

## **Report by the Secretary-General**

### **WTPF-13 – REPORT ON OUTCOME**

#### **Summary**

This Report summarizes the outcome of the ITU World Telecommunication/ICT Policy Forum (WTPF), held at the CIG, Geneva, from 14-16 May 2013.

#### **Action required**

The Council is invited **to note** the report described below and to consider, and as appropriate, **to approve** the draft Resolution in Annex.

#### **References**

[Resolution 101 \(Rev. Guadalajara, 2010\)](#), [Council Decision 562 \(2011\)](#)

1. The ITU World Telecommunication/ICT Policy Forum (WTPF) was established by the 1994 Kyoto Plenipotentiary Conference and is covered by the provisions of Resolution 2 (Rev. Guadalajara, 2010). The WTPF provides a forum where ITU Member States and Sector Members can discuss and exchange views and information on emerging telecommunication/ICT policy and regulatory matters, especially global and cross-sectoral issues. The WTPF shall not produce prescriptive regulatory outcomes; however, it shall prepare reports and adopt opinions by consensus for consideration by Member States, Sector Members and relevant ITU meetings.

2. Resolution 101 (Rev. Guadalajara, 2010), as reaffirmed by Decision 562 (Council 2011), decided that the WTPF-13 would discuss all the issues raised in: Resolution 101: "Internet Protocol (IP)-based Networks" (Rev. Guadalajara, 2010); Resolution 102: "ITU's role with regard to international public policy issues pertaining to the Internet and the management of Internet resources, including domain names and addresses" (Rev. Guadalajara, 2010); and Resolution 133: "Roles of administrations of Member States in the management of Internationalized (multilingual) domain names" (Rev. Guadalajara, 2010).

3. In accordance with Decision 562, the ITU Secretary-General convened an Informal Experts Group (IEG), each of whom was active in preparing for the Policy Forum. With the approval of ITU Council 2012, membership of the IEG was opened to all stakeholders. The

IEG met three times under the Chairmanship of Mr Petko Kantchev (Bulgaria) - twice in 2012 (5 June 2012 and 8-10 October 2012) and on 6-8 February 2013. More than 180 experts participated in the work of the expert group.<sup>1</sup> Around 75 contributions were received from all stakeholders towards the various drafts of the [ITU Secretary-General's Report](#) (five in total) and the Draft Opinions. All documents of the WTPF-13 preparatory process are freely available on the [WTPF website](#) without any restrictions.

4. The Policy Forum was preceded by a Strategic Dialogue, [Building our Broadband Future](#), held on 13 May 2013 and moderated by Mr Raffaele Barberio of Key4Biz. Eleven panelists and two Scribes participated in dynamic debates on the status, progress and challenges of rolling out broadband in two Sessions, "[Building out Broadband](#)" and "[Broadband Driving Development](#)". Session 1 debated whether access to broadband is a human need or a right. Session 2 debated the vital applications of broadband for improving people's lives and achieving the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs).

5. The following day, Mr Ulf Pehrsson and Ms Kathryn Brown presented the outcomes of the Strategic Dialogue to the Opening Plenary of the Forum,<sup>2</sup> summarizing the discussions and rich insights from the Strategic Dialogue. For Session 1, participants generally agreed that access to Internet and access to broadband is indeed a basic human need, although some went further and called it a fundamental right. For Session 2, Ms Kathryn Brown noted a maturing of the conversation, and described the relevance, evolution and risk. Participants called for government and the private sector to work together on both supply-side and demand-side issues relating to broadband, emphasizing that we now stand at a tipping point and now is the time for action to realize the significant benefits of broadband. The programme can be found at <http://www.itu.int/en/wtpf-13/Pages/dialogue.aspx>.

6. The Fifth World Telecommunication/ICT Policy Forum (WTPF-13) was held at the CIGG in Geneva, Switzerland, from 14-16 May 2013. It was attended by 900 delegates, representing 126 Member States and 49 Sector Members and five United Nations entities, as well as 37 members of the public. Twelve members of the IEG, invited as Special Guests of the ITU Secretary-General, attended WTPF-13. High-level participation by VIPs reached unprecedented levels, including a record attendance of 33 Ministers and eight Deputy Ministers as well as several heads of regulatory agencies. H.E. Mr Ivo Ivanovski, Minister of Information Society, The Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, was elected Chairman of the Forum.

7. The Policy Forum opened with addresses from: [Dr Hamadoun I. Touré](#), ITU Secretary-General; [H.E. Mme Doris Leuthard](#), Federal Counsellor, Department of Environment, Transport, Energy and Communications, Switzerland; Mr Fadi Chehadé, President and CEO of ICANN; and [Dr Robert E. Kahn](#), President, CNRI, and the co-founder of the Internet.

8. In his speech, Dr Touré underlined the need to work together. ITU will continue its bridge-building role and can leverage its unique position as a neutral convenor, where Member States, Sector Members and other stakeholders can come together. The timing of

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<sup>1</sup> List of members of the IEG is available at: <http://www.itu.int/md/S13-WTPF13IEG3-ADM-0002/en>

<sup>2</sup> See <http://www.itu.int/en/wtpf-13/Documents/statements/wtpf-13-ericsson-en.pdf> and <http://www.itu.int/en/wtpf-13/Documents/statements/wtpf-13-verizon-en.pdf>

this year's WTPF, with its focus on International Internet-related public policy matters, was particularly appropriate – as we stand at a 'tipping point' between the Internet as a vital enabler of social and economic progress in the industrialized world, and the Internet as a valuable global resource and a basic commodity of human life everywhere. The WTPF can create a shared vision that can be transformed into effective action to bring connectivity to the two-thirds of the world's people who are still offline. He reminded delegates that WTPF is a forum for free-thinking debate and discussion on new and emerging issues.

9. In her speech, H.E. Mme Doris Leuthard, Federal Counsellor of Switzerland, emphasized how broadband is critical to a modern, global economy and underlined her Government's support for the WSIS Forum, running in parallel to the WTPF. She highlighted how the Internet touches profoundly our society of today, our citizens, our businesses, our administrations, and schools. She stressed the importance of the responsibility of governments and their role in the protection of the rights of citizens and consumers.

10. Mr Fadi Chehadé, President and CEO of ICANN, delivered a strong message of cooperation throughout the Internet community announcing it is a "new season". He noted that "no one organization, no one country, no one person can manage the Internet – we must do this together. And it's our unity that will make this a very strong Internet that is secure and stable for everybody".

11. Dr Robert E. Kahn, one of the founders of the Internet, took the opportunity to take stock of where we are today in terms of the Internet's development and shared his vision of the future Internet as a global resource that will continue to evolve and bring value to the world.

12. Six Vice-Chairs were elected for the Forum:

- Ms Magdalena Gaj (Poland);
- Mr Rashid Ismailov (Russia);
- H.E. Mr Rowland Espinosa Howell (Costa Rica);
- Mr Majed M. Almazyed (Saudi Arabia);
- H.E. Mr Blaise Louembé (Gabon); and
- Mr Rabindra N. Jha (India).

13. In accordance with Resolution 2 (Rev. Guadalajara, 2010), discussions at the WTPF were based on the Report of the Secretary-General,<sup>3</sup> which served as the main working document of the Forum. The contributions and comments of members of the IEG were incorporated into this report. Annexed to the Report were six Draft Opinions which were forwarded by the IEG, by consensus, to WTPF-13 for further discussion.

14. The General Secretariat presented the [Secretary-General's Report](#), on behalf of the Secretary-General, giving a broad overview of issues covered by the Report based on the issues raised in the Plenipotentiary Resolutions 101, 102 and 133 (Rev. Guadalajara, 2010).

15. The presentation of the Report was followed by a succession of high-level statements<sup>4</sup> by Member States and Sector Members based on the themes raised in the Secretary-

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<sup>3</sup> <http://www.itu.int/md/S13-WTPF13-C-0003/en>

<sup>4</sup> <http://www.itu.int/en/wtpf-13/Pages/speakers.aspx>

General's report. It was noted that the body of the Report serves as an input document to the Policy Forum, and will not be revised during the Forum.

16. Three Working Groups were established to discuss the six draft Opinions annexed to the Secretary-General's Report and associated contributions from Member States and Sector Members. The following were elected as Chairmen and Vice-Chairmen of the Working Groups.

Group	Chairs	Vice-Chair(s)
<b>Working Group 1</b>	Mr Daniel Cavalcanti (Brazil)	Ms Sally Wentworth (Internet Society)
<b>Working Group 2</b>	Mr Musab Abdulla (Bahrain)	Mr Tchoung Linze Michel (CAPDA, Cameroon)
<b>Working Group 3</b>	Mr Petko Kantchev (Bulgaria)	Dr Y.J. Park (SUNY, Republic of Korea)

17. The Working Groups worked constructively over two and a half days. The Chairmen of the three Working Groups presented the results of the work undertaken by the Working Groups to the Plenary for approval – see [Annex I of the Chairman's Report](#).

18. In the discussion that followed the presentation of the report of the Chairman of Working Group 3, many participants stressed the importance of continuing the discussion on the role of governments in various fora in an open, transparent and multistakeholder manner.

19. The Chairman of the Forum presented the Draft Opinions, which had been revised and endorsed by the Working Groups. He invited the Forum to adopt the following Opinions:

Opinion 1: Promoting Internet Exchange Points (IXPs) as a long term solution to advance connectivity

Opinion 2: Fostering an enabling environment for the greater growth and development of broadband connectivity

Opinion 3: Supporting Capacity Building for the deployment of IPv6

Opinion 4: In Support of IPv6 Adoption and Transition from IPv4

Opinion 5: Supporting Multi-stakeholderism in Internet Governance

Opinion 6: On supporting operationalizing the Enhanced Cooperation Process

20. The forum delegates thanked the Chairmen and Vice-Chairmen of the various Working Groups for their outstanding work.

21. The Policy Forum adopted the Opinions as presented in [Part II of the Chairman's Report](#).

22. The concluding remarks of the Forum can be found here: <http://www.itu.int/en/wtpf-13/Pages/speakers.aspx>.

23. The ITU Secretary-General, in his concluding remarks, said that he would propose to the ITU Council that the composition of the Council Working Group on international Internet-related public policy issues (CWG-Internet) should be extended to all stakeholders in light of the extremely positive experience of WTPF-13 and its preparatory process.

24. While the Secretary-General is fully aware that the enlargement of the group's composition is under the purview of the 2014 ITU Plenipotentiary Conference (PP-14) - since the current rules of composition were determined by PP-10 - it is particularly important, if not essential, for ITU to not wait nearly two more years to open up the group's composition, so that the group effectively fulfills its intended mandate.

25. It is therefore suggested that the ITU Council recommend to PP-14 that the composition of CWG-Internet be broadened and that this expansion, if the Council agrees, is implemented as on a provisional and interim test basis at the group's next meeting(s), which would be a test to allow PP-14 to make an informed final decision. In this regard, the Council is invited to consider and, as appropriate, approve the related draft Resolution in Annex.

## ANNEX

### DRAFT RESOLUTION

#### **Participation of all Stakeholders in the Council Working Group on international Internet-related Public Policy Issues**

The Council,

*recalling*

- a) that Resolution 102 (Rev. Guadalajara, 2010) instructed the Council to revise its appropriate resolutions to make the Dedicated Group on international Internet-related Public Policy Issues into a Council Working Group, limited to Member States, with open consultation to all stakeholders;
- b) that Council 2011 Resolution 1336 established the Council Working Group on international Internet-related Public Policy Issues (CWG-Internet), limited to Member States, with open consultation to all stakeholders and with terms of reference as described in the Annex of the Resolution;
- c) that the terms of reference for CWG-Internet, specified in Council 2011 Resolution 1336, are to identify, study and develop matters related to international Internet-related public policy issues;
- d) that Council 2012 Resolution 1344 defined the modalities of the open consultation for CWG-Internet with all stakeholders,

*recognizing*

- a) that Resolution 102 (Rev. Guadalajara, 2010) instructed the Secretary-General
  - 1. to continue to take a significant role in international discussions and initiatives on the management of Internet domain names and addresses and other Internet resources within the mandate of ITU, taking into account future developments of the Internet, the purposes of the Union and the interests of its membership as expressed in its instruments, resolutions and decisions;
  - 2. to continue to take the necessary steps in ITU's own internal process towards enhanced cooperation on international public policy issues pertaining to the Internet as expressed in § 71 of the Tunis Agenda, involving all stakeholders, in their respective roles and responsibilities;
- b) that Opinion 5 of fifth World Telecommunication/ICT Policy Forum (2013) on *Supporting multi-stakeholderism in Internet Governance* invites Member States and other stakeholders to explore ways and means for greater collaboration and coordination between governments, the private sector, international and intergovernmental organizations, and civil society, as well as greater participation in multistakeholder processes, with a view to ensure that the governance of the Internet is a multi-stakeholder process that enables all parties to continue to benefit from the Internet.

*resolves*

- 1 to recommend to the 2014 ITU Plenipotentiary Conference (PP-14) to make CWG-Internet open to all stakeholders;
- 2 that pending the decision of PP-14, on a provisional and interim test basis, the intermediate meetings of the CWG-Internet prior to PP-14 will be open to all stakeholders,

*instructs the Secretary-General*

to report to Council 2014 on the results of *resolves* 2.

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