

OMAC Roundtable #9

Meeting Summary

22 September 2022



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Topic of OMAC Roundtable #9

An Internet Society delegation will be attending this year's Plenipotentiary Conference (PP22), which will take place from 26 September -14 October in Bucharest, Romania. The team of experts will be advocating for maintaining the status quo of the Internet. But the Internet Society can't do it alone.

In light of this, the 9th OMAC roundtable, under the theme *Pre-Plenipotentiary Conference 2022*, brought together organization members to discuss some of the critical issues that will be addressed during the PP22, identified the potential threats these issues pose to the Internet and looked at how they could impact us all.

The session then addressed what the Internet Society's role will be during the conference and how organization members who also care about the multistakeholder model can get involved in advocating for a secure and trustworthy Internet.



Main Points of the Discussion

- **Plenipotentiary has specific objectives to accomplish**
 - These objectives include setting up the ITU's general policies; considering council reports (2019 to 2022); adopting the Union's four-year strategic and financial plans as well as the budget; electing the Secretary-General, Deputy Secretary General, and Directors of the three Bureaus, electing Member States to ITU Council and Members of the Radio Regulations Board, revising, modifying or proposing new resolutions or decisions related to telecommunication as well as considering proposals for amending the Constitution and Convention.
- **Regional preparatory meetings**
 - The main objectives of these meetings are to determine the regional priorities and goals for Plenipotentiary, facilitate consolidation of views at the regional level, develop common proposals for the conference and coordinate preparations amongst the regional telecommunication organizations to help build consensus before the conference.
- **Internet-related issues likely to be discussed at PP22**
 - Cybersecurity, including the inclusion of cybersecurity as a thematic priority in the Strategic plan and increasing ITU's role in cybersecurity discussions across the UN
 - ITU's role in implementation of the UN Secretary General's Digital Cooperation roadmap
 - ITU's role in Internet governance
 - Artificial Intelligence (AI) and its role in the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals, including the inclusion of AI in the work of ITU-T
 - Utilization of telecommunication/ICTs to combat pandemics
 - Digital transformation and the digital economy
 - Internet of Things
- **Critical decisions and actions that could threaten the Internet**
 - Possible proposals to fragment the Internet
 - Discussions that would weaken the multistakeholder governance model, giving governments greater control.
 - Election of the Secretary-General: 2 candidates from the US and Russia are in place. This is an important position and has a significant impact on the future landscape of the Internet.
 - International treaties that will be signed at the PP22 will be turned into laws at the country level. As a community, we need to ensure these treaties will build, defend, and promote the Internet for everyone.

- Non-binding recommendations that will result from the Plenipotentiary will most likely be implemented by government policy makers. As a community we need to influence these recommendations to advance an open, globally connected, secure, and trustworthy Internet.
- Regional groups that were involved in the Regional Preparatory Meetings will most likely pressure government regulators to implement the laws from the treaties. It is important that regional groups can make conscious decisions to advance the Internet and government regulators are well prepared to respond to any pressure to weaken the Internet.
- **Key points to address**
 - There is a focused effort being exerted to expand the mandate of the ITU into the governance and policy aspects of the Internet. This would have a negative impact on an open, secure, and trustworthy Internet, that is available for all.
 - On the technology standardization side, it is important to stress that the [ITU-T](#) focuses on its areas of expertise and not duplicate work done by other standardization bodies, e.g. the IETF for IP related technologies.

Key Take Away

- **Internet Society's role at PP22**
 - As a sector member of the ITU-T and ITU-D Sectors, it will follow the activities and engage in discussions as they relate to the Internet's technical, social, and economic development.
 - It will champion the open Internet model for its continued success by advocating for use of collaborative multistakeholder approaches for decision-making in a globally distributed network environment.
 - During the conference, the Internet Society will mobilize its members to advocate against any terminology or concepts that could threaten the Internet in the PP22 resolutions.
- **How can organization members contribute to PP22?**
 - Collaboratively advocate for the need of a multistakeholder approach
 - Help reiterate issues to government and provide them with valuable information based on your understanding of the Internet and the Telecom landscape to prepare them make the right decision for a secure and trustworthy Internet

Next Steps

- Review the [Matrix of Proposed Resolutions](#) for the Conference. This matrix is a preliminary effort at identifying issues, areas of concern, organizations impacted, etc. on a best-efforts basis. Suggestions to improve this work are welcome. Please send your feedbacks to peirano@isoc.org. Note the proposals cited are not yet agreed upon but have been put forward by ITU Member States or ITU Regional Groups.
- Our delegation needs you—and as you can see there are lots of ways you can help. If you're planning on attending PP22, reach out to [Sebastian Bellagamba](#), [Hosein Badran](#), [Nermine Saadany](#), [Dawit Bekele](#) or [Agustina Callegari](#).

Useful Resources

- AP22 landing page: <https://www.internetsociety.org/events/un/plenipot-2022/>
- Resolution Matrix: <https://www.internetsociety.org/resources/doc/2022/itu-plenipotentiary-2022-summary-issues-matrix/>
- Background Paper on ITU Plenipotentiary 2022: <https://www.internetsociety.org/resources/doc/2022/background-paper-on-itu-plenipotentiary-2022/>