Madam Chairman,

Distinguished delegates,

Ladies and Gentlemen,

Dear Colleagues,

Firstly, I wish to thank you for this opportunity to intervene and say a few words on behalf of the Staff Council.

I would like to continue by thanking the members of the previous Staff Council whose voluntary contributions and dedication succeeded in bringing ITU management and staff closer together and that this Staff Council is determined to maintain their hard work and commitment.

Albert Einstein once said “In the middle of difficulty lies opportunity.” And if that statement holds true, then without a doubt, today, we see the approach of many immerging opportunities.

Concerning the Staff Council relationship with the ITU Administration: The ITU Staff Council will continue to pursue a course of collaborative dialogue and to engage in a proactive approach to staff related issues.

To sustain our relevance in a fast moving, challenging and competitive world, we recognize that success relies on sustainable ethical leadership - built on trust, honour, collaboration and transparency between all stakeholders.

We will work hard to ensure that such challenges are met ethically, equitably and justifiably.

Concerning Staff Council Representation: In order for the Staff Council to effectively improve upon and exercise its responsibilities, it is imperative that ITU staff actively follow and engage in Staff Council actions.

It is our belief that it is the right and the responsibility of all ITU staff to participate in Staff Council elections.

We will, therefore, be discussing with all ITU staff the possibility of a simplified, and as far as possible, responsible voting system for the next elections of the ITU Staff Council.

Concerning the Staff Council’s relationship with ITU Council:We trust that the ITU Membership will continue to recognize the vital importance of protecting and safeguarding the rights and entitlements of ITU staff who carry out the work mandated to the Administration.

We would like to thank you in advance for your consideration and approval of the establishment of a sub-group within the Council Working Group on Financial and Human Resources specifically established to discuss any issues that remain unresolved between the Administration and the Staff Council.

With your support, the staff Council will continue its endeavours to work towards removing the existing ambiguities within certain areas of the Staff Rules and Regulations, (for example Staff Rule 4.14.1 – Continuing Appointments).

We wish to repeat our request that issues pertinent to the well-being of ITU staff be processed without administrative delays (i.e. JAC meetings, APB meetings and Service Orders such as 04/19: Temporary Suspension of the Personal Promotion Scheme - 2004).

We equally seek your full support concerning the establishment of relevant Management Training courses for ITU professionals.

Concerning the health and well-being of the ITU staff: Adopting the “Healthy Body, Healthy Mind” philosophy - we are actively involved in the establishment of related clubs and associations within ITU as well as involvement with other UN-family organizations in Geneva and further abroad in order to promote health and well-being.

Concerning Council 2013:

We all depend on the financial strength of the Union, and the Staff Council fully supports and applauds the work carried out by the ITU Membership and Administration for a balanced budget in a workable time-frame.

**Once again we wish to assure you that the Staff Council will continue to enhance the collaborative dialogue that exists between staff and the Administration in order to further strengthen the Union as a whole.**

In closing, I wish to thank you, Madam Chairman, for having allotted the Staff Council this opportunity to express itself to the distinguished members of this assembly.