FINISHED FILE

ITU COUNCIL

MAY 17, 2017

9:30 A.M. CST

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>> CHAIR: Good morning to everybody. I hope you had a pleasant evening yesterday. And I would like to thank Zimbabwe again for their lovely reception last night. Today I would like to wish happy World Telecommunication and Information Society Day. The celebration of this day will take place immediately after the morning Plenary today in room C. I would like to invite Abdullah Amer Alsawaha, Minister of Communications and Information Technology of Saudi Arabia to take the floor.

>> ABDULLAH AMER ALSAWAHA: In the name of God, the merciful, the beautiful. Greetings and may God's blessings be upon you. At the outset I would like to express to you, Madam Chair, on the presiding of the Council session of the ITU in 2017. We are all confident that your wise guidance is the best guarantee that this session will be successful. I do not forget to express my gratitude and thanks to Mrs. Julie Zoller from the United States of America who managed the previous Council session with much wisdom.

Ladies and Gentlemen, I'm happy to participate in this Council session of 2017 which is the 53rd year in which the ‑‑ in which Saudi Arabia participates in the works of the ITU's Council. And Saudi Arabia is committed to provide its support to the ITU so as to guarantee the undertaking of tasks at the global level. No doubt that the ITU plays a vital role in promoting prosperity for the peoples of the world and strengthening the international cooperation in the field of communications and technology which is one of the vital spheres in the economy that is based on knowledge.

And Saudi Arabia has launched the transformation program 2020 which is compatible with the Kingdom's vision for 2030. And telecommunications is one of the most important pillars of that program which concentrates on the digital infrastructure based on three elements which are broadband content, capacities and the digital safety. And at the time when the world is witnessing Internet attacks, the last of which we witnessed recently, the Developing and Developed Countries have been impacted. And this ‑‑ these attacks have impacted. Therefore we are requesting from the ITU which is the United Nations specialized agency with regard to communications and information technology to set down international laws that would create a more safe environment. Ladies and Gentlemen, finally I would like to emphasize that Saudi Arabia is interested in everything that emanates from the ITU, whether these are resolutions or recommendations. And we are very much interested in helping Member States to the ITU, especially Developing Countries and the Least Developed Countries so that these countries can make use of the developments both at the regulatory and technological levels. And the Kingdom is committed to undertake its efforts to support the ITU and its activities so as to be compatible with the changes that we witness in the environment of technology. And I ask the Almighty to ensure that the works of the Council in 2017 will be successful by achieving results that will respond to the expectations of all members while emphasizing at the same time that the ‑‑ that the Saudi Arabian Delegation will cooperate with everyone and will support any effort that will achieve such results which is for the benefit of everyone. May God's blessings be upon you. Thank you.   
 (Applause.)

>> CHAIR: Thank you, Minister. And now according to the time management plan in DT2 Rev 6 the first scheduled to be discussed was WTISD. However the former Vice‑Chair of this group will present the report of the Council Working Group on child online protection has requested that we review this document first. If will there are no objections I invite Ellen Whyte‑Gomez, former Vice‑Chair of CWG‑COP to present document C17/15.

>> ELLEN WHYTE‑GOMEZ: Good morning. Ladies and Gentlemen, Distinguished Delegates, it is my pleasure to introduce document C17/15 which presents the main results of the 12th and 13th meetings of the Council Working Group on child online protection. The 12th meeting of CWG‑COP was held on the 10th of October 2016 and the 13th meeting was held on the 2nd February 2017 at the ITU headquarters in Geneva.

In both meetings approximately 100 participants representing Governments, private sector, Civil Society, academia, international and Governmental organizations participated both physically and remotely in the meetings. In both meetings it was highlighted the important role of the United Nations as a global Convenor and facilitator for different stakeholders to work towards a universally available open, secure and trustworthy Internet. In addition the group received many contributions from members and from invited external experts. The related documents are available on the CWG‑COP website.

During the 12th meeting the first youth online consultation including at the most ‑‑ a demonstration of the platform were discussed. The Chair emphasized the significance of engaging more partners and suggested carrying out this consultation in relevant events, for instance, as a side activity instead of treating it as an isolated project. The ITU and child help online international joint campaign naming partnering to protect children and youth was highlighted and members of the CWG‑COP were encouraged to contribute to it.

Participants were also informed of the case studies to be presented on the 15th November 2016 at the ITU Telecom World 2016 in Bangkok, Thailand.

During the 13th meeting following the report of the ITU Secretariat on the progress made by the COP initiative the group discussed the outcomes of the youth online consultation presented by the Secretariat in coordination with the rewrites platform. The first results were very positive and numerous partners got engaged and participated in the consultation. The CWG‑COP members chose a new topic for the next online consultation. The Chair encouraged Member States to be actively involved in the campaign by encouraging local NGOs and schools to be included in this effort to further promote as broad as participation as possible.

Section 6 of the report focuses on the outcomes of the meetings. During the 12th meeting the group appreciated the suggestion of involving organizations such as the European Union and the Council of Europe among others as a way to bridge the gaps and harmonize actions at the national, regional and international levels. In this regard it was suggested that regional organizations be invited to attend future meetings. It was also recommended to explore ways to have age verification as a work item for the joint coordination activity COP. The Secretariat will brainstorm on how to inform the JCA‑COP about this recommendation.

In relation to the youth online consultation the group agreed on the following; first to continue to focus on the topic of cyber bullying, cyber bullying, because the current sample is small. Second to conduct the consultation possibly in the six languages of the UN with the support of Member States, ITU regional offices and partners so that the responsibility to extend the outreach of the consultation. The results of the consultation will be presented in the 13th CWG‑COP meeting.

During the 13th meeting it was agreed that in relation to the outcomes of the online consultation the group agreed that the topic of the next consultation will be around digital skills and empowerment. The Secretariat is working on exact wording with the rewrites platform for this consultation. However there is a draft question, question which I would like to share you and read as follows: What would you as children parents and teachers like to see as part of the curriculum in school to empower and equip children with the skills to better enjoy the Internet.

And there are also three subquestions which I also would like to share with you. First, what should schools teach you in order to ensure that you have the best online experience. What aspects of technology are you being taught in school. What would you like to learn at school to be better prepared for the future. What skills are the most important for an enjoyable online experience.

The second subquestion is what does your ideal tech friendly look school look like. Third question is have you received any information or training at school of how to be safe online. It was encouraged to involve the regional offices but also schools in other local entities to have more successful results and outcomes. Finally, it was encouraged to involve other relevant entities such as the IEEE to understand the areas of possible collaboration such as developing standards.

To finish with this report I would like to express my appreciation to the Secretariat and all the support team as well as to the Delegations who have very greatly contributed to a very fruitful work year for the Council Working Group on child online protection. I thank you very much, Mr. President.

>> CHAIR: Thank you, Ambassador, for your presentation. And now the floor is open for any comments, please. Spain, you have the floor.

>> SPAIN: Thank you very much, Madam Chair. We would like to thank the Ambassador for introducing this report. We would like to indicate this topic is one of great importance for Spain. We recently developed a series of tools for parental control which are available on e‑ ‑‑ on website ES4. And we would like to highlight the importance of the public consultation being carried out in the six official languages so that we can hear responses from the largest possible number of countries. Thank you very much.

>> CHAIR: Thank you, Spain. Philippines, you have the floor.

>> PHILIPPINES: Good morning. Thank you very much, Madam Chair, for giving us the floor. And I'd just like as the Delegate from Spain has highlighted child online is very important for Philippines. We thank them for this. Madam Chair and all the Distinguished Delegates in this occasion, there is no doubt that as more and more children use the Internet every day the benefits they enjoy have grown exponentially. However in parallel to these benefits are the risk that these children face. With the use of the Internet brings considerable benefits to the education of our children. The Internet also exposes them to online risks such as access to inappropriate or unpleasant contents, abusive interaction with others and other cyber risks. Among the serious global issues as an overt violation of children's rights is the Online Sexual Abuse and Exploitation of Children or OSAEC. As a response to the prevalence of OSAEC cases the Philippine Government has passed the Antipornography Act of 2009 and Republic Act, the cybercrime prevention Act of 2012. The Philippines has enjoyed the community of nations with a protection framework for children that will implement initiatives to combat abuses on children.

Moreover in September of last year the Philippines through the Department of Information and Communications Technology in collaboration with the ITU and the Interagency Council against child pornography has conducted an ITU ASEAN workshop on child online protection back to back with the national consultation on Philippines initiative on child online protection. The workshop and consultation had provided a platform for ASEAN Member States for information sharing, strengthening their knowledge, raising a level of awareness on child online safety through a multi‑stakeholders' approach involving Government agencies, the academia, telecoms, Civil Society, Nongovernmental Organizations and organizations dealing with children and youth sharing best practices and experiences and establishing liaisons and relationships with other relevant organizations which contribute to the promotion of child online protection.

With that, Madam Chair and most Distinguished Delegates, we would like to express our utmost appreciation again to the report that was penned on the Council Working Group on child online protection.

>> CHAIR: Thank you. Tunisia, you have the floor.

>> TUNISIA: Thank you, Madam Chair. And good morning to all our colleagues. I would like to thank the Working Group on the report they presented. And I'd like to express Tunis' interest in this important topic, not just Tunisia but all countries who are concerned about this topic and view. As you know that the time spent by children on the Internet exceeds in most cases the time that they spend with their family members. And in this context I would like to draw the attention to the necessity to intensify coordination with international organizations, especially UNICEF and UNESCO in the field of education so as to benefit from the programs that they present in this field. And also to benefit and exchange experiences and expertise that we can find in certain countries. And therefore this will be beneficial for most countries. Thank you.

>> CHAIR: Thank you, Tunisia. Venezuela, you have the floor.

>> VENEZUELA: Good morning, Madam Chair. Thank you for having given us the floor. We would like to thank the Chair for the report produced. We support the work of the CWG‑COP. In this regard our state has undertaken a number of policies aimed at increasing awareness and guidance for the correct use of the Internet and social networks. These are undertaken by the ‑‑ by the body which is responsible for digital oversight. We began a campaign of security of information through which we carried out talks with education centers, organizations and communities through town halls. We are developing a national action plan for child online protection which has the aim of carrying out a number of measures promoting amongst young people the appreciation of a safe environment on the Internet. This also involves teachers and other adults and parents. And thank you very much for your attention.

>> CHAIR: Thank you, Venezuela. Italy, you have the floor.

>> ITALY: Thank you, Chair. We want to thank the Ambassador for the clear presentation for the results obtained by the group of child online protection and the importance of this group, this activity in relation with the other interested entity that is really a good cooperation. The importance of the consultation. We know that the cyber bullying is still going on and the new team as given to us by the Ambassador on the curriculum, you ‑‑ as you are aware Chair, Italy is fully in support of this initiative. And we count on our cooperation. Thank you.

>> CHAIR: Thank you, Italy. Russia, you have the floor.

>> RUSSIAN FEDERATION: Thank you, Madam Chair. I would like to express gratitude for such a detailed report. And once again what underlines the importance of this work of the ITU in this area. I would like to note that Russia has traditionally participated in the work of the group. In our country we have developed and implemented with the participation of various ministries and institutions and also Nongovernmental and community organizations as a corresponding national strategy. Thank you very much.

>> CHAIR: Thank you. Greece, you have the floor.

>> GREECE: Thank you, Madam Chair. Good morning, everyone. I just would like to express my appreciation to the work on this important issue and the relevant report. Also to congratulate the public consultation is held to six languages and encourages this way for contribution for more countries. Child protection is a global task and all authorities in national or international level must cooperate in order to enforce the child protection regarding the use of the Internet. Thank you again and very good work.

>> CHAIR: Thank you, Greece. Algeria, you have the floor.

>> ALGERIA: Thank you, Madam Chair. At the outset I would like to thank the Working Group that did excellent work and which summarized all the work that was achieved by the ITU. We would like also to thank the Member States for participating in the protection of children online. This is an incredible task. Secondly, I would like to draw your attention to the parties that have to participate in this problem and in the solving of this problem. I would like to invite you to pay attention to the providers of these services because they participate directly and indirectly through what's presented on the Internet. Indirectly we have to work together in order to raise awareness, especially in schools we have to empower kids in schools so that they pay attention to what they do on the Internet. Schools have to participate. Parents also have to participate so that they educate their children because the Internet has a double edge. It could be profitable. And we also have to train teachers so that they are aware of what's being done on the Internet. We have to make teachers aware so that they know that they have to play the role. Thanks very much.

>> CHAIR: Thank you, Algeria. Burkina Faso, you have the floor.

>> BURKINA FASO: Thank you very much, Madam Chair. Madam Chair, our Delegation has taken note of the report by the Chair of the Council Working Group on child online protection. We would like to thank the Ambassador for the work that she has done. In this regard we need to highlight that the topic of our next Internet week nationally is on child online protection. And this shows the high priority our country attaches to this issue. The document indicates that the ITU should continue with this activity in this area. And we believe that best practices should be developed and circulated among our states for their benefit. Thank you very much.

>> CHAIR: Thank you. Canada, you have the floor.

>> CANADA: Thank you very much. Good morning to you and all colleagues. First of all, we would like to congratulate the Ambassador for the presentation of this document. And, of course, the Secretariat in assisting us in the activities of the Council's Working Group. Just very briefly, Madam Chair, to point out how important as reflected by the report to engage in these kind of discussions stakeholders from academia, schools and probably most importantly I was quite impressed with the number of young children that responded to the questionnaires and provided a lot of insight. There were many responses in which they pointed out on the need to continue engaging them as they are probably the fastest innovators, uptakers of technology. And I am pretty sure that they are in a position to provide very sound advice. To that effect, Madam Chair, we encourage the ITU to continue working with other stakeholders within and outside the United Nations system. Thank you.

>> CHAIR: Thank you. Rwanda, you have the floor.

>> RWANDA: Thank you, Madam Chair. Child online protection is very important in the digital world and Rwanda appreciates all efforts made in that sense. The majority of Rwanda population is youth, around 65%. And in Rwanda there are many actions in line with the protection of a child. One of them being organizing annually a Forum for a child where they discuss issues related to child protection and experience sharing during the session of the Working Group, we see them as very important. And we appreciate. Thank you.

>> CHAIR: Thank you. Kenya, you have the floor.

>> KENYA: Thank you, Madam Chair. Like many other colleagues ahead of us we would want to thank the Ambassador for this important document and the Council Working Group on child online protection for the insights they have given us and the scope of coverage. We want to further thank this Council Working Group for the collaboration they have had with quite a number of international organizations, like child help line and the JCA child online protection. In Kenya I would want to share with the colleagues that we have taken this seriously because we know the importance that it takes on our children. As a developing country I would want to share that most of our children seem to be more electronic savvy and could be able to have access to any materials on the net and more especially through the phones than their own parents. So even asking the parents to educate the child on whatnot to access on the phone becomes a bit difficult because the child seems to be ahead of the parent in terms of technology. So ‑‑ and I also want to say that actually it is not just maybe cyber bullying or inappropriate materials that children can see on the net. It goes further. The vulnerability of the child is the vulnerability of the parent and the society at large. Because now most of the transactions are online and most of the children are ‑‑ tend to access this kind of inappropriate and dangerous materials on the net, even through their parents' own telephone lines.

As such criminals are able to access very secretive material that parents may have on their phones and as such also use it for other criminal activities including theft. So it is important that probably the Council Working Group considers increasing the scope of how ‑‑ of examining the issue ‑‑ this issue on child online protection to go beyond the normal issues that we talk about like cyber bullying, cyber stalking and inappropriate materials to the next step of seeing how they can protect the society from some criminal activities that can affect adults as well and as well as also affect the economic transactions of our nation that could also be done through online. Thank you, Madam Chair.

>> CHAIR: Thank you, Kenya. Nigeria, you have the floor.

>> NIGERIA: Thank you, Madam Chair. And good morning to all colleagues. I want to join my colleagues in thanking the Chairman of the Council Working Group on child online protection and also congratulate the group for its excellent work and the report that has been presented. Nigeria have listened to the comments by colleagues and would not like to repeat what has been said because what we intended to say has already been said. However, I would like to let this Council know that Nigeria takes the issue of child online protection with all seriousness. We will continue to do all it can to ensure that our children are highly protected while using the Internet. Once more, Madam Chair, I want to thank you for this opportunity.

>> CHAIR: Thank you. Bangladesh, you have the floor.

>> BANGLADESH: Madam Chair, thank you very much for giving me the floor. I express my gratitude to the Ambassador for presenting such an important document to inform you, Madam Chair, Bangladesh has already undertaken a good number of workshops and other knowledge sharing sessions to alert the children and parents of our country. Bangladesh has also been working with industries, school and colleges and in the recent past the Commonwealth Telecommunication Organization conducting three workshops about child online protection. I thank the ITU for formulating the guidelines for children, guidelines for parents, guidelines for educators, guidelines for industry, and guidelines for policymakers. Thank you, Madam Chair.

>> CHAIR: Thank you. Egypt, you have the floor.

>> EGYPT: Thank you, Madam Chair. Good morning, everybody. Good morning, Distinguished Delegates. As I'm speaking for the first time I would like to congratulate you, Madam Chair, for being elected to the Chairmanship. I wish you success.

Madam Chair, protecting our children on the Internet is among the priorities of the Egyptian administration and Egypt as a whole gives importance to this topic. Setting up this group was on the basis of a proposal presented by the Arab group and by Egypt when we met in Guadalajara in Mexico. And we give priority to this topic and the administration has paid attention to this topic and we followed everything that was done. Dr. Sharif Hassan is very busy in our administration. This is why I would like to apologize that we would like to continue our work on this board with you. We will also pay attention to what's being done in this Council Working Group. We wish you success. And we would like you to choose another Chairman for this group, Madam. Thank you very much.

>> CHAIR: Thank you. Azerbaijan, have the floor.

>> AZERBAIJAN: Thank you, Madam Chair. We would also like to congratulate you upon your election to Council. Due to technical issues unfortunately we could not get involved in this discussion up until now. But we would like to thank the Ambassador for introducing this document. We fully support it. In the administration of Azerbaijan we are taking all possible measures to protect children. Thank you.

>> CHAIR: Thank you. Argentina, you have the floor.

>> ARGENTINA: Yes, thank you very much. We wanted to say that as part of the Convention of Unicom, which is the regulator in Argentina with stakeholders in Buenos Aires, we held a seminar. We would like to thank the ITU for the active participation in the seminar. Since the representative of a regional office shared their knowledge with us on the specific issues. In the next meeting of the working group we will certainly share the material we have available in Spanish. Thank you.

>> CHAIR: Thank you. India, you have the floor.

>> INDIA: Thank you, Madam Chair. And good morning all of you. I also take this opportunity to wish all the distinguished members of ITU here on the occasion of World Telecommunication and Information Society Day. I agree and acknowledge the report of the child online protection presented by the Ambassador and value for all the Member States and some of the previous speakers mentioned about how expanding the scope to improve its value for the Member States, especially for the families with children. In fact, I happen to come across an interesting, you know, statistical indicator in Korean annual service which speaks about addiction to online. I have ‑‑ most of the posters we have been seeing children not only using it effectively but part of the process. It may be considered to expand the scope, child online protection as well as an addiction. Perhaps this could be taken in to consideration. We support the child online protection report. And we wish, you know, the reports are implemented and actions are taken to take forward the engagement. Thank you.

>> CHAIR: Thank you. Senegal, you have the floor.

>> SENEGAL: Thank you, Madam Chair. We would like to wish everyone a very pleasant World Telecommunication and Information Society Day. Senegal has taken initiatives in this regard. On the 15th and 16th of May there was training on child online protection in cooperation ‑‑ well, in conjunction with the WTISD, which was yesterday and today. And we stand ready to continue with cooperation in this area. Thank you.

>> CHAIR: Thank you. United Kingdom, you have the floor.

>> UNITED KINGDOM: Thank you, Chair. And good morning. And we would also like to say thank you for the report on the Council Working Group. This is clearly a topic of great importance to all of us. And we also appreciate the work that the Commonwealth Telecommunication Organization is doing.

Madam Chair, the United Kingdom is organizing a session at the WSIS Forum next month on We Protect, a global initiative launched in London in 2014 to end the sexual exploitation of children online. All stakeholders have roles to play in tackling this crime and the We Protect global alliance aims to join up the efforts of all stakeholders bringing together resources and expertise, particularly to support Developing Countries. We would like to use this opportunity to invite all colleagues here to join us at the WSIS Forum to discuss this important issue further. Thank you.

>> CHAIR: Thank you. And now, Ms. Ambassador, do you want to do some comment? No. Okay. So I think that all the floor has a great support to this report. So we can note this report. And I would invite the Secretariat to keep in mind all the comments and the suggestions given by the floor. Now the report is noted.

(Gavel).

>> CHAIR: But then I will give the floor to the Secretary‑General, please.

>> HOULIN ZHAO: Thank you, Madam Chair. Good morning, Dear Counselors, Excellencies, colleagues, Ladies and Gentlemen, yeah, today is a very special day for ITU. I noted several interventions already mentioned this special day for ITU. So I would like to take this opportunity to wish you all first of all very happy World Telecommunication and Information Society Day. I think the world is widely appreciated and I see support to encourage ITU to continue this project. And we will definitely work with our members to continue our efforts to address these very important issues that our children will be protected from the online service and online views from those child abuse. And as I mentioned at my intervention last year that I wish that Interpol ‑‑ last year I was well pleased to see that there are some international cooperations to have some law enforcement to bring those child online criminals to justice. And this has not only happened in one particular country. Interpol engages with several countries to bring the criminals to the court. So that is very encouraging and would very much like to continue this effort together with you.

So Madam Chair, I would like to take this opportunity also to appreciate our Chairman of the group, Sharif Hassan from Egypt, and due to his engagement he cannot join us. And we got a message very late last week. And then we are very happy that the Ambassador from Costa Rica could help us to present the report.

Unfortunately both the Chairman and Ambassador can no longer be with this important group. So that we have to find a new candidate for the Chairmanship of this group. So we will have consultations among our Chairmen. We have I understand five current Vice‑Chairmen and we have six. And we will come back to the Council next week to nominate a new Chairman for this important group. Thank you.

>> CHAIR: Thank you. Thank you also for your appreciation. And now we can go to the document C17/17, World Telecommunication and Information Society Day. I would invite the Ms. Patricia Benoit‑Guyot to present this report, please.

>> PATRICIA BENOIT‑GUYOT: Thank you, Madam Chair. It is my pleasure to introduce on behalf of the Secretariat‑General document 17/17 on World Telecommunication and Information Society Day. As you know the purpose of WTISD is to help raise awareness that can bring to societies and economies as well as the ways to bridge the digital divide. WTISD marks the anniversary of the signature of the first International Telegraph Convention and the creation of the International Telecommunication Union on 17 May 1865.

For 2017 the ITU Council had adopted the theme Big Data for Big Impact. Today we will be hosting a very exciting international interactive panel discussion here at ITU in room C. The panelists will be presenting the different areas of Big Data and highlighting the opportunities and challenges for social impact. The Secretary‑General will address the Council later this morning on this event which you are all strongly encouraged to attend and to participate in the debate.

When preparing the theme for WTISD 2018 we consider that artificial intelligence has enormous potential for social good. Lives across the world can be improved in fundamental ways. If a scaleable power of AI could be leveraged correctly it can rapidly accelerate progress on the United Nations sustainable goals, the SDGs. AI machine learning will have an impact on every SDG and the work areas of every UN agency. The UN Secretary‑General Antonio Guterres has called artificial intelligence a frontier issue.

At ITU we see the impact of AI in our work on connectivity, network management, cybersecurity, IoTs, 5G, e‑services over mobile and in many other areas. On behalf of the Secretary‑General I would like to propose that the theme for WTISD for 2018 be enabling the positive use of artificial intelligence for all. The Council has requested to approve the theme for 2018. And in concluding I wish you a very wonderful World Telecommunication and Information Society Day and look forward to seeing you later.

>> CHAIR: Thank you. The floor is open for any comments, please. USA, you have the floor.

>> UNITED STATES: Thank you, Madam Chair. And let me thank the Secretariat for their excellent presentation. Artificial intelligence will undoubtedly continue to receive increased attention, especially its application to develop and advance numerous fields and industries and technologies. The possible AI advances combined with interest in the technology's potential bring a host of collateral issues, including socioeconomic impacts, new uses for data, security and safety and ethics which are topics that escape the normal boundaries of the ITU.

ITU's already planning with other UN organizations a Summit on AI called AI for Global Good next month. And Study Group 3 agreed at its April 2017 meeting to organize simultaneously an artificial intelligence workshop. There is work underway in the CSTD and UNESCO UN Pulse also plays a role. So for us rather than duplicating the artificial intelligence theme in the WTISD for next year we would suggest that we build on the theme of the WTDC which is ICTs for SDGs and set as our theme for 2018 SDGs to BSG, bridge the standardization gap. Thank you, Madam Chair.

>> CHAIR: Thank you, USA. Philippines, you have the floor.

>> PHILIPPINES: Thank you, Madam Chair. And good morning to everyone. First of all, the Philippines Delegation would like to wish everyone a happy World Telecommunication and Information Society Day. We are happy to note the theme which aims to identify opportunities and challenges in ensuring that Big Data becomes a tool in addressing the challenges, implementing the Sustainable Development Goals. Activities undertaken by the ITU membership will contribute towards building a momentum to embrace Big Data and leverage insights to identify new opportunities that creatively address sustainable development challenges.

Now in response to the Secretary‑General's calls for action in creating and strengthening national data ecosystem that generates and analyzes data in innovative ways, we have been participating in the Big Data for Information Society pilot study since last year. Now we commend the efforts of ITU in exploring innovative ways of using Big Data for development, using Big Data for development for improving measurement of Information Society and in facilitating linkage among ICT industries, national statistical offices and telecommunication operators.

The Philippines Delegation emphasizes the relevance of this study and the results will serve as the basis for information management platform that will guide our national SDG initiatives. We extend our utmost gratitude to the ITU for including Philippines as part of the pilot study. The Philippines expresses agreement to the WTISD‑18 proposed theme enabling the positive use of our artificial intelligence for all.

It will allow the ITU membership to focus on artificial intelligences, looking at how use of AI could help accelerate the goals of and will help the ITU membership to have a data driven decision making through the use of emerging technologies such as analytics in solving complex tasks and this could also allow ITU members to reflect upon how to prevent potential negative impacts of use of AI technology. With that the Philippines Delegation endorses for approval the proposed theme and wishes everyone a happy WTISD. Thank you.

>> CHAIR: Thank you. Pakistan, you have the floor.

>> PAKISTAN: Thank you, Madam Chair. Good morning, all. And my best wishes on this occasion of World Telecommunication and Information Society Day. The post theme of 2018 concerning artificial intelligence is a logical build up to this year's theme regarding Big Data. On behalf of the Pakistani Delegation however I would suggest if we can slightly modify it and make it more leaner to use of AI for all so that more emphasis is put on your intended message. We are of the view that including supplementary works impacts the notion of discussion and becomes open to interpretation of the understanding. Thanks.

>> CHAIR: Thank you. Now, Dear Councillor, we have two proposals. One as regards the artificial intelligence and the second proposal of USA about the theme of the next year. Any other point of view about this? Sorry. Azerbaijan, there is a problem with the video. Sorry. You have the floor.

>> AZERBAIJAN: Secretary‑General, Madam Chair, Excellencies, Ladies and Gentlemen, on behalf of the Delegation of Azerbaijan I would like to congratulate all of us on the World Telecommunication and Information Society Day and appreciate the international holiday by ITU. This has a positive effort on implementation of activities aimed to their development of Information Society at the global and national levels. In Azerbaijan we attach great importance to the development of ICT potential and the high technology sector which are considered as the key drivers of the country's sustainable development. For this purpose we have elaborated strategic documents would envisage several national and regional projects. We are committed to continue our part to future development of Information Society and promote projects including national ones to bridge the digital divide in the region.

Dear colleagues, ITU as the primary international organization of development of ICT globally reminds the major platform for exchange of experience and action and I believe that under Mr. Zhao's leadership and close collaboration of all its members this organization will continue to effectively deliver its mandates.

During last year Azerbaijan has actively participated in a number of ITU events. And we participated in and organized all our national (inaudible) in ITU Telecom in Bangkok. Azerbaijan successfully organized International ITU, an international conference on the Internet of Things. We had the privilege to welcome Mr. Houlin Zhao, ITU Secretary‑General at this international conference. We appreciate the efforts of Mr. Zhao in supporting the development activities of Member States where all preparing to exhibit Azerbaijan slight innovation at the ITU World Telecom 2016 to be held in Busan.

Azerbaijan reminds apparent the future development of cooperation with ITU and its Member States. And regarding our topics for discussions we fully support for next year the artificial intelligence issue. I won't mention one of ‑‑ a funder of this artificial intelligence ideas who work in U.S. California Berkeley University. And we think that artificial intelligence is very important for our lives and therefore we can use possibilities and the capacity of this new technology which we can use in our lives. Thank you for your attention.

>> CHAIR: Thank you. Venezuela, you have the floor.

>> VENEZUELA: Thank you, Madam Chair, for having given me the floor and congratulations to the entire ITU community for the efforts put in place to develop our sector. The Bolivian Republic of Venezuela has been promoting the development of Information Society sparing no efforts to support the development of ICTs. And the Government of Venezuela has been demonstrating positive results in terms of ICT development thanks to initiatives and efforts. It is a major sector of economy which has shown a great deal of growth in the past few years, largely because of an increased use of ICTs. And we are seeking guarantees for the use of ICTs by all members of our population. Unfortunately because of the falling oil prices in the past few years the implementation of some projects had stalled and there have been negative consequences at national and international levels which doesn't belittle the efforts taken by our country because we will continue pressing on with promoting ICT infrastructure and generally in the area of a technical progress to meet the demands of our population.

That's why we have a number of (inaudible) to ITU in CRP, overcoming the digital divide. And we would continue supporting the ITU goals and objectives, the efforts undertaken by our other countries. And you can count on our cooperation to meet the goals of sustainable development.

With regard to WTISD we are ‑‑ we intend to hold various Forums such as the one on Big Data at one of the Venezuelan Universities as well as the positive and negative aspects of the use of the Internet and social networks. We would like to have a discussion on the positive aspects and negative aspects of the use of the Internet and social networks. We would like to organize the debate prior to the conference. And I wish you all success in holding the international day. Thank you.

>> CHAIR: Thank you. Tunisia, you have the floor.

>> TUNISIA: I thank you, Madam Chair, for having given me the floor. It is quite clear that just like other countries we welcome the holding of this international day. Every year we try to make that day as successful as possible, as wildly covered in the media as possible. And we are seeking the benefits for all the citizens from holding that day. I would like to ask the General‑Secretariat to assist states and particularly Developing Countries. In terms of supply and demand, all the necessary visual tools and everything that would make it possible for relevant ministries to support the participation on that important day. For example, to provide the necessary wherewithal to the audiovisual media so that the holding of that day receives wild publicity and that's the efforts of the sector are highlighted. Perhaps ‑‑ well, the role of the ITU needs to be emphasized worldwide. And we need to attract participants from businesses and academia to take part in more events held by the ITU. Thank you.

>> CHAIR: Thank you. Senegal, you have the floor.

>> SENEGAL: Thank you, Madam Chair. Once again we would like to congratulate you and the Secretariat, General‑Secretariat of the ITU and all of the countries that have supported the holding of the international day. Senegal would also hold a number of events to celebrate that day. Yesterday our Ministry of Positive Communications delivered a national message using the national media highlighting the topics that shall be discussed this year. Today there are also going to be some exhibitions linked to Big Data and opportunities happen in Big Data, cybersecurity, protection of private data and appropriate regulation as well as the impact of Big Data on Developing Countries, that's also going to be a media Forum this afternoon involving all the stakeholders in order to have an opportunity to establish partnerships in Big Data. There is also going to be a meeting of innovators in the areas of Big Data and the IoT. I'm saying all that, Madam Chair, this international day plays a crucial role to support Developing Countries and inform them about the latest developments. Thank you.

>> CHAIR: Thank you. Greece, you have the floor.

>> GREECE: Thank you, Madam Chair. We welcome and congratulate the holding of World Telecommunication and Information Society Day. We believe it is of great importance as it raises awareness of possibilities that the use of Internet and other information communication technologies and can bridge the digital divide between the countries. Thank you.

>> CHAIR: Thank you. Russia, you have the floor.

>> RUSSIAN FEDERATION: Thank you, Madam Chair. We would like to re‑emphasize the importance of topicality and relevance of the artificial intelligence topic. In our view this topic would have to be discussed at the highest possible level. Thank you.

>> CHAIR: It seems that the theme on AI has a good support as a theme for the next year. And I can ask to the Council to agree all with this theme of the next year and as suggested by Pakistan it can be a good theme for the potential of the ICT sector. And if you agree, the proposal of the USA can become the theme for the 2019 and to ‑‑ it can be a good solution for all.   
 (Applause.)

>> CHAIR: Thank you. So the Rapporteur on the theme of this year on the theme Big Data for Big Impact is not by the Council. And we can approve the theme enabling the positive views of artificial intelligence for all for WTISD for 2018. Approved.

(Gavel).

>> CHAIR: And now Ms. Patricia Benoit‑Guyot has the floor, please.

>> PATRICIA BENOIT‑GUYOT: Thank you. And it is indeed my pleasure to tell you a little bit more about what's going to happen at 12:30 today. We will be holding a debate in room C which is the room on your right as you leave. All the Delegations are invited to attend. We are going to have a very, very interesting debate. We have some very high level speakers as I said in the different domains of Big Data. And this will be followed by a lunch. So we are not going to leave you to starve. The lunch will be very kindly sponsored by our colleagues from the United Arab Emirates who will be given a chance later in the day to speak to you personally.

So I really encourage you all to join us. And I believe as you are aware the afternoon position will take place from 3 p.m. to give you the time to enjoy this World Telecommunication and Information Society Day event. Thank you very much.

>> CHAIR: Thank you. And now I have the pleasure to give the floor to the secretary of Nepal. Please, you have the floor.

>> NEPAL: Thank you, Madam Chair. Since we are taking the floor for the first time on behalf of the Delegation of Nepal I would like to explain my sincere appreciation for this very important meeting of ITU Council. We are confident under your able leadership the meeting will be successful.

Distinguished Delegates, Ladies and Gentlemen, I would like to thank Madam Chair and ITU for providing us an opportunity to speak in the Plenary today. And also very important today is the World Telecommunication and Information Society Day. On this very important occasion I wish to congratulate all Delegates and member countries and ask all to join hands to make telecommunication a way of life and driver of economic development.

The theme Big Data Big Impact truly illustrates the need of time in all over to help maximize investments and impact lives and improve cities quoted from website of ITU. Nepal has always had a strong commitment to implement the decisions taken by ITU. Nepal understands the importance of telecommunication and information technology, particularly for the countries like Nepal which is lagging behind on their development efforts to best utilize the opportunities provided by rapid changes in development in this area. Also to utilize the opportunities to open the ITU through the strategic thinking, coordinating among member countries knowledge sharing and cybersecurity, digital divide, environmental aspects affordable are some of the issues.

Nepal is working tirelessly to improve the lives of citizens empowering them and providing them opportunities of economic development through the efficient use of telecommunication and information technology. And we are in the process of coming up with a new technology policy. Implementing broadband policy which has high ambitions of trying to make them possible. We believe we can achieve much more now.

We are also working with the regional office for Asia and Bangkok on issues. And developments and ideas and support and coordination done by regional offices are very important for us. Thank you to the regional team in Bangkok. I would also like to thank and commend the Secretary‑General Mr. Houlin Zhao and Deputy Secretary‑General and all members of ITU management of making ITU a valuable asset for all member countries. Thank you very much.

>> CHAIR: Thank you.   
 (Applause.)

>> CHAIR: And now we will propose to break for a coffee kindly offered by Saudi Arabia. And we can resume in 20 minutes. Thank you.

(Break).

>> CHAIR: Please can you enter? Well, we can start. And the next document is the document C17/33, about the ITU Internet activities. And Dear Councillors, I want to read the full process provided for wording the Internet report to the UN Secretary‑General as set up in the Resolution 102 for clarification and general information.

And Resolution 102 instructs the Secretary‑General, states that so the Council on the activities undertaken on this subject and submit proposals as appropriate and after endorsement of this report by Member States through consultation procedures enforced to submit the report to the Secretary‑General of the United Nations. We will follow the same process that was agreed by Council in 2015 and followed last year. The Council is invited to note the activities described in this report.

And I invite Council Member States to submit their views on the report by Friday at noon, Friday at noon. Please provide them in writing to the secretary by e‑mail. Please be very succinct in your statement. Views by Council Member States will be included in a separate document. The note report along with the document as an attachment containing the compilation of view of Council Member States. An official Council summary record of discussion related to the report will be submitted to the UN Secretary‑General as a package along with a cover letter that clearly states that the report was not by the ITU Council Member States. And the report should be considered along with the attached document and summary record as a package. And the inclusion of hyperlinks in the report does not imply implicit approval of the high interlinks target as decision 2014.

The cover letter and compilation of views received from Council Member States will be published as an idea at half passed 9 on Tuesday 23rd of May after the deadline so that everyone can review it. You will get an opportunity to review the summary records as part of our normal procedures.

Let me make it clear again that here we are not endorsing the report. We are just endorsing the transmission of the report with the attached compilation of views of Council Member States and the related summary records as a package. I will invite Ms. Bogdan to present this document. Please, you have the floor.

>> DOREEN BOGDAN: Thank you very much, Madam Chair. And good morning, Ladies and Gentlemen. It is my pleasure to introduce on behalf of the Secretary‑General document 33, ITU's Internet activities report. This report summarizes ITU activities related to Plenipotentiary Resolutions 101, Internet protocol based networks 102, ITU's role with regard to international public policy issues pertaining to the Internet and the management of Internet resources including domain names and addresses. Resolution 133, roles of administrations of Member States in the management of internationalized multi‑lingual domain names. Resolution 180, facilitating the transition from IPv4 to IPv6. Section 2 of this document contains activities related to IP networks, the development of NGNs and future Internet and including policy and regulatory challenges. Activities highlighted include the work of ITU‑T focus group on IMT 2020 on IoT and its applications, Internet performance measurement, highlighting Internet related resolutions from WTSA‑2016 as well as supporting the implementation of Internet broadband wireless connectivity to provide free or low cost digital access for schools and hospitals and for underserved populations in rural and remote areas.

Section 3 of this report is on IPv6 related activities, which include the continued work on IPTV, IPv6 global test bed projects to test interoperability of IPTV equipment and service as well as other IPv6 based technologies. Also listed are several activities by BDT, related to capacity building especially in Developing Countries to promote IPv6 capacity deployment and to assist in the migration to IPv6.

Section 4, Madam Chair, lists activities concerning Internet related public policy issues. It includes details related to the efforts to protect Intergovernmental, IPOs and includes information on policy and legal and practice implications on the potential usage of all digit strings under .tel. The section also highlights ITU's participation in the CSTD Working Group on Enhanced Cooperation.

Section 5, Madam Chair, is on NGN related activities. Section 6 covers activities concerning international Internet connectivity and Internet Exchange Points. It highlights BDT assistance to countries and regions on the creation of IXPs and on achieving efficient and cost effective regional Internet connectivity. It also notes the work of ITU‑T Study Group 3 on international Internet connectivity. Section 7 reports on ITU's participation in the 11th Internet Governance Forum that was held in December 2016 in Guadalajara, Mexico. Thank you, Madam Chair.

>> CHAIR: The floor is open for any comments, please. We have no comments. India, you have the floor.

>> INDIA: Thank you, Madam Chair. In fact, we acknowledge the ITU team for preparing a good summary report on all various activities happening in ITU, indicating some of the activities happening in other international platforms. In fact, with respect to standardization point of view it gives some details about the new standardization activity, new recommendations and IMT related activities. It also includes ITU protecting the Intergovernmental organizations and, of course, there are a few brief details about engagement with TELNIC, IGF and Enhanced Cooperation. And we also like to bring to your kind submission there is a contribution from India which we will be sharing in the coming minutes. So at this moment that's our input on the document. Thank you very much.

>> CHAIR: Thank you. Russia, you have the floor.

>> RUSSIAN FEDERATION: Thank you, Madam Chair. The Russian Federation attaches great importance to the work of the ITU on issues connected with the Internet and would like to express its gratitude to all of those involved in this work for the results they have achieved. We support the fact that ITU's activities is carried out in cooperation with the corresponding organizations who participate in the development of IP‑based networks, the Internet of services, and on the whole, the future of the Internet. We propose that no need to rest on our laurels. We should move forward.

The Internet ecosystem is a global means and environment and practically implements various national functions. However on an international level there is no single coordination bead for Internet issues. Critically important aspects, for example, pertain to such as Net Neutrality, authentication, and privacy are not being handled on an international level. However there is a need for international cooperation. However there is no international body to do this. In our opinion the ITU is the best candidate for this role. We will propose to the Council that it instructs the Working Group on Internet issues to discuss possible approaches to organize in cooperation between states and other interested parties, on crucial issues of Internet development including but not restricted to issues such as Net Neutrality, authentication and privacy in the ITU. And prepare recommendations to the Council on this issue. Thank you.

>> CHAIR: Thank you, Russia. Rwanda, you have the floor.

>> RWANDA: Thank you, Madam Chair. We also thank the ITU Secretariat for the report on Internet activity. And we understand ITU and other international organizations concern on the issue of protection, protecting Intergovernmental Organizations and names and acronyms in new gTLDs. Many Member States including Rwanda have the same concern of having the Top‑Level Domain name becoming a generic domain name and used as a secondary domain name. This requires a more collaboration of Member States who have this concern. And together with ITU we should have this matter solved. Thank you.

>> CHAIR: Thank you, Rwanda. USA, you have the floor.

>> UNITED STATES: Thank you, Madam Chair. And thank you Ms. Bogdan for presenting the report in document 33.

I wish simply to respond to the proposal made by my Distinguished Colleague from the Russian Federation. We dealt with the issue of the terms of reference in the operational approach that the Council Working Group on internet related public policy would take at the last Council meeting. And we determined that it would not create recommendations. And I urge you not to revisit that issue here at this Council. It was very difficult to come to a conclusion on that issue. Furthermore, for us the issues related to the Internet must be handled in a multi‑stakeholder fashion. Issues such as Net Neutrality, authentication and privacy for us are also outside the remit of the ITU. So we cannot support that proposal. Thank you, Chair.

>> CHAIR: Thank you. Pakistan, you have the floor.

>> PAKISTAN: Thank you, Madam Chair. On behalf of the Pakistani administration I appreciate the efforts and activities ITU has been undertaking in relation to Internet related matters. We have noted that ITU has been participating in coordinating with nearly every fora on the matter. We also note that ITU has produced several recommendations and technical aspects whereas recommendations on public policy aspects such as governance of Internet, et cetera, has not been maturing at a similar pace. That actually makes me think about the specific objectives, possible values of Member States and outcomes of cooperation which ITU is looking for participation in Internet related policy forums. I think this is something which is also proposed in document 86 as well. Thank you.

>> CHAIR: Thank you. Cuba, you have the floor.

>> CUBA: Thank you, Madam Chair. With regard to this agenda item we would like to say that there are lots of intersectoral international public policy issues connected to the Internet that require our attention. And in addition to public policies in the area of ICTs it is important to follow up to what is provided for in the Tunis Agenda, specifically in paragraph 35 where it is indicated that designation of an organization responsible for Internet public policy is the right of states and that they have rights and responsibilities. As regards public policy issues connected to the Internet on an international level. Cuba would like to reaffirm its commitment to actively participate in international debates on Internet Governance. We would like to appeal for the working ‑‑ for the relevant Working Group to develop concrete recommendations connected to its work. Starting from the complex international scenario we should seek to focus our debates of substantive issues which are useful to Member States of the ITU and the international community in general. At the same time we would like to recognize the work of the Chair of the group and we support what was expressed by the Delegation of Russia. We support the contribution which is presented by China which indicates a need to establish clear principles defining the topics for the open consultations of the group. So that the ITU can play a more important role in providing guidance on public policy issues related to the Internet. And that they successfully address the issues which are of concern to all parties taking in to account in addition to this that the Internet Working Group should look at the topics covered in Resolution ‑‑ in decision 1306 of the Council. This could also connect to an original digital divide and increasing awareness of public policy for OTTs.

We would like to say that there is a need to pay attention to the work of the Working Group for strengthening cooperation from the mission for science and technology for development. To ensure that they can achieve their specific results in accordance with their terms of reference and mandate. Thank you.

>> CHAIR: Thank you Cuba. Australia, you have the floor.

>> AUSTRALIA: Thank you, Chair. Australia would also like to thank the Secretary‑General for this report. Like our colleagues from the United States though we have quite substantial reservations about the Russian proposal that the Council Working Group Internet developed concrete recommendations on the range of issues that was mentioned. For us we understand that there is work underway on issues around authentication and other international fora. There is certainly a lot of discussion on Net Neutrality underway in a number of fora. We believe that the terms of reference for the Council Working Group Internet still stand and that they are quite clear on this matter. And like the U.S. we also believe that discussions about the Internet need to include other very important stakeholders other than Governments. Thank you, Chair.

>> CHAIR: Thank you. Russia, you have the floor.

>> RUSSIAN FEDERATION: Thank you, Madam Chair. All of the Council Working Groups are organized to intervene in specific areas. And what is ‑‑ the fact that terms of reference of a group doesn't mention the need to start to develop a document, doesn't mean that the group doesn't need to operate. Otherwise that would be all. But we would like to revert to this issue after the Chair's report and also like to raise the following issue, we would like to know what kind of a contribution the ITU is making to strengthen work, the CSTD cooperation group where ITU is a member. Thank you.

>> CHAIR:

>> CHAIR: Thank you. Germany, you have the floor.

>> GERMANY: Thank you, Madam Chair. And good morning. Well, like previous speakers Germany is very committed with regard to Internet matters to the multi‑stakeholder approach. We know that the Council Working Group is doing the open consultation but then the group is Government only, there is a Government only meeting. So like the U.S., Australia and others, we do not want to reopen the discussion whether this group should issue recommendation. We believe this is not appropriate. As the speakers mentioned before, some of the topics proposed, for example, Net Neutrality, may not be covered by the present mandate of the ITU and shouldn't be dealt with here. So to make it relatively short for you to save time we support the intervention of the United States. Thank you.

>> CHAIR: Thank you. Canada, you have the floor.

>> CANADA: Thank you, Madam Chair. We would like to thank the Secretariat for the submission of this document. Madam Chair, we would also like to thank the Chairman of the Council's Working Group on international Internet public policy issues as it has been a successful role. And to that effect, Madam Chair, we would like to associate ourselves with the comments made by Germany, Australia and the United States.

Furthermore, Madam Chair, what we believe needs to be done within that Council Working Group is to strengthen the open consultation process, strengthen the physical participation of stakeholders. It has been successfully proven in the physical participation meetings, for example, on issues of Internet Exchange Points or on accessibility that it is the participation of multi‑stakeholders that enhances the quality and the outcome of the Council's Working Group. And in that context, Madam Chair, we do not support the expansion of the mandate of the Council Working Group to include any recommendations. Thank you.

>> CHAIR: Thank you. Saudi Arabia, you have the floor.

>> SAUDI ARABIA: Thank you, Madam Chair. Good morning, Dear Colleagues. At the outset, Madam Chair, I would like to thank the Secretariat for this exhaustive report. And we would like to indicate that this Working Group has a mandate. And it is very clear in Council Resolution 1336. This Resolution adopted by the Council defines the duty of this Working Group. This group is in charge of everything on the Internet and the public sector. We share the opinion of the various speakers who preceded me who said this Working Group should be in charge of the most important topics in order to help Developing Countries so that the right decisions related to the Internet are taken.

My last remark, Madam Chair, we also participated in the various discussions that took place in 2016 in the board concerning the mandate of this group and we do not remember that there was a resolution or decision taken in the Council related to recommendations. The Council in 2016 has decided that this Working Group should adopt recommendations to serve Member States. This is to be found in the minutes of the meeting. Thanks very much, Madam.

>> CHAIR: Thank you. Uganda, you have the floor.

>> UGANDA: Thank you, Madam Chair. I would like to join those thanking the Secretariat for the report. From the very beginning Uganda supports the intervention made by Russia and proposes their making for the various reasons. Madam Chair, I for the first time participated in the Council Working Group that said previous here and part of the big part of the meeting was discussing the terms of reference and the inability to make recommendations. To me from my perspective it shows that all is not well. And we are here and we have begun on terms of reference which means that probably there is a need to look at what is happening in this Council Working Group. I want to go to the area where we are specialists, that is the work of Least Developed Countries. For us the Internet has become the network, the infrastructure. And the continued separation of not discussing the Internet alongside the other infrastructures is difficult. Therefore we believe that the ITU group that brings us all together should be given a clear and stronger voice in the matters of the Internet Governance. I therefore support the revision of the work of this Council so as they can produce something that is substantial. Thank you.

>> CHAIR: Thank you. India, you have the floor.

>> INDIA: Thank you, Madam Chair. We carefully followed the interventions as well as inputs from the other distinguished speakers. And we agree that they are all valid. There are different views of where it should be dealt and how it should be dealt with. I draw your attention to the much agreed Resolution 1305 where we mentioned about the role of the dedicated group in identifying Internet related public policy issues. There is a (inaudible) which mentions something about No. 3, international public policy issues pertaining to the Internet. That is part of the public policy issues included to be considered and discussed in the CWG on Internet related public policy issues. If you kindly look back at the domestic administrations who is taking the initiative on economic development and Net Neutrality. If ITU doesn't discuss issues about Net Neutrality and provide our guidelines to Member States where they will go further capacity building or understanding about the issue itself. So I mean I fully agree with the comments and inputs from other Distinguished Delegates from Uganda that if there is no specific or explicit mention about new emerging issues about the part of the CWG local standing it is time to acknowledge because it is telecom policymakers and regulators who are going to decide on these issues. And they have to be part of the CWG discussions. And there has to be concrete discussions about the issue so it provides input to the Member States. Thank you.

>> CHAIR: Thank you. Venezuela, you have the floor.

>> VENEZUELA: Thank you, Madam Chair. We would like to extend our gratitude to the Chairman of the Council Working Group Internet for the efforts undertaken and for the report. Given the valuable contribution by Cuba we also support that Resolution in that light. Thank you.

>> CHAIR: Thank you. UAE, you have the floor.

>> UNITED ARAB EMIRATES: Thank you, Madam Chair. Good morning, Dear Colleagues. At the outset, Madam Chair, I would like to thank Saudi Arabia for the nice coffee break that was offered to us. As far as the topic under discussion and after listening to my Distinguished Colleagues in this Council I would like to express my support to reinforcing and strengthening the tasks of this group in charge of the Internet and the public sector. We have participated in a number of meetings held and we noticed that long debates took place concerning this topic and the mandate of this group and how it should consult with stakeholders. There are no concrete outputs and debates usually focus on the functions of this Working Group. To be quite honest, time is not long enough to discuss the work of this Working Group.

We do not have any time to discuss important topics because we always discuss mandate and terms of ‑‑ terms of reference. I would like to thank the Chairman of the Working Group. I would like all those who have done work in this Working Group, we would like to support this proposal to reinforce the role so that it can discuss the role of the Internet in the public sector. Thank you, Madam Chair. Thank you.

>> CHAIR: Thank you. Ladies and Gentlemen, I hear all your comments, but can I invite you to focus on the report now in consideration because all these comments will be related to the next agenda item, that is the report of the Council Working Group. Please. Thank you. Kuwait, you have the floor.

>> KUWAIT: Thank you, Madam Chair. I would like to thank the Secretariat for this excellent document. And I would like to thank Saudi Arabia for the coffee break and for the coffee. In this report I have read the last paragraph about IGF. We should encourage meetings. And there is a meeting for the Spanish speaking countries on the topic of ICANN. This meeting is held in Latin America as an opportunity to ask questions to all the people in charge. I think why this meeting was devoted to Spanish speaking countries only, why not the others? Why this meeting wasn't open to all Member States so that everyone could participate? This is a mere question, Madam. Thank you very much.

>> CHAIR: Thank you. Nigeria, you have the floor.

>> NIGERIA: Thank you, Madam Chair. Madam Chair, I remember at the last Council meeting we spent quite a lot of time going around a circle discussing issues on the Internet. Madam Chair, I want to also join my voice to what our brother from Uganda said. The more I listen to their contributions and discussions going on in this room, Madam Chair, I tend to get more confused because I do not know where we are heading to. Most of the times when we set up groups, Council Working Groups, what are the intention of setting up those groups? I believe the intention of setting up those groups is to carry out either studies or to look at issues and come back to the house with specific suggestions for either endorsement or approval in order to assist member administrations to take informed decisions. A situation whereby a group is set up and the group is not allowed to proffer suggestions or provide any concrete or meaningful proposal, then what is the essence of setting up the group? It is an academic exercise that we are setting up the group to just carry out without achieving anything, without bringing up any issue for consideration, Madam Chair. I think we need to look in to this issue properly and actually see what we need because if we are setting up a group and the group will not come back to us with some suggestions to enable us to take a specific decision then there is no point in setting up groups. Thank you, Madam Chair.

>> CHAIR: Thank you. Kenya, you have the floor.

>> KENYA: Thank you very much, Madam Chair. And I certainly want to join the previous speakers in thanking the Chair of the Council Working Group for the report and to the Secretariat for the work that is done in this area. Like previous speakers before me, Chair, I think the more we listen to this debate the more one gets the feeling that we created a Council Working Group for convenience. That convenience is to probably side step an issue that we don't want to face and open, to face in honesty and to face and discuss with an open mind.

Chair, like previous years the divide in this debate unfortunately now seems to split this union in to two parts, the information reached and the information stopped. That is a reason that this union brings us together. My appeal is that we would really, really focus on the outputs that we want for this Working Group. And to realize that for certain parts of this work it is not ‑‑ it is not that when Government does it, it is to the exclusion of the so‑called other groups. It is not the case. It has never been the case and we interact in our regions, we interact regionally and we never, never seem to exclude. Not intend to exclude those that are interested, Civil Society, the private sector. And so my appeal is that we don't turn this in to an academic exercise. And we engineer this Working Group, outline its terms of reference in such a way that the output will be clear to each and everyone. And to that extent, Chair, I want to support on behalf of our Delegation the recommendation that the tasks of the Working Group be made. Be made clear so that we clearly know the output that is intended to generate support. Thank you.

>> CHAIR: Thank you. Canada, you have the floor.

>> CANADA: Thank you, Madam Chair. And taking note of your very sound advice I am going to ask questions that pertain to the document that we should be discussing which is document 33. Those questions are, Madam Chair, first one, on section 2.16, there is a reference to the activities related to the MoU I guess with DONA. And we would kindly ask for detailed information as to which specific activities have been undertaken since the last Council in the implementation of such MoU. And to that effect also ask for advice as to whether the use of the handled registries requires a MoU or simply a license.

Secondly, Madam Chair, we just want to note on 4.3 the activities related to the IGO coalition. And we would like more clarification as to the extent of the Union's participation in that group. Also on section 4.4, there is a reference to perceived mapping of recommendation E164 applicable to the numbering plan for the DNS. We would kindly ask for some clarification there. Then on 6.1 we would like to reflect on the very good work done by the BDT in convening a series of workshops with ample strong participation from the experts on the subject matter of IXPs which included the regional Internet registries, the Internet cooperation for assigned names and numbers and the Internet Society including others.

It is important to continue that work on the issue of IXPs taking due consideration of the expertise that resides within these organizations. Last but not least, Madam Chair, we would like to thank Mexico once again for the successful Internet Governance Forum 2016 that took place in Guadalajara. Thank you.

>> CHAIR: Thank you. Ladies and Gentlemen, I will focus now the attention on document 33. And we are discussing about the note or notes of this report. And so all the other questions will be considered when we discuss all the document 51. And I heard three questions I think for the Secretariat. So I will invite the Secretariat to give ‑‑ Mr. Lee.

>> CHAESUB LEE: Good morning. Thank you, Madam Chair. Regarding these questions, 2.16 especially following this last Council without ‑‑ in collaboration with the CSI. TSB has continued out development of these technologies. If you get a chance to go to the ITU standardization website you can find these searching functions, that we apply this as of 12:55. And you can find very convenient functions in this standardization website. This is one of our results since the last Council. We continue to develop, to provide convenience applications to locate these ITU‑R materials. And we continue these discussions whether helping some interested Member States to enhance their understanding of this DONA foundation issue as a collaboration as following of these Council discussions. So we continue this interesting members that we can reach them to DONA Foundation for the better understanding of these activities.

Concerning the Handle Systems, I think this Handle ‑‑ use of this Handle System is out of our MoU. We didn't assign this MoU. That is out of scope. This is my answer for specifically on this subject. Thank you.

>> CHAIR: Thank you Mr. Lee. And as regards IGO, Mr. Guyot, can you answer?

>> Mr. Guyot: Thank you, Madam Chair. Ladies and Gentlemen, good morning. A question has been asked by the Canadian Council with regard to the role played by the ITU in the discussions with ICANN on the subject of protecting names and acronyms of Internet organizations in the Generic Domain Name System. As we all know a coalition of organizations, Intergovernmental Organizations exist for a number of years which is comprised by 35 Intergovernmental Organizations including ITU clearly, which plays an active role for narrow cooperation among various competent bodies of ICANN with regards to the issue of protecting the names and acronyms of Intergovernmental Organizations. This coalition is being piloted if I may say by OECD and OMP and the United Nations but clearly the ITU plays a crucial role. I would not go in to the details of the results obtained. I would simply say that in terms of protecting the names of Intergovernmental Organizations there has been significant positive progress because we have received a list of Intergovernmental Organizations, the list which was sent to them has been granted temporary ‑‑ which used to have temporary protection has not been granted permanent protection. And we flagged the fact that ICANN, that mechanism involving possible alerts with regards to abuse of the names of international organizations will enable us to take swift action in the case of violations.

With regards to the protection of acronyms I would say there is still an important element which is to be decided, namely a way of settling disputes. If an international ‑‑ an Intergovernmental Organization would like to question, note registry a name that has been registered with ICANN and where the name of the organization is in dispute, this issue hasn't been settled yet because there is a significant difference of views taken by organizations and by ICANN GNSO because they believe that this is common law. A common law issue that would need to be made subject to national legislation where ICANN believes that their legal immunities should lead to a different arbitration process. The jury is still out and the discussion is ongoing. And Intergovernmental Organizations I would say would also profit from significant support on the part of the GAC, the legal advisory committee. The Intergovernmental Advisory Committee at the level of ICANN where ITU, certain Member States of the ITU play a very important role such as Switzerland and the UK. And I am thinking of a number of other organizations.

So this is the state of play. I am cautiously optimistic with regards to the progress which we can count on in the relatively near future. Perhaps the Canadian Councillor would have additional details.

>> CHAIR: Thank you. Ms. Bogdan, you have the floor.

>> DOREEN BOGDAN: Thank you very much. I wanted to quickly pick up on two questions. One was from the Distinguished Councillor from Kuwait when she asked about the Internet Governance Forum. The Internet Governance Forum as mentioned in this report in section 7 was open to all Member States of the United Nations. It is a multi‑stakeholder event like the WSIS Forum. The 12th edition of the IGF will take place here in Geneva I believe starting the week of the 18th of December and will be hosted by Switzerland.

The other point I heard a question from the Distinguished Councillor from Russia in regards to ITU's participation in the Working Group on Enhanced Cooperation. Indeed we are participating in the work of that group. And we have noted that in section 4.2 of this report. And we will continue to enhance our reporting to include the information as requested. Thank you.

>> CHAIR: Thank you, Ms. Bogdan. And now the floor is for Mr. Lee, please.

>> CHAESUB LEE: Thank you, Madam Chairman. I lost one of the questions from our Distinguished Canadian Councillor. This report indicated expert group Study Group 2 is still awaiting, we are ‑‑ we call for our contributions from the beginning of last year. Unfortunately we didn't receive any contribution yet. So this is again interesting. Members, we are encouraging of this bringing of your contribution to our expert group Study Group 2. This is my answer. Thank you very much.

>> CHAIR: Now I see on my list Switzerland. Do you want to insist with the floor? Switzerland, you have the floor.

>> SWITZERLAND: Thank you, Madam Chair. I will try to be brief. Firstly I would just like to thank the Secretary‑General and the whole team who worked on the report in document No. 33. Subject of Internet related public policy issues are, of course, issues of great importance to Switzerland. It is clear that for us an inclusive approach involving all stakeholders, Governments, private sector, Civil Society, academia, and technology firms are, of course, a crucial factor for successful resolution of issues relating to the Internet and public policy.

One issue here is that of the adequate protection of names and acronyms of international organizations. Switzerland has always defended appropriate medical protection for these names. And we believe that the new facilitation process which will include all stakeholders and all of those concerned is now established. And I think that we have done considerable ‑‑ a great deal of work and made some progress recently to ensure that we have some positive results in the months to come.

In this regard Switzerland will organize the next Internet Governance Forum here in Geneva in the Palais De Nations. And this is where WSIS started in 2003 which was then followed by 2005 Tunis WSIS. We would like to thank our colleagues from Mexico for having organized and been such a generous host in 2016 for the IGF. We have benefitted a great deal from their experience. And we would like to thank them for that.

I think that it is a unique opportunity this IGF which will be held in December in Geneva. It is an incredible international experience on just a few kilometers of land. We really need to find this space and find opportunities to minimize risks. Of course, for us the ITU will play a crucial role in this experience together with other international institutions. The ITU however is one of those institutions who has already participated in the past. And we will be very pleased to see them here in Geneva and to see them as part of the IGF.

In the future we hope there will be active work to support Developing Countries to find solutions for the challenges facing them and to share knowledge. I would not just like to invite the ITU to participate actively. I would also like to extend this invitation to all the experts here and invite everyone who is interested to participate in this dialogue. I would like them also to reach out to all of the other stakeholders in their countries on a national level so that we can have representatives of Civil Society, the private sector, academia and the technical community in all of these countries so that they can participate in the meeting in Geneva. Ideally face to face but also remotely so that we can have an inclusive dialogue for everyone. Thank you very much.

>> CHAIR: Thank you, Switzerland. And now I will invite the Council to note this document 33. The document is noted.

(Gavel).

>> CHAIR: And I will invite Council Member States to commit their views on this document by Friday at noon.

Now we can go to the document C17/86, contribution from India, Nigeria, Tunisia, Uganda, Bangladesh comprehensive report to Council on Internet activities. And I will invite the Councillor from India to present the document, please.

>> INDIA: Thank you, Madam Chair. Before making a brief contribution we recognize the hard work of the ITU management and team as well as all Member States here are working tirelessly to develop and deploy the Internet activities and as well as networks in the countries. And I take this opportunity and privilege to represent Bangladesh, India, Tunisia, Nigeria and Uganda to represent this contribution. And we acknowledge the value of this report No. 33, and most importantly the mandate behind this report.

The contribution in the current text how the SG report could play an important role in bridging the knowledge and the opportunity to contribute, divide, especially for the benefit of Developing Countries in the domain of IP‑based networks and Internet related public policy issues. Considering the importance of this subject I beg your pardon that I take a few more minutes to explain the brief and context of the document. I would like to bring your attention that we all agreed in the ITU Plenipotentiary Conference and Internet Protocol based networks and ITU's role on the subject and in cooperation with other international organizations working on this subject. The Resolution clearly recognizes the fact that IP‑based networks have evolved to widely accessible media used for global comments and communication. And there is need to continue to identify the global and regional activities on this front.

There is need to continue to identify the global and regional activities on this front and result to explore means for greater coordination in ITU and development organizations involved in the future of Internet to maximize the benefit for the global community as an outcome of the WSIS process.

Here is one thing I would like to again, Madam Chair, bring to all of our attention, internet domain and Internet development as a ‑‑ we agree it is not a singular administration or multilateral organization. One agency in all responsibility because multi‑stakeholderism is something which most of us agree and accept.

Here the topic and theme is being discussed either technical or operational standards or legal or policies are being discussed on different platforms here. It is essential to build suitable and sustainable capacities in the membership, especially in Developing Countries, LDCs, LLDCs and SIDS on various activities happening on this front. We acknowledge the significant effort but in the SG report which provides a summary of the Internet activities of the ITU and to some extent with other organizations. However there is significant scope to enhance this document and provide more details as exerted in the mandate.

I would like to brief about what's a mandate because this is not a new text, text I am adding here. This is a text we have agreed during the Plenipotentiary Conference. Scope of activities to be covered in SG's annual report is briefly mentioned below. The ITU is already undertaking in regard to IP‑based Networks and any changes thereto including the development of NGNs and future networks.

Point 2 of roles and activities of other relevant international organizations, describing involvement. Indicate the degree of cooperation between ITU and these organizations. Concrete proposals and improving ITU activities earn such cooperation and it also expects the report to be widely distributed among the Member States and sector members. It is up to mention here that there is several activities taking place on Internet protocol based networks and public policy, technical legal aspects. For example, ICANN, ISOC, W3C, UNDP and UNGG and discussions are technical in policy and legal inference.

I want to bring to your kind notice, Madam Chair, the working structures in the other international organizations are so huge and complex it poses challenges. And it is difficult for the membership, especially for the Developing Countries, LDCs and SIDS to follow the proceedings and opportunities to contribute.

Considering ITU's important role and capacity building on this front it is necessary for the membership to understand the issues and take part in deliberation to bridge the divide. And an opportunity to contribute to the gap especially for the Developing Countries and this leads to our proposal that administrations of Nigeria, Bangladesh, India, Tunisia and Uganda and several other countries who support it propose that as provided in the mandate of PP Resolution 101 it should play an important role to bridge the knowledge and opportunity to contribute gaps especially for all of our benefit to give more details about the development of NGNs and future networks and other relevant international organizations describing their involvement and degree of cooperation between ITU and these organizations.

This is part 1 of the proposal, Chairman. And there is part 2 of the proposal considering constant and quick transformation in telecommunication and ICT technologies, services and challenges as mandated in the Resolution. The ITU report should include concrete proposals on improving ITU activities and such cooperation. I would like to stress one thing, Madam Chair, that in the total PP‑14 final acts document there is only one place that the concrete proposals phrase is used and the result is to the Secretary‑General. That is our submission proposal. Thank you very much.

>> CHAIR: Thank you, India. Now the floor is open for any comments, but I will please tell all the Councillors to be very brief. Thank you. Bangladesh, you have the floor.

>> BANGLADESH: Thank you, Madam Chair. As proposed in the contribution C17/86 of India we are expecting concrete proposals on improving ITU activities and the framework for cooperation within the 11 organizations of the field. My sincere appreciation to the Secretary‑General for the report on ITU Internet activities. The report presented in document 33 seems to be very brief.

Madam Chair, my sincere thanks to ITU for the recommendations on IoT, QoS and performance measurement, NGN, accounting OTTs, NGN connection, et cetera. The issue of migrating to IPv6 is very critical for many countries including Bangladesh. ITU may formulate the guidelines in this regard. According to the Resolution 101 adopted in PP‑14 in order to increase the role of ITU in Internet governance ITU will explore ways and means for coordination and relevant organizations involved in the development of IP‑based networks. ITU shall embrace the opportunities from the IP‑based services in conformity with the outcomes of the Geneva 2003 and Tunis 2005, taking in to account the quality and security of services and affordability of international connectivity for Developing Countries especially for LDCs and SIDS. And ITU shall clarify, clearly identify for its Member States and sector members and for the regional public the range of Internet related issues that fall within the responsibilities of ITU. The report could be more meaningful if the activities, resolutions were described more. The Internet public policy issues might be addressed with more importance. Thank you everyone.

>> CHAIR: Thank you. Saudi Arabia, you have the floor.

>> SAUDI ARABIA: Thank you, Madam Chair. Very briefly, we support the contribution from India supporting the Secretary‑General's report. And we believe it is very important to bridge the knowledge gap and to enable countries to further contribute. We believe that there is room to strengthen this report and to add details according to the mandate that the Secretary‑General has under the related resolution from the Plenipotentiary Conference. We also believe that all of the Resolutions taken by the sister agencies, the United Nations which involve the ITU should enable joint efforts to be undertaken especially in the meetings of these organizations that I just cited. Thank you.

>> CHAIR: Thank you. Russia, you have the floor.

>> RUSSIAN FEDERATION: Thank you, Madam Chair. We would also like to note that we support the contribution of India and we support the approaches as set forth in this document. For our part we'd also like to propose to the Council that it recommends that all Council Working Groups and Study Groups who work on issues related to the Internet before the Council session each year send in their proposals in a timely manner to improve the ITU's work in the area of the ITU ‑‑ of the Internet to the Secretariat so they can be included in the Secretary‑General's report on its Internet related work. Thank you.

>> CHAIR: Thank you. I would propose to note this report. And also I will invite the Secretariat to take note of ‑‑ and that more details be included in the Secretariat's report and more ‑‑ I'm sorry. The Secretariat to try its best to include information on the items listed in India's contribution, taking in to account the page limit. If you agree? We have a long list, Tunisia, Bulgaria, Pakistan, Algeria and China. Do you know we have the WTISD now. And so if you agree we can note the report with this clarification for the Secretariat. Do you agree? Thank you.

The report is noted.

(Gavel).

>> CHAIR: And now the floor is for the Secretary‑General, please.

>> HOULIN ZHAO: Thank you, Madam Chair. And I listened to your conclusion of the discussion on the previous report and your actions to invite the meeting to note additional about the ten countries to speak, and then ask them to just let them agree with the report, the way you handle the meeting I think it is wonderful. We do not have any problem from any of those that didn't have a chance to speak but they agree with your proposal. And you are very efficient. And the Council is marvelous how they cooperate with us.

Dear Councillors, Colleagues, today we celebrate the founding of our union 150 years ago. And we celebrate the power of information and communication technologies that connect the world. And with Big Data, the theme of this year's World Telecommunication and Information Society Day, we want to show the world that the Big Data can have a big impact on human progress and sustainable development. I'm very pleased to invite you to join us at the panel discussion organized in room C immediately after this session.

Experts from the industry, from academia and from international organizations will tackle some of the most urgent and toughest questions about Big Data, questions about privacy, security and governance. But also questions about using Big Data for social good, for building tomorrow's cities and for international collaboration.

So our objective today is to show the possibilities that mobile phone, the Internet and other ICTs can bring to the societies and economies as well as of ways to bridge the digital divide, the benefit of all the world's people, especially those that are most marginalized. ITU recently launched Big Data for measuring the Information Society day, a project that will help all of us turn imperfect, complex and often unstructured data in to actionable information.

Together I'm confident that we will unlock the power of Big Data to drive development and ensure that ICTs are used effectively to achieve all the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals.

So I would like to just stop here and wish all of us a very happy World Telecommunication and Information Society Day. And we have already been informed that the panel discussion will be followed by lunch sponsored by the UAE.

So I would also like to take this opportunity to express my sincere appreciation for the UAE to sponsor this activity and take this opportunity to express our appreciation to the Ministry of Saudi Arabia to invite us for coffee. I may invite UAE to say a few words why you are a sponsor for lunch today.   
 (Laughter).

>> HOULIN ZHAO: Thank you.

>> CHAIR: Thank you, Mr. Secretary‑General. And now the floor is for UAE.

>> UNITED ARAB EMIRATES: Thank you, Madam Chair. I would like to thank the Secretary‑General for his kind words. We are very pleased to celebrate with you World Telecommunication and Information Society Day. This topic on Big Data, the theme today, is one which we are interested in. The UAE has taken a number of measures in this area connected to mega data. So we would like to invite you all to lunch organized by us following the special session which will be held in room C. Thank you, Madam Chair.

>> CHAIR: Thank you.   
 (Applause.)

>> CHAIR: Now the floor is for Ms. Bogdan, please.

>> DOREEN BOGDAN: Thank you, Madam Chair. Just a few announcements. We would like to remind everyone that the ADM Committee will begin at 1500, at 3 o'clock this afternoon instead of 2:30. And also that the steering Committee will take place this evening at 6 o'clock where we will be revising our time management plan. You will note there are two agenda items that we did not get to this morning. And so we will be revising the time management plan. But we can certainly confirm that tomorrow morning we will begin our discussions with the ITU‑R, the expert group on ITU‑R and that agenda item will stand and stay posted for the revised time management plan. As the Secretary‑General mentioned we will proceed to the WTISD celebration and that will take place in room C. Thank you very much.

>> CHAIR: Thank you very much. The Plenary is closed.

(Gavel)

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