

“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