FINISHED FILE

ITU COUNCIL

MAY 19, 2017

9:00 A.M. CET

Services Provided By:

Caption First, Inc.

P.O Box 3066

Monument, CO 80132

1‑877‑825‑5234

+001‑719‑481‑9835

Www.Captionfirst.com

\*\*\*

This is being provided in a rough‑draft format. Communication Access Realtime Translation (CART) is provided in order to facilitate communication accessibility and may not be a totally verbatim record of the proceedings.

\*\*\*

>> CHAIR: Good morning, Ladies and Gentlemen. Following yesterday's discussion during Plenary, Revision 8 DT2 was published. Therefore we will start with the documents related to Council Working Group Internet and cybersecurity and then move on to the documents left over from yesterday, that is PP improvements, WTPF and draft space protocol. And the Secretariat is consulting with the UAE regarding the dates of PP‑18. And we will come on this agenda item on Wednesday.

And now ‑‑ one moment. Okay. Now it is good. And now I plan to address the cluster of documents related to the Council Working Group on Internet related public policy issues intersteps. Step 1 I will ask the Chair to the Council Working Group Internet to present his report. Then I will invite countries to present proposals related to the topic of the next open consultation. Then I will open the floor for comments so that we can find an agreement and launch the consultation.

Step 2, I will address the Saudi Arabian resolution on factual analysis of the open consultation. Step 3, I will address the contribution C17/2 from Saudi Arabia.

Let's move to step 1. The Chairman of the Council Working Group Mr. Majed Al Mazyed has the floor. Russia, you have the floor.

>> RUSSIAN FEDERATION: Thank you, Madam Chair. I'd like to report about the results of the work of the Ad Hoc Group on languages. We held a meeting and prepared a draft resolution which is published in all languages as DT4, document DT4. If anyone has comments, please send them to me in the course of today. Thank you.

>> CHAIR: Thank you. And the discussion about this item will be scheduled in the Steering Committee of today. Thank you. So now Mr. Majed Al Mazyed has the floor, please.

>> MAJED AL MAZYED: Thank you, Madam Chair. Good morning. I'm very happy to present to you a summary of document 51, the 8th and 9th meetings on the Council Working Group Internet. It gives the background of the Council Working Group which is a separate group established by Council Resolution 1336 in accordance with Resolutions 102 and 140 of the ITU Plenipotentiary Conference. It is on international Internet related public policy issues.

Can you hear us? The terms of reference are to identify, study and develop matters related to international Internet related public policy issues including those identified in Council Resolution 1305. In October 2016 we had the 8th meeting. In February 2017 we had the 9th meeting. Various documents were examined and these are mentioned in the report. As to the open consultations we were focusing on economic and social development issues related to the Internet. And we showed all the outcomes of the stakeholders. We have the answers to the open online consultations on our website. At its 9th meeting the group discussed many topics for open consultations, in particular public policy considerations for OTTs and also using electronic services particularly to bridge the digital gender divide. This is shown in the annex to document 51, bridging the digital gender divide and public policy considerations for OTTs.

Now this first topic for this first topic CWG‑Internet invites all stakeholders to submit contributions on achieving gender equality for Internet users focusing on the following questions. Good practices for digital literacy of women and girls. Better knowledge for decision‑making processes and access and use of ICTs by SMEs in Developing and Least Developed Countries, particularly those owned or managed by women. For public policy considerations for OTTs the following are the main points. Prospects and implications of OTT services, policy and regulatory matters associated with OTT in general and personal authentication in particular. The participants did not manage to reach agreement during the meetings on these two topics which are in the annex. And therefore the group decided that this issue needed to be submitted to you, to Council so that you can take the required measures. We are asking Council to provide guidance for the future work of our group and its consultations. The group requests Council on these public policy issues relating to the Internet to find a Consensus for the countries participating in the consultations.

We have an enormous responsibility in our work. I would like to thank on behalf of my group all ITU Member States which participated in the group as well as the Secretary‑General and the Deputy Secretary‑General and all the elected officials. And I thank the Secretary‑General and the General‑Secretariat for their support, especially Mr. Preetam Maloor and Ms. Despoina. Thank you.

>> CHAIR: Now I invite countries to present proposals related to the topic of the next open consultation. And the first one is document C17/88. I invite the Councillor from India to present this document. Thank you.

>> INDIA: Thank you, Madam Chair. There is some issue with the synchronization tool. I am unable to open the document right away. We held two contributions, studied two topics. One is bringing about bridging the gender divide and using ICTs and what are the public policy concerns and new services coming up. Both are very important. We really acknowledge that ‑‑ we cannot say that one is more important and the second one lesser important. What we are trying to say is that yes, bridging the gender divide is a continuous process. We have seen the reports and countries have been working consistently and continuously and we continue to progress on that front. But at this moment many other regulators and policymakers are faced with the challenge of ‑‑ I mean what is the issues involved in public policy concerns with regard to issues. There were some Member States they are having certain concerns about line enforcement issues and security aspects as well as what way the business models could be developed. So taking all this in to consideration we propose that for open public consultation we should choose a topic that public policy concerns related to OTT. That's the submission. Thank you.

>> CHAIR: Thank you. The second contribution is document C17/90 and I invite the Councillor from China to present it. Please.

>> CHINA: Thank you, Madam Chair. Our contribution is on the modality of open consultation for the Council Working Group on Internet related public policy issues. Resolution 1305 of the Council stipulates that CWG‑Internet will decide on the international Internet related public policy issues for open consultation. Also this Resolution sets out a list of topics. Currently we think that considerable results have been obtained through the open consultation. However since February 2015 the topic discussed in open consultations include challenges and best practices in design and deploying and implementing an IXP, access to the Internet by People with Disabilities and with special needs, building an enabling environment for the Internet access and development aspect of the Internet. But they only cover a very small portion of the topics set out in annex 1, 2 Resolution 1305.

And a lot of topics have not been discussed yet. Resolution 1344 of the Council does not specify the number of topics to be consulted upon. Because different parties have different entries and focus, the CWG‑Internet will actually spend a lot of time on the only one topics which have been chosen.

If we can increase the number of topics to be discussed, it can actually take in to ‑‑ can take in to consideration of the ‑‑ different parties can increase efficiency of the consultation. So we would like to suggest the following. When determining the topics for open consultations we should give priority to the topics listed in the Resolution 1305, especially those which have not been discussed in annex 1. Second, while ensuring the quality of the consultation the CWG‑Internet may increase as appropriate the number of topics to be discussed for each open consultation. Thank you.

>> CHAIR: Thank you, China. Now the next document is the 91. I invite the Councillor of the United States to present it.

>> UNITED STATES: Thank you, Madam Chair. And good morning. As you just heard from the Distinguished Chairman of the Council Working Group on Internet related public policy the Council is asked to provide guidance on what topics should be put forward for the next physical open consultation meeting. The United States is a strong proponent of the physical open consultation and believes the meetings are an open forum for discussion and exchanging information. As such we continue to support the identification of a single topic for these meetings. The CWG‑Internet consultations have focused on a single issue since the outset of these important consultations with all interested stakeholders. Doing so have proven to be an effective means from a wide range of interested parties, providing the ITU community with useful insights. At the last CWG‑Internet meeting the United States proposed Sustainable Development Goal No. 5, gender equality as the topic for the next physical open consultation. And we continue to support this topic.

Although the world has made great progress towards gender equality and women's empowerment and inclusion there is still significant work to be done. According to the ITU's ICT facts and figures for 2016 the gender gap is growing from 11% in 2013 to 12% in 2016. In 2016 Internet penetration rates for men in Africa were 28.4% compared to 21.9% for women. In Europe penetration rates for men were 82% compared to 76.3% per women. Under Resolution 70/125 specifically highlights the gender digital divide that exists between men and women and calls for immediate measures to achieve gender equality for Internet users by 2020. The report of the broadband Working Group underscored the need to address the challenges and barriers in Internet and broad base access. For the next open consultation the U.S. proposes to discuss Sustainable Development Goal No. 5, gender equality and specifically goal 5b which states enhance the use of enabling technology, in particular information and communications technology to promote the empowerment of women. Thank you, Madam Chair.

>> CHAIR: Thank you, USA. Now the last contribution is document 105 and I invite Saudi Arabia to present it.

>> SAUDI ARABIA: Thank you. Good morning. It is my pleasure to present document 105 from Saudi Arabia on item under discussion. During the 9th meeting on international Internet related public policy issues we discussed questions for future consultation. The group submitted this issue to Council for examination so that it can help us to choose the topic for open consultation.

There are two topics in this document for discussion. First bridging the digital gender divide. Second public policy considerations for OTTs. Since both of these topics are very important and since there is not much time remaining for their consideration we feel the next open consultation should be held immediately after this session of Council as stated in the annex of the report by the Chairman of Council Working Group Internet. We think these two topics should be dealt with immediately after the closure of this Council. This in summary is the proposal from Saudi Arabia. I'm like to stress the fact that the time remaining is sufficient to deal with more than one topic. So we think that we should deal with both of the topics which are mentioned in the annex of the Chair's report.

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

>> BRAZIL: Thank you, Madam Chair. Good morning, everyone. While Brazil strongly supports the single issue for open consultation we recognize the importance and the significance of discussing gender issues. However we must prioritize relevant questions that led us back to the development of Internet as an infrastructure. And as the Internet as a global public good that's why we support the consultations being public policy issues for OTTs in the next consultation. We think that having only one single issue for discussion is much better for the Union. We can prioritize and not divide the time and the attention of the stakeholders in more ‑‑ in more than one issue per consultation. Thank you, Madam Chair.

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

>> AUSTRALIA: Thank you, Chair. And good morning, everyone. Australia shares the view of Brazil that one topic per consultation is preferable. We have seen a great number of contributions coming in to the group providing a great deal of information for group members to go through and discuss during the meetings. We recall that the topic of gender digital divide has come to the group on a number of occasions as a suggestion for the topic for the open consultation. Australia has supported that topic whenever it has come up. We support it now. We are not quite sure why it has always been kind of rejected in favor of other issues. For the reasons stated I think during the discussion I think yesterday about the GEM program it is a vitally important issue and it is one where progress is made but then we do slip behind. We would note that there is significant work underway in the ITU already on the topic of OTT both in the ITU‑T and the ITU‑D. We note that the ITU‑D current study period has at least two questions considering issues relating to OTT. And that Study Group 3 is studying the economic and regulatory impact of the Internet convergence services or infrastructure and new services such as OTT on international telecommunications services and networks.

So while we do regard this as an important topic and one for all of us, we think that because of the fact that there is significant work already underway, and because the issues under the gender digital divide are so important that our preference is for one topic for the next consultation and for that to be the gender digital divide. Thank you, Chair.

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

>> CANADA: Thank you, Madam Chair. Good morning to you and to all colleagues. I would like to thank the Chair of the Council Working Group on Internet for the presentation of the report and as well as our colleagues from India, China, United States and Saudi Arabia.

Madam Chair, I believe that Australia has been eloquent enough and we, of course, add our voice of support to that intervention. Gender is more than a topic, it is a priority. It is not an issue only. It is an absolute priority for the work of the Union. Not only we agree and join Brazil and Australia in their observations as to having only one topic per session but I believe it is time to really act on the many times we talk about gender equality but then there is no specific action to that effect. We believe that this is an absolute priority and believe that the next topic should be on gender equality. We are having the World Telecommunications Development Conference coming up, ICTs and SDGs. The Sustainable Development Goal No. 5 is of critical importance for the work we are going to have at the conference in Buenos Aires. We think it is time, Madam Chair, to put our words in to action. And Canada as we have done in the past several times strongly supports the issue of gender equality to be the next topic of consultation at the Council's Working Group on Internet. Thank you.

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

>> PAKISTAN: Thank you, Madam Chair. And good morning, all. We thank the Council Working Group for the report and our fellow Member States for their valuable contributions. Now there are two topics before us that are broadly bridging the digital gender divide. We believe that both topics are important. It is just a matter of priority of dealing with a particular matter on a particular platform. Regarding gender divide as we understand it is being dealt in one way or another of other Forums within ITU and within the UN system and outside of the UN system. The policy implications of OTTs are not being followed as vigorously. They are having a huge impact and international telecommunication markets in various ways having direct relation. Also reality that OTTs are as relevant and of ICTs among women also. Therefore we support matters related to OTTs. We take in this topic for open consultation. Thank you.

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

>> GERMANY: Yes, thank you, Madam Chair. And first of all, I want to highlight the Germany evaluations and considers very positive the open consultations that took place in the framework of the Council Working Group on Internet during the last years. And I think they are a success story. And we as Germany support this way of consulting with other stakeholders on important policy issues in respect of the Internet. If we come to choosing a topic for an open consultations, I think we normally should proceed a way that the group itself finds topics and considers this a time to discuss this here in the Council as an extraordinary situation. Because there was no Consensus during ‑‑ in the Working Group but it should be regular situations that we find a solution in the Working Group. We share the position of other Delegations that there should be a one single topic for the consultations. And we shouldn't split up in to more than one issue because I think that the community groups that are representing their positions in these open consultations would split up. And I think finding a discussion on the issues is substantive development and exchange would be ‑‑ could be improved if we have only one issue.

For Germany as the issue of gender gap it is a very important one. And I just want to mention and highlight that also during the G20 Ministers, Digital Ministers meeting that took place in April in Dusseldorf the issue of gender gap was an issue that was addressed in both ‑‑ in the Minister's declaration and also in a roadmap. And insofar we support the U.S. proposal on this issue and would prefer having this issue on gender for an open consultation next time. Thank you very much.

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

>> RUSSIAN FEDERATION: Madam Chair, Delegates, firstly allow me to express my gratitude to our colleagues from China, India and Saudi Arabia and the United States who have submitted contributions on this issue. We are fully cognizant of the importance of overcoming the gender gap in ICTs and the high relevance of the OTT topic. As ‑‑ in fact, as early as yesterday we already listened to a range of opinions and reports by various countries describing their approaches to overcoming the gender gap, what progress they have made in promoting women in ICTs and this topic is being widely discussed both at the ITU and at organizations.

With a specific respect to OTTs this is a challenge of our times. A challenge of our times which necessitates concrete action. I'm grateful to our colleague from Australia who pointed out that the ITU has been conducting a certain amount of work at the level of Study Groups, but when we look closely at the documents and questions discussed in the Study Groups of these sectors we can see that one issue which keeps coming to the floor is the market regulation and many technical and economic aspects are going to be contingent on what policies are going to be adopted in the future and what policies exist today. And the various countries have been attempting to regulate OTT services and the regulatory practice of that kind is already in place. But clearly there is a need to discuss this issue internationally because the Internet is going international.

So the OTT issue is a fairly hot relevant topic for all stakeholders both for regulators, business community and above all clearly for Internet users themselves, for our citizens who make use of these services. So we clearly support the OTT topic as a single focus for the next round of open consultations.

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

>> INDIA: Thank you, Madam Chair. I would like to acknowledge I missed to mention, I would like to acknowledge the report of the CWG Chairman. It has been helpful and enlightening. And we appreciate the views from other members and no doubt they are very valuable. But Madam Chair, there are two issues we are looking at. 105 that it has several public policy issues. Having only two topics and consider their importance, does it not reflect on our behalf that we are less interested in addressing challenges and other requirements. And the second issue in front of this, development of Internet and first and foremost critical step to bridge any digital divide. So issues arising out of new services and convergence it has an impact on investments and security aspects which may play an important role in rolling out of networks and impacting the accomplishment of SDGs and their results.

Madam Chair, we need to prioritize. Regulatory challenge, data privacy, user services as platforms are really affecting national and global harmony. If we don't prioritize there is a danger that different countries may come out with divergent policies that affect business interest. If we all agree, we may have a second consultation as well. Thank you.

>> CHAIR: And Dear Colleagues, now we have seven requests and if you are agree we can close the list with these requests. Japan ‑‑ oh, no. The other two. Japan, Burkina Faso, Kuwait ‑‑ oh. Thank you. So we can close with these other three states. And now Argentina, you have the floor, please.

>> ARGENTINA: Thank you. Very briefly Argentina supports, we are holding another round of open consultations on overcoming the gender divide and we are in favor of open consultations. Thank you.

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

>> EGYPT: Thank you, Madam Chair. And good morning to all of the Honorable Delegates. Very briefly, Madam Chair, the two topics are very important, whether the policies of OTT or closing the gender gap, however we believe there is something urgent and here I am emphasizing the word urgent which is to deal with the political framework of the OTTs. There is a need to have a regulatory framework or political framework with regards using OTTs freely, securely, and respecting privacy. Therefore, Madam, I propose to this August Assembly and in view of the importance of the two topics that the next topic for the open‑ended consultation has to do with the political framework of the OTTs while taking in to consideration that closing the gender gap on the Internet has to be the upcoming topic for the Working Group to the Council. So we could look in to the two topics but since and here I agree with all members, that we have to choose one single topic for the open‑ended consultations and in view of the urgent urgency let's start with the OTT and then we could look at the other topic. Thank you, Madam Chair.

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

>> ALGERIA: Thank you, Madam Chair. I thank China, India, the United States of America, Saudi Arabia for these proposals. And we would like to draw attention to the fact that both topics are very important. However closing the gender gap and we today as women are facing a daily challenge in our lives within the UN programs, the ITU programs, country programs. All programs consider this an important topic. But the OTT topic is a challenge that all countries are facing at the technical aspect. There are many aspects that have to do with laws and laws have to be set down with regards to OTTs. And I'd like to draw the attention to the proposal made by India which is to consider OTT first as a priority and then look at the gender gap as another priority. Thank you.

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

>> LITHUANIA: Thank you, Madam Chair. Since I'm taking the floor for the first time in this session of the Council let me congratulate you and the Vice‑Chairman on the election to those very important points and to guide us through the extensive agenda of the Council. I would like to thank Argentina for hosting the WTDC conference. I am sure the spirit of Consensus will help us have a successful meeting. Looking forward to it. I thank the Working Group for preparing the report and India, China, Saudi Arabia and preparing the valuable contributions. And we believe that the Working Group on the Internet should focus further and progress towards gender equality and women's empowerment and conclusion. And there is still significant work to be done in this area. Taking in to consideration the work carried out ‑‑ carried out in ITU in our region Lithuania would like to stress the importance of this topic of gender equality. And we support the idea that the next consultation of the Council Working Group on Internet should focus on the single topic of bridging the gender digital divide issue. Also I want to remind colleagues that we are committed to a multi‑stakeholder approach in the Internet management. For that matter Lithuania joins the intervention of USA, Brazil, Australia, Canada and Germany and others expressed yesterday.

I would like to reiterate that Lithuania does not wish to expand the group's mandate. Thank you very much.

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

>> TUNISIA: Thank you, Madam Chair. At the outset I would like to thank the head of the Working Group for his report which is an important one. And I'd like to thank India, China, the USA for their important contributions. With regards to the closing the gender gap I believe that this is an important topic as was emphasized by all colleagues. And for the upcoming period I propose that we concentrate on closing the gender gap in the Developing Countries, especially with regards to rural women and girls who find difficulty by setting and putting certain practical programs and projects that would be beneficial to them and not just to limit ourselves to presenting reports and translated these in to reality. As I said this is an important topic. The hot topic however if we can use such an expression, the OTT subject has become maybe the most important topic for all countries in view of the fact that there is an increase in the pace of technologies in this field. And the regulators and operators have lost a lot. And I add my voice to Egypt, Algeria and India in saying that this topic should have priority to closing the gender gap. And that consultations have to be taken up during the upcoming period and this requires setting down policies and carrying out consultations between all countries. Thank you.

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

>> JAPAN: Thank you, Madam Chair. And good morning all colleagues. First of all, I thank the Chair of the CWG‑Internet for leading this CWG and thank you also United States, Saudi Arabia, China and India for your contribution.

Regarding the number of topics we believe that focusing on only one single topic is the most effective and efficient way to get more concrete and large number of input from all stakeholders resulting in deep and fruitful discussion on ‑‑ selected on top ‑‑ on selected one topic. Regarding the selection of the topic for next consultation we Japan believe that gender is one of the most urgent topics for ITU and all membership since pointed out in the U.S. contribution the timeline is set as 2020 at (inaudible) Resolution. Also our first priority within this time is to fulfill ITU's Strategic Plan, Resolution 71 adopted in PP‑14 and this proposed gender topic is totally aligned with ITU's Strategic Plan. In addition we had numerous voice to support gender initiative at yesterday's Plenary meeting. We can say now is the time to discuss gender at open consultation at CWG‑Internet.

Regarding OTT, as some colleagues here had experienced at WTSA last year we had a big argument on OTT. We think this OTT is a very sensitive topic and we had some concern proposed by Saudi Arabia and India. Some question, we think some questions are out of our ITU mandate and also some questions are still under study in SG2 and SG3. So we think we need further study in SG2 and SG3 and also in ITU‑D.

So we support the agenda topic for the next consultation. Thank you, Madam Chair.

>> CHAIR: Thank you. Now, Dear Colleagues, I want to read the countries out who will take the floor and then the list is closed. The countries are Burkina Faso, Kuwait, Romania, Nigeria, UAE, Rwanda, South Africa and Portugal. Sweden you are the last. Okay. Sweden. Burkina Faso, you have the floor.

>> BURKINA FASO: Many thanks, Madam Chair. On behalf ‑‑ Madam Chair, just like other Delegations Burkina Faso supports the work of the Council Working Group and the holding of open consultations on the Internet. And so that is to be considered by the Council. As you know the overcoming of the digital gap generally is a great challenge in Developing Countries. That is why, Madam Chair, we are in favor of establishing open consultations. On a single question overcoming the gender gap in digital services within OTT. Thank you, Madam Chair.

>> CHAIR: Thank you. Kuwait, please you have the floor.

>> KUWAIT: Good morning, everyone. We thank Mr. Majed Al Mazyed for this good report. And we believe that many Internet management has to do with the public general policies and has to include all stakeholders and Government and international organizations. There are questions that Mr. Majed Al Mazyed raised in his annex with regards to closing the gender gap and with the public policies that have to do with the OTTs. We believe that these have to be studied and discussed and two topics are both important. And discussions have to be launched and as my colleague from Egypt has said the OTT has to be looked in to first and then the subject of closing the digital divide. Thank you.

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

>> ROMANIA: Thank you, Madam Chairwoman and good morning, everyone. We would like to thank the Chairman of the Council Working Group on Internet for his report and hard work. Thank you to the contributors as well for their proposals. I would like to stress once again the fact that the multi‑stakeholder open consultation process has proved to be extremely productive to the works of the group. We would support having one topic at the time for consultation. As our colleague from Australia pointed out earlier within the ITU‑D Study Group 1 and ITU‑T Study Group 3 there is already work being carried out on the OTTs. During the last meeting of the Study Group 3 the technical report on OTT has been adopted which we believe is a very good document. The Rapporteur group on OTTs from Study Group 3 has been also having physical meetings to discuss on this topic. I would like to remind you that the international telecommunications service aspects of OTTs are being studied within this Study Group. And Study Group 3 studies economic and policy issues.

We also need to be careful with the questions that are out of scope for our Union for the OTTs. The digital gender divide has not had an open public consultation yet, even though the topic has come up many times. As our colleague from Canada underlined it is not only a topic but a priority. So this is also the topic we support for the open consultation. Thank you.

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

>> NIGERIA: Thank you, Madam Chair. And good morning to all colleagues. Madam Chair, we want to join all colleagues in thanking the Council Working Group for the excellent report presented at this Council. We also want to thank all contributors to this document. While thanking them, Madam Chair, we have listened to the discussion and the contributions made by colleagues with keen interest. And we acknowledge the fact that the two topics are all important. In this regard, Madam Chair, we would like to ask this question, which will require a sincere answer from this Assembly. And the concern is if the two topics are taken and considered for consultation is there any harm that this decision will create? If there is no harm, Madam Chair, and in the spirit of Consensus and being our broadest keepers, Nigeria would like to suggest that we take a decision that will satisfy all interested parties making everyone happy as well as equally unhappy.

Therefore, Madam Chair, Nigeria will want to propose the two topics will be taken at the same time without giving preference to any particular topic since we have all agreed that the two topics are very important. Why don't we treat them equally and the two topics are very, very important to the membership of this Union. Thank you, Madam Chair.

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

>> UNITED ARAB EMIRATES: Thank you very much, Madam Chair. And good morning, everyone. Madam Chair, we agree or at the outset we would like to thank Mr. Majed Al Mazyed, the head of the Working Group to the Council on the Internet, the public policy issues. We have a question, but before I raise that question, Madam Chair, we would like to agree with the speakers from Kuwait, Egypt, Burkina Faso, India, Tunisia, Nigeria about their topics and to look in to the topics of OTTs as a priority. But our question, Madam Chair, to Mr. Majed Al Mazyed, the head of the Working Group is will there be any burden, additional burden on the Working Group if both topics are taken in to consideration for the open‑ended consultations.

We agree with Kuwait and Nigeria that the Working Group looks in to the two topics, that is to say closing the gender gap and looking in to the public policies that have to do with the OTTs for the open‑ended consultations. And as previously stated, Madam, both topics are important and therefore we ask that the Working Group carry out open‑ended consultations on both topics. And my question to the head of the Working Group is there any additional burden on the Working Group if the two topics are taken in to consideration. Thank you.

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

>> RWANDA: Thank you, Madam Chair. We thank the Chairman of the Working Group for his clear report. We thank also USA, China, India and Saudi Arabia for their contributions and this shows the interest given to the two topics. Both topics are very important. And we are of the view that we can have open consultations on both topics at the same time.

Which topic to start with should not be raising the discussion we are seeing here. But in case we choose which one to start with, we support the proposal made by India to start by OTTs and then bridging the digital gender in the next topic of consultation. Thank you.

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

>> TANZANIA: Thank you, Chair. Let me also join other colleagues who did congratulate you for being on the Chair as I'm speaking for the first time. I also appreciate and support those who have ‑‑ who have spoken before me and especially for taking OTT as an agenda. So Tanzania strongly supports that widespread consultation and deliberations on OTTs is critical to address the challenges of privacy, security and measures to prevent their misuse.

So in addition such consultation should include the economic impact on OTTs as they are competing with to some degree with traditional telecommunications of all broadcasting services. So Mr. Chair, as a country such widespread consultations will answer their concerns or sometimes perceptions that are often raised about the deception caused by OTTs services such as loss of revenue to service providers and Governments due to substitution, increased loss of tax revenues to Government and transfers of welfare between different countries.

Mr. Chair, in addition to that I also present that the issue of quality of service for OTTs also need to be done through a widespread consultations and deliberations since the providers of OTTs are really subjected to equivalent obligations as licensed operators and therefore may not be able to assure quality of service.

Mr. Chair, I concur with those who have chosen this as the first item to be discussed, the OTTs. Otherwise I have no objection to have both to be discussed. Thank you, Mr. Chair.

>> CHAIR: Thank you. South Africa, you have the floor.

>> SOUTH AFRICA: Thank you, Madam Chair, for recognizing South Africa as an observer and for providing us with the opportunity to comment on this very important discussion. I would like to begin acknowledging the excellent work that has gone in to the preparation of the Council Working Group report and the many excellent contributions we have had this morning. I would like to remark that it is very clear that ‑‑ to most of us both topics are incredibly important and both deserve considerable discussion and engagement. However South Africa, if we were to favor one subject right now, I believe we would want to engage in the issue of OTT because it is a very burning question for us. That's not to say that gender is not equally important but we recognize, too, that it is dealt with widely throughout the UN system. And as our colleague from Germany also indicated we did discuss and prioritize gender within the G20.

But having said that, Madam Chair, we would be more than happy to follow the suggestions that have been made for taking up the opportunity to discuss both critically important issues. So if it is possible, Madam Chair, we would go that route. Thank you very much for chairing us, Madam Chair.

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

>> PORTUGAL: Thank you, Madam Chair. Good morning to all of you. Thank you very much, Madam Chair. We are in the fifth day of the Council, but I hope I am still on time to congratulate you for your appointment. And we are glad to witness your wise leadership in this Council which will surely lead us to a positive outcome for the Union. And for us it is obviously a great honor that the Council is being chaired by a member of the European region. And I congratulate Mr. Rashid Ismailov for his appointment of the Vice‑Chair of the Council. I would like to express appreciation for the elected officials as well as the ITU staff that has been providing. And now my phone is ringing. Sorry for that. I thank all members that have submitted contributions.

Portugal supports the open consultation on bridging the gender digital divide. We had the pleasure to participate in the Girls in ICT Day. The celebration of this day flags the importance of this topic for the Union. And so we need to be consequential and take actions. And in terms of priority vis‑a‑vi the topics we believe the topic of gender has been proposed already in the Council Working Group and that should be taken in to consideration when looking for a compromise.

Finally Portugal also agreed with the principle that each physical open consultation should only address one topic at a time like was expressed by several Delegations. We believe that this principle should be respected ‑‑ should be respected in future occasions in order to facilitate the activities of these open consultation framework which in our opinion is a success story in ITU. Thank you very much, Madam Chair.

>> CHAIR: Thank you Portugal. Sweden, you have the floor.

>> SWEDEN: Thank you, Madam Chair. First we would like to thank the Chairman of the Council Working Group and it provides a good overview of the activities of the group. And we would like to thank the administrations providing input on the open consultations. We note there are different proposals for the consultations and some members propose to have several. Sweden is in favor of one single issue to be dealt with in the open consultation in order to focus on the work of the group. The two documents presented in document 51 we support bridging the digital gender divide. As stated by many previous speakers this is a very important issue, if not the most important. We would like to thank the United States for the consultation that amended the gender issue discussed in the Council Working Group that we can support their proposal as a way forward.

The OTT as stated by Australia and Romania already discussed in ITU‑T and it would be preferable to complete those studies in the Council Working Group Internet on the topic.

Finally since we are observers to the Council and have a limited number of interventions on the issue we would like to supply a few comments. Sweden shared the concerns expressed by several Council members regarding the proposal from the Russian Federation. Internet related issues should be discussed in a multi‑stakeholder fora and not in a group restricted to Member States.

Furthermore, we know that discussions on some of these issues are going on in other fora and that we should avoid duplication of work between ITU and other organizations.

Finally we are of the view that there should be no change regarding the possible output of the group. And we do not favor the development or recommendations in the Council Working Group. Thank you.

>> CHAIR: Now we have other two countries who want to take the floor. But if you agree, I will give the floor to the Chairman of the Council Working Group and then we can consider after these two countries. Please, the Chairman of the Council Working Group has the floor, please.

>> MAJED AL MAZYED: Thank you, Madam Chair. I would like to thank all the Delegates for their remarks and for their contributions to this success of our work. Concerning the question asked by the Emirates, EAU, would there be any financial impact if we study two topics? Is it possible to study two topics in the consultations. During the 9th meeting that was held in February when this topic was raised in order to reach Consensus I explained my opinion as a Chairman of the Working Group. With the cooperation with the General‑Secretariat we thought that we could eventually discuss the two topics in the consultation because the next meeting in October would have to deal with that. This is as far as the question is asked by the Emirates is concerned. Thank you, Madam.

>> CHAIR: Thank you. And now I thank all of you for your comments. And we have two important topics and they are the gender equality and OTT. Both of them are important and fundamental but I can propose you a possible way forward. And in particular we can have a consultation, one topic, the first that can be gender divide from June to September 2017 to be concluded prior to September 2017 meeting of Council Working Group Internet. And the second one, the OTT, can start from October 2017 to January 2018 could be concluded prior to the January/February 2017 Council Working Group. Is this acceptable to you? Because I understand this is something to define as regards the OTT. Saudi Arabia, you have the floor.

>> SAUDI ARABIA: Thank you, Madam Chair. We have listened to the various remarks made by the Distinguished Delegates. And we think that the majority of the members of the Council expressed their opinion and many of them have preferred given the priority to both topics. There is a majority of those who asked for the floor, majority asked for open consultations. First on the OTT, especially that the impact of OTT has an impact on the quality between men and women. We think that the topic OTT should be taken in to consideration. It should become priority and then we could think about the gender gap. This was said by many Delegates among them the Delegate of Egypt, the Delegate of Tanzania and Rwanda and many other Delegates expressed this opinion. We think that the majority, Madam Chair, were in favor of giving priority to OTT and then the gender gap, especially that the OTT has an impact on the gender equality. Thank you, Madam.

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

>> SENEGAL: Thank you, Madam Chair. We'd like to thank the General‑Secretariat and the Council Working Group and all those who have made contributions. We have two subjects which are very important bridging the digital gender divide and OTTs. And we have to think about security aspects, privacy, and data confidentiality as well as economic considerations. For the open consultations if we can't have both topics in parallel, I think we should give priority to OTTs where it is easier for us to move forward because we already have experience on the gender issues. So I think we should start with OTTs as the majority of countries has advocated and then as of October we can have the open consultations on bridging the digital gender divide.

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

>> UNITED STATES: Thank you, Madam Chair. And thank you for your proposal for a way forward. We really appreciate your wisdom on this matter. And one of the advantages with taking the gender topic first which I believe had substantial support in the room is that there is agreement that it is important. With respect to the OTT topic there still needs to be additional discussion on the formulation of the questions. When that topic is taken up, we have to have time to discuss the formulation of the questions. And that could happen at the next Council Working Group on Internet related public policy. I don't believe we have time here in the Council to deal with such an issue. Thank you, Madam Chair.

>> CHAIR: Thank you. Now we have a list of countries. Canada, UAE, Australia, Russia, Mali, Belarus and Lithuania and Uganda, Italy. And then we can ‑‑ oops. Japan and Germany, Zimbabwe, Romania, Iran. So a long list. And then I would propose after these countries to make a stop for the coffee break. Okay? The first one is Canada, please. You have the floor.

>> CANADA: Thank you, Madam Chair. And thank you for your advice and your guidance. We fully support your proposal. Madam Chair, a question was asked whether there would be an additional burden on the Council's Working Group on Internet if we were to have two topics. Yes, there will be a burden and it will be a burden on women. Madam Chair, I think that as we have said so many times gender equality far than being an issue is a priority. We recognize the importance of the issue of OTT, but if we are going to give gender equality the same level of priority as OTT, I think we are going in the wrong direction and sending a very negative message.

Again, Madam Chair, we support your proposal that the next topic for consultation be on gender. And in regards to the questions we concur with the views expressed by the United States that we need further consultation on how to structure those questions and that such consultation should take place at the next meeting of Council's Working Group on international public policy. Thank you.

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

>> UNITED ARAB EMIRATES: Thank you, Madam Chair. We have listened carefully to what has been said by the Delegates and we also listened carefully to the answer presented by Mr. Majed Al Mazyed, the Chairman. He said very clearly that there will be no impact, nonnegative impact on the Working Group if the two topics are discussed at the same time. As far as your proposal is concerned we think that in this room there are two different positions. One which would like to start with the OTT and another opinion in favor of discussing the gender gap. I think we should find a solution, we should start consultations on the two topics at the same time. We wish that this opinion would be taken in to account. If there is a need to revise the questions related to OTT, we have enough time in this Council, we could discuss these limited questions. There are about five or six items only. We can discuss them easily and then we could start the consultations at the same time. So that the next meeting of the Working Group in October could deal with the outputs and the inputs related to the two topics. Thank you, Madam Chair.

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

>> AUSTRALIA: Thank you, Chair. Australia would like to support your proposal on this matter. For a number of reasons the first being that as my colleague from Canada alluded to the topic of gender has been raised on a number of occasions in the Council Working Group. It has been acknowledged with varying degrees of support as important. But always there has been another more important topic and it keeps getting pushed, pushed back. I think it is important for us as a Union to stand up and say no, this is an important topic and it needs to be addressed now. The second reason is a practical one and in that I would concur with my colleagues from the U.S. and Canada. There have been in this discussion this morning quite a number of issues raised about OTTs that people would like to include in questions. Probably far too many for one consultation. So the question of honing down those questions is an important one. And I also doubt our ability to actually get through that project at this meeting. Thank you, Chair.

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

>> RUSSIAN FEDERATION: Thank you. Madam Chair, Distinguished Delegates, first I should like to thank everybody who has participated in the discussion. I shall be brief. The value of the discussion is that we can hear the views of various parties. As we heard from previous discussions most Delegates are in favor of a priority for OTTs. So we support your decision to move forward to hold consultations on the two topics with priority for OTTs and consideration of it first of all. Thank you.

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

>> MALI: Thank you, Madam Chair. We have understood your proposal. If we have to choose one single topic Mali would opt for OTTs. Integrating in to that your proposal our administration like Senegal, Saudi Arabia and Tanzania, inter alia, would like for us to give priority to OTTs.

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

>> LITHUANIA: Thank you, Madam Chair. I'll be brief and not so fast. We fully support your proposal. And countries USA, Canada, Australia and others expressed support for your proposal. We think that gender equality should be taken first. Thank you very much.

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

>> UGANDA: Thank you, Madam Chair. Good morning, colleagues. I'm going to be the first one to not fully support your proposal. Not fully support your proposal is in the part that we could very easily go with the proposal from UAE which is like your proposal to handle the two topics because I think the issue of which is more important cannot be resolved here as we know. Everyone thinks that their topic is more important and that cannot be resolved. I agree with you that we should discuss two of them. I would like to add my voice to support of UAE that we can handle both of them together in parallel so that we don't have a lot of gap in between. The reason is I fear for people like myself who will not discuss what they don't want to discuss. So if you give it time, like in days, you will see some people not coming because the topic that's under discussion is not interesting to them. Since we have decided that these topics are both important and we should discuss this them in parallel. In September we should discuss two topics and when the Council Working Group next meets we discuss both topics. We give them opportunities to be discussed. That's my proposal.

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

>> ITALY: Thank you, Chair. I have to say that I was listening with attention to the debates and I have to say that for the benefit of the tendency of the debate worries me a little bit. Because first someone speak majority members say, others say that if I see from different topics, first there are difference of opinion for having two topics, one topic and there is clear split. There is a difference of opinion on the priority of the topic to be concerned because one say the most priority on women and everyone recognize the importance of that. The other one say the priority is OTT and nobody challenged that. However there is a question of trying to maintain the Consensus that has always been the basis for this organization. And the more I listened to the debate and the more I see the Consensus of falling away. Yours was a good tentative to try to find a compromise or make both active. Because you put priority in women and to have both consultation sequence with the term reference to be decided at a later stage. But I think going on in this direction will be diverting the Union and will be losing the spirit of Consensus, that should prevail in all this. So my intervention is support to your proposal and a plea to all Member States during the coffee break to come together and discuss the real way forward without splitting between them. Thank you.

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

>> JAPAN: Thank you. We Japan support your wise proposal. It is an effective and best way to find common ground here among Member States. There is about only three months 'til next the CWG‑Internet in September. Also the number of inputs this entry is about 50. Considering these facts practically we don't have sufficient time to have two topics at the same time. And the most important thing is two topics should lead to the degrees of quality of input and discussion on selected topics. And the U.S. colleague pointed out a very important point, we should have further discussion to make the question on OTT. And the best place is the next CWG. So we support your Chair's proposal. Thank you.

>> CHAIR: Thank you, Japan. Now for the other countries I will invite you to be brief. Really brief. Germany, you have the floor.

>> GERMANY: Thank you, Madam Chair. I want to build up spirit brought in from our Italian colleague seeking for some kind of compromise. And as far as I note the discussion here there is quite some concerns on having both topics in the next meetings. And I think this is a positive development in the discussion because during our last meeting in the Council Working Group it was not the case. This is new. And as a second one I want to mention is that it is a substantive question.

On gender gap I think we have a formulation that's not challenged that is clear. On the OTT issue we have a proposal that probably needs to be refined and rediscussed in certain issues. And I want to mention that we need to also streamline consultation questions also with work that is going on in other Working Groups and Study Groups and insofar I would like to go along with your proposal. Thank you very much.

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

>> ZIMBABWE: Thank you, Madam Chair. We have listened to the debate and agree with the proposal to do ‑‑ to do the two consultations for both topics. While we agree the gender topic is a priority we also regard consultations on OTTs as a priority. Our experience as a country has shown that we had a lot to grapple with OTTs. Since there is a general realization that in the room that both topics are important it is our view that the two consultations be carried out simultaneously. That way we agree with Uganda that we will get the benefit of contributions from all the countries involved as compared to where we give priority to one topic and we have apathy in terms of participation with regards to the other countries that are opposed to prioritizing the gender topic. I thank you.

>> CHAIR: Thank you. Distinguished Council, I give the floor to the Zimbabwe but it was an observer Member State. So I'm sorry for the mistake. And Kuwait, please.

>> KUWAIT: Thank you, Madam Chair. We would like to support what has been said by the Emirates. We should discuss the two topics at the same time. There is nothing stopping us from discussing the two topics because both are important.

>> CHAIR: Thank you. Very brief.

>> CHINA: With regard to these two topics in the view that the relevance of the sector members in participating in these two topics we have a slight priority over OTT. In the spirit of cooperation and consensus and taking in to the concerns of various parties we propose that we can talk about these two topics at the same time and in this way all Member States will have sufficient time to seek views from stakeholders within their own countries and then provide more import in Working Groups. Thank you.

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

>> BRAZIL: Thank you, Madam Chair. We are not in favor of two themes at the same time for the following reasons. Two themes will divide the attention of stakeholders. Two themes will divide the time for the discussion, both for the open physical meetings and for the Member States meetings. Having two themes will lead us to one more day for the meeting. Or what is worse, it will be granted less time for these important discussions. The approval of two themes will also open a precedent and may lead us to multiple issues for consultations in the next years. Misleading the work of the Council Working Group on Internet which is to deal primarily with the themes listed in the Resolution 1305 as well expressed by our Delegate from ‑‑ Delegation from China. I would also wish to remember that this open consultation is far more open and more multi‑stakeholders than the normal Study Group works. So the range of expressions and ideas that we will receive is far more complete and broad than we have in the Study Groups such as SG3 which is primarily to deal with economic issues on the Internet. In the face of the discussions Brazil supports your ‑‑ the Chair's proposal having only one topic per consultation starting with OTT in line with what our Delegate from Senegal has said. Thank you, Madam Chair.

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

>> PAKISTAN: Thank you, Madam Chair. We appreciate your proposal. However the concerns which we have are we are setting a precedence, making more than one topic for consultation. What if we have three proposals next time? Shrinking the time three to four months won't do justice of any of the topics. We believe there should be one topic preferably and we should draw priorities. And in case we cannot resort to a Consensus here we would like to support both topics to be run in parallel as suggested by UAE and supported by some other Member States. Thank you.

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

>> NIGERIA: Madam Chair, I want to congratulate you like others have done. Madam Chair, it is unfortunate that we are at this stage. We do respect everyone, within time on whether to go forward or to come back. Looking at countries which are presented here, more countries are really developing. Some countries have developed. If no money is coming in from our OTT they are still okay. So the issues for those who really want money, who want value from ICT, from Internet is that discussions should be on OTT first. This is what concerns most Developing Countries. So I want to humbly divert attention to the warning given by Uganda which they said if we decide to go to the way the, Madam Chair, with due respect, it is likely that most members of this Council will not be interested in attending. The safest thing to do is to take the two together so that every member will be there. I humbly suggest that we should take the two together so that we will continue to get the presence of every member here. Doing so will not harm even the process of gender and inequality.

With regard to OTT it is only this type of Union that you have the platform to discuss it. You cannot go to the UN or AU or European Union to discuss about that. All these other platforms are discussing the issue of gender inequality. That makes it very germane for us since it is this platform that we can have the issue of OTT prioritized. It is better that if we cannot have it coming first then we take the two together.

>> CHAIR: Thank you. Ghana.

>> GHANA: Thank you very much, Madam Chair. And thanks to everyone for their contributions before me. Madam Chair, I will say on a light note that we may even want to consider the issue of bridging Consensus for the next meeting of CWG‑Internet. Because of the way that the discussions have been going it is obvious just as Italy said that it is a split in which our position you suggest and we want to proceed. We are looking at the ITU which prides on Consensus and we should remind ourselves that the ITU is contribution driven. We are looking for a topic as important as bridging the gender divide but then it is surprising or irony that such a topic cannot cohabitate. When you are bridging you are unwilling to cohabitate with another topic. I think that considering all the contributions that have been made on the floor. As you suggested and as has been reacted to it will be good to look at the time required for these topics, level of difficulty in dealing with these topics and possibly leave it to membership and all stakeholders to bring in to the first meeting their thoughts on these two topics. So that by themselves all starting in September we will know by the next Council meeting which really all stakeholders determined as a priority rather than we having the difficult task of deciding what to start with and what to start later on.

In brief or in summary I will go with the position even if it has not been done before let us be bold to take the first step in building Consensus being guided by contribution driven scheme and to start these two topics at the next Council Working Group meeting on Internet. Thank you very much, Madam Chair.

>> CHAIR: Thank you. Now we have a list of six countries and they are Russia, Tanzania, China, Canada, Cuba and Belarus and I suggest to all your requests and now I suggest also to break for a coffee during which we can do some consultation. And then I hope we can resume with some way forward about these topics. Now I have the pleasure to give the floor to the Minister of Nigeria.

>> NIGERIA: I am the Minister of Communications from Nigeria. In addition, Madam Chair, Secretary‑General, elected officials, Your Excellencies, Distinguished Councillors, friends and colleagues, I bring to this Council greetings from the Government and good people the Federal Republic of Nigeria.

Madam Chair, permit me to use this medium to congratulate you and your team on your appointment to pilot the affairs of the Council session. It is my pleasure that you have given me the opportunity to address the 2017 Council session at this point in time. I do not intend to take much of your time as I'm aware of the great task ahead of this Council to conclude its assignment on schedule and knowing that this is not the forum for speeches. I would like to commend the work of this Council to the continuous development of ICTs and the ITU.

Madam Chair and colleagues, Nigeria is a member of this Council and has been contributing to the ICT sector. And it has a fast‑growing ICT sector as can be seen from all international and reputed global measuring data sources available. We understand the importance of ICT and will continue to ensure that the critical roles of the ICTs in socioeconomic sectors are being harnessed at all times. Nigeria has been very active at the ITU Telecom events and will be present in Busan, Republic of Korea this year for this important global event.

We have been the first African country to Chair the World Radio Conference since the existence of ITU. So I can guarantee you that Nigeria will continue to strengthen its presence within the ITU.

Today I would like to inform you that Nigeria is going through some very significant and very fundamental reorganization and these have triggered a lot of changes. And we are happy to announce that ICTs have been played a very important role in the transformation of our country. Nigeria will be reinforcing its presence at the ITU during the forthcoming Plenipotentiary Conference scheduled to take place in 2018 in Dubai, United Arab Emirates. And Nigeria also at this conference will be putting forward a candidate for the position of director of BDT of the ITU. I plan on meeting with the Secretary‑General to discuss ways and means of reinforcing mutual cooperation with the ITU.

Having looked at the many number of documents to be discussed during this Council session and the importance of subject matters I am very confident that with the continuous spirit of the culture and the Consensus of this Union this Council will reserve the issues in a timely manner.

I would like to thank you, Madam Chair, elected officials and Excellencies, Honorable Ministers, Distinguished Ladies and Gentlemen for listening to us and I wish all of us another very successful Council session.

With the permission of the Chair I would like to invite all of you for coffee with my Delegation after this session. Thank you very much and may God bless you.   
(Applause.)

>> CHAIR: Thank you, Minister. And thank you for your invitation. And then we can resume in 20 minutes.

(Break).

>> CHAIR: Distinguished Colleagues, during the break we made some consultation with the Chair of the Council Working Group and other countries. And now I will give the floor to the Chairman of this group, but before I will kindly request to the six countries who want to take the floor before the break, if it is possible to clear the list now because we have some conclusion of the discussion about this topic now.

But now I will give the floor to Saudi Arabia, please.

>> SAUDI ARABIA: Thank you, Madam Chair. I'm speaking as the head of the Working Group on public policies related to the Internet and according to the discussions during the coffee break I will coordinate informally with all the concerned countries and we will come back, God willing, to you at the earliest possible opportunity hoping we can reach a Consensus. Thank you, Madam Chair.

>> CHAIR: Thank you very much. We have Bangladesh on the list. Is it possible to clear the list? Thank you. We go to the next document which is C17/103. I invite the Councillor from Saudi Arabia to present this document.

>> SAUDI ARABIA: Thank you, Madam Chair. I just wanted to ask a clarification. Are we dealing with 103? Is it document 103? Thank you, Madam Chair. And good morning, everyone. At the outset I would like to thank the state of Nigeria for hosting the coffee break. We thank them for this hospitality.

Contribution 103 deals with enabling the Working Group to the Council to carry out a realistic analysis of the responses received with regards to the consent process. In the 9th meeting of the Working Group to the Council on factual analysis of the responses of the open consultation certain Member States propose and in order to facilitate the work of the Working Group to look in to the summary of the upcoming open‑ended consultations so that the Secretariat can give a factual analysis of the responses received in addition to the points and concerns that have been expressed.

And the absence of any Consensus regarding the proposed may the head of the group ask for more contributions with regards to this topic to be presented to the Council. Now by through our analysis to the ‑‑ of the responses that were received from the concerned parties during the past meetings we have found that they include quite a number of pages. And as clarified in contribution 103, it is requested from the group to look in to documents that exceed sometimes 60 pages. And taking in to consideration the time available to the group and in most cases it is not more than two days, and taking also in to consideration the importance for the group to take in to consideration all the responses received which would be beneficial for the members. Therefore Saudi Arabia proposes that the Secretariat be invited to give a general analysis about the questions that have been presented and the responses and to provide the group with that analysis in order to facilitate its work and so that we can save the valuable time available. That is in summary, Madam, the contribution 103. Thank you.

>> CHAIR: Thank you. And now the floor is open for any comments, please. Russia, you have the floor.

>> RUSSIAN FEDERATION: Firstly I should like to thank our colleagues from Saudi Arabia who upon their own initiative conducted this analysis. In brief we fully support this approach which will make it possible to have open consultations. And as we saw from previous discussions open consultations are very important to all Member States, representatives and stakeholders so they will be enabling us to make the open consultations more significant, effective and valuable thanks to this analysis. Thank you.

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

>> UNITED STATES: Thank you, Madam Chair. And thank you to the administration of Saudi Arabia for their proposal. We have discussed this issue at the last Council meeting and we do not support the ITU Secretariat providing an analysis of the issues addressed in stakeholder proposals. Council Resolution 1344 Resolves 1 requires all relevant inputs from stakeholders to be submitted to the Council Working Group on Internet for consideration of the issues. And the same Resolution requires all open consultations, inputs be made available to the Council Working Group. And allows only one other document which is a compiled version. The Secretariat has done exactly that for all open consultations and we find that quite satisfactory. So we wish to continue to stay true to Resolution 1344. Thank you, Madam Chair.

>> CHAIR: Thank you. And now I would note the other countries who want to take the floor but I can say that there is ‑‑ oh, no. UAE, please, you have the floor.

>> UNITED ARAB EMIRATES: Thank you very much, Madam Chair. And very briefly, we support the proposal made by Saudi Arabia. Thank you, Madam.

>> CHAIR: Yeah, you have the floor. Australia, please, you have the floor.

>> AUSTRALIA: Thank you. Just to say that Australia would agree with the position put forward by the United States on this issue. We think that the current arrangements in line with the existing resolution are working well. And for us we don't see a need to change them. Thank you, Chair.

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

>> GERMANY: Thank you very much, Madam Chair. Good morning. I will be very brief. We support the intervention of the United States and Australia. Thank you.

>> CHAIR: Canada, you have the floor.

>> CANADA: Thank you, Madam Chair. Almost as brief as Germany we will support the intervention and those of the United States and Australia. Thank you.

>> CHAIR: Kuwait, you have the floor.

>> KUWAIT: Thank you, Madam Chair. We support the proposal made by Saudi Arabia. Thank you.

>> CHAIR: We have now India, Brazil, and China and I will propose you to close the list. Thank you. India, you have the floor.

>> INDIA: Thank you, Madam Chair. Considering I will be brief and we support the UAE and Saudi Arabia proposal.

>> CHAIR: Thank you.

>> BRAZIL: From the contribution from the Saudi Arabia we think that it must be very well assessed and analyzed by because this is ‑‑ which is expressed in the contribution not only a question of content but there are many mechanisms that can be used including those using technological applications that can support the Secretariat and the Council Working Group Chair to analyze what is actually important in such responses we see that by the Council Working Group. We understand that there are so many documents, so many important documents that must be fully analyzed. And there are nowadays technologies that can and must be used in order to get all the responses very well dealt with. So we agree that as expressed in the Saudi Arabia contribution that a solution must be found and use of applications and technologies has been used by the Secretariat or by maybe another consultant contracted by ITU can be of help in addressing the issues and giving us exactly what are the priorities and main issues that are put by the contributions in the Council Working Group. Thank you, Madam Chair.

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

>> CHINA: Thank you, Madam Chair. We support the proposal by Saudi Arabia. This provides a solution for thinking. Just like what Saudi Arabia in its contribution said, we can actually provide analysis for the CWG which is highly necessary. Thank you.

>> CHAIR: Thank you. I can see that there is no Consensus about this item. So I can suggest to you all that these views expressed now can be recorded in the summary record. And this item can be considered by the guidance of the PP‑18.

Bulgaria, you have the floor.

>> BULGARIA: Thank you very much, Madam Chair. Madam Chair, we have a tradition in ITU for the case on proven and tested traditions. If we have a Chair, Vice‑Chair, Secretariat it is up to them how to coordinate and organize their work. While we are interfering in this micro management here on the level of the Council? That's my question. Thank you.

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

>> SAUDI ARABIA: Thank you, Madam Chair. In all truthfulness, Madam Chair, we believe that this is a simple matter, quite a simple matter. There are responses that are received by the group. Taking in to consideration ‑‑ in to consideration the time available to the group, why shouldn't there be a realistic factual analysis of those responses. And I believe, we believe that it is possible for the Secretariat to help the Working Group in carrying out these analyses. And as said by the Honorable Delegate of Bulgaria this should not be discussed at the Council. However, it was discussed at the Council because this topic was discussed during the Working Group and there was no Consensus. Hence, there was an important ‑‑ it was important to refer the matter to the Council. We would like to draw attention to the fact that there are other Working Groups for the Council such as the Working Group to the Council on child protection online which carries out an analysis of the responses received and would help in taking decision or looking in to the horizons of certain topics.

Madam Chair, we believe that this is quite a simple matter to deal with and does not require more discussions at the PP as you have said. And we believe that it is quite possible to ask the Secretariat to carry out this factual, logical analysis. And we do not see any logical justifications to prohibit that analysis. Thank you.

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

>> NIGERIA: Thank you, Madam Chair. Madam Chair, we have listened to argument on this particular contribution and we have listened to comments with keen interest. And Madam Chair, we know that we spend quite a lot of resources setting up consultation. And when we spend these resources consulting what is the point of not allowing analysis to be carried out after the consultation. Now you are suggesting that we send this issue to PP. What do we intend to achieve by sending this particular issue to PP? Why can't we allow analysis to be carried out so that after the analysis appropriate decisions could be taken? Thank you, Madam Chair.

>> CHAIR: Thank you. In the list we have India and Belarus, but before to give the floor can I suggest that a possible way forward is to ask the Secretariat to consider the possible methodology to be considered in September before September? It is for the floor. Is it possible this kind of solution? India, you have the floor.

>> INDIA: Thank you, Madam Chair. When we go through the basic text of ITU the issues to be discussed at PP are very, very significant, very critical, fundamental in nature. What we are discussing is I should say a simple issue of carrying out an analysis and the efforts that we have carried out by the Council Working Group. We agree with the intervention from Nigeria that these things in the name of Consensus we should not send to PP and waste its time. As on behalf of the Plenipotentiary and Membership Council is here to take the issues and it is about where we have organized to take consultation and there are inputs. The purpose of consultation is to come out with some action plan which is possible only based on some analysis. I request we should be able to take the issues here rather than sending them to Plenipotentiary. Thank you, Madam Chair.

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

>> JAPAN: Thank you, Madam Chair. During open consultation usually we have various views and sometimes competing perspectives. Considering that we are afraid that there could be a risk of misleading information to people who didn't attend our consultation if all input is not reflected and summarized appropriately in that analyzed report. But we think providing the analysis based on the statistical data such as breakdown of attributes, region, the number of attendees to physical consultation by onsite or remote, it could be useful. And regarding the point of agreement and point of concern expressed, we think the most efficient way and beneficial way is to utilize the current compilation document which includes all input as received. Thank you.

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

>> CANADA: Thank you, Madam Chair. I believe that Japan has very eloquently advanced Canada's views in that regard, but in addition Madam Chair, we have a Council Working Group which is already supported by the Secretariat. I wonder to the extent to which stakeholders participating remotely those having a physical presence how will they reflect on the Secretariat deciding what was really relevant or what was or ‑‑ I fail to understand the concept of a role analysis, a little bit of a complicated term. I believe we have in place a very good mechanism which is reflected by the reports of the Council Working Group. And I also believe that the compilation is particularly important because it accurately reflects all the contributions that have been submitted and it merits a thorough reading because that's why we are having an open consultation and a physical participation. I also agree, Madam Chair, on your suggestion that this be an issue to be discussed at the Plenipotentiary Conference because Resolution 1344 instructed Council to direct the Council Working Group and create the open consultations.

So it would make sense that the Plenipotentiary Conference addresses this issue, taking in to consideration again that it is extremely important to ensure that we continue having a very active participation and engagement by all stakeholders in this discussions. Thank you.

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

>> SAUDI ARABIA: Thank you, Madam Chair. I'm speaking as a Chairman of this Working Group. I can wait until you listen to all the interventions and then I will make my comment as a Chairman. Thank you.

>> CHAIR: Thank you.

>> GERMANY: I apologize for taking the floor again, but obviously the brief intervention previously was not enough.

Madam Chair, first of all, you know that in this open consultation you may have opinions by stakeholders that do not concur with the opinions of the Secretariat. Insofar it is very difficult on our view that we have a neutral analysis done by the Secretariat. We would prefer to have the full contributions attend. However we are ‑‑ we find the intervention of Brazil very interesting to use electronic means. That means by some means it will not add opinions so to say to the analysis and this can be checked further.

Finally, Madam Chair, there is a lot of Consensus here sometimes but on the other hand, we heard many, many contributions to this very Council speaking about the majority. So this is all the issue that probably should be looked at carefully. So, Madam Chair, for the reasons I have given we do not support the fact that the ‑‑ an analysis of the contributions should be made by the Secretariat. Thank you.

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

>> AUSTRALIA: Thank you, Chair. Australia would note in the past there was generally agreement that this would be a matter for consideration by the Plenipot. So for that reason we support you Chair in your proposal. We also agree with the previous speakers from Japan, from Canada, from Germany that it is very important that we get to hear stakeholders in their own voices, that there are no intermediaries, there is nobody suggesting what of their inputs are important and what is not.

So for that reason we will support you, Chair, in your explanation. Thank you.

>> CHAIR: Spain, you have the floor.

>> SPAIN: Many thanks, Madam Chair. And we also thank Saudi Arabia for their contribution. In the spirit of trying to find Consensus we are in favor of your proposal, Madam Chair, and also like to highlight the work being carried out by Study Groups of the D sector. That is a very good model for cooperation. And getting together various stakeholders' opinions are harmonized by the whole of the group and that makes it responsible to attain decisions which is very important when it comes to topics such as this.

>> CHAIR: Thank you.

>> CHINA: Thank you, Madam Chair. Our suggestion is that to achieve Consensus would it be possible to maintain the compiled documents and in the meantime to request the Secretariat to make a simplified ‑‑ a simple analysis of the contributions so everyone can pick up what they like? Is it a solution? Thank you.

>> CHAIR: Thank you. Are there any Councillors who want to take the floor? Belarus, you have the floor.

>> BELARUS: Thank you, Madam Chair. Finally it is my turn to speak. Good morning to you all. I'd like to speak to all of the documents under this item of the agenda. After all the contributions have been presented but nevertheless I would like to do so at this stage. I'm apologizing in advance if I am going to be too long. Belarus supports the China document, No. 90 by the principles that need to be laid down as a basis for open consultations in order to assure their quality recognizing that the relevance of both the proposed topics. So we believe that it will be the best of conducting consultations on both topics in September. And as an exception we suggest instructing the Secretariat to set off two additional days for such consultations if that is needed. This decision will need to be taken by the Secretariat on the basis of the number of replies received on each of the subjects as well as the number of participants who would declare themselves open consultations. Yes, such a decision might be considered precedent but a good precedent which would be instrumental in achieving cohesion at the level of Union. If the Council would choose to identify only one of these topics we suggest bearing in mind the following. The clear importance of the topic of gender equality and strengthening women's rights is one of the key topics at the UN. The matter of entrepreneurship among women is a provision of the UN Convention of the discrimination against women. That matter is considered annually by the Human Rights Council and the UN Third Committee at the level of adopting thematic resolutions.

This matter is also part and parcel of the universal periodic review which constitutes three sessions a year. The matter of promoting gender equality and bridging the digital divide is a topic of discussion with each individual country at the level of the UN expert group. The matter of attaining gender equality in all areas including the access to digital technologies is considered at ECOSOC sessions annually and as a special session of UNWOMEN as was pointed out by the U.S. Delegation. And this matter is considered at the Working Group of the digital gender divide at the level of the Broadband Commission.

ITU has its Resolution 70, the annual holding of ICT and Girls in ICT Day. Overall it demonstrates the importance of this topic. At the same time the second topic states policies in OTT is a new subject and a very relevant one. The only possible site for equality discussion of this topic taken all UN organizations and agencies is the ITU. Numerous challenges arising in conjunction with the use of OTT services urgently need to be addressed and discussed. In that sense this discussion between states and other stakeholders in the framework of open consultations is a unique opportunity which cannot be deferred any longer. I am speaking on all documents, I'm addressing all documents, Madam Chair. Because this matter has not been adequately covered at the international level. If we were to choose the second ‑‑ if we were to choose one of these topics we would choose OTT.

On the latest contribution we would like to support it and we suggest instructing the Secretariat to give other analytical documents taking in to account all the answers received in open consultations. We believe this analysis needs to unbiased and factual and reflect a variety of views and as well as addressing the specific questions, concerns and challenges. This is part of the existing UN practice.

There is no need to reinvent anything. This is a matter of trust. And when it comes to that Belarus places its full trust in the Secretariat. That would make it possible for us to streamline the resources for the holding of open consultations. Also the development of an analytical document would not rule out the possibility of availing one's self to all the answers involved. Since I'm an observer, this is my only opportunity to speak we would like to thank Saudi Arabia for document 1 of the contribution.

>> CHAIR: USA, you have the floor.

>> UNITED STATES: Thank you, Madam Chair. The United States would like to support your proposal. Plenipotentiary Conference Resolution 102 instructed the Council to revise Resolution 1344 which gives the terms of reference or the modality for the open consultation. It was a very difficult discussion in terms of finishing both of these Resolutions. We have well established the modality in 1344. And we should not take decisions that stray from that at this Council. So we would support your wise proposal, Chair. Thank you.

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

>> SAUDI ARABIA: Thank you, Madam Chair. I'll be very brief. Resolution 102 gave instructions which are very clear and which are followed by the Council so that Resolution 1344 can be implemented. What I'm asking for is very simple, I'm asking that analysis, factual analysis of answers should be carried out. I don't think things are complicated. I do not think that this has to take us back to the resolution delivered by the Plenipotentiary. I am asking for a very simple thing. As it has been said by Bulgaria this could be left to the Working Group. The Working Group has discussed the details and there is no Consensus. Therefore, we came to the Council so you take a decision, Madam. This is why I'm asking you, Madam Chair, to take a decision about the very simple matter. Thank you.

>> CHAIR: Now we have only nine minutes to the end of this Plenary. So we have two observer Member States. I will ask you to be very brief. And then I will give you the answer to the Chairman. Please. Now it appeared Russia. Russia, you have the floor.

>> RUSSIAN FEDERATION: I am going to be very brief. I would like to briefly compliment the interventions by Saudi Arabia and Bulgaria. It is clearly micro management, and in our view we are quite in a position to solve this here and now. And we should decide because we have all the necessary parts to take such a decision. Thank you.

>> CHAIR: Thank you. Iran, please. You have the floor.

>> ISLAMIC REPUBLIC OF IRAN: Thank you, Madam Chairman. Madam Chairman, Plenipotentiary Conference deals with high level issues of legal or policy. We are dealing with working methods. This is not a Plenipotentiary issue, Chairman. It is not effective nor efficient to refer all the matters of the Plenipotentiary Conference. Your second proposal, Madam Chair, seems to be very logical and wise. Ask the Secretariat to provide a resume on a trial basis as an information to be discussed at the next meeting. If the people are happy with that, so far so good, then they could decide accordingly.

Madam Chair, there is no question to put neutrality of the Secretariat in to question. However the public policy issue and the important issue for the Member States in consultation with stakeholders we should not transfer this information from Secretariat ‑‑ from Member States and Secretariat and sector members or others or stakeholders to the Secretariat. What they can do they can do with a best of knowledge. But it could not be a total judge for everything. We should do ourselves, Council Working Group. The only possible way they make a trial basis to provide something. If it is useful we continue that and if it is not the matter will be reported back to you next year. And next year we decide whether or not you send to the PP. It is too early to decide this issue to the PP. Thank you.

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

>> UNITED KINGDOM: Thank you, Chair. And good morning. Well, as many other colleagues have said the stakeholder discussions in this Council Working Group are extremely valuable and fruitful and we benefit greatly from the different voices and perspectives that they bring. But for us there is a fundamental problem with the Council Working Group Internet. That problem is that sector members and all other stakeholders are excluded from it. The group meets effectively in secret and there is no transparency. And we need to address this problem. It is not a good way to discuss policy and it is not a good practice for our Union to hold meetings behind closed doors. And we would like to open up this group to all stakeholders.

Now we agreed at the Plenipotentiary Conference in 2014 to a compromise agreement and this is set out in detail in Plenipotentiary Resolution 102. The proposals from Saudi today is a major change from the agreement that we reached. In effect it is suggested that the Secretariat should decide what stakeholders have said while excluding them from the room. From our point of view we believe that stakeholders should be allowed to speak in their own voices because that is what makes these consultation meetings so valuable. We should not put words in their mouths while keeping them excluded from the room. We also believe, Madam Chair, that when colleagues come together and they make a compromise agreement at a Plenipotentiary Conference then we should stick to that agreement and we should not try to change it afterwards. So if there are proposals to change the way the Council Working Group today meets then they should be brought to the Plenipotentiary Conference next year. But for now we should continue with the current arrangements that we have. Thank you.

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

>> ROMANIA: Thank you, Chair. I will be very brief. I would like to support the comments made by the UK. Thank you.

>> CHAIR: Thank you. Now the floor is to the Chairman of the Council Working Group, please.

>> MAJED AL MAZYED: Thank you, Madam Chair. We have listened very carefully to what has been said by the various Council members. I will try to be very brief. Some interventions were related to the methods of work of the Working Group. And they all talked about the Resolutions of the Plenipotentiary. I would like to assert what has been said by Mr. Arasteh. Resolution 102 has been instructed to amend Resolution 1334 and to define some guidelines. The Council in 2015 has amended this Resolution 1334 taking in to account the various instructions given. In Resolution 1334 there are details which were not included in the Resolution 102 of the Plenipotentiary Conference and this concerns coordination of open consultations. The other part which could lead us to a Consensus I would like to thank all those who were ‑‑ who gave us good ideas like yourself, Madam. Your proposal was excellent. We have to ask from the General‑Secretariat to prepare a mechanism in order to know exactly you had to prepare a factual analysis. I am not asking for an analysis or a summary of answers but a factual analysis. This factual analysis could be useful. The mechanism to be proposed by the Secretariat to be presented in the next meeting.

Our Working Group could look in to it and adopt it. This is the best idea. After listening carefully to all the interventions this might be the best solution. We could ask from the Secretariat to prepare an idea, a proposal about a mechanism which could be preparing a factual analysis to as. We would liken to the factual analysis and see if it will hold up. Thank you.

>> CHAIR: Thank you. And as said by the Chair if he can make some informal discussion about these topics and perhaps we can discuss it next week. If you can agree about that, we can conclude this topic now. You have the floor, Chairman.

>> MAJED AL MAZYED: Thank you, Madam Chair. My proposal was to accept your first idea. We should ask from the Secretariat to prepare a mechanism to think about a mechanism so that we know exactly how we could have a factual analysis. This idea of a method could be represented to the next meeting of the Council. Thank you, Madam.

>> CHAIR: USA, you have the floor.

>> UNITED STATES: Thank you, Chair. And sorry for taking the floor at the end of your meeting. But when I said that the United States supported your proposal it was your proposal to send this issue to the Plenipotentiary Conference. We cannot support a presumption that the Secretariat is able to assemble a factual analysis and now begin to draft the methodology for doing that. So I just wanted to be clear. Thank you, Chair.

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

>> CANADA: Yes. Thank you, Madam Chair. Very briefly and apologies for declining the conclusion of this morning's meeting. We have a very serious issue with that premise. And as we stated before support your proposal for this to be sent to the Plenipot, but in addition, Madam Chair, I fail to understand the conceptual definition of a factual analysis as opposed to a nonfactual and ‑‑ it isn't clear what a factual analysis would mean. So should there be a way forward in which the Secretariat would provide their views on that it has to be very clear that such analysis should be first preceded by a very clear methodology and description of what different ‑‑ difference there would be between the report that we always have from "a factual analysis", particularly when it is factual analysis of the contributions submitted by stakeholders. Thank you.

>> CHAIR: Before I have a question for the interpreters and the captioning services, can we continue for five minutes again?

>> Yes, Madam Chair.

>> CHAIR: Thank you. Now we have only three countries. I will ask you to be brief. Saudi ‑‑ UAE, Tunisia and Australia.

>> UNITED ARAB EMIRATES: Thank you, Madam Chair. We apologize for requesting the floor for the second time on this subject. We think the Secretary's proposal is quite suitable. We are not taking a decision. But we are leaving the possibility for the Secretariat as the Chair of the Council Working Group said to present the proposal to the next meeting of the Council Working Group on Internet. I think this is important and it is a good proposal. Thank you.

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

>> TUNISIA: Thank you, Madam Chair. I support the proposal just made by the Chair of the Council Working Group. I think the Secretariat needs to prepare a mechanism. I have a point to add. It seems to me that during this Council all of us are seeking Consensus and cooperation. Colleagues refer to issues of nontransparency and closed meetings. I don't think we need to speak in those terms. I think we need to be positive. And we have to have a practical approach to the study of these topics so that we can come up with solutions in the future and not be divided.

>> CHAIR: Thank you.

>> AUSTRALIA: Very briefly. This was to clarify, like the U.S. the Australia support was for your first proposal and we didn't support the suggestion that the Secretariat prepare any documentation to go to the next meeting of the Council Working Group. Thank you, Chair.

>> CHAIR: Thank you. It is clear that now there isn't a Consensus about this topic. So the only way forward I can see is to ask to the Chairman of this group to make some informal discussion to try to have a Consensus and then we can discuss these topics on the next week. Now I don't think that in this Plenary it is possible to decide about this. Can I have your ‑‑ please, you have the floor, Chair.

>> MAJED AL MAZYED: Thank you. We will do so, Madam Chair.

>> CHAIR: Thank you very much. And now Ms. Bogdan has an announcement to do.

>> DOREEN BOGDAN: Thank you very much, Madam Chair. We will be holding in a few minutes the information session on the artificial intelligence for the AI for Good Summit. It will take place in this room in a couple of minutes. And also to inform those of you concerned that there will be a meeting of the Steering Committee this evening at 5:30 in room A. And we will be adjusting the time management plan at that meeting. Thank you, Madam Chair. And bon appetite.

>> CHAIR: Thank you. Good‑bye.

>> DOREEN BOGDAN: Sorry. I had one other announcement that I omitted. And that is the Ad Hoc Group on INRs that will be taking place at 12:45 and the room is ‑‑ I'm looking to my colleague.

>> CHAIR: Please, you have the floor.

>> Thank you very much, Madam Chair. And with regards to the meeting for this Ad Hoc Group, we will not object on the timing, Madam Chair, but please in the future take in to consideration that on Fridays we have the prayer. So please don't schedule any meetings in the future during the lunch break on Fridays. But since that was already scheduled we do not object but please take this in to consideration in the future. Thank you very much.

>> CHAIR: Sure. We can take a note about this. Thank you. Bye.

>> DOREEN BOGDAN: The meeting room is G3 for that meeting starting at 12:45 on INRs. Thank you.

(Session concluded at 12:09 p.m. CET)

\*\*\*

This is being provided in rough‑draft format. Communication Access Realtime Translation (CART) is provided in order to facilitate communication accessibility and may not be a totally verbatim record of the proceedings.

\*\*\*