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| **Council 2019Geneva, 10-20 June 2019** |  |
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| **Agenda item: ADM 28** | **Document C19/87-E** |
| **27 May 2019** |
| **Original: Spanish** |
| Note by the Secretary-General |
| contribution from the argentine republic |
| possible action to promote the work of itu among small and medium-sized enterprises |

I have the honour to transmit to the Member States of the Council the attached contribution submitted by the **Argentine Republic**.

 Houlin ZHAO
 Secretary-General

Contribution by the Argentine Republic

POSSIBLE ACTION TO PROMOTE THE WORK OF ITU AMONG SMALL AND
MEDIUM-SIZED ENTERPRISES

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| SummaryArgentina would like to share information on action it has taken subsequent to the adoption of Resolution 209 (Dubai, 2018) to promote the participation of small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs) in the work of the Union.Action requiredTake note of the present document.\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_References[*Resolution 209 (Dubai, 2018)*](https://www.itu.int/en/council/Documents/basic-texts/RES-209-E.pdf)*;* [*Document C19/56*](https://www.itu.int/md/S19-CL-C-0056/en) |

Background

Council-17 decided to start a pilot project for the participation of SMEs in the interested study groups of the Telecommunication Standardization Sector (ITU-T) and of the ITU Telecommunication Development Sector (ITU-D), under which SMEs may participate fully in the meetings of the study groups that decide to join the project, with limitations regarding their role in decision-making processes, including elections for management positions and the adoption of resolutions or Recommendations.

Subsequently, at the 2018 Plenipotentiary Conference (PP-18), the Inter-American Telecommunication Commission (CITEL/OAS) presented a contribution to formally encourage the participation of SMEs in the work of the Union. The proposal was the subject of comment and input on the part of the representatives of all the regions that go to make up the International Telecommunication Union (ITU), and was approved in the form of [Resolution 209 (Dubai, 2018)](https://www.itu.int/en/council/Documents/basic-texts/RES-209-E.pdf).

It is Argentina's understanding that once the criteria have been established regarding SME membership of ITU and their participation in its activities, work should commence on concrete action to promote the effective participation of such enterprises, primarily by disseminating information on the work of the Union and generating interest in it.

For that purpose, we should like to share information regarding action we have already taken to spread the word about the decision taken by PP-18 and inform SMEs about the potential benefits of participating in the work of ITU.

Action taken to date

During PP-18, ITU's press office published a note in **ITU News** announcing the adoption of **Resolution 209 (Dubai, 2018)** once it had been approved.

This news was disseminated on social networks and to sectors of government and industry involved with SMEs.

The note may be found at: <https://news.itu.int/argentinas-commitment-to-itu/>

The Argentina Internet Association (CABASE), which has been collaborating with ITU since 2017 to disseminate information on ITU’s activities to SMEs and SME associations in Argentina and Latin America, also brought the news to the attention of its members.

The publication in question may be found at: <https://www.cabase.org.ar/cabase-en-representacion-de-las-pymes-argentinas-en-la-union-internacional-de-telecomunicaciones/>

A meeting was held with the **Subsecretariat of Entrepreneurs and SMEs**, which comes under the **Ministry of Production of Argentina**, to inform them of the decision taken by ITU, so that they too promote the participation of SMEs in the work of the Union, with emphasis on **ITU Telecom** as a platform for drawing closer to ITU and for starting to create links with other members.

For that purpose, they have the support of the **Secretariat of Information and Communication Technologies (SETIC)** as the organization responsible for ITU in Argentina, in terms of obtaining all relevant information and making headway holding introductory sessions on ITU and training, allowing the SMEs to then begin working in the study groups.

In this regard, it is worth stressing the importance of informing and calling upon other sectors: information and communication technologies (ICTs) are applicable to and have an impact on all areas of life today, which means that such areas as the economy, production, the environment, transport and health must also be integrated so that they too can involve their companies in the work of ITU.

Lastly, a **project has been initiated in Argentina involving universities and SMEs**, our intention being to stress the importance of generating synergies between these players which today are both members of ITU – Academia and SME Associates.

This takes the shape of a **project for the research, development and implementation of IoT** in different Argentine cities, led by the National Technological University – an institution associated with ITU and represented in over 30 regional headquarters nationwide. Projects have been initiated to implement IoT technology in three of the cities where the university has headquarters (Santa Fe, San Nicolás and Resistencia). We hope to be able to communicate the first results of this initiative shortly, as always with the intention of it being taken as a best practice to be shared with the other Member States and membership in general.

Conclusions

We in Argentina hope to be able to count on more Member States coming forward to spread the word regarding the importance of SMEs becoming involved in the work of ITU, as such companies are often the drivers of growth and employment in our economies.

In this regard, we recall that the United Nations took the decision to create International SME Day, which is celebrated on 27 June each year.

We therefore invite all Member States, when celebrating that day, to include the promotion of the participation of SMEs in the work of the International Telecommunication Union.

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