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>> CHAIR: Good morning, dear colleagues. It is the last day of Council and we will be in Plenary session all day today. This afternoon we will hear the report of the ADM Committee.   
 You will find your agenda in document C16/DT/2 revision 10. So we'll get started with our first item and that is the cooperation agreement with Interpol. And if you recall yesterday in Plenary we sent that item to a drafting group who met last evening. And so I'll ask the Chair of the drafting group, Ms. Klein to present document DT/14. Ms. Klein.

>> Ms. Klein: Thank you very much, Madam Chair. And good morning, colleagues. Our drafting group met last night and after many hours of conversation we agreed to the draft decision that is now ‑‑ that now appears as DT/14. The group strongly supports building cooperation between the ITU and Interpol. The ‑‑ and decides that the Secretary‑General should continue to build cooperation with Interpol in order to build confidence and security in the use of ICTs consistent with Resolution 130.   
 And we decide to instruct the ITU Secretary‑General in consultation with Interpol to explore ways and means to update the cooperation agreement between ITU and Interpol to address the concerns that are listed in the document. We then ask the Secretary‑General to bring this back to Council for any required action as appropriate. We hope that with this decision at the next Council we will be ready to authorize signature and ensure that this cooperation can be provisionally agreed and then go in to force at the 2018 Plenipotentiary Conference. In the interim, it is the hope of the United States and a group that seemed to be shared by the participants last night that the cooperation with Interpol would both begin in the interim and it would be the start of a positive relationship to the benefit of all Member States, particularly those that wish to build capacity in the area of building confidence and security in the use of ICTs. So with that we submit this draft decision for the Council's approval. Thank you very much.

>> CHAIR: Thank you very much, Ms. Klein and let me express my appreciation for all who participated in the group last evening. I imagine you had other things in mind when you came to the Council yesterday afternoon, but I really appreciate your hard work.   
 So I open the floor for any comments. I see no requests for the floor. So I invite the Council to approve the draft decision in document DT/14.   
 Thank you very much.   
 (Gavel).

>> CHAIR: This is a great start to the final day of Council. Let me move to our next item, the date and duration of the 2017, 2018 and 2019 sessions of Council. If you recall yesterday we had a proposal that was supported to increase the length of Council by one day. And so we instructed the Secretariat to prepare a revised decision which you'll find in DT/16. So I invite the Secretariat, Ms. Pluchon to present DT/16.

>> SECRETARIAT: We have published a new decision in DT/16 which invites the Council to agree on a date for a session in 2017, 2018 and 2019. It is proposed that the 2017 session will open in Geneva for a period of nine working days, from Monday 15th of May to Thursday 25th of May 2017.   
 And that the 2018 session of the Council will open in Geneva for a period of eight working days, from 18 of April to 27 of April 2018.   
 That the 2019 session of the Council will open in Geneva for a period of nine working days, from Monday 10 of June to Thursday 20 of June. The nine working days have been already included in the budget approved by Vice Council for 2016‑2017. Thank you, Madam Chair.

>> CHAIR: Thank you very much, Ms. Pluchon. So no financial impact for extending the Council by one day next year. And then, of course, the dates will be taken in to account in the preparation of the budget for 2018‑2019.   
 Any requests for the floor? Germany, please.

>> GERMANY: Thank you, Madam Chair. And good morning. We recall the discussion yesterday and we note that there was a clear majority for extending the Council by one day. Well, we hope that this will increase efficiency, but to this extent we would have some proposals. First is that especially the Council which is dedicated to discuss a budget should refrain from having a lot of side events so that we can concentrate on the strategic issues and on the budget issues. Second, follow‑up to our intervention in the Admin Committee as discussion on ‑‑ of the budget and other discussions, for example, on human resource issues will affect the staff directly or indirectly. We would propose that as opposed to the tradition the statement of the Staff Council is given at the beginning of the ADM Committee. So that this can be taken in to account when we discuss the other matters. And, of course, we would also kindly ask then the Staff Council to make the statement available as an info document, as a Council document, at least I think it is two weeks prior to Council though that we can have already the information, what is the position of the Staff Council. With this Madam Chair we are a little bit reluctant but we would not be opposed to this decision to have a one day extension of the Council. Thank you very much.

>> CHAIR: Thank you very much, Germany. I see ‑‑ India, please.

>> INDIA: Thank you, Madam Chair. We all wish a good morning to all the Distinguished Delegates and management here. We agree with the views expressed from Germany. Yesterday we also noted that extending the Council duration would be a burden for the participant Delegates as it is the ITU Secretariat because it will be restraining them from participating in other activities, but we also appreciate the importance of discussions here. What we request through you, Chairman, that we should look at coming at more decisions than deliberations which keep postponing dates from one Council to another Council. Efficiency in our activities because we all speak about improving efficiency in ITU activities which reduce the cost burden. So perhaps the issues that have been already discussed at the Council Working Group level are the study groups they come here for validation that if we can actively take the decisions here perhaps the time should be good for us to go forward. Thank you very much.

>> CHAIR: Thank you, India. Italy, please.

>> ITALY: Thank you, Chairman. We share the concern expressed by Germany and we agree on the extension but we ‑‑ being the Council we have to give a good example of how to be effective and reduce our working period because it is very difficult for people to be long time out from home country. So reluctantly we agree on the proposal.

>> CHAIR: Thank you, Italy. France, please.

>> FRANCE: Thank you, Madam Chair. And good morning, everyone. I would like to align myself to the intervention of Germany and Italy and that of Switzerland which was made yesterday and Senegal, too. We are reluctant to see the duration of the Council prolonged even though we do take note of the intention to extend this duration. As Germany said it is important for the Council to focus on priority areas. Two of them. One is the strategy of the union and second one is finances and the analysis of the budget situation of the union. It also seems to be important to look at how the Council can improve the effectiveness and efficiency of its works and better interaction between the Council Working Groups and Council. That's something that we should do to improve the efficiency of the work of the Council and keep the duration of the Council session as limited as possible. Thank you.

>> CHAIR: Thank you, France. Romania.

>> ROMANIA: Thank you, Madam Chair. Good morning to everyone. Romania would like to join previous speakers such as Germany and Italy. Thank you.

>> CHAIR: Thank you very much, Romania. So I hear no objection to the decision in document DT/16. So I propose we adopt the draft decision in DT/16 and that we also ask the Secretariat to bear in mind the comments made during this Council in the preparation of the time management plan for the next Council.   
 Thank you very much.   
 (Gavel).

>> CHAIR: Let's move now to the next item which is the dates and venue for WRC‑19. And in this regard we have two documents, document C16/27 and document C16/76. So I invite the Secretariat to present document C16/27.

>> SECRETARIAT: Thank you, Madam Chair. Good morning, Distinguished Counselors, Ladies and Gentlemen. On behalf of the Secretary‑General it is my pleasure to introduce document C16/27 on the World Radiocommunication Conference 2019. The World Radiocommunication Conference 2015 in its Resolution 809 resolved to recommend to the Council that a World Radiocommunication Conference be held in 2019 for a maximum period of four weeks. You can see this Resolution in Annex A of this document. It further recommended to the Council items for inclusion in the agenda of WRC‑19 and invited the Council to finalize the agenda arranged for the convening of WRC‑19 and initiate as soon as possible the necessary consultations with Member States.   
 Annex B to this document presented a draft Resolution for the Council to adopt the place, dates and agenda of the next World Radiocommunication Conference 2019. Taking in to consideration the overall schedule of ITU events in 2019 as well as the availability of the CICG it is proposed to convene WRC‑19 in Geneva from 28 October to 22 November 2019 preceded by the Radiocommunication Assembly from 21 to 25 October 2019. Thank you, Madam Chair.

>> CHAIR: Thank you very much, Mr. Maniewicz. Now I invite the United States to present document C16/76.

>> UNITED STATES: Thank you, Madam Chair. The United States appreciates the Secretariat's efforts in producing the proposed schedule. The United States supports the draft Council Resolution in Annex B of Document 27 setting the place, dates and agenda of WRC‑19. Regarding the dates proposed for CPM19/2 however the United States recommends that it be held in the second quarter of 2019 and not in February as proposed. WRC‑19 will consider and make decisions on over 30 agenda items. The technical basis for these decisions must be addressed in the Study Groups of the ITU‑R. And the study period is already short given certain situations on identifying characteristics. Scheduling the CPM at the end of the second quarter would allow ITU‑R Study Groups to schedule an additional round of meetings in order to complete their radiofrequency sharing studies for inclusion in the final report to the CPM. This report is important because it is the basis upon which technical decisions are made and proposals are based at the WRC.   
 The United States understands the CICG conference center is only available in February. However we would encourage the Secretary‑General to investigate alternative venues to hold the CPM in 2019 in order to have the best results emanating from that conference. Thank you, Madam Chair.

>> CHAIR: Thank you very much, United States. I now open the floor for comments. Egypt, please.

>> EGYPT: Thank you, Madam Chair. Welcome to everyone. Good morning to everyone. First of all, I would like to thank the Secretariat. I would like to thank the American administration for the various documents represented to us. In this framework I would like to inform your Council that the Egyptian administration would like to host the international WRC 2019 in the same dates proposed in the document and offered to us by the Secretariat.

Madam Chair, we would like to propose to you to agree on the draft decision presented to you. And we could revise this decision in the next counsel in the framework of the consultations carried out now between the Egyptian administration and the ITU Secretariat. Thank you, Madam Chair.

>> CHAIR: Thank you very much, Egypt. Canada, please.

>> CANADA: Thank you, Madam Chair. Good morning to you and to all colleagues. Madam Chair, Canada would appreciate itself with the proposal by the United States. We concur with the dates suggested and the process to be followed. Thank you.

>> CHAIR: Thank you, Canada. France, please.

>> FRANCE: Thank you, Madam Chair. I would like to also say that we support the agenda and the proposed dates for the WRC in 2019 and the Radio Assembly in that year also. I would like to thank Egypt for having proposed to host the WRC in 2019. Like Canada we would ‑‑ we can also support the proposal of the United States. It seems to us to be desirable to seek to prolong as much as possible the period devoted to the finalization of studies in the ITU‑R groups and then to have a second session of the CPM be organized in the second quarter of 2019. We do understand that the CICG is not currently available on those dates. Thank you, Madam Chair.

>> CHAIR: Thank you, France. Germany, please.

>> GERMANY: Thank you, Madam Chair. Well, first we would thank very much the invitation expressed by the administration of Egypt. We would also recall that in this draft decision we can put a venue in square brackets and have the final decision at Council next year which will be timely enough for such a decision which should be taken I guess two years prior to the conference.   
 Now with regard to the scheduling, and I'm not only speaking as Germany. As you may know Germany is also the lead of the CPT preparatory group for the radio conference. I consulted with the chairperson and now we have, how to say, conflicting things. On the one hand we have the issue mentioned by the United States, the preparation of the Study Group. On the other hand, we need a certain ‑‑ a certain time frame after the CPM2 between the CPM2 and the conference in order to enable the regional groups to do their preparation. I have been told that the timing as proposed in the document of the Secretariat is agreeable and is supported. So if we now postpone the CPM2, if there is a possibility to find a host because it is not possible in Geneva obviously then I really have to consult home whether this is acceptable for the CPT preparatory group. So Madam Chair, we support the dates that have been established by the document of the Secretariat. We, of course, are open to further discussions, but as we are not the experts ourselves we need to consult with our experts at home if we shift the CPM to a later date. And, of course, we have the interest, we are not in favor of shifting the conference to a later date. The conference date should be as proposed. But we have some concern that then the preparatory time between CPM2 and the conference itself may become too short. Thank you, Madam Chair.

>> CHAIR: Thank you, Germany. With respect to the dates for the second session of the conference preparatory meeting for WRC‑19 that particular item is not part of the decision in document 27. It is simply noted in the introductory material that the availability of the CICG to accommodate the second session of the CPM would be between 15 February and 1 March. So we will not be making a decision at this time on the CPM. Thank you.   
 Saudi Arabia, please.

>> SAUDI ARABIA: Thank you, Madam Chair. Good morning, everyone. The Saudi administration would like to support the draft decision presented to us in this document and would like to support what has been said by the American Delegation because there are practical things to be taken in to account. We have to give Study Groups enough time to finish and complete their studies. Because on the basis of these studies we can take decisions, good decisions during the conference. We wouldn't like the conference to be discussing technical things that could be done in the Study Groups in the first place. Thank you.

>> CHAIR: Thank you. Australia.

>> AUSTRALIA: Thank you, Chair. Australia also supports the dates for WRC‑19 that have been proposed. We are also open to consideration of the U.S. proposal. Our only proviso would be there is still a space of six months between the CPM and the WRC to take account of regional preparatory processes and also that the Christmas and public holiday periods in Australia over December, January. Thank you.

>> CHAIR: Thank you, Australia. Switzerland, please.

>> SWITZERLAND: Thank you, Madam Chair. Dear colleagues, good morning to you all. We are grateful to the Egyptian administration for their initiative to invite the WRC‑19 to host it. With regards to the proposed decision perhaps the proposal of our distinguished German colleague are to defer the decision until next year is not also bad. Or firstly because the WRC agenda has already been set by WRC‑15 and there shouldn't be any surprises on that side. And secondly, given this initiative on the part of the Egyptian administration if we find it impossible at this time to make a definitive decision to hold the WRC in Geneva, the CICG has been booked by the ITU from 28 of October to 22 of November for this major conference, and the ITU will always have an opportunity to give up on that reservation in time and wait until we take our decision next year. Thank you.

>> CHAIR: Thank you, Switzerland. Tunisia, please.

>> TUNISIA: Thank you, Madam Chair. Well, we favorably ‑‑ we favorably regard the invitation of the Egyptian administration to host the next WRC. We welcome it and we also support the American statement, the U.S. statement with regards to the CPM. Thank you.

>> CHAIR: Thank you, Tunisia. Iran, please.

>> ISLAMIC REPUBLIC OF IRAN: Thank you, Madam Chairman. Good morning to you and to all colleagues. Madam Chairman, a success of the WRC depends on preparatory works. These preparatory works for many years emanated from the regional organizations. In APT, which is a vast region, we would have always five meetings. One of them, in fact, the last one is after the CPM. And after that we need to have sufficient time that administrations prepare themselves. And then propose their issues to the conference. If we have a CPM in a second quarter then there would not be sufficient time, one for administration of APT to prepare themselves for regional proposal and then there would not be sufficient time for APT to prepare the final common proposals because it takes about one and a half months.

Madam Chairman, speaking in the capacity of Vice Chairman for APT Chairman for the meeting unless the new election will take place in summer. On the other hand, Madam Chairman, nothing prevents Study Groups to continue their activities after CPM2 and the outcome will be submitted to the administrations or to the regional organization to the WRC directly. Therefore, Madam Chairman, we would have serious difficulty in preparatory activities in APT. And also we have problems for preparing ourselves to the conference if the time limit of six months is not respected, Chairman. We would request you kindly this Council should take in to account the views of membership of all ITU. This is a serious matter and would like that no decision be taken in this regard. On the extreme if you want to take a decision, perhaps the regional organization to the leading organization should be consulted and next year you receive views from the regional organization whether or not they have difficulty with the CPM. Thanks, Madam Chairman.

>> CHAIR: Thank you, Mr. Arasteh. Mr. Maniewicz, could you please comment on the matter of the dates for the CPM and the necessity to preserve the six‑month period between the CPM and WRC? Thank you.

>> SECRETARIAT: Thank you, Madam Chair. According to ITU Resolution 2 there are six months ‑‑ there is a six‑month period between the report of the CPM2 is ready and the conference. If we take in to account that the conference is planned for November 2019 this will bring us back to May 2019 as the latest date in which a report should be ready. If we take in to account that the CPM has to take place and the report needs to be prepared we need one more to do so. The latest date that the CPM2 could take place is early April. So this is the latest date in which it is possible according to the Resolution. For the time being the availability of the CICG is the second half of February. So unless we ‑‑ unless there are changes in this availability or we find another venue, it will be carried out at that time.   
 In any case, Madam Chair, there are two points that I wanted to make sure. One you have already made it, which is that the decision of the Council doesn't include the dates of the CPM. So the Council is requested to approve the dates of the Radio Assembly and the World Radio Conference only.

Second point, if we move backwards in to the schedule, in order to have the CPM2 in a given date we have to have the report, the draft report for the CPM2 prepared three months in advance. So if we go to early April, this report should be prepared already in early January. If we take in to account the time of preparation, the time of translation of this report, we go back to September 2018. So with this schedule, Madam Chair, the Study Groups should finish their work for the results to be included in the draft report for CPM2 at the end of August 2019. This is a schedule as it was presented to the Study Groups as it was coordinated with them and this is a big idea which is followed by the ITU‑R Study Groups and the BR Secretariat. Thank you, Madam Chair.

>> CHAIR: Thank you very much, Mr. Maniewicz. Mr. Rancy.

>> FRANCOIS RANCY: Thank you, Madam Chair. I would just like in addition to what Mr. Maniewicz, I would like to respond to the suggestion from Switzerland that we postpone any decision on this matter to the next Council. I would see a difficulty in not taking a decision because it would introduce uncertainty both on the agenda and on the date which would make it difficult to plan for organizing the work of the Study Group throughout the period. So my pledge here would be that we take a decision to have the World Radio Conference and the Radio Assembly has proposed in Geneva in CICG. And that we continue consultations with the administration of Egypt to explore the possibility of another venue so that at the next Council meeting you would have to decide only on the venue. And therefore the rest would be known and fixed so that things can happen ordinarily. Thank you very much, Madam Chair.

>> CHAIR: Thank you, Mr. Rancy. Russia, please.

>> RUSSIAN FEDERATION: Thank you, Madam Chair. Good morning, dear colleagues. We fully support the proposal just made by the BR director. Thank you.

>> CHAIR: Thank you, Russia. Saudi Arabia.

>> SAUDI ARABIA: Thank you, Madam Chair. Following the intervention by the BR director, Mr. Rancy, we would simply like to point out that we should bear in mind the Egyptian invitation and reflect it in the minutes of this session or clearly we are grateful to Egypt for this initiative. This is a serious invitation. And on what is the only thing that is left, is to envisage a coordination mechanism. Thank you.

>> CHAIR: Thank you very much. Germany, please.

>> GERMANY: Very short, Madam Chair. Thank you very much. Maybe there was a misunderstanding but our proposal was exactly the proposal brought forward by the director of the BR. Thank you.

>> CHAIR: Thank you very much. Senegal.

>> SENEGAL: Thank you, Madam Chair. We would like to support the draft proposal with the proposed agenda with regard to the Egyptian initiative and we also tend to view it favorably. Thank you.

>> CHAIR: Thank you very much, Senegal. So I now invite the Council to approve and adopt the draft Resolution in Annex B of Document 27 without the square brackets around the venue and dates and instruct the Secretary‑General to continue consultations with the administration of Egypt to explore the possibility of another venue for WRC.   
 (Gavel).

>> CHAIR: Thank you very much. Mr. Secretary‑General.

>> HOULIN ZHAO: Thank you, Madam Chair. Good morning, counselors, dear colleagues. I should like to at one ‑‑ like to add one point here. During my recent visit to Egypt to participate GSR 2016 I heard for the first time the idea, the proposal by the Minister of Egypt to invite WRC‑2019 to Egypt. Then I had some discussion with him and we understand our procedures and the Egypt Minister told me that they will follow our procedures to these invitation to ITU. Then on 14th of May after I left Sharm‑el Sheikh I was very honored to be received by His Excellency, the President of Egypt and during that meeting the President of Egypt also expressed very clear message to me that they would like to invite the WRC 2019. I was very honored and pleased to have such kind of proposed invitation extended to me by the President myself. So I convey the message to my colleagues in Geneva. I am pleased you made a good decision to fix the dates of WRC‑2019 so all the preparation and coordination work will be conducted accordingly and still keep the venue open for our further consultations. So I will take these instructions seriously and then we will come back to you at next Council for our proposal for your endorsement. Thank you, Madam Chair.

>> CHAIR: Thank you very much, Secretary‑General. So we'll now move on to our next item on the agenda and this is scheduling of ITU conferences, Assemblies and meetings. The document is C16/37 and I invite the Secretariat, Mr. El Shebini to present this document.

>> SECRETARIAT: Thank you, Madam Chair. Distinguished counselors, Ladies and Gentlemen, on behalf of the Secretary‑General it is my pleasure to present to you Document C16/37 on future events organized by the union for the period 2016 to 2019.   
 This calendar of events takes due account of the various Resolution of the PP including Resolution 77, Busan 2014 and the principles contained in Resolution 111, Busan 2014. This general calendar of conferences, Assemblies and meetings is compiled by the Department of Conferences and Publications on the basis of information provided by each concerned sector and coordinated at the union level. Some events reflected in this schedule are also the subject of separate documents submitted to this separate session of Council. This document will be revised to reflect your decisions regarding those events. The Council is kindly asked to note this document.

>> CHAIR: Thank you very much Mr. El Shebini. Having heard some concern from Council members about the difficulty of preparing for WTSA and at the same time having a two‑week cluster of Council Working Group meetings scheduled for October I met with the Chairs of all the Council Working Groups who are here to discuss the matter. As a result of those discussions I learned that it was possible to reduce the cluster from one week to two weeks.   
 (Laughter).

>> CHAIR: From two weeks to one week. And in that one week to have only the Council Working Group on Internet, the Council Working Group on WSIS and the Council Working Group on child online protection. So this is a change that would be foreseen to the overall schedule keeping in mind we are planning simply to note what is in Document 37. So with that I would like to open the floor for comments. India, please.

>> INDIA: Thank you, Madam Chair. We note this document with appreciation. And we thank the Secretariat for compiling all the information about the events in the coming years which will enable us to plan our schedules. Thank you very much.

>> CHAIR: Thank you, India. Canada, please.

>> CANADA: Thank you, Madam Chair. And we would just like to point out on your observation on the reduction of the next session of the cluster of meetings of the Council Working Groups, that, of course, will be tied to the three days for the first session of the expert group on ITRs. That's our understanding. Is it a different date or is this not included in this document? That's one question.

The second question, Madam Chair, is in regards to the regional preparatory meeting for the Americas region in which there are three asterisks there because we have had some discussions among our colleagues in the Americas and we would like to have some advice as to not to have both the RPM for the Americas region coinciding with the counsel Working Group meetings. So I think that our colleagues from Paraguay who have very generously offered to host the RPM will be in a better position to indicate which are the preferred dates for the Americas region. Thank you.

>> CHAIR: Thank you very much. Canada, with respect to the cluster of Working Groups this fall the expert groups on ITRs begins its work in 2017. It is not a factor this fall. Germany, please.

>> GERMANY: Thank you, Madam Chair. Very short. Based on this document I put some of these relevant dates at least for us in to the calendar and I think in spring 2017 one of the proposed periods for the Council Working Group falls in to the Geneva motor show. And I think this should be avoided because it will be very, very difficult to get accommodations here. Thank you.

>> CHAIR: Thank you very much. China, please.

>> CHINA: Thank you, Madam Chair. We would like to thank for the Secretariat presenting the schedule. We have noticed that the Council Working Group in fall will be scheduled in the early part of October. So October is a good month for international meetings. And so important meetings and regional meetings will also take place in October. Like the WTSA and WTDC next year, they will all take place in October. So the scheduling of the Council Working Group often coincides with the time of ‑‑ for those time for important meetings. This will bring inconvenience to the Delegates. So we'd like to suggest that the Secretariat should consider to adjust the Council Working Group in September starting from 2017. Thank you.

>> CHAIR: Thank you very much, China. Russia, please.

>> RUSSIAN FEDERATION: Thank you, Madam Chair. We'd like to express our sincere gratitude to the Secretariat for having advance information about the meetings in the future. I would like to make two observations. First of all, with regards to the setting up a new expert group, coming to grips with this, we are going to have a large cluster, not two weeks but two and a half weeks. This is just from my understanding or some steps will be taken to reduce it to two weeks maximum. This is our understanding and we would like to have this clear in advance.   
 Secondly, I just wanted to understand this correctly, we have discussed on a number of occasions and there are even certain PP Resolutions about the regional preparatory meetings for the PP. This is not going to be in 2017, but I'd just like to urge you to look in to it. If we regions are planning it, perhaps the Secretariat should also try to plan both regional meetings and those meetings that are held within the framework of the ITU. That is greater involvement of Secretariat through regional offices that we could discuss it in advance. There are no difficulties where we would have to either move this meeting or another or even renounce our participation all together.

>> CHAIR: Thank you very much, Russia. Based on the discussions that we have had during this meeting it is my understanding that the cluster of Council Working Groups would include the experts' group and still remain at two weeks. Because the Council Working Group on the 150th anniversary and the Council Working Group on headquarters are disbanded at this meeting. There is the possibility and intention to keep the Council Working Group and experts group cluster to two weeks.   
 Paraguay please.

>> PARAGUAY: Thank you very much, Madam Chair. Good morning. I would like to thank the Secretariat for having presented the document. Paraguay will host for the 21 to 23 of February 2017 the regional preparatory meeting for the Americas for the World Telecommunications Development Conference in 2017,   
Chair, preceded by the Regional Development Forum for the Americas. This will be held in our capital. In this regard we would like to request the dates for the meetings of the Council Working Groups do not overlap with and even have some distance from these dates in order to facilitate the participation of Delegates and counselors in both events. Thank you very much, Madam Chair.

>> CHAIR: Thank you very much, Paraguay. United States, please.

>> UNITED STATES: Thank you, Madam Chair. Just two general observations. The first is when scheduling Council Working Groups, scheduling meetings is always very tricky, very difficult, but when scheduling Council Working Groups our preference would be not to schedule them too close to a major conference. Like a WTSA, for example, since administrations are spending a lot of time preparing for these major conferences. Second observation and we have stated this before to the extent possible we would prefer to see the Council Working Groups accomplish their work in one session per year. Understanding that it is not always possible but that would be a strong preference. Thank you.

>> CHAIR: Thank you, United States. Senegal, please.

>> SENEGAL: Thank you, Madam Chair. We would like to commend the Secretariat for this schedule for meetings of the Council Working Group. They usually take place in a very busy month. So September is a good idea and as pointed out by the United States' administration it would also be advisable to have a little bit of a gap between major conferences. Thank you.

>> CHAIR: Brazil, please.

>> BRAZIL: Thank you, Madam Chair. Good morning. As you know many of the Delegates in the Americas that would go to the RPM are the same that would come to the cluster of Council meetings. So we support Canada, Paraguay in avoiding overlap of between these two meetings. Thank you.

>> CHAIR: Thank you very much. Mexico, please.

>> MEXICO: Thank you, Madam Chair. And good morning, everyone. We would like to join the Delegations of Paraguay, Canada and Brazil in indicating that it is very important for us to have enough time to prepare for the various meetings that are coming up in the next years. And we would like to express our gratitude in your consideration of not ‑‑ of ensuring there is no overlap between these important meetings. Thank you.

>> CHAIR: Thank you, Mexico. Spain, please.

>> SPAIN: Thank you, Madam Chair. We would also as United States has suggested insofar as is possible for the possibility to be considered of Council Working Groups having one annual session instead of two. Perhaps making it longer but it would be an aim that we should perhaps seek to achieve over the next few years. Of course, taking in to account budgetary restrictions that we are indeed facing. Thank you.

>> CHAIR: Thank you, Spain. India.

>> INDIA: Thank you, Madam Chair. We have a small observation as well as we request some more details from the Secretariat. This is with regard to the expert group meeting which is scheduled during October 4th through 7th which is followed by 21 to 24 November for the WTS. Generally what we have seen is the same experts also follow, participate in the WTS meeting. A few years back this expert group meeting used to precede two days before the WTS so the same people can participate. And we acknowledge that WTS has been elevated and high level policymakers. Is there any way where we can combine both events because experts do participate in both events so that multiple times travels could be avoided? Thank you.

>> CHAIR: India, could you please clarify your proposal, which two events? Thank you.

>> INDIA: Thank you. We are speaking about in October we have an event, expert group on household indicators meeting, 4 to 7. Expert group meeting on indicators. And in November we are having the WTS 21 to 24 which is also an indicated symposium but also at a high level. A few years back the expert group meeting used to precede WTS. Is there any way we can have back to back? Any reason why we have to separate two events? Perhaps we need more details on that.

>> CHAIR: Director of the Development Bureau, please.

>> BRAHIMA SANOU: Thank you very much, Madam Chair. Good morning to everyone. Actually we used to have those expert group meetings just before the WTIS, but we were requested by the membership in order to have larger time to discuss about only issues as you know the IDI is attracting a lot of interest in the world and the experts themselves, the countries ask them to detach them in order for enough time to discuss and go back to the countries in order to make proposals to WTIS. When held back to back they don't have enough time to go back and discuss back home new indicators decided in order to come to the WTIS. So we are at your disposal whatever you decide to do. Thank you.

>> CHAIR: Thank you, Mr. Sanou. India, did you want to respond to that clarification? Thank you.

>> INDIA: Thank you, Chairman. We thank the director for the clarification. If there is a request from Member States we acknowledge it and thank you.

>> CHAIR: Thank you very much. Costa Rica.

>> COSTA RICA: We would like to support the proposal from Canada, Paraguay, Brazil and Mexico to avoid overlap of meetings with the regional preparatory meetings. Thank you.

>> CHAIR: Thank you very much, Costa Rica. So I invite the Council to note the document and the Secretariat when updating this schedule to take in to account the need to avoid the car show and the dates for the Council Working Groups in the spring of 2017, the proposal to move the Council Working Groups from October to September starting in 2017, the need to avoid overlap between the regional preparatory meetings and the Council Working Groups. And the proposal to aim in the future for one cluster of Council Working Group sessions, which at this point is not something we can reflect in the schedule. But ‑‑ Russia, please.

>> RUSSIAN FEDERATION: Thank you, Madam Chair. Now in respect of moving the date of the meeting of the CWG to September I would urge for caution because in September we usually hold meetings of ITU‑D Study Groups, heavily attended by many representatives of Developing Countries. So we would urge you to see there is no overlap. Thank you.

>> CHAIR: Thank you very much, Russia. As you have so well pointed out the schedule is a complex matter with many pieces with the three sectors and the General‑Secretariat. So perhaps we just note the draft schedule and invite the Secretariat to consider the comments made during this session. Thank you very much.   
 (Gavel).

>> CHAIR: Let's move on to the next item which is the goodwill Ambassadors and special envoys document which is C16/10 Revision 1. So I invite the Secretariat, Ms. Bogdan Martin to present this document. Thank you.

>> SECRETARIAT: Thank you very much, Madam Chair. Good morning, Ladies and Gentlemen. On behalf of the Secretary‑General it is a pleasure to present document 10 Rev 1. As you may recall Council 2015 requested the Secretariat to study the feasibility of formalizing a goodwill Ambassador programme at the ITU without entailing any financial implications for the union. In their request counselors noted that such a programme could help increase the visibility and image of the ITU. The document before you gives you a general overview of the UN goodwill Ambassador programme. We have taken the existing 2003 UN guidelines as well as the subsequent joint inspection units' evaluation from 2006 as a basis as both of these documents continue to be relevant, applicable and provide a benchmark as to the resources, effectiveness, risks and challenges of such a programme. ITU's only practice of designating patrons, champions and special envoys is explained in the document. And in principle shares the objectives of the UN goodwill Ambassadors programme of engaging high profile personalities and leaders to advocate and raise awareness for certain issues.   
 The document notes the potential benefits of setting up a formal programme. We have also noted the challenges and risks that will arise without appropriate funding and allocation of resources.   
 The conclusions and recommendations in this document emphasize the need to establish clear guidelines, a work plan, indicators, and dedicated resources. Madam Chair, the Council is invited to review the report and to determine whether to move forward at this time with the establishment of a formal programme. Thank you, Madam Chair.

>> CHAIR: Thank you very much Ms. Bogdan Martin. I now open the floor for comment. Costa Rica, please.

>> COSTA RICA: Thank you very much, Madam Chair and we would like to thank the Secretariat for having introduced this report. Madam Chair, His Excellency, Luis Guillermo Solís Rivera, President of Costa Rica, he is the patron champion at ITU. Previous Presidents were also indicated as being patrons and champions for child online protection and so on.   
 The patron programme has been a common denominator over recent years and would like to note the joint efforts to improve the visibility and image of the union as well as the efforts to support the topics. There are still some aspects to be improved. So we support the initiatives presented by the ITU in this document as part ‑‑ in a framework of setting up resources with an objective programme centered on the elements in the report. And we think that these are committed to the priorities or linked to the priorities which govern the ITU. Thank you very much.

>> CHAIR: Thank you very much. United States, please.

>> UNITED STATES: Thank you, Madam Chair. The United States appreciates the work by the ITU Secretariat and those involved in the ITU patron's, champions and special envoys programme. We believe the current programme has a proven track record and do not see the need to change this programme at this time. Therefore we don't support adopting an ITU goodwill Ambassador programme. From the Secretariat's report there does not appear to be a clear track record of success at other UN organizations with goodwill Ambassador programmes that would accede what the ITU already has in its current programme.   
 And therefore we don't see how it would really improve upon the patrons, champions and special envoys programme. The report also notes that financial implications will be required but it does not provide cost estimates for the programme. Besides being of questionable value above what we already have and given the unclear financial implications the United States believes the expected role of the goodwill Ambassadors and guidelines and procedures for selection need to be firmly established before Council endorses such a programme. Thank you, Madam Chair.

>> CHAIR: Thank you, United States. Russia, please.

>> RUSSIAN FEDERATION: Thank you, Madam Chair. I will be very brief. We fully support the intervention made by the United States of America. We believe that this issue should be considered at the Plenipotentiary Conference of the ITU following the provision of all the necessary information. Thank you.

>> CHAIR: Thank you very much, Russia. So it seems that the decision of the Council is this matter should be further studied and no decision should be taken here at Council 2016. Okay. Thank you very much.   
 (Gavel).

>> CHAIR: Let's move on to the last item on the agenda for the morning and that is obsolete Council Resolutions and decisions. The document is C16/3 and I invite the Secretariat, Ms. Pluchon, to present the document. Thank you very much.

>> SECRETARIAT: Thank you, Madam Chair. On behalf of the Secretary‑General it is my pleasure to introduce Document C16/3 on obsolete Council resolutions and decisions. After each ordinary session of the Council both Resolutions and decisions which have been implemented are abrogated and consequently deleted from the volume of Resolution and decision of the Council. The list is in the annex and is presented for your approval.

>> CHAIR: Thank you very much, Ms. Pluchon. So Council is invited to approve the list of decisions and Resolutions for abrogation. Are there any requests for the floor? Seeing none, we approve the list.   
 (Gavel).

>> CHAIR: Thank you very much. That brings us to the end of our planned agenda for the morning. We will reconvene in Plenary at 2 o'clock this afternoon to consider the report of the Committee, the Standing Committee on administration and management. By that time the full report will be available in all languages. So I wish you a very nice long lunch break. 2 o'clock. 2 p.m. instead of 2:30. 2 o'clock. Any requests for the floor before we break? Seeing none, thank you very much. Plenary is closed.   
 (Applause.)   
 (Session concluded at 10:44 CET)

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