# **Online Open Consultations**

**ITU COUNCIL WORKING GROUP
ON INTERNATIONAL INTERNET-RELATED PUBLIC POLICY ISSUES
(CWG-INTERNET)**

*(October 2016- January 2017)*

## USEFUL INFORMATION AND INSTRUCTIONS

### Information on the Online Open Consultations

The online open consultations are held throughout the period between two successive meetings of the CWG-Internet. This process gives an opportunity to all stakeholders from all nations to express their views with regards to the topic(s) under discussion.

As responses to the online open consultations can contain lengthy attachments, short summaries can prove useful to readers and facilitate the discussion process during the physical open consultation meeting. Therefore you are kindly requested to additionally provide a **short summary of your response (max. 3 paragraphs)**.

### Information on the Physical Open ConsultationsA physical open consultation meeting is organized **30 days** after the end of the online open consultation. Discussions during the physical consultation meeting are based on the responses received during the online consultation process, which are consolidated in a single document by the ITU Secretariat.

During this physical meeting, respondents to the online consultation have the opportunity to present their submitted views and to have a fruitful discussion with the other participants, including Members of the CWG-Internet. For those not in the position to participate on site, remote participation is also available upon request.

**Information on the details of the physical open consultation meeting will be published in advance on the** [**ITU Website**](https://www.itu.int/en/council/cwg-internet/Pages/open-consultations.aspx)**.**

## TOPIC OF DISCUSSION

Following the instructions of Council [Resolution 1344](http://www.itu.int/md/S15-CL-C-0112/en) (Mod. 2015), the [ITU Council Working Group on International Internet-related Public Policy Issues (CWG-Internet)](http://www.itu.int/en/council/cwg-internet/Pages/default.aspx) decided on 14 October 2016 **to hold an open consultation (online and physical) on the following topic**:

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| “Considering the importance of Internet to the global digital economy, all stakeholders are invited to submit their comments on the following key aspects:1. What are the developmental aspects of the Internet (for example, economic, social, regulatory and technical aspects), especially for developing countries?2. How can governments and other stakeholders promote the developmental aspects of the Internet?3. What are the challenges and opportunities?” |

## How to submit your input (accessible format)

You can include your responses to the questions into the following space and submit it through the [online form](http://www.itu.int/en/council/cwg-internet/Pages/form-oct2016.aspx) **OR** send it to InternetPublicViews@itu.int including your Full Name, Title, Organization you are representing and Country.

Your response will then be published on the ITU Website: <http://www.itu.int/en/council/cwg-internet/Pages/consultation-oct2016.aspx>

***The new deadline for submissions is: 11 January 2017***

## QUESTIONS

### **Question 1:**

**What are the developmental aspects of the Internet (for example, economic, social, regulatory and technical aspects), especially for developing countries?**

Answer to question 1: [**Ecomonic**: The internet has boosted the economies of most developing countries through communications. At the last rebase of Nigeria's economy, the GDP rose from the second largest economy in Africa to the first largely due to the telecommunications sector that was ignored over the years. The influx of the Telecoms Companies and business in Nigeria made it easier for people to reach out and do business even in the hinterland and remote villages through mobile phones. Mobile prepaid phone boots opened and boosted employment.

The internet also brought online banking to the fore, reducing overhead costs and improving cash flows from various points.

**Social:** Through the use of mobile apps in developing countries most people communicate with their families and loved ones using mobile internet. This has helped in socialization.

Networking sites have proved to be useful in human rights issues. People are able to freely air their views with little government interference.

**Technical:** With the development of the telecommunications sector in Nigeria, technical issues are usually experience. Improvement in knowledge comes in a bit to find solutions to problems that inhibit progress and through innovation as well. So you find repair shops for GSM, people get training in hi-tech field and are employed thereby improving the GDP and the general livelihood.]

### **Question 2:**

**How can governments and other stakeholders promote the developmental aspects of the Internet?**

Answer to question 2: [The government and other stakeholders can come-up with good policies that promote the expansion of acceptable internet practices. Regulatory bodies should be established and/or empowered to control and promote development of the sectors where necessary.

Knowledge exchange should also be encouraged through sound and people-friendly regulations. Infrastructure should be improved and the right resources allocated to create room for healthy competition.

Government should come with grants to encourage start-ups and Small and Medium Scale Enterprises in the sector.

Institutional frameworks that prevent interventions from prematurely coming to a halt should be legislated and enacted. This is to prevent risks factors such as political or administrative change in regime. The interventions should be regime-independent to promote healthy trade which brings about improvement in the quality of service provided.]

### **Question 3:**

**What are the challenges and opportunities?**

Answer to question 3: [There are quite a number of challenges which range from security, privacy, identity theft, accessibility, and cost of bandwidth, speed, availability, reliability and building local content especially for sub-Saharan research.

Opportunities are such as e-learning courses for capacity building, freedom of expression, online business, mobile business and improved social interaction. The challenges also bring about innovation in a bid to solve and resolve problems.]

## SHORT SUMMARY

The internet has boosted the economies of most developing countries through communications. A good example is that at the last rebase of Nigeria's economy, the GDP rose from the second largest economy in Africa to the first largely due to the telecommunications sector that was ignored over the years. The influx of the Telecoms Companies and business in Nigeria made it easier for people to reach out and do business even in the hinterland and remote villages through mobile phones. Mobile prepaid phone-boots opened and boosted employment. Additionally, the internet also brought online banking to the fore (reducing overhead costs and improving cash flows from various points), improved human rights agitation through online freedom of expression and promotes knowledge and innovation through resolving issues with the internet infrastructure.

The government and other stakeholders should come-up with good policies that promote the expansion of acceptable internet practices. Regulatory bodies should be established and/or empowered to control and promote sustainable development of the sectors by encouraging regime-independent interventions that support the growth of start-ups with Small and Medium Scale Enterprises. Knowledge exchange should also be encouraged through sound and people-friendly regulations and resources allocated to create room for healthy competition. Institutional frameworks that prevent interventions from prematurely coming to a halt should be legislated and enacted to prevent risks factors such as political or administrative change in government structure.

There are quite a number of challenges which range from security, privacy, identity theft, accessibility, bandwidth cost, speed, availability, reliability and building local content especially for online research on sub-Saharan Africa. Likewise, the opportunities such as e-learning courses for capacity building and development, freedom of expression, online business, mobile business and improved social interaction should be explored and boosted to bring about innovation in a bid to solve problems, resolve issues, improve quality of service and create an impact in the society.

## CONTACT DETAILS

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