

OMAC Roundtable #8

Meeting Summary

May 26 2022



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Topic of OMAC Roundtable #8

Under the theme *"WTSA and Looking Ahead to WTDC and Plenipotentiary"*, the roundtable walked members through critical issues being debated in ITU fora this year and potential threats to the Internet. It was an occasion for experts to share some insights about the upcoming WTDC and Plenipotentiary and give an overview of opportunities for collaboration. The roundtable also gave an opportunity for chapter members that participated at WTSA-20 to share their experiences with organization members and give their feedback about the ITU Fora.

Main Points of the Discussion

- Key results of the WTSA-20
 - In general, the results were favorable for both the Internet community and Internet Society's goals for this meeting. Specifically, the status quo on Internet-related resolutions was achieved; no New IP concepts were approved in resolutions, nor was a



new work item created on New IP. [Refer to the WTSA-20 Resolutions Final Outcomes Matrix.](#)

- The results from WTSA also indicated how divided the ITU is on various topics, including membership issues and expansion of ITU's standards activities to include AI. Furthermore, differences on these issues continue to have a divisive impact, which will become more pronounced as we approach WTDC and Plenipotentiary.
- The fact that the meeting occurred just after the Russian-Ukraine issue created significant tensions during the conference, which made the outlook for the Internet less positive, since continuous challenges to the Internet model will only worsen.
- Internet Society's active participation in ITU-T Study Groups during the new Study Group period in support of its strategic priorities- In particular, Study Group 13 on Future Networks and Study Group 17 on Security.

Key Take Away

- Significant threats to the Internet and Internet Ecosystem are anticipated at next major ITU conferences. Furthermore, developments in the UN on Internet/Digital related issues that pose risks to the Internet were noted. The Internet Society, its community, organization members, and partners would need to prepare in advance to give accurate information on Internet issues so that government delegates may make informed decisions. Specific proposals were highlighted:
 - A proposal by Russian Federation on Council Working Group (CWG)-Internet Consultation question on the topic "*Reliability and stability of the operational activity organizations/operators of critical Internet infrastructure: key and challenges of their operating activities, in particular the risks of being in national jurisdictions*" is expected to be sent to Plenipotentiary 2022 and places Internet Governance issues on the agenda.
- WSIS 2025 beyond and the ITU's role in the preparations will also be discussed at Plenipotentiary based on a Russian proposal to the CWG-WSIS-SDGs in 2021 including an updated resolution 140 on the ITU's role in the implementation of WSIS Outcomes.
- Cybersecurity continues to be a major issue and is expected to be on the agenda at Plenipotentiary.

Next Steps

- Internet Society's engagement and key priorities for forthcoming ITU World Telecommunication Development Conference from June 6-16 in Kigali Rwanda:

- Promoting alternative connectivity solutions to connected unconnected in rural, remote and underserved areas. Build on existing efforts over past 5 years to advocate for Community Networks and enabling policy environments for CN's to thrive.
- Strengthening strategic partnerships with stakeholders including governments to advance our Grow priorities.
- Promoting capacity building (skills/trainings) and best practices approach to ITU-D's 4-year work plan.
- The Internet Society will have a delegation in Kigali including its President and CEO, [Andrew Sullivan](#). Reach out to [Juan Peirano](#) (Peirano@isoc.org), if you'd like to engage with the team!
- Some of WTDC related/surrounding activities the Internet Society will be participating:
 - [Andrew Sullivan](#)'s participation as a Commissioner at the ITU/UNESCO Broadband Commission's Spring meeting on June 5. The meeting will be hosted by the President of Rwanda and co-hosted by the ITU Secretary General and UNESCO Representative.
 - Generation Connect Global Youth Summit from June 2-4, where the Internet Society will serve as a mentor and share information resources on Internet Governance including its Empowerment Programs.
 - Partner2Connect (P2C) Digital Development Roundtable event from June 7-9, where [Andrew Sullivan](#) will be speaking on **High Level Panel 4, on 8 June** and announce the organization's P2C Pledge.
- The Internet Society will provide useful information for the community and public at large such as:
 - Internet Society's Background Paper on WTDC-22
 - Matrix of WTDC-22 Resolutions

Useful Resources

Internet Society's WTDC-22 webpage: <https://www.internetsociety.org/events/wtdc-2022/>

Partner2Connect: A Global Effort to Achieve Universal Internet Access:
<https://www.internetsociety.org/issues/access/partner2connect/>

The Path to WTDC-22: Connecting the Unconnected Is Critical to Achieving Sustainable Development:
<https://www.internetsociety.org/blog/2022/05/the-path-to-wtdc-22-connecting-the-unconnected-is-critical-to-achieving-sustainable-development/>