

**“CONNECTing the Dots: Options for Future Action”: UNESCO’s role in Internet-related issues**

*The General Conference,*

*Having examined documents 38 C/INF.4 (English and French only) and 38 C/53,*

*Recalling 37 C/Resolution 52 and 196 EX/Decision 5 (I, F),*

*Acknowledging the growing importance and impact of information and communication technologies for sustainable development in all of UNESCO’s fields of competence,*

*Noting that the finalized study on Internet-related issues referred to in document 38 C/53 has fulfilled its mandate of informing the report to the General Conference on the implementation of the World Summit on the Information Society (WSIS) outcomes,*

*Appreciating the open, inclusive and transparent process that UNESCO has engaged in for the study, including at the multi-stakeholder “CONNECTing the Dots: Options for Future Action” Conference,*

*Recognizing the insights of the “CONNECTing the Dots: Options for Future Action” Conference, held by UNESCO in March 2015, as the culminating phase of the consultative process,*

*Also noting that the options of the consultative “CONNECTing the Dots: Options for Future Action” Conference have been included in the finalized Internet study,*

*Further noting that the options proposed in the outcome document (Annexed to document 38 C/53) provide an opportunity for UNESCO to contribute to an Internet that respects the principles of human rights, openness, accessibility and multi-stakeholder participation and which plays an optimum role in the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development,*

1. Endorses the overall options that have emerged from the study processes, and which are also annexed to document 38 C/53, as offering a comprehensive agenda for UNESCO’s approach to Internet-related issues within its mandate, programme and budget;
2. Also endorses the concept of Internet universality, with an Internet that respects the principles of human rights, openness, accessibility and multi-stakeholder participation;
3. Requests the Director-General:
  - (a) to reinforce UNESCO’s leading role in the implementation of World Summit on the Information Society (WSIS) outcomes beyond 2015,
  - (b) to extend UNESCO’s further work on the options that have emerged from the Internet study process,
  - (c) to forward this resolution as a non-binding input to the United Nations General Assembly (UNGA) overall World Summit on the Information Society (WSIS) review process and to the high-level meeting of the General Assembly established by UNGA resolution 68/302,

- (d) to submit to it at its 39th session a report on World Summit on the Information Society (WSIS) beyond 2015, including on Internet-related issues, for a debate and possible resolution on the Organization's role beyond 2017;
- 4. Invites Member States to strengthen UNESCO's role in Internet-related issues through extrabudgetary contributions and a strong support for its positioning in the international post-2015 landscape.

Resolution adopted on the report of the CI Commission at the 16th plenary meeting, on 17 November 2015