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>> JIM PATERSON: Good afternoon, colleagues. And welcome to Working Group 3. I'd just like to welcome everyone to the meeting where we are going to be considering Opinion 5. Our Vice‑Chairs, my name is Jim Paterson from the Department of Communications and Digital Technologies of South Africa. The Vice‑Chair is Natalia Vicente. She is from the EMEA Satellite Operator's Association. Joining us as well is Mario Maniewicz, who is the director of radiocommunications. And we have our very able and capable ITU team and the team of translators and interpreters.   
 So I think this is actually one of the biggest topics of our time in that we have to consider the use of telecommunications and ICTs to respond to the COVID pandemic and future pandemics and how we can strengthen our preparedness for the future. What is critical is we do learn from the experiences that we have had during the pandemic. Probably most important is countries with ICT and telecommunication infrastructure and levels of digitalization have been better placed to cope with the consequences of the pandemic. At the same time so is inequality. And this is a very serious challenge.

This places a great responsibility on all of us to do what we can to address the digital divide, and to try and ensure that everyone can participate more equitably in the Digital Economy. This opinion will look at how we can from a global community build the initiatives and how we can work with the rest of the UN system and organizations, nationally and globally.   
 And look at how ICTs and telecommunications have been used to respond to the COVID pandemic and how we can do more to protect jobs and especially SMEs, how we can support educational and health services. And in short how we can continue to build our economies and societies in an inclusive manner, even during a pandemic. And how we can address the adverse consequences that can arise in the future.

I'm going to hand over to the Vice‑Chair, Ms. Natalia Vicente to give a few opening remarks as well. And then we will also invite Mr. Mario Maniewicz to give some remarks as well. Over to you, Natalia.

>> NATALIA VICENTE: Thank you very much, Jim. It is a pleasure to be here today and be supporting you in this very important opinion as you say. I want to make a comment, we heard yesterday many of the administrations that talked about COVID and mentioned it because it has certainly changed the way that we look at connectivity. That's always been important. Now it has become crucial, from education and health, work and keeping in contact with our loved ones, it has been so important during this period. We are at a pivotal moment of digital system and moment of opportunities for us all. We should probably build on the lessons learned and have a mindset change. We have been talking about meaningful connectivity in the past few months. It adapts to the different realities that need to have access for the purposes that are relevant for them. Inclusivity has taken on a relevant meaning and strategic connectivity plans needs to concern rural areas.

Technologies are thought now as part of an ecosystem that are not exclusive and multiple examples have come to light in which the success has been based on the multiple technologies. And collaboration is the way or has been shown as a way to ensure a sustainable model of projects that can benefit the maximum number of citizens at an affordable price. The decision and the step we take forward will have an impact in the citizens of all regions. And it is not by picking winners among technologies that will change lives. But it is picking solutions that we have a great impact to all the citizens in the world. So I believe that this opinion also it is part of all the work that we are doing together. And it is an example of how important it is that we all work together for a better connected future. Thank you very much, Jim. And really happy to be here to support you today. And to help in any way I can to everyone.

>> JIM PATERSON: Thank you very much, Natalia. Mr. Mario Maniewicz, can we invite you to give a few remarks as well, please?

>> MARIO MANIEWICZ: Yes, thank you very much, Mr. Chairman. So Excellencies, Distinguished Delegates, Ladies and Gentlemen, it is a pleasure for me to be able to address you today. And deliver a few remarks on such an important topic on the use of telecommunications and ICTs in COVID‑19 and future pandemics and epidemic preparedness and response. Without any doubt, COVID‑19 has and continues to wreak havoc across the globe. So when the pandemic hit, so much of our lives moved online emphasizing the need for robust telecommunication networks and greater connectivity. ITU's response to the pandemic has been comprehensive. We launched a community platform, supported digital health and enabled the development of international relations and standards and provided assistance for countries to benefit from the international framework to expand their broadband connectivity.

ITU launched the global network resiliency platform, also known as REG4COVID to create a space where responses and best practices could be shared. Today REG4COVID is helping countries build and plan for the future.   
 In addition the ITU WHO focus on AI for health created an Ad Hoc Group on digital technologies for health emergencies. ITU has been working with Governments and Mobile Network Operators to text people who may not have access to the Internet, with science and evidence‑based COVID‑19 health advice, directly on their mobile phones. Government and industry are called upon to keep using the momentum gained during these challenging times to accelerate digital transformation and extended to almost 3 billion people who are still offline around the world. Going forward our priority must be to bridge a digital divide and make access to communications affordable for everyone.   
 This is one of my priorities as director of the ITU Radiocommunication Bureau. At a time when people in urban areas are twice as likely to use Internet as those in rural areas. And I am pleased that many of the outcome of the World Radio Communication Conferences reflect developments and innovations that have the potential to provide broadband connectivity and extend the coverage for telecommunication services in rural and remote and underserved areas at an affordable price.

In addition to the development of international standards and regulations we have worked closely with all countries, especially Developing Countries to support the deployment and the use of new and emerging telecommunication and ICT services and technologies. COVID‑19 shows no borders and makes no distinctions. It is as the UN Secretary‑General described the greatest test we have faced together since the formation of the United Nations.   
 As a draft opinion in front of us makes clear, effectively harnessing telecommunications and ICTs in response to COVID‑19, and future pandemics, it is more important than ever. We need to build on this effort and accelerate the implementation of ICT policy frameworks that enable the digital transformation of societies and industries and economies. So let's get to it. Let's work together and make a lasting difference. Thank you very much.

>> JIM PATERSON: Thank you very much. Can we get the agenda on the screen so we can adopt that for our meeting?   
 Great. Maybe if we can scroll down. Okay. If there is no comments.

>> DIANA TOMIMURA: We have a hand raised from Algiere.

>> JIM PATERSON: Okay. Algiere Telecom, please go ahead and take the floor.

>> ALGIERE TELECOM: Sorry. It was a mistake from my side.

>> JIM PATERSON: No problem. That's fine. Then we will consider the agenda adopted. And I think then we can probably now then go to the Opinion No. 5. In terms of opinion ‑‑ the opinion, so we are looking at Draft Opinion 5. This is the use of telecommunications and ICTs in COVID‑19 and future pandemic and epidemic preparedness and responses.   
 You recall there are opinions that we are adopting here are nonprescriptive and nonbinding in nature. And we must thank the experts that have participated in the Informal Experts Group over the last two years under the leadership of Fabio Bigi to provide you the draft opinion before us.   
 Given the intensive work on the draft opinions that have been under consideration, we would suggest the following approach. Any edits that can be proposed from the floor, I will seek your consensus for that edits to be reflected in the draft opinion. If there is divergence that's significant in the points of view, I propose that we don't conclude those proposed edits and we maintain the existing text. In case we can resolve different perspectives by proposing compromised text then we can consider that. Our time is very less for the whole group. This has been a challenge for the whole meeting. Meeting remotely means we have to accommodate different time zones and we have much less time.   
 Okay. So if we have now Draft Opinion 5 before us, I'm now going to invite ‑‑ we had written contributions from the Internet Society. These contributions were not editorial amendments. They are just general comments. So if the Internet Society can kindly share that which they submitted to this relevant specifically to Draft Opinion 5, thank you.

>> ISOC: Thank you very much, Chair, for the opportunity to contribute to this very important opinion. Our ‑‑ most of our comments were already addressed during the discussions today. So we yield our time and we hope for to keep working with everyone here in the call to get more development done and connect the unconnected. Thank you very much.

>> JIM PATERSON: Okay. That is noted. I think then the best way forward would be then to invite Delegates, if they have any other broad comments, and then after that, if we will then proceed to go through the document section by section with the assumption that most colleagues would have read it, but we will give then a chance to comment on particular sections as we go through the document.   
 So firstly, then let me invite Delegates to provide broad comments on the draft opinion. Do we have any hands? No.

>> DIANA TOMIMURA: No hands raised Chairman.

>> JIM PATERSON: Okay. Then we shall proceed to go through the documents section by section. We'll do so ‑‑ I won't read every single word. We will try and do it like at a high level. So the first section we have that we are recalling, have Resolutions from the United Nations General Assembly, which was on global solidarity to fight Coronavirus disease, 2019, which called for the UN system to work with relevant actors to mobilize a coordinated response to the pandemic. Then we had the UNGA Resolution 74306, this was on the comprehensive and coordinated response to the Coronavirus disease pandemic.   
 Then we recall the UN Sustainable Development Goal No. 3, ensuring healthy lives and promoting well‑being for all at all ages as well as SDG No. 9, to build resilient infrastructure, promote sustainable industrialization, and foster innovation. And then SDG No. 11, to make citizens and human settlements and we refer to the ITU constitution. We refer to ‑‑ so that's priority of communications concerning life. We refer to the ITU radio regulations on distress and safety communications. And we refer to the International Telecommunication Regulations on safety of life.

We also refer to Resolutions of the Plenipotentiary Conference that's on the use of ICTs for humanitarian assistance and managing emergency and disaster situations, early warning, prevention and then Resolution 202 from Busan using information and telecommunications technologies to break the chain of health emergencies, such as the Ebola virus. Action Line C7 of the Geneva Plan of Action which calls for monitoring systems, using ICTs especially in Developing Countries, LDCs and smaller country economies. So any comments on this section? I would appreciate an indication.   
 I think there are none. So we then move to the section bearing in mind. Now I see Mohammed from Algiere Telecom.

>> ALGIERE TELECOM: Yes. Thank you. On recalling D, I want to suggest add an Article 5 of the ITRs, right after constitution, can add also Article 5 of the ITRs.

>> JIM PATERSON: You wanted to move it, instead of having it in E?

>> ALGIERE TELECOM: No. Right after constitution, Article 5 of the ITRs.

>> JIM PATERSON: Article 5 is in bullet E.

>> ALGIERE TELECOM: I'm sorry. I didn't notice that.

>> JIM PATERSON: You have a very great knowledge of the ITU though. Okay. Unless you think it should be moved. But I suppose it is part of the administrative regulations. So it is okay there as well.   
 Okay. Let's proceed. Let's go to bearing in mind. Okay. Bearing in mind, we are bearing in mind the importance of ICT networks, resiliency, scalability, in the face of the COVID‑19 pandemic. And their role in helping get more people online in this time of crisis as well as the gaps and the needs for further developing connectivity.   
 Significant potential of ICT services and technologies and new and emerging technologies such as AI, IoT, 5G, Big Data, OTTs, that facilitate telecommunications, ICTs, can improve the response to emergencies caused by the pandemic as well as other pandemics and epidemics and improving the effectiveness of their prevention and mitigation.

Then we get to C, tragic events around the world have ‑‑ related to the spread of the pandemic, which clearly show the need to expand affordable access to high quality, sustainable and inclusive ICTs. And then D, the importance of access to relevant information about pandemics, and epidemics to assist the public, to assist public safety and support the work of health and disaster relief agencies and organizations.   
 The need to promote digital inclusion to ensure that everyone has access to ICTs, and to maintain continuity of everyday social educational and economic interactions and leaving no one excluded by using telecommunications ICTs.

And then F, affordable and effective Telcos are needed to minimize the risk to human life, information and communication as well as supporting humanitarian assistance and economic responses. And then we go to G, need to foster digital literacy and skills. 4 regardless of age, gender, ability, location, to ensure that everyone has equal opportunity, to participate in and support the continuity of information society.   
 Okay. Do we have any comments on that section bearing in mind? I see none. Move on to the next section. Which is recognizing. Divide between countries and regions, and in particular many regions lack affordable access to ICTs. Critical role of Governments, private sector, Civil Society, technical community, other stakeholders play in enabling affordable connectivity, for all and the benefits of stakeholders working collaboratively in this regard.

No. C, we are looking at the relevant international organizations in playing a key role in convening stakeholders, facilitating best practice, and for the development of connectivity that's affordable, and supporting humanitarian assistance in disaster relief efforts. And that ITU as a specialized agency the UN plays a really important role in the implementing the WSIS Action Lines and outcomes and through them the SDGs.

And then bullet E, ongoing work of the ITU related to new and emerging technologies that facilitate new services and technologies, recommendations from the ITU, especially those that promote the use of ICT systems and technologies, as well as other practices that may support the response and recovery efforts.

And F, ITU's efforts to gather best practice on our Governments and stakeholders to work collaboratively. And how these lessons can be applied to future pandemics and future efforts to promote connectivity and digital inclusion. G, ITU initiatives in response to COVID bringing together stakeholders and many diverse areas, such as resiliency, accessibility, e‑education, digital skills and digital cooperation.   
 This included the creation of the global network resiliency platform, new Guidelines on emergency telecommunications, child online protection. Strengthening of partnerships as well as the ITU‑UNICEF GIGA project to connect every school and ILO initiative. Webinar series on digital cooperation during COVID pandemic. Do we have any comments on this section?   
 I see Intel Corporation.

>> INTEL CORPORATION: Thank you. I have comments for the items B and C. My proposal is after the affordable connectivity to ‑‑ after affordable connectivity, and devices, devices are also very important for the connectivity of people needing the devices, affordable devices for the connection to the Internet.   
 Thank you.

>> JIM PATERSON: Did I understand you correctly, were you talking about ‑‑ you said devices? You WSIS, World Summit?

>> INTEL CORPORATION: After connectivity in section item B affordable connectivity and devices.

>> JIM PATERSON: And devices.

>> INTEL CORPORATION: Yes.

>> MARIO MANIEWICZ: Mr. Chairman, he is saying and devices.

>> JIM PATERSON: Devices, sorry.

>> INTEL CORPORATION: Yes. Same for item C. After affordable connectivity.

>> JIM PATERSON: Thank you for that input. Colleagues, then do we have any comments on this? What we are saying is an enabling affordable connectivity and devices for all and the benefits of stakeholders working collaboratively. And then to include the similar in C where we talk about affordable connectivity, we are also referring again to devices as well.   
 I don't think that will be a problem. I don't see any objection ‑‑ hang on. We do have some hands. We have a hand from Saudi Arabia. And a hand from Algiere Telecom. Saudi Arabia, you may please kindly take the floor.

>> SAUDI ARABIA: Thanks. Good evening, good afternoon and good morning to all. My comment on the C, relevant international organizations, if we can add the private and governmental organizations to be all.

>> JIM PATERSON: Sorry, can you repeat it?

>> SAUDI ARABIA: Let's just add private and Governmental organizations on international organizations. So it is just practice, private and Governmental, yeah. Yeah. Between to practice. Just to describe the international organizations.

>> JIM PATERSON: You are saying in normal brackets, not square brackets?

>> SAUDI ARABIA: Yeah. Thank you.

>> JIM PATERSON: Okay. Algeria.

>> ALGIERE TELECOM: Yes. Thank you, Chairman. Chairman, I have a suggestion with regard to space based applications when it comes to, you know, dealing with Coronavirus and diseases. I think with the help of probably the BR director, Mr. Mario Maniewicz, there is, for example, new and obvious outer space, initiative space for health, for example, where we emphasize the role of particularly space based applications and infrastructure in dealing with these kind of pandemics. I think emphasis on particularly these kind of infrastructures and, of course, the UN Spider program with that regard may be useful to be mentioned here.   
 Taken in to consideration as I said because we echoed at the end of recognizing some initiatives outside of ITU. I think the UN Spider program and even the Working Group which have been created, the scientific technical subcommittee under the copious Committee on space for health, for example, is really key and relevant to this opinion and this part of the opinion. If this idea is agreeable maybe we can suggest text accordingly. Thank you very much.

>> JIM PATERSON: Okay. I think that's open to colleagues to consider, that we could have some languages referring to space and space health initiatives as proposed by Algeria. If there is no objection to that then, Algeria will go ahead and present some language. But I see hands now from Iran and from the United Kingdom. Iran, you may go ahead and take the floor.

>> ISLAMIC REPUBLIC OF IRAN: Thank you, Chairman. First of, I don't know whether we need to put round brackets and saying private and Governmental. But we want to put that the appropriate word would be Governmental and Non‑Governmental Organization. This is what we always do. But I wonder whether we need that because international organization is quite clear, that is a broad word. But we want to put instead of private and Government say Governmental and non‑Governmental. But we go to the devices, Chairman, affordable connectivity, we read the text role, we say the deployment of affordable connectivity and devices, you go to the part B. In B it may not be appropriate to say enabling affordable connectivity and devices. Do we need devices? Because the term was connectivity. Include connectivity of already the device. We don't have connectivity, something else than device. So I wonder whether we need to have devices or not. No objection but it may not be necessary. Thank you.

>> JIM PATERSON: Thank you very much. I think certainly on C, I'm trying to agree because simply because the language just seems a bit unusual. And the approach. So I would suggest we either stick with the original on the understanding that it is referring to Governmental and Non‑Governmental Organizations. Or we can put international Governmental and Non‑Governmental Organizations. Let me just see and hear back then from the colleague concerned, if they would be happy with that change.   
 This is Saudi Arabia I think.

Okay. We haven't heard back.

>> DIANA TOMIMURA: Chairman, Saudi Arabia has raised their hand if you want to take it.

>> JIM PATERSON: Please do take the floor, Saudi Arabia.

Saudi Arabia, we can't hear you.

>> SAUDI ARABIA: Sorry, I was muted. Governmental and Non‑Governmental we can use. I agree with Iran.

>> JIM PATERSON: Okay. That's fair. Then to come back on the issue of devices, the question is do we need devices. Enabling affordable connectivity and devices. Are they not the same thing? I think Iran was just trying to be constructive in terms of the language. It wasn't a red line. It was just a suggestion. I think this was Intel. Intel, would you like to come back on that? Intel, can you hear?

>> INTEL CORPORATION: Can you hear me now?

>> JIM PATERSON: Yes.

>> INTEL CORPORATION: Yeah. Thank you, Chairman. And thank you for the comments. Regarding the devices, I will give just a simple example. According to the UNESCO, during the COVID‑19 situation, half of the students in the world do not have the connectivity and also devices. Computer or tablet or laptops. They don't have household connectivity and the devices, computers or other Internet devices at home. You can understand the importance of devices. I believe it is important to reflect the devices. Of course, I see the comments from Canada and also from Iran, that this connectivity includes the devices, but I think it is I believe important to add to reflect the importance of the devices. Thank you. Over to you.

>> JIM PATERSON: Okay. Noted. I see hands. Iran, is that a new hand?

>> Mr. Chairman, this is the Vice‑Chair of WTPF. I would like to take you back to the beginning of paragraph C. I think the intention of my Distinguished Colleague from Saudi Arabia was to put Governmental and Non‑Governmental prior to the word international. The text should be the relevant Governmental and Non‑Governmental international organizations.

>> JIM PATERSON: That was also my suggestion, yes. So I agree with you. Yes. International Governmental and Non‑Governmental Organizations. That's perfect. Thank you very much. Appreciate it.

>> Recording stopped.

>> JIM PATERSON: Okay. I see a request from the UK for the floor and after that it is going to be ‑‑ I'm not sure. Mr. Ahmad Reza Sharafat, you want the floor as well after ‑‑ let's go to the UK and I will come back to you. UK.

>> UNITED KINGDOM: Yes. Thank you, Chair. Apologies. I'm not able to get my video working today. But, I think it might be on now. I think that we are possibly overcomplicating things here. We have across the opinions used international organizations as standard texts and I think within the ITU context, it is quite clear what that means. Adding Governmental and Non‑Governmental here just brings to mind many questions from myself. I think it would be reverted back to that original text of international organizations. And then I will just ‑‑ the UK also agrees with those that have expressed that affordable connectivity includes devices. And we don't think that we necessarily need a specific callout here as it is a much wider issue than just that.

>> JIM PATERSON: Thank you very much. Okay. So let's get back then to Governmental and Non‑Governmental Organizations. I think UK and Iran have both argued this is what we mean when we say international organizations. There is this understanding in the ITU. We don't need to write all that language. So Saudi, I think you will agree that we can just take it out? You have confirmation from other Delegates that your concern is actually covered in the original language.

>> DIANA TOMIMURA: Saudi Arabia is asking for the floor.

>> SAUDI ARABIA: Shall I speak?

>> JIM PATERSON: Yeah.

>> SAUDI ARABIA: Yeah. As long as it is defined and known, I have no problem to take it out. I would to be honest rather than having just international organizations, to have Governmental and Non‑Governmental but as long as it is obvious and known by each point, then it is okay.

>> JIM PATERSON: Thank you very much for your understanding. Okay. Then we come to the issue of devices. We have two perspectives, but I think it is being argued that we don't need to say devices. It is covered under the terminology that's being utilized, the language that's being used. Can we remove devices under the clear understanding that it is actually included in the concept? I see Saudi and then after that it will be Intel.

>> SAUDI ARABIA: Sorry. For the devices you mean?

>> JIM PATERSON: Yes.

>> SAUDI ARABIA: Yeah. I have no comment for that.

>> JIM PATERSON: Okay. Intel. Was there any other input you wanted to make?

>> INTEL CORPORATION: May I comment?

>> JIM PATERSON: Yes.

>> INTEL CORPORATION: I have a proposal. Affordable connectivity including devices, but I will not insist to keep it if it is not acceptable. Thank you.

>> JIM PATERSON: I think we should probably leave it at this stage because I think the general view seems to be that devices is included. So unless there is any strong objection we should just leave the original language. But thank you very much for the inputs and for the understanding.   
 Okay. I don't know if our colleague from Algeria was ready to come back to us.

>> DIANA TOMIMURA: Mr. Chairman, he proposed a text in the chat.

>> JIM PATERSON: Oh, really? Okay. So should we take the text and put it on the screen so people can see maybe? Algeria, would you like to read it out to us as well?

>> ALGIERE TELECOM: Sure. I suggest it as following, the vital role of space based applications in providing innovative tools such as United Nations Coronavirus portal on Coronavirus disease, intended to improve lives and accelerate sustainable development in many areas, including improving the situational awareness and responding to the COVID‑19 outbreak. Yes, thank you, Chairman.

>> JIM PATERSON: Okay. The language you have put there it falls under paragraph G, which is talking to the ITU's initiatives in response to COVID‑19. So I just want to be clear, that this is speaking to the ITU's initiatives.

>> DIANA TOMIMURA: Chairman, that would be a new point 8 outside ‑‑

>> JIM PATERSON: Sorry. Cool. Understood. All right. Is there any comments then on this language? Are we comfortable with it? Really just to find out if there is any concerns about us adding this.

>> DIANA TOMIMURA: Canada is asking for the floor and the U.S., Mr. Chairman.

>> JIM PATERSON: Canada followed by the USA followed by Kenya.

>> CANADA: Thank you, Chairman. Just a quick comment on the new H, it is not clear to us why there has to be a specific reference to space based applications. And in that context, it is not clear which are the innovative tools that space based applications provide. And in this particular case, why would a Coronavirus portal on the disease be considered an innovative tool? It is not clear. We understand the importance that satellite operators have, of course. But it is not only the ones providing the connectivity. And I think we need to probably go back to a very balanced text. Thank you, Chairman.

>> JIM PATERSON: Okay. Can we have USA? Kenya, are you still wanting the floor, Kenya?

>> NATALIA VICENTE: Can I maybe make a suggestion just to help the colleagues? If we mainly put the paragraph already, I suppose it makes more sense to put it under B, maybe as C or higher in the text just to make it part of where it may look more integrated in case that helps to the colleagues.

>> JIM PATERSON: Okay. I suppose we could look at that. Let's see if we are going to accept it first. We have USA.

>> UNITED STATES: Thank you, Chair. I would just like to make two comments. The current formulation of the sentence seems to imply that the UN Coronavirus portal is a space based application. Perhaps I'm misreading the text but I don't believe that the portal itself is that. So, you know, I would have some concern with that. I also know in our prior conversations we were I think a little bit more balanced in terms of talking about both terrestrial and space based applications.   
 But I would also agree with Canada that I don't really see how this is necessary in the text as it is. So I think, you know, it doesn't need to be highlighted in this way. But if it is included, I think I would want it to be balanced. Thank you.

>> JIM PATERSON: Okay. I think then we should refer back to Algeria for a response.

>> ALGIERE TELECOM: Yes. Thank you. The portal is, of course, not the sole innovative application. But it was mentioned as one of the tools that we may be using, right. And, of course, we are in a consensus based approach in our ‑‑ while moving forward. So it is up to the colleagues to agree upon mentioning these particular applications in COVID, of course, situation. So yeah. Thank you, Chairman.

>> JIM PATERSON: Okay. Well, it sounds like it is not really hugely controversial but maybe it needs some fine‑tuning. Maybe if you can just work with Canada and USA and tweak it a little bit and see what happens. We might be able to include it. Will that be possible, Algeria?

>> DIANA TOMIMURA: Mr. Chairman, it seems that there is a new suggestion for the text in the chat. And I would just like to remind you that we have 11 minutes left. Thank you.

>> JIM PATERSON: Okay. Then let's go to Iran and then I think the person who suggested the text in the chat should also make that intervention. Okay. So Iran.

>> ISLAMIC REPUBLIC OF IRAN: Thank you, Chairman. Perhaps the first option would be ‑‑ may not need this paragraph at all. But if you want to do it, we have to make it quite neutral. We can say the vital role of providing innovative tools without saying a space or terrestrial and so on and so forth. We are talking about tools. The first option not to have this paragraph and second option the vital role of providing innovative tools to improve. Not referring to a space. Not referring to terrestrial. These are the two options, thank you.

>> JIM PATERSON: Thank you very much. USA, Canada, Algeria, do you have comments on this more neutral language? Not as of yet. Let's proceed. We will leave that there. And allow colleagues just to reflect on the new suggestion there from Iran. And then we can see what to do about that.   
 Okay. In the next section we are on is of the view of. So the ‑‑ so the WTPF is of the view of expanding affordable access and connectivity to ICTs and new and emerging digital technologies and advancing other related aspects such as digital inclusion and skills will continue to play an important role. Any comments on that? That's like an entire section. If there are none, we shall proceed.   
 The next section invites Member States, so we're inviting Member States to cooperate and other assistance, by citizens, organizations, and countries. We are talking also about collaboration with the World Health Organization and other UN organizations again to mitigate the effects of COVID. And then invites 2, is to consider how stakeholders including Telcos and ICTs may contribute to supporting, if possible, jobs, and especially small and medium‑sized enterprises, and to continue educational processes and initiatives during the COVID‑19 pandemic and mitigating adverse social and economic consequences.   
 And invites 3, is to ‑‑

>> DIANA TOMIMURA: Sorry to interrupt you. We have a hand raised.

>> JIM PATERSON: We can take it now.

>> ISLAMIC REPUBLIC OF IRAN: Thank you. We are very grateful to you. Doing very well. We don't want to bother you to read the word by word. Perhaps you take it as a sentence. Part 2, no comments. 3, no comment. You have been tirelessly, we bother you a lot. And we are very grateful to you. Thank you very much again.

>> JIM PATERSON: Thank you very much always for your advice, Mr. Arasteh. I think I can do that. We are near the end I believe. But okay. So 3, we are looking at mitigation ‑‑ implementation of projects and programs. 4, I'm going to keep going and then we will take the comments as they come. Consider appropriate actions in ICT sector around the severity of a number of emergency situations. 5, active role in disseminating and developing and disseminating standards and best practices. 6, best practices, lessons learned and sharing niches. That's the end of that section. So if any comments on this section.   
 I don't see any at the moment. Okay. Let's move on. We get to the end. And the end is invites the Secretary‑General to continue to reinforce its efforts, in partnership with the World Health Organization and other agencies in collaboration with other stakeholders to strengthen the resilience of ICT networks and services to meet the challenges posed by the COVID‑19 pandemic and to increase pandemic preparedness and responses. That's the end of that section.

So we have the issue then ‑‑ I see no hands at this stage. So we just have the issue of outstanding language above. If we can just finalize that under H. Yeah. So any further comments on the amended language that was put forward by Iran?

>> Mr. Chairman, Algeria has agreed to the language in the chat.

>> UNITED KINGDOM: Thank you. I'm just wondering if the (Off microphone) improving situational awareness here. (Off microphone). I wonder if the language is ‑‑ the reference to that. (Cutting out) instead will be responding to ‑‑

>> JIM PATERSON: Sorry. After development in any areas, and responding to ‑‑ go ahead and tell me how you see it.

>> UNITED KINGDOM: Correct. So we delete from in (cutting out) situational awareness. It would read including responding to the COVID‑19 outbreak. Thank you, Chair.

>> JIM PATERSON: Okay. So let me hear from Algeria and Iran.

>> ALGIERE TELECOM: Yes. Thank you, Chairman. And thank you, UK, for the contribution. Just Chairman, how can we respond without having situational awareness? This is the rationale behind including situational awareness. And then respond to the ‑‑ make a response of relief operations. So that's why we include and suggest to include this phrase here which makes sense before responding to my opinion. As we do in almost in every disaster management process. There is the early warning stage and the relief operations. So the early warning, for example, you gather information, situational awareness and then when disaster strikes, for example, COVID or natural, or manmade disaster, then you can respond appropriately up to gathering the information, whether use terrestrial or nonterrestrial. So that's the rationale including such phrase. Thank you very much.

>> JIM PATERSON: Thank you. UK, is this something we can modify with the language? Could we ‑‑ is ‑‑ let me start. You were saying that we could end up in a sticky situation, but Algeria has just explained what they meant by the language that they had proposed. So is that acceptable to you? Does the explanation work?

>> UNITED KINGDOM: We still have an issue. We still have an issue with the language. I think that we prefer not to be discussing what may or may not be (inaudible) of the detail of situational awareness without a much more detailed (inaudible) of what we mean by that which as well that I don't think we have time for considering it is ‑‑ we have got one minute left of the session. I would just suggest keeping this language removed from the text. Thank you.

>> JIM PATERSON: Would reference to early warning be better? Early warning systems?

>> DIANA TOMIMURA: Mr. Chairman, sorry to interrupt you. We have one minute more until the end of the session. So we would need to ask the interpreters if they can give us ten more minutes to be able to conclude.

>> INTERPRETER: Yes, ten more minutes is fine.

>> JIM PATERSON: We would kindly ask your indulgence. I don't think that we need long. I think we are on the very last issue for discussion. So we'd appreciate it if you would be able to stay with us a bit longer to help us conclude.

>> INTERPRETER: Mr. Chairman, ten more minutes is fine.

>> JIM PATERSON: Kindly, would that be okay?

>> INTERPRETER: Mr. Chair, the interpreters can stay for ten more minutes.

Ten more minutes is fine.

>> JIM PATERSON: Thank you very much. Much appreciated. I saw some hands. Maybe I'm being ahead of myself. I should let colleagues speak. We have Italy and Iran and Canada.

>> FABIO BIGI: Thank you. It is not reflecting the text that Iran was supporting and supported by someone. It was not specific to terrestrial and space. It was broader. All delete the addition. So either broader text or deletion. Thank you.

>> JIM PATERSON: Thank you very much. Iran.

>> ISLAMIC REPUBLIC OF IRAN: Thank you, Chairman. While I have no problem with any proposal but I said perhaps would be better to say the vital role of providing or not. Of providing innovative tools. Very general. It could be space. It could be terrestrial and it could be anything else. And perhaps that could cover the point of Distinguished Delegate of Algeria. Thank you.

>> JIM PATERSON: Okay. And then we have I think it was Canada.

>> CANADA: Yep. Thank you. To facilitate this, we do the Australia way and we delete H.

>> JIM PATERSON: Okay. Algeria, we have no time. And our interpreters are going to be leaving us very soon. Can we work with the language that's there? If you see the amendments that are there and I will go back and ask Canada and Italy if they will accept that. Algeria.

>> ALGIERE TELECOM: Yes. I have suggested a minor proposal on the chat saying including information gathering. If that's acceptable from the UK, that's good. But at the end we can strike out the provisional situation and awareness from the text. Thank you very much.

>> JIM PATERSON: Okay. I see then Mr. Ahmad Reza Sharafat.

>> AHMAD REZA SHARAFAT: Yes. Thank you very much, Mr. Chairman. Just a minor editing at the beginning of the sentence. I think the vital importance of providing innovative tools. Change the word role to importance.

>> JIM PATERSON: Okay. I'm sure we can do that. Okay. Italy, Iran, Canada, can we work with this? And is information gathering okay? No hands. Okay. United Kingdom.

>> UNITED KINGDOM: Thank you, Chair. I think that we have discussed this opinion quite a lot over the last year or so. And we have been very careful in the language that we have chosen. I think that as we're getting in to detailed text that it is of that it is becoming more problematic for us and more complex. And given the time that we are in perhaps it is better just to delete the line all together because we are now talking about information gathering. I'm not comfortable with seeing this language go through as it is. Thank you.

>> JIM PATERSON: Yeah. Okay. I think I would suggest to Algeria that if we want to see any language there you probably have to accept that we will not be including information gathering.   
 I don't see how that will work. Algeria, can we work with this?

The language is a general high level and inclusive.

>> ALGIERE TELECOM: I think the paragraph is fine in that way in my opinion. Delete improvement. Yes. So I think we can move on with this. Thank you, Chairman.

>> JIM PATERSON: Okay. If there are no further objections I see a hand of the United States.

>> UNITED STATES: Thank you, Chair. I just wanted to note editorially I believe instead of outbreak at the end it should be pandemic which is the terminology that we have used in the rest of this opinion.

>> JIM PATERSON: Yeah, it is no longer an outbreak. It was once I suppose. Yeah. Okay. I don't think there is ‑‑ I'm assuming there is not going to be any objection to that. This means that we have concluded our work. I'm grateful to the work that everyone else has done because I think we probably have the easiest shift. But we still needed the support of the translators and the interpreters. So much appreciated for that.

And so then now we will be handing this text as amended over to Chair of the WTPF, which is the Minister from Ghana. And it will be presented along with the rest of the new World Telecommunication Policy Forum opinions for 2021.   
 So thank you very much for your assistance and your participation and your forbearance. And.

>> DIANA TOMIMURA: Mr. Chairman, sorry.

>> JIM PATERSON: Yes.

>> DIANA TOMIMURA: We have two requests for the floor. If you would like to take them in these last four minutes. UAE and the secretary.

>> JIM PATERSON: Okay. Maybe I'm speaking too quickly. UAE, you have the floor.

>> UNITED ARAB EMIRATES: Thank you. Thank you, Mr. Chairman for your work. Thank you very much, your Vice‑Chair. Just a quick question. Location for more of that, as we finish all opinions and are we going to start with Plenary or there is a session before we are going to ‑‑ might gather to announce something regarding that? Thank you very much, Mr. Chairman.

>> JIM PATERSON: Secretariat, would you like to assist me with an answer there?

>> PREETAM MALOOR: Yes. That's the reason I was raising my hand. Tomorrow we will start at 12 p.m. Geneva directly with the Plenary. And it is the oral reports of the Working Groups and the adoption of the Chairman's report, which is currently being drafted and the opinions. So that is the plan for tomorrow. So at 12 p.m. we will start with the Plenary.

>> JIM PATERSON: Great. Thank you very much, Preetam. Thank you colleagues. I guess we will now close the meeting and we will see you all tomorrow. Best regards.

>> MARIO MANIEWICZ: Thank you, Chair.

>> Thank you. Well done.

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