, defending their rights, and promoting their empowerment. In order to appropriately focus on the needs and perspectives of women and girls, we support clear and accurate language that recognizes women are biologically female, and men are biologically male. We cannot endorse any work that promotes gender ideology or supports diversity, equity, or inclusion policies, which undermine efforts to eliminate discrimination. We recognize that “gender” is included in the WTPF-26 theme as decided by Decision 641 (Council, 2024). Moving forward, however, WTPF-26 documents should use more precise language, and remove references to gender and gender ideology, which exist beyond the remit of the ITU.
* The United States can no longer accept the unnecessary and distracting focus on climate change throughout the ITU’s work. While we recognize that “climate change” is included in the WTPF-26 theme as decided by Decision 641 (Council, 2024), we do not support general references to climate change as a policy matter or root cause of threats. Rather, in progressing the sub-themes on green digital transformation and resilience, the United States requests a focus only on proven solutions to specific environmental threats that are directly within the scope of the telecommunications/ICT focus area of the ITU, *i.e.*, disaster planning through early warning systems and other telecommunications/ICT response tools.

We invite the Secretary-General to take these comments into consideration when developing the next draft of the report.

In order to facilitate consensus in the development of the five draft Opinions, we also encourage the IEG-WTPF Vice Chairs to take into account these views when preparing the updated baseline texts.

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