"Improving lives through effective utilities regulation"

ITU Council Working Group Cluster
10 to 21 February 2025

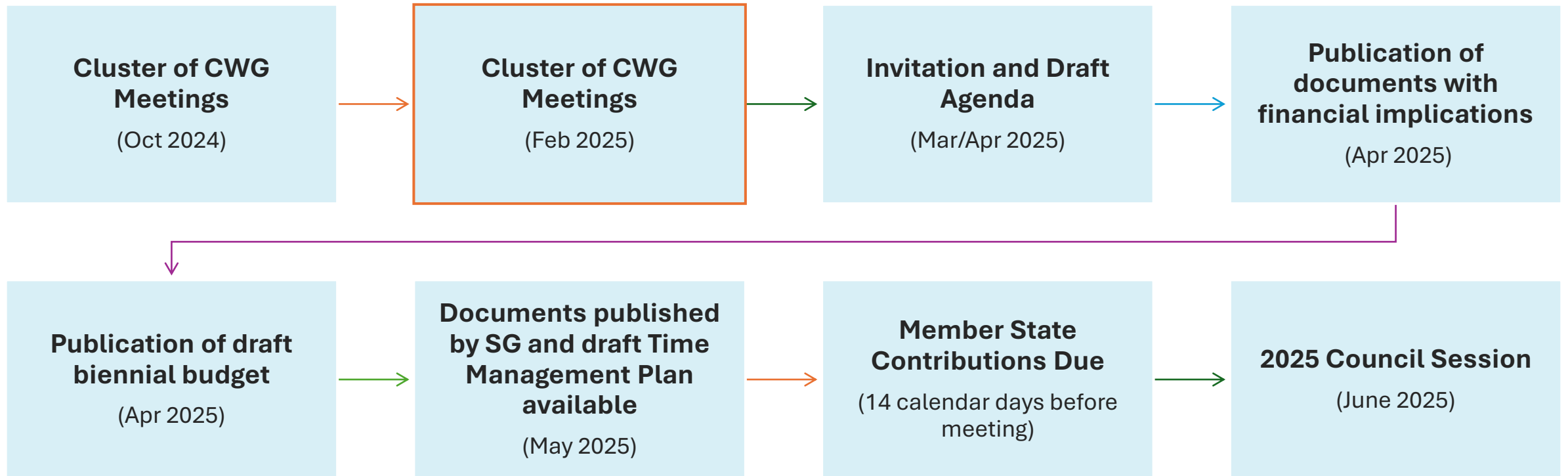## A Brief for CTU's 1st ICT Forecast and Industry Watch Meeting
13th January 2025

Michelle Grell-Bereaux
International Relations Advisor
URCA, The Bahamas

ITU's Governing Structure

Plenipotentiary Conference

Meets every 4 years

ITU Council

Meets once per year

ITU Council Membership (2023-2026)

- Region A (Americas): 9
- Region B (Western Europe): 8
- Region C (Eastern Europe and Nothern Asia): 5
- Region D (Africa): 13
- Region E (Asia and Australasia): 13

General Secretariat

Overall Organization Management and Intersectoral Coordination

ITU-R

Spectrum Management

World Radio Conference (WRC) and Radio Assembly (RA)

ITU-R Governing Body

ITU-T

ICT Standardization

World Telecommunications Standardization Assembly (WTSA)

ITU-T Governing Body

ITU-D

ICT Development

World Telecommunications Development Conference (WTDC)

ITU-D Governing Body

2

Preparatory Process for Council 2025

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│ Cluster of CWG  │  ──▶  │ Cluster of CWG  │  ──▶  │ Invitation and  │  ──▶  │ Publication of  │
│    Meetings     │       │    Meetings     │       │  Draft Agenda   │       │ documents with  │
│                 │       │                 │       │                 │       │financial        │
│   (Oct 2024)    │       │   (Feb 2025)    │       │  (Mar/Apr 2025) │       │implications     │
│                 │       │                 │       │                 │       │                 │
│                 │       │                 │       │                 │       │   (Apr 2025)    │
└─────────────────┘       └─────────────────┘       └─────────────────┘       └─────────────────┘

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│ Publication of  │  ──▶  │   Documents     │  ──▶  │  Member State   │  ──▶  │   2025 Council  │
│ draft biennial  │       │  published by   │       │ Contributions   │       │     Session     │
│     budget      │       │ SG and draft    │       │      Due        │       │                 │
│                 │       │ Time Management │       │                 │       │   (June 2025)   │
│   (Apr 2025)    │       │ Plan available  │       │ (14 calendar    │       │                 │
│                 │       │                 │       │ days before     │       │                 │
│                 │       │   (May 2025)    │       │ meeting)        │       │                 │
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3

Existing Council Working Groups

**CWG-INTERNET
(INTERNATIONAL INTERNET-RELATED
PUBLIC POLICY ISSUES)**

Chair: Mr Wojciech Berezowski (Poland)
Open to Member States of ITU

**CWG-COP
(CHILD ONLINE PROTECTION)**

**Chair: Mr Abdelaziz Al Zarooni (United Arab
Emirates)**
Open to Member States and Sector Members of
ITU, and nominated experts

CWG-WSIS&SDG

Chair: Ms Cynthia Lesufi (South Africa)
Open to Member States
and Sector Members of ITU

**CWG-FHR
(FINANCIAL AND HUMAN
RESOURCES)**

Chair: Ms Vernita Harris (United States) Open to
Member States and Sector Members of ITU

**CWG-LANG
(USE OF THE SIX OFFICIAL
LANGUAGES OF THE UNION)**

Chair: Ms Sharon Bosire (Kenya)
Open to Member States of ITU

**EG-DEC.482
(COUNCIL EXPERT GROUP ON
DECISION 482)**

Chair: Ms Fenhong Cheng (China)
Open to Member States and Sector Members of
ITU

**EG-ITRS
(EXPERT GROUP ON ITRs)**

Chair: Ms Shahira Selim (Egypt)
Open to Member States and Sector Members of
ITU

**CWG-SFP
(COUNCIL WORKING GROUP ON
STRATEGIC AND FINANCIAL PLAN)**

Chair: Mr Mansour Al-Qurashi (Saudi Arabia)
Open to Member States and Sector Members of
ITU

**IEG-WTPF
(INFORMAL EXPERT GROUP ON
WORLD TELECOMMUNICATION / ICT
POLICY FORUM)**

Chair: Mr Rodney Taylor (Barbados)
Open to nominated Experts

Note:

– A TIES account is required to register. Focal point
  approval is needed.

– Draft agendas and some contributions are already
  available.

– Remote participation is possible.

– Live and archive webcasts are also available.

– Meeting and registration details are available here.

CWG – Finance and Human Resources

Meeting Dates	17-19 February
Contribution Deadline	5 February

Mandate

Considers matters related to achieving organizational excellence.

Matters under Consideration

- Review of the regional presence

- Remote participation guidelines

- Financial implications of conference proposals, decisions, and resolutions

- Headquarters premises project

- Strategic review of the Geneva campus

- Transformation update

- Implementation of IT strategy (cybersecurity, ICT & data governance)

- UN system code of conduct for the ITU

- 2024 budget implementation

- Draft budget (2026-2027)

- Draft financial plan (2028-2031)

- Fee exemption analysis

- Report on the use of consulting firms

CWG – Strategic and Financial Plan

Meeting Dates	20-21 February
Contribution Deadline	8 February

Mandate

To develop the draft **2028-2031 Strategic and Financial Plans** for presentation by the Council to the PP Conference in 2026.

Matters under Consideration

- Results of the 1st online consultation on the current strategic and financial plans

- Current situational analysis for the new strategic and financial plan
    - External environment
    - Current financial situation
    - Interim report from EG- Dec. 482
    - Preliminary amount of the contributory unit*

- Strategic planning workshop programme

- Harmonization of PP Resolutions and Decisions

* A virtual consultation on the preliminary amount of the contributory unit is scheduled for **Wednesday, 15 January 2025**. The Council will fix the preliminary amount of the contributory unit for 2028-2031 at its 2025 session and will invite Member States to announce their provisional class of contribution for said period before the end of 2025.

CWG – Internet

Mandate

Identifies, studies, and develops matters related to **international Internet-related public policy issues.**

Matters under Consideration

- Report on ITU Internet Activities

  - Internet protocol-based networks

  - ITU's role in international internet public policy issues

  - Role of administrations in managing internationalized domain names

  - Promoting deployment of IPv6

  - OTTs

- Discussion on Open Consultation Results: The role of public policy in promoting multilingualism of the Internet

  - Online consultation deadline: 13 January 2025

  - Physical meeting at ITU Headquarters: 11 February 2025. The contribution submission deadline for this meeting is 30th January 2025.

- Contributions by Member States

  - United Kingdom: DNS Research Federation publication on the impact of the IGF

7

CWG – Child Online Protection (COP)

Meeting Dates	12-13 February
Contribution Deadline	31 January

Mandate

To raise awareness, share best practices, and assist Member States in developing and implementing national COP initiatives.

Matters under Consideration

- Update on the ITU COP initiative and implementation of the COP Global Programme
    - E.g., Draft national frameworks developed for The Bahamas and Suriname

- ITU Industry Connect: Quarterly conversations across Sectors

- Contribution from ITU Member States*

- Contributions from ITU Academia and Sector Members

- ITU's collaboration with partners and other relevant stakeholders

* Where COP initiatives are being implemented or considered in CARICOM Member States (e.g., OECS, The Bahamas, Suriname), those members are encouraged to report on experience, challenges and next steps on implementing child online protection strategies at the next CWG meeting in February

CWG – WSIS&SDGs

Meeting Dates	10-11 February
Contribution Deadline	29 January

Mandate

Considers matters related to ITU's role in the implementation of the WSIS outcomes and the 2030 SDG Agenda.

Matters under Consideration

- Progress Report on ITU Activities related to the WSIS Process and 2030 SDG Agenda

- WSIS+20 High-Level Event 2025
    - 1st Physical consultation meeting: October 2024 CWG Cluster
    - Online call for inputs deadline: 31 January 2025
    - 2nd physical meeting: During upcoming CWG meeting

- Update on implementation and follow-up activities
    - Summit of the Future 2024
    - Alignment of WSIS process and WSIS+20 review with Global Digital Compact (GDC)
    - Contribution to High-Level Policy Forum 2025
    - IGF 2024

- Overall Review on the Implementation of the WSIS Outcomes: WSIS Beyond 2025

IEG – WTPF

Meeting Dates	13-14 February
Contribution Deadline	13 January

Mandate

To assist in developing the report by the Secretary General to the **World Telecommunications Policy Forum (WTPF)** in 2026.

Matter under Consideration

- Second draft report of the Secretary-General and contributions* received on the Report and its sub-themes:
  - Bridging digital divides: gender, age, skills and connectivity
  - Space connectivity
  - Green digital transformation: Climate Change and Environmental Sustainability
  - Resilience of Telecommunications and ICTs
  - Strengthening ICT-centric innovation ecosystems and entrepreneurship

* The submission deadline for expert contributions, as well as the online consultation, is 13 January 2025.

IEG – WTPF - Process

1st Informal Expert Meeting **7-8 Oct 24** **Geneva** ☑	**2nd Draft SG Report** 18 Nov 24 Online ☑	**Comments on 2nd Report due** 13 Jan 25 Online ☑	**2nd Informal Expert Meeting** 13-14 Feb 25 Geneva

3rd Draft SG Report 31 Mar 25 Online	**Comments on 3rd Report due** 16 June 25 Online	**3rd Informal Expert Meeting** Sept 2025 Geneva	**4th Draft SG Report** 3 Nov 25 Geneva

Comments on 4th Report due 19 Dec 25 Online	**4th Informal Expert Meeting** Feb 26 Virtual	**Final Draft SG Report** 13 Apr 26 Online	**WTPF Event** 1st half 26 TBD

EG – ITRs

Mandate

To review and make recommendations on the **International Telecommunications Regulations (ITRs)**.

Matters under Consideration

- New trends and emerging issues in the (international) telecommunications/ICT environment that may impact the ITRs.

- Empirical data on the current use of the ITRs by operating agencies and/or administrations and the proportion of global telecommunication services that now rely on the ITRs.

- The relevance of the ITRs, which "consist of high-level guiding principles" in the current telecommunication/ICT environment.

EG – Decision 482

Meeting Dates	10-11 February
Contribution Deadline	29 January

Mandate

Considers matters on the appropriateness of various aspects of **cost recovery for processing satellite network findings.**

Matters under Consideration:

- Secretariat's Report on additional data and information on processing of satellite network filings*, **inter alia**:
  - Level of fees for non-receivable filings having regard for the needs of developing countries.
  - The extent to which complex non-GSO satellite system filings should not be eligible for free entitlement.
  - The cost of processing resubmissions of notification requests.
  - Consequences of WRC modifications after WRC-2000 to the Space Plans' regulatory provisions.
  - Costs for updating Bureau software for satellite filings, with a clear separation from funding terrestrial filing tools.
  - Others

- Comprehensive review and possible revisions to Decision 482.

* There will be a virtual presentation with a Q&A session on EG-Dec482 on 14 January 2025 (1200-1500 hours, Geneva time)

CWG – Languages

Mandate

Oversees the use of the six languages of the Union on an equal footing.

Matters under Consideration

- Update on the use of the six official languages of the union pursuant to PP Resolution 154 and Council Resolution 1372

- Report on implementing the guide to current and future practices in multilingualism.

- Report on the challenges and opportunities of the use of AI-powered interpretation

Thank you!

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– The CTU has established a coordination group for participation at ITU CWGs (Contact: Francola John, CTU)