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### **Note by the Secretary-General**

#### CONTRIBUTION FROM THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

#### REPORT ON THE WORK OF THE CORRESPONDENCE GROUP ON THE ELABORATION OF A WORKING DEFINITION OF THE TERM "ICT"

I have the honour to transmit to the Member States of the Council a contribution received from the **United States of the America**.

Dr. Hamadoun I. TOURE  
Secretary-General

## Contribution from the United States of America

### REPORT ON THE WORK OF THE CORRESPONDENCE GROUP ON THE ELABORATION OF A WORKING DEFINITION OF THE TERM "ICT"

#### Introduction

With this contribution, the United States expresses its views concerning the work and outcomes of the Correspondence Group on the Elaboration of a Working Definition of the term "ICT" ("Correspondence Group"). The United States has been continually involved in this group and notes the completion of its work with appreciation for the effort of all those involved.

The United States is of the view that a working definition is intended to be understood within a specific scope and context, and that it is not necessarily exhaustive or authoritative for other purposes. Each use of the term "ICT" has its own particular context and its meaning derives from that context. These meanings vary depending upon whether the subject is telecommunications policy, federal acquisition regulations, management of information resources, or other with regulatory or policy implications.

Recognizing the contextual nature of a working definition, the Correspondence Group agreed to parameters and guidelines for development of a working definition of ICTs. The United States understands that the working definition is to be understood within these parameters and guidelines. This agreement on the parameters and guidelines for development of a working definition are discussed clearly in the final report of the Correspondence Group, contained in *"Final Report of the Chairman, Correspondence Group on the Elaboration of a Working Definition of the Term 'ICT'"* (*"Final Report of the Correspondence Group"*) (Document CG01/041). The United States therefore proposes that, should Council determine to transmit the working definition of ICT developed by the Correspondence Group to the Plenipotentiary Conference, it should do so in the form of the *Final Report of the Correspondence Group*.

#### Background

Resolution 140 (Rev. Guadalajara, 2010) requests Council "to elaborate through the Sector study groups and submit a working definition of the term 'ICT' to the Council and working groups of the Council, for possible transmission to the next plenipotentiary conference."

Through the direction of Council, the Correspondence Group on the Elaboration of a Working Definition of "ICT" in September 2012, reported in Document C14/46, the following working definition of ICT:

Technologies and equipment that handle (*e.g.* access, create, collect, store, transmit, receive, disseminate) information and communication.

Importantly, the Correspondence Group also agreed to the following parameters and guidelines for the proposed working definition:

- The **working definition** should be high-level and brief; technologically neutral; applicable to the ITU's roles and responsibilities, and used in the context of the work, recommendations, and resolutions of the ITU's three sectors.
- The **working definition** should not be intended to include content, services, software, or applications; interfere with the security or integrity of networks or personal data; appear in legally binding documents like the ITU Constitution or Convention, or expand the scope of ITU activities.

The working definition is to be understood in the context of these parameters and guidelines, which are inseparable from the definition. This agreement on the parameters and guidelines for development of a working definition are discussed clearly in the *Final Report of the Chairman, Correspondence Group on the Elaboration of a Working Definition of the Term "ICT"* (Document CG01/041).

**Proposal**

Noting that Council is not required to transmit the working definition of ICT developed by the Correspondence Group to Plenipotentiary Conference, the United States proposes that if Council determines to transmit the working definition of ICT, it should do so by transmitting the *Final Report of the Chairman, Correspondence Group on the Elaboration of a Working Definition of the Term "ICT"* (Document CG01/041). The report of the Correspondence Group is self-contained, in that it includes the definitions and all relevant guidelines and parameters, and needs no further amplification.

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