

United Kingdom

FUTURE TOPICS FOR OPEN CONSULTATION MEETINGS

1. The United Kingdom welcomes the introduction of physical open consultation meetings to the work of the Council Working Group on international Internet-related public policy issues. These meetings promise to be a valuable addition to the work of the Council Working Group, bringing different stakeholders together and listening to different views and sources of expertise and experience.
 2. We propose two topics for future open consultation meetings:
 - i. **“An enabling environment for an affordable Internet”**. In many countries, people are unable to access the Internet because it is too expensive. In others, regulatory and market reforms and public-private partnerships have encouraged investment and competition brought prices down. We propose that the Council Working Group should look at these issues in detail. “An enabling environment” is one of the Action Lines of the World Summit of the Information Society (WSIS) and we believe this topic would be a valuable follow on from the review of the WSIS and the 2030 Sustainable Development Agenda.
 - ii. **“Access to the Internet for people with disabilities”**. The High Level Event Outcome Document recognised the need for continued extension of access for people with disabilities to ICTs. As more and more of daily life takes place online, there is a danger that people with disabilities who are unable to access the Internet will be significantly disadvantaged. We propose a future meeting should consider these challenges and how they could be overcome.
 3. We propose that these topics should be announced as early as possible in order to give stakeholders notice and time to prepare.
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