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 >> CHAIR: Good morning, Ladies and Gentlemen. Now the ADM Committee has terminated its work. So it is our turn with the Plenary. And as you can see in the revision 11 of the DT2 today we have a great program for us. So I will ask you to be as brief as possible in all of your interventions. Okay? Thank you.

So now we can start with the first document that is C17/59. That is the World Telecommunication/ICT Policy Forum. And now I invite Ms. Bogdan to present this document.

 >> DOREEN BOGDAN: Thank you very much, Madam Chair. Good morning, Ladies and Gentlemen. On behalf of the Secretary‑General it is my pleasure to introduce document 59 on the World Telecommunication/ICT Policy Forum. As per Resolution 101 the Secretary‑General is invited ‑‑ is instructed to submit a report based on input from Member States and sector members to the Council for its consideration on the need to convene the 6th WTPF at an appropriate time pursuant to Resolution 2. In this regard Madam Chair, and following the discussions that took place last year during Council 2016 Member States and sector members were invited through circular letter 16/32 to submit their views on possible themes, dates and the place for the next WTPF. A total of five inputs were received in response to this circular letter and all of these inputs are contained in information document No. 3.

Council is invited to consider this report and to decide on whether there is a need to convene a sixth WTPF. And if so, the possible theme dates and place for that WTPF. Thank you very much, Madam Chair.

 >> CHAIR: Thank you, Ms. Bogdan. The floor is open for any comments, please. Canada, you have the floor.

 >> CANADA: Thank you. Good morning to you and good morning to the elected officials. Madam Chair, just to point out that in addition to the five contributions received in the last circular letter there were 19 on a previous exercise carried in 2015 including a contribution from Canada. That document C16/INF3 Rev 2 and in that document we highlighted first the very good results that we had in the 2013 WTPF but also pointed out to the fact that when we submitted this response to the circular that I mentioned that in light of upcoming very important conferences of the Union like WTSA and WTDC and other very important international events dealing with telecommunications and ICTs that it would be advisable to hold the position on the theme and date of the next WTPF until we discuss this at the Plenipotentiary Conference in 2018. And that, of course, Madam Chair, remains the view of Canada. Thank you.

 >> CHAIR: Thank you. Korea, you have the floor.

 >> REPUBLIC OF KOREA: Thank you, Madam Chair. WTPF is an important Forum as it provides some meaningful benefit for ITU members and stakeholders to exchange information and have discussion on ICT policies and regulatory issues. However at Council 2016 several issues were raised including ITU's current financial state, WTPF's (inaudible) similar event and heavy workload of the General‑Secretariat due to the hosting of interesting annual world conferences and assemblies. The Republic of Korea regards those issues raised at Council 2016 and agrees with the opinions of Member States that whether to hold the next WTPF to provide discussion on emerging ICT issues should be decided at PP‑18. Thank you.

 >> CHAIR: Thank you. USA, you have the floor.

 >> UNITED STATES: Thank you, Madam Chair. Simply to support the comments made by colleagues from Canada and Korean. Thank you, Madam Chair.

 >> CHAIR: Thank you. Brazil, you have the floor.

 >> BRAZIL: Thank you, Madam Chair. Good morning, everyone. As we stated last year we are heavily in favor of WTPF. And last year was the ideal time to approve such a decision in time for the 2018 Plenipotentiary Conference. If we approved it last year we would have several preparatory meetings which is essential for the success of WTPF. Given that we were not successful in that plea we would like to propose that the WTPF be held in 2019 for the reasons that we stated last year. It is a very important Forum. It is a High‑Level Event. It provides opinions that are further studied by the ITU in all its sectors. And it is timely given the proposed themes by the several respondents to the public consultation. We have a budget 2018, 218,000 francs in the budget that we just approved. Maybe we should revise that to have a budget for the preparatory meetings which are essential for the success of WTPF. But that's our position. We would like to have WTPF in 2019 with the proper preparatory process. And the theme would be the exhibited challenges of the new ICT telecommunications services. Thank you.

 >> CHAIR: Thank you, Brazil. Japan, you have the floor.

 >> JAPAN: Thank you, Madam Chair. And thank you, Secretariat and all Member States for your submission. Considering the very busy schedule before the Plenipotentiary Conference 2018 in the financial and human resource burden to be imposed on all Member States, ITU regional organizations and WTPF hosting country, we think it is not adequate to set the WTPF before 2018. And we see ‑‑ we need to further discuss at the next Council or PP‑18. Thank you, Madam Chair.

 >> CHAIR: Thank you, Japan. Saudi Arabia, you have the floor.

 >> SAUDI ARABIA: Thank you, Madam Chair. Saudi Arabia presented a proposal about the importance of holding the World Telecommunication/ICT Policy Forum and proposed a number of topics as you can see in the document. We were hoping that the Council in its past session would have taken a decision to hold the Forum taking in to consideration the necessity to hold preparatory meetings as said by Brazil. And we propose that the holding of the Forum be in the first quarter or the second quarter of 2018 because we might see a difficulty in implementing that. And a decision has to be taken during the session of this Council to hold the Forum in 2019. And we also support what was said by the Honorable Delegate from Brazil. Thank you, Madam Chair.

 >> CHAIR: Thank you, Saudi Arabia. Now Russia, you have the floor.

 >> RUSSIAN FEDERATION: Thank you, Madam Chair. In light of earlier proposals sent in by Russia we propose WTPF be held in 2019 on prospects for ITU development in the context of the Sustainable Development Agenda 2030. We think this will be a contribution for further meetings under the auspices of the UN in 2019. Thank you.

 >> CHAIR: Thank you, Russia. India, you have the floor.

 >> INDIA: Thank you, Madam Chair. We thank the Secretariat for their efforts to circulate and seek inputs on this important subject. However Madam Chair, we wish the objective mentioned in PP Resolution 2 under item 4 on the resolving could have been reiterated to convey the intentions for the WTPF. The Forum shall be convened on an ad hoc basis to responding to the emerging policy issue arising from the changing telecom ICT environment. Acknowledges that ITU remains uniquely positioned and is a single Forum for the coordination of the exchange of information on discussion of harmonization of national, regional and international telecom ICT strategies and policies. Most of the topics rank IoT cybersecurity and basic measures for international cooperation, digital literacy, addressing the barriers of global connectivity and emerging challenges in investment, in infrastructure and Net Neutrality, Government aspects and the role of the ITU 2030 Agenda.

Madam Chair, we have seen in the last session and this session as well that many countries are looking for support of guidance on these important matters which have significant impact on the development of ICTs and rolling out infrastructure in rural areas. Let us all remember that we need to respond quickly to the emerging policy status, issues.

Madam Chair, when there is a call from many countries expressing policy and regulatory challenges, considering the fact that ITU is a single Forum to harmonize views and positive guidance on telecom ICT strategies and policies. In the administration request to you, Madam Chair, the support of Member States who have questions about the necessity of holding the WTPF who could give consideration to the needs expressed from other countries as a member in goodwill and partnership. I recall how the last WTPF has been useful in guidance, the issues on IPv6, multi‑ stakeholderism in the interest of governance, enhanced cooperation, et cetera. Countries are using these opinions to shape and develop their regulatory practices. The danger for dealing with the WTPF, Madam Chair, countries may take different positions leading to issues and conflicts in regulatory practices on emerging policy issues. Once again, seeking support from the Distinguished Member States, Madam Chair, we should go ahead with the WTPF and identify the areas of ‑‑ for consideration from the inputs received from members. Thank you very much.

 >> CHAIR: Thank you. And as I said before we have today a long agenda. So I will close the list. Now we have Algeria, UAE, Cuba and USA. So Algeria, you have the floor.

 >> ALGERIA: Thank you, Madam Chair. And thank you to the Secretary‑General for providing this valuable contribution, the holding of the WTPF in 2018 and a decision has to be taken during the PP in 2018. As for the proposed topics we support the contributions that are related to building trust in cyberspace and irregulatory aspects of the OTT. Strength being cooperation in cybersecurity, the economic challenges when developing networks and if possible we would like to propose certain additional topics that are related to financial services in financial services. Thank you, Madam Chair.

 >> CHAIR: UAE, you have the floor.

 >> UNITED ARAB EMIRATES: Thank you very much, Madam Chair. And I will try to be brief as much as possible. Thank you and good morning to you all. Madam Chair, this topic is very important and as the Honorable Delegate from Brazil has stated as well as the Honorable Delegate from Saudi Arabia we would hoping this Forum would be held in 2018. However in view of the current preparations of the PP we support that this WTPF be held in 2019. But there is an important topic, Madam Chair, which is if the holding of the themes or the choice of the themes will be delayed to ‑‑ until we hold the PP conference, and if the PP will be held in the first quarter of the year after, it might be difficult for us to hold the Forum in the beginning of 2019 because of the necessity to hold preparatory meetings. Therefore we ask you either during this session or the next session of the Council to take a decision with regards to this topic all themes that will be discussed during that Forum and that this will not be delayed to the PP.

And having listened to the interventions of many Delegations I do not think that there is any obstacle to holding the Forum in 2019 but we have to identify the subjects before the PP so that the experts who will be in all the stakeholders will have sufficient time in the preparation for that Forum. Thank you, Madam Chair.

 >> CHAIR: Thank you, UAE. Cuba, you have the floor.

 >> CUBA: Thank you very much, Madam Chair. Grateful for the introduction of the report in document 59 on the World Telecommunication/ICT Policy Forum. We take note of this report bearing in mind the role of the ITU as a specialized agency for the organization of this event. It is very important particularly since it looks at the interest and the needs of Developing Countries where modern services and technologies can contribute significantly to the development of telecommunications infrastructure. We support the role of the Secretary‑General in consulting on possible topics the date and place in which the next WTPF will be held. We believe that the views expressed by the Delegation of Brazil, Saudi Arabia, and the United Arab Emirates are very useful for ensuring that we have a robust preparatory process, so as to ensure the event unfolds well. I think it is also important to ensure that the topics are selected some time in advance and before the Plenipot. So that they can have some link with the sustainable Development Agenda 2030 and the Sustainable Development Goals.

 >> CHAIR: Thank you. USA.

 >> UNITED STATES: Thank you, Madam Chair. Having heard the interventions I conclude that it would be difficult for us to come to a conclusion on whether, when and what topic to convene a WTPF given the divergence of opinions. But I wish to recall document 89 from China. It speaks to the number of High‑Level Events held by ITU and the need to rationalize how we move forward with the global symposium for regulators, Telecom World, WSIS Forum, WTPF and it asks that the Secretariat reflect upon these many High‑Level Events and systemize them and come up with an optimized event arrangement and scheduling option to be submitted to the next Council meeting for consideration. For us it is all the same people that go to all of these events. And so I think we have to look at the collection together and not in isolation one meeting at a time. And that includes the Quadrennial conferences which are right now our focus in the United States. Thank you, Madam Chair.

 >> CHAIR: Thank you. And I heard all of your interventions and as USA said now, today there is no Consensus about a possible decision about these topics. So I will propose you to note this report and all your interventions will be recorded in summary records. And then the Secretariat can consider the possibility to schedule this new event before the next Council. So if you agree, we can note not to do this.

(Gavel).

 >> CHAIR: Noted. Thank you very much. Now we can pass to the document C17/65, and I will invite the Secretariat, Mr. Kemal Huseinovic to present this document, please. You have the floor.

 >> KEMAL HUSEINOVIC: Thank you, Madam Chair. Ladies and Gentlemen, Distinguished Councillors, good morning, still morning. On behalf of the ITU Secretary‑General it is my pleasure to introduce document C17/65 which is a report from the ITU Secretary‑General on the implementation of decision 590 and the submission of the updated cooperation agreement between ITU and the International Criminal Police Organization, INTERPOL, for a provisional agreement as appropriate.

The purpose of this cooperation agreement is to establish a formal framework for INTERPOL and ITU to cooperate for the mutual benefit and within the scope of their respective mandates and resources in building confidence and security in the use of ICTs.

Section 1 provides background information on the original submission of the cooperation agreement to the 2016 session of the Council and the decision reached by Council. This decision instructed the ITU Secretary‑General to continue to build cooperation with INTERPOL while exploring ways and means to update the agreement, to address the concerns raised by some Member States. Section 2 describes the steps taken by the Secretariat of ITU and the INTERPOL to update the cooperation agreement to implement decision 590 and which led to the agreement now being submitted to this session of the Council. Section 3 provides indications on the ITU's approval procedure and the No. 80 of the ITU Convention, the Council has the authority to conclude such agreements on a provisional basis and that this provisional agreement shall be submitted to the next Plenipotentiary Conference in accordance with the relevant provision of Article 8 of the Constitution.

Article 8, in particular No. 58 mandates the Plenipotentiary Conference to examine any provisional agreements concluded by the Council on behalf of the Union and takes such measures in connection there with as it deems appropriate. In light of the foregoing the Council has requested to A, consider and as appropriate approve the cooperation agreement between ITU and INTERPOL in annex A in accordance with No. 80 of the Convention.

B, consider and as appropriate approve the draft decision in annex B. C, authorize the Secretary‑General to sign the agreement on behalf of the Union. And D, instruct the Secretary‑General to bring its decision to the notice of the INTERPOL Secretary‑General. The agreement is attached to document 65 as annex A for your consideration. Thank you, Madam Chair.

 >> CHAIR: Thank you, Mr. Kemal Huseinovic. The floor is open now. USA, you have the floor.

 >> UNITED STATES: Thank you. And good morning, Chairman. The United States appreciates the Secretary‑General providing the Council the opportunity to review MoUs that have financial or strategic implications. Further the United States appreciates the opportunity to weigh in on this cooperative agreement between the ITU and INTERPOL. The United States supports the existing relationship between INTERPOL and ITU. And INTERPOL has expertise that can benefit the ITU membership. We note that INTERPOL has been a helpful contributor to the Council Working Group on child online protection by informing members that their work and opportunities for involvement. The United States recognizes that the text in the agreement is based on a cooperative agreement that was signed in 2012 between INTERPOL and the international multilateral partnership against cyber threats. The organization would note cybercrime authority. The United States also appreciates the efforts made to revise the draft agreements to address the concerns raised by Council 2016.

With that shared understanding we would like to include the following in the summary record. In light of the work that the United States agrees to approve and authorize the Secretary‑General to sign and send to PP‑18 so long as the statement is added the United States understands reference. Respected areas of ‑‑ Article 1 of the cooperation agreement to reflect with respect to the ITU its current mandate as reflected in the ITU Constitution and Convention. In particular the United States emphasizes that the ITU's participation would not withstand the ITU mandate to cover cyber online under which this cooperation agreement matters within the exclusive jurisdiction of INTERPOL. With this entered in to the record the U.S. agrees with the ITU signing the agreement with INTERPOL and sending it to the PP for approval. Thank you.

 >> CHAIR: Thank you. Venezuela, you have the floor.

 >> VENEZUELA: Madam Chair, thank you for giving us the floor. With regard to the proposal for cooperation between INTERPOL and the ITU on building confidence and security in the use of ICTs and particularly in exploitation of child online the Bolivian Republic of Venezuela is ready to support the activities under paragraph 2 of this agreement. We support this proposal. My Government has implemented an important normative framework to build confidence and security in the use of ICTs and to counteract cybercrime with a view to protecting the people of Venezuela and in particular our children and teenagers. Our country currently has a special law on cybercrime. It is the Info Gabiano law. We also have a national system for the management of cybercrime incidents. The same of these is two comprehensive protection systems using ICTs. And it also aims to prevent and punish crimes committed through these systems or any of their components or those committed through the misuse of such technologies. We are implementing other important plans and projects which are covered by our Constitution based on international recommendations, namely the national plan for the protection of boys, girls and adolescents online, the National Strategic Plan for cybersecurity and cyber defense and we have a number of public organizations working hard in our country to build confidence and security in the use of ICTs. We might like to mention the unit for overview of ICTs, Conatel, regulator for telecommunications, the National Center for Information Telecommunication. Our country based on the existing normative instruments in place reports cybercrimes through the relevant instances in our countries. We are combatting this through certification of signatures and encryption and so on. This is done by the unit for electronic certification services and the national system for the management of cyber incidents. We would like to request that the ITU and in particular the regional office for the Americas to take in to consideration these things I mentioned when implementing their activities as indicated in the relevant Articles of this agreement between ITU and INTERPOL. Thank you very much.

 >> CHAIR: Thank you. I will remind you that this is only a report to note. So if there is an opposition ‑‑ I will close the list with Nigeria and Canada.

 >> NIGERIA: Thank you, Madam Chair. And good morning to all colleagues. Madam Chair, Nigeria recalls a discussion that took place in the 2016 Council session on this particular matter and concerns raised by a number of administrations with respect to the proposal presented by the Secretary‑General. Nigeria will want to thank the Secretary‑General for coming back to Council with an updated report on this issue. And as we know we have an emerging concern at this present time with the recent cyber attack that has gone viral and that Nigeria will support that Council, approve this particular request made by the Secretariat. Thank you, Madam Chair.

 >> CHAIR: Thank you, Nigeria. Canada, you have the floor.

 >> CANADA: Thank you, Madam Chair. We would like to thank the Secretariat for the submission of this document and most important for the due diligence exercised in involving Member States in discussions following the original submission of this document at Council 2015. It is very important to maintain that level of engagement requesting Council's consultation and approval. I think that it is a very important step. And we welcome the efforts taken that have concluded in the current text that we have.

We would also like to congratulate the Secretariat for some related activities in which they have engaged other organizations. For example, in the case of the Americas working very closely on cybersecurity related matters with the Secretary and we commend you for that. And we, of course, hope that the level of consultation and cooperation is maintained. With that said, Madam Chair, we support the current text of the MoU that will be approved provisionally by Council for final approval at the Plenipotentiary Conference 2018. Thank you.

 >> CHAIR: Thank you, Canada. And now I will invite you to note this report, the report of C17/65. Noted.

(Gavel).

 >> CHAIR: And we approve provisionally the cooperation agreement in annex A and to authorize the Secretary‑General to sign it in accordance with the draft decision contained in annex B and will be sent to the next Plenipotentiary Conference and will be in the summary records. Now we can pass to the ITU's role as supervisory authority of the future international registration system for space assets under the draft space protocol, C17/36. And I will give the floor to Mr. Henri to present this document.

 >> YVON HENRI: Good morning. I have the pleasure of introducing C17/36. The Council of ITU in 2016 noted that there were no objections to the principle to the ITU becoming a supervisory authority of the International Registration System for space assets under the space protocol. The Council noted that this possibility had not given rise to any objection in principle by the Council. But, of course, the final decision of the Council should not seem to preempt the decision of the next Plenipotentiary. So that's PP‑2018 which should take this final decision.

During its 2016 session Council also instructed the Secretary‑General to address issues raised during that session, in particular regarding the conditions and limitations that might be necessary should the ITU assume the role of supervisory authority. Following that Council session and summarized in paragraph 2 of the document we have an update on progress in the work, particularly that of the preparatory commitment, commission rather for the establishment of the International Registry for space assets. This Commission held its fifth meeting on the 6th of December 2016 by teleconference. There are a number of pending issues, particularly the nomination of the registrar. At this meeting the Commission decided to focus on its strategy to nominate a supervisory authority and also to attract the support of public and private authorities for the protocol itself.

In paragraph 4 you see a summary of the responses that the General‑Secretariat or the Secretary‑General rather gives to the questions raised at Council 2016 on restrictions, limitations and conditions if the 2018 Plenipotentiary Conference decides the ITU can assume the role of supervisory authority. So paragraphs 4 to 13 of the document you have before you specify these conditions and restrictions on limitations which should explicitly feature in any future agreement about the ITU's role as supervisory authority. I stand ready to further clarify any particular points in these paragraphs 4 to 13.

The document in paragraph 14 contains responses to the concerns raised by the administration of the United States of America in their document C17/94. Of course, I can shorten this presentation for the U.S. to present their document and then come back to the ‑‑ this document that I have to fully introduce paragraph 14.

Taking in to account this information the Council is invited to approve the issue of the acceptance of the ITU's role as supervisory authority of the International Registration System for space assets under space protocol and to make contributions to Plenipot 18. And, of course, noting that the final decision on this matter will be taken by the Plenipotentiary.

More particularly with regard to this information about conditions and limitations which might be necessary if the ITU were to take on the role of this supervisory authority, so these famous paragraphs 4 to 13 of the document, the Council is invited to endorse or approve these conditions for final approval at the Plenipot in 2018.

Finally, the Council is also invited to authorize the Secretary‑General or its representative to continue to participate in the work of the preparatory commission and its Working Groups as an observer on this issue of being a supervisory authority. Thank you very much, Madam Chair.

 >> CHAIR: Thank you, Mr. Henri. And now I will invite the USA Council already to present document C17/94. Please you have the floor.

 >> UNITED STATES: Thank you, Madam Chair. The United States sought input from the satellite industry on the possible role of the ITU as the supervisory authority of the International Registration System for space assets under the space protocol. The Satellite Industry Association in the attached letter to the ITU Secretary‑General raises several concerns regarding whether the establishment of an International Registry for space assets under the Capetown Convention would lead to additional costs and delays for the satellite industry. Specifically the U.S. satellite industry believes the proposed registry adds an undue burden and uncertainty on to the satellite industry, one that already adheres to robust regulatory requirements.

Any additional steps ultimately will delay service and increase costs which does not serve the global good. Concern regarding the need to satisfy requirements as may be established in the regulations may in addition undermine the level of certainty expected by creditors as to the identification of space assets for the purposes of registration.

Another concern is that the Convention requires the unique identification of a space asset before an international interest can be constituted and registered. There has been much debate and confusion over how a space asset will be identified and defined. Given the concerns raised in the letter by the Satellite Industry Association an endorsement now would effectively be discarding the viewpoint of a substantial number of satellite operators. Moreover the U.S. believes in early endorsement of ITU becoming a supervisory authority by Council preempts the responsibilities of the Plenipotentiary Conference decision in 2018. Suggesting concurrence for development of the registry before it has been approved. Therefore, to avoid preempting the decision of the 2018 Plenipotentiary Conference by asking this Council to endorse the matter of ITU becoming a supervisory authority, the U.S. proposes that Council continue to monitor and respond to any questions raised by the Member States regarding the International Registry for space assets and that the BR continue dialogue with industry to clarify any concerns. Thank you, Madam Chair.

 >> CHAIR: Thank you, U.S. And I will inform you about the conclusion of the RAG on the document C17/111, paragraph 2. That is the RAG noted the information provided in the director's report on space protocol related issues. Now the floor is open for any comments. Venezuela, you have the floor.

 >> VENEZUELA: Thank you, Madam Chair. With regard to document 36 the Bolivian Republic of Venezuela supports the initiative for the ITU to act as supervisory authority for the International Registration System for space assets under the space protocol given we believe the incorporation is such an important international organization as the ITU in this system to oversee the management of space assets, particularly those being launched in to space. We believe this registry will resolve issues, issues related to space given the greater number of objects in space. We believe it is important to improve surveillance of them. We believe that they should be mechanisms for interaction and coordination between the register as proposed by the ITU and the UN's register for outer space activities. We believe cooperation is required between both initiatives. Thank you very much, Madam Chair.

 >> CHAIR: Thank you. Philippines, you have the floor.

 >> PHILIPPINES: Good morning, Madam Chair. Good morning to everyone. Let me address both document 36 and the letter of the Satellite Industry Association annex 2 to 94. Document 36 has several recommendations and actions required of us. I shall deal with only one of those recommended actions. Then I will jump to the letter of the Satellite Industry Association. The actions required of ‑‑ by document 36 here is to endorse the matter of ITU becoming a supervisory authority, et cetera, and is very important to recommend such course of action to the next Plenipotentiary Conference noting, noting that the final decision on the matter of whether or not ITU could become the supervisory authority would be taken in the next Plenipot conference. I also note that on page 2 of document 36 paragraph 1 very significantly it states here that Council 2016 noted that there were no objections of the principle to the ITU becoming a supervisory authority, et cetera.

Madam, Ladies and Gentlemen, my notes that this issue has been coming back and forth to us since Council‑2014 or during the past administration and even earlier. During those past sessions the Philippines have recommended that for us to make a final decision on whether or not ITU will assume supervisory authority will only be resolved if immediately we identify the issues surrounding our acceptance of being the supervisory authority and in so identifying the issues for us to address immediately the issues.

Let me iterate that there are only through basic issues critical to our acceptance of the supervisory authority position. No. 1 is the issue of constitutionality or the legality of acceptance of the position. Recall that in one of those sessions the Delegate from Mexico pointedly asks our Council on this issue as to whether our acceptance of that position is constitutional or within the confines of our Constitution and our legal counsel says yes, it is constitutional.

The second issue propounded and we raise this because this was serious, was in regard to Article 56 of the Berlin protocol where we said that ITU is not a party to this Berlin protocol. And Article 56 has created the supervisory authority but we have no say on any amendment that may be made which might be adverse to ITU's interests as supervisory authority.

Therefore we recommended that in ITU's agreement with its principle for the former submission of supervisory authority a provision or clause should be inserted in an agreement and we put this on record.

In the event that the protocol creating this supervisory authority is amended as to adversely affect ITU and in its role as supervisory authority or make ITU's duty as a supervisory authority more onerous ITU reserves its right to be consent to be bound by such amendment. No. 2, its right to consent to be bound further by its agreement with ITU principle where under ITU assumed the role of authority. And No. 3, ITU reserves its right to withdraw supervisory authority.

This issue was seemingly captured in document 36 page 3 paragraph 7, which I will ask you to read by yourselves. But it says here that ITU if it were to accept the role of supervisory authority should make it as a condition of acceptance that it reserves the right to renounce, et cetera. But this section 7 while a very good provision does not exactly capture what we had proposed if only to protect the interests of the Union.

The No. 3, very critical issue against supervisory authority is the matter of economic or financial liability of the ITU. We were issued that as far as salaries of the personnel of the supervisory authority be of concern, ITU will not be the employees of this personnel. But I said there can be liability other than economic. So I said let us put this in the agreement should we assume the position of supervisory authority. Because I want us to be fully protected. And I said please make it a contribution and I quote this recommendation as the Philippines contribution. And I quote this again in the event that any claim financial or otherwise is filed against the ITU as supervisory authority, the principle shall exert all efforts and means shall hold ITU free and harmless from such result or claim. And in the event that the ITU is put to expense thereby the principle shall pay recompense or reimburse ITU for such an expense. This recommendation was somewhat met by this document 36 at the page 2. It says here at ‑‑ at document 36, page 1 says here firstly it should not be ‑‑ it should be emphasized that ITU's acceptance of the role would not give rise to any obligation or liability in legal terms, et cetera.

Secondly, the role of ITU in relation would be very limited and there is at page 3 of document 36 paragraph 11 it says here the above consideration, meaning ITU accepting the position of supervisory authority, says here that it should be recalled within accordance with Article, et cetera, of the protocol, the supervisory authority, its officers and employees enjoy immunity from any legal or administrative process under the terms of the international agreement.

But to my mind this response under document 36 are not enough. That is why we reiterate again that earlier recommendation, that that same recommendation be captured in the document that we are going to sign with the supervisory authority. Because immunity from such is a matter of only defense. But when sued we will be put to an expense and our defense will only come later.

Madam President, may I now be allowed to drill on the letter of this professor of the Satellite Industry Association because I am surprised by this given the report in document 36, 3, rather at 1, page 1 that there were no objections of principle in ITU becoming the supervisory authority as per Council 2016. I will be short on this.

 >> CHAIR: Please Philippines. We appreciate your intervention but as I noted today we have a long agenda. Can you conclude very briefly now?

 >> PHILIPPINES: Three points. One it says here as supervisory authority would be a distraction. In life and living are full of distractions. And our distractions should not prevent us from engaging in important goals of the Union. No. 2, certainly our recommendation whatsoever to the Plenipot 18 would not preempt because the nature of our recommendation is such that it is subject to the approving authority and hierarchy of our institution under the Constitution always the Plenipot reigns supreme over the Council. No. 3, supervisory authority, when are we going to discuss this with them. So these are my only comments to the letter of the Satellite Industry Association. Thank you.

 >> CHAIR: Thank you. Now as we have a long list I will close the list. We have Spain, Australia, Algeria, Japan, India, UAE, Canada and Germany. So I plead with you to be brief. The first is ‑‑ the first one is Spain. Spain, you have the floor.

 >> SPAIN: Thank you very much, Madam Chair. We would like to thank the Secretariat for this document and the excellent contributions from the Distinguished Delegates of the USA and the Philippines. We believe this is a very important issue. And the proposal of this administration is that any kind of decision relating to the supervisory authority needs to be taken at the Plenipotentiary Conference. Thank you very much.

 >> CHAIR: Thank you, Spain. Australia, you have the floor.

 >> AUSTRALIA: Thank you, Chair. Australia is also aware of significant concerns within the space industry about the possible effects of the protocol, including space industry companies in Australia which are ITU members. For that reason we would support the position put forward by the United States in its contribution. And by Spain just previously that we feel it is premature at this stage for Council 2017 to endorse this particular proposal. Thank you, Chair.

 >> CHAIR: Thank you, Australia. Algeria, you have the floor.

 >> ALGERIA: Thank you, Madam Chair. We thank the Secretariat for preparing this report. We support the ITU's role as supervisory authority of the International Registration System for space assets under the space protocol. This role would be consistent with ITU's overall role. We would like the Secretary‑General to continue to participate as an observer in the work to prepare for this. Thank you.

 >> CHAIR: Thank you, Algeria. Japan, you have the floor.

 >> JAPAN: Thank you, Madam Chair. I would like to thank the Secretariat for its contributions. We note that this discussion has been underway for a long time. However we note that the issue regarding the financial impact still remain unresolved. So we have a concern that it is premature to endorse this action in this Council. Thank you, Madam Chair.

 >> CHAIR: Thank you. India, you have the floor.

 >> INDIA: Thank you very much, Madam Chair, for giving us an opportunity to present the Indian views on document 36. Madam Chair, we feel that ITU is better positioned in the role as the supervisory authority for space protocol administration considering its ongoing back in to tele ‑‑ and satellite coordination of it is proposing proposal terms and conditions.

Madam Chair, the proposal has a condition under item 13 that this role could be say for a limited period of four years and renewable with the permission of PP‑22. This would be a constraint requiring PP approval once every four years when ITU signals its ‑‑ it should be with stability.

Madam Chair, the need for PP approval every four years may pose an issue of uncertainty. The condition under item 7 is very clear and it takes care of such a need of ITU, needs to denounce its role at any time.

Madam Chair, clause 7 says nevertheless if ITU were to accept the role of supervisory authority it should also make it a condition of acceptance, that is it reserves the full right to renounce that role at any point in time. In the Union's opinion that role would become incompatible or come in to conflict with the Union's basic text as a result in particular of the amendments to the protocol. The Indian administration suggests for dropping the clause 13 as a contingency only taken care by clause 7. Thank you very much, Madam Chair.

 >> CHAIR: Thank you. UAE, you have the floor.

 >> UNITED ARAB EMIRATES: Thank you, Madam Chair. We thank the Secretariat of ITU for presenting this document and we also thank the administration of the USA for their presentation of their contribution of this ‑‑ on this subject. We support the statement made by the Distinguished Delegate of Venezuela. And we support the procedure proposed in document 36 revision 1. Thank you.

 >> CHAIR: Thank you. Canada, you have the floor.

 >> CANADA: Thank you, Madam Chair. Very briefly, we associate ourselves with the intervention of our friends and colleagues from Australia. This is an issue that we have been discussing in previous sessions of Council. Canada believes there is pending issues that require clarity, for example, space assets. In regards to document 36 we would like to clarify that the actions may be required by Council is to note the document and not endorse the matter of the ITU becoming the supervisory authority. I also believe that the conditions may need to be reviewed but again that any endorsements of that ‑‑ of those conditions should be a matter for the Plenipotentiary Conference.

Finally, Madam Chair, in the letter addressed to Secretary‑General by Mr. Tom Stroup, the President of the Satellite Industry Association clearly reflects the views of the Canadian satellite industry.

 >> CHAIR: Thank you. Germany.

 >> GERMANY: Thank you, Madam Chair. In Council 2016 there was agreement that there are no objections in principle to the role of ITU becoming a supervisory authority. In Council 2017 there are objections in principle brought forward in particular by our Distinguished Colleagues from the United States with regard to a letter of the Satellite Industry Association. These concerns by the satellite industry, by the incumbents in a market where the possibilities of creating revenue is decreasing at the moment. The incumbents want anything else but no additional competitors. The satellite industry from the very beginning was not in favor of this approach. The ‑‑ the issue is that satellites are not the only interest in mobile equipment. There is the rolling material of (inaudible) satellites where not yet included in this exercise. We have a concern, Madam Chair, that ITU's decision is influenced by a strong group of industries rather than by the will of the Member States.

In any case, Madam Chair, the decision will be taken at the Plenipotentiary Conference. There is no doubt about and this is ‑‑ there is Consensus about this thing. Whereas no Consensus whether this Council should endorse or not the role of the ITU proposed in document 36. Germany is of the opinion that after the discussion at last year's Council and taking in to account very valuable points made with regard to a possible agreement by the Distinguished Delegate of the Philippines the Council 2017 can, in fact, endorse the role to recommend to the Plenipotentiary to consider that the ITU may take this role of supervisory authority or we support in total document 36 revision 1. Thank you very much, Madam Chair.

 >> CHAIR: Thank you, Germany. And now I close the list with Germany as the last country. So I'm sorry for the other ones. But we have no ‑‑ not enough time. So I will give the floor to Mr. Guillot for a replay. Please.

 >> Mr. Guillot: Thank you very much, Madam Chair. First I should like to thank all Councillors who spoke for their wise comments and support they gave to the Secretariat in the activities carried out hither to under this agenda item. This I would remind you has been on the agenda since 2011. I think that it was only the Delegation of the Philippines which raised some legal issues. I shall endeavor to address these but I must explain that due account has, of course, been taken of the comments made by the Delegations of the Philippines. I do not believe these comments run counter at all to the conditions proposed in document 36. I believe these comments are merely intended to supplement them. What we see in document 36 are the general principles concerning the conditions and, of course, the finalized wording of the provisions which could be inserted in the agreement which might be concluded between the ITU and UNIDRA if the Plenipotentiary Conference gives us the green light. That final wording would have to be fine‑tuned.

The comments of the Delegation of the Philippines have been duly taken in to account. In passing I would simply like to recall that Council does not have a decision making power on this matter and the final decision is with the Plenipotentiary Conference as has always been stated.

Coming on now to the comment made by the Councillor from India, if I'm not mistaken on the condition set forth in paragraph 13, this condition was suggested by the Secretariat because certain concerns on the role which might be played by ITU were expressed and also because this role is new as compared with the usual activities of the Union. And this is why it appeared to us to be reasonable to allow the Plenipotentiary Conference to be able to have a perspective and take stock of this activity of the ITU and do a stocktaking at the Plenipotentiary Conference 2020‑22. This is why we suggest implementation for a limited duration for the time being. It is up to Council and then to the Plenipotentiary Conference to decide upon this. I think that, Madam Chair, I have answered the legal questions or quasi‑legal questions which were raised. Thank you.

 >> CHAIR: Thank you. Mr. Henri, you have the floor.

 >> YVON HENRI: Thank you, Madam Chair. I thank all Delegates for their comments. It is true this is an issue which has been on the Council agenda since 2011 and which is under discussion with UNIDRA since the beginning of the years 2000. I would like to respond and clarify a few points, especially as regards those points raised by certain administrations and certain points raised in the United States document. First and foremost the constraint imposed upon the satellite industry I just like to recall that the regulations and the protocol would be applicable only to operators wishing to obtain financing within the framework of the registration process. And this is a voluntary request. This leaves every player free, especially satellite operators are free if they wish to obtain financing to use this registration process and the application of this protocol if they so desire. It is true also on a point which gave rise to lengthy discussion on the protocol, that was the definition of space assets. The viewpoint of the Secretariat is that certainly ITU if it were authorized, if it were to become the supervisory authority, then ITU would be in a better position to express its opinions in the definition of space assets. And it would be able to intervene along these lines if ITU were to be the supervisory authority rather than being an external player which might not be so very welcome in the discussions.

And the last point which is connected to a financial aspect which we see indirectly in the document from the United States of America and which was also mentioned by the administration of Japan in its comments, we must bear in mind that any intervention by ITU in this context which would be very limited in terms of staff involved in follow‑up of the work required if ITU were to become a supervisory authority, all this volume of work would be subject to full cost recovery, full cost recovery through the protocol and the application of the protocol. There would therefore be no financial implications for the Secretariat in the Plenipotentiary decided that ITU should become the supervisory authority. Thank you, Madam Chair.

 >> CHAIR: Thank you, Mr. Henri. Now I can see that we have three countries, China, Cuba and Bulgaria. Do you insist ‑‑ and Saudi Arabia. But do you insist to want to take the floor or we can clear the list? Okay. Thank you. One? Oh. We have Bulgaria and Cuba. You sure?
 (Laughter).

 >> CHAIR: You are really sure? Okay. But please be brief. Bulgaria, you have the floor.

 >> BULGARIA: Thank you very much, Madam Chair. The control process lasting for years and never ended. We support the comments from our colleague in Germany. Let's bring this to the Plenipotentiary Conference and finally decide on the issue. In the European Union this is a policy to increase the possibility for competition and creation of new services. We have to see all of this from that perspective. Thank you very much.

 >> CHAIR: Thank you. Cuba, you have the floor.

 >> CUBA: Thank you very much, Madam Chair. Thank you for giving us the floor. We would just like to reaffirm the value that the ITU has as a specialized agency and the need for us to have a multilateral level to have an authority like the ITU to be the supervisory authority. We also note the concerns expressed by the number of Delegations including that of Germany. We believe it is very wise with regard to the reference to the need to have a decision at the Plenipot. We believe it is important to reaffirm that in exclusion or discrimination on this issue is a concern. And we believe that there should be a multilateral view of the matter in the supervisory authority. Thank you.

 >> CHAIR: Thank you, Cuba. Now we can say that there is a general agreement on the fact that the final decision will be taken at the next PP. And now we can note the report and authorize the Secretary‑General to continue to participate in the work of the preparatory commission and its Working Group. And I will invite also you to approve the condition as listed in the document 36 Rev 1 which may be necessary should ITU assume the role of this authority and agrees to forward this condition as a recommendation to the PP.

You agree?

(Gavel).

 >> CHAIR: Done. So we can go to the next item, that is the ITU operational plan for 2018‑2021. And these documents are being presented in the first Plenary. And we are awaiting the approval of the budget in order to approve this plan and adopt the draft Resolution in C72. And this morning we have the approval of the ADM, the budget. I invite the Council to adopt the ‑‑ and to adopt the draft resolution presented in document C17/32 with the understanding that the ITU‑R and ITU‑T plans would be revised according to the discussion in ADM. You agree? Perfect.

(Gavel).

 >> CHAIR: Adopted. Now we can pass to the document C17/24 that is a conformance and interoperability program and I invite Mr. Bilel Jamoussi to present this document. We have Tunisia who wants to take the floor. Please Tunisia.

 >> TUNISIA: Thank you, Madam Chair. Following the presentation of document 24 we will be taking the floor after the presentation of document 24.

 >> CHAIR: Thank you. You are in advance with taking the floor. So please, you have the floor, Mr. Bilel Jamoussi.

 >> BILEL JAMOUSSI: Thank you very much, Madam Chair. And good morning, Dear Councillors. On behalf of the Secretary‑General I am pleased to introduce document C17/24. The conformance and interoperability program mandated by the revised Plenipotentiary Conference 14, Resolution 177. It is based on four pillars, conformity, assessment, interoperability events, capacity building and assistance in the establishment of test centers and CNI programs in Developing Countries. Pillar 1 and pillar 2 are led by the TSB and pillars 3 and 4 by the BDT.

A joint task force of the Secretariats, Secretariat involving all three sectors works very closely together. As the document presents an update of the ITU conformance and interoperability action plan that PP‑14 asked Council to continue to review.

Pillar 1, in terms of the ITU product conformity database I would like to inform you that the ITU product conformity database which was launched in 2014 is updated on a regular basis and includes around 500 entries of ICT products compliance with ITU‑T recommendations.

Among registered products the mobile phones, e‑Health devices and Ethernet services. Following the result of the ongoing pilot project the database will be updated with new types of equipment such as IPTV and M&P. The living list reference table and pilot projects on CNI Study Group 11 updates the list of pilot projects reference table and the list of the key technologies according to the proposals received from the different Study Groups. We have a collaboration ongoing with ETSI, the European Telecommunication Standards Institute on developing standards on topics which are the subject of common interest for both SDOs. Several standards which define test specifications were proved since July 2016 including recommendation ITU‑T Q.3960 framework of Internet related performance measurements.

Then, Madam Chair, the ITU CASC which is the conformity assessment Steering Committee elaborated the recognition procedures of testing authorities which have competence for testing against ITU‑T recommendations. In this regard CASC established a list of ITU‑T recommendations may become the subject of joint ITU IEC certification schemes and received responses from ICCE inquiry and asking to be used for certifications.

The ICCE is the organization within the International Electrotechnical Commission that works on this topic. In February 2017 approved new guideline to appoint ITU‑T technical experts. The ITU‑T CASC continues to collaborate with IEC and ILAC and representatives joined the task force. So this is a really good collaboration between ITU and IEC on this topic.

Pillar 2, the ITU recognized several test events. In agreement with venders some of the products which successfully passed the ITU test events will be added in to the ITU product conformity database. ITU concluded that the third test event on compatibility of mobile phones and vehicles hands‑free terminals during ITU Telecom World in November 2016 and the best hands‑free performers are highlighted in a specific list. Following this event ITU organized a Roundtable in March 2017 and the Roundtable's participants identified potential approach to approve the current situation. Minutes of the discussion available ‑‑ are available on the events website.

Now moving on to pillar 3 and pillar 4 which are led by the BDT. In terms of capacity building in 2016 the C&I joining forces were organized in the Arab region, AMS, CIS and as SP. The C&I training events ‑‑ such as innovative procedures to approve the C&I programs and virtual laboratory services.

Pillar 4, establishment of test centers in C&I programs in Developing Countries, ITU is providing assessment to Developing Countries in order to address national or regional programs for implementation and review type approval procedures of ICT products. The relevant studies were followed up for the five countries and seven countries in 2016. Similar assessment studies covering regulation institutions, laboratories and type approval procedures, ICT products will be conducted for the South American region in 2017. The ITU C&I portal website is continuously updated. The Council is invited to note the document. Thank you, Madam Chair.

 >> CHAIR: Thank you. Now the floor is open for any comments. And Tunisia, you are the first. Please.

 >> TUNISIA: Good morning. Tunisia thanks the Secretary‑General for this document 24 and expresses its support for capacity building as in paragraph 233. Thank you.

 >> CHAIR: Thank you. USA, you have the floor.

 >> UNITED STATES: Thank you, Madam Chair. The United States would like to thank the Secretariat for the status report and action plan on ITU's conformance and interoperability program. We are especially appreciative of the progress made on areas related to pillar 3 of the C&I action plan. The United States is concerned by the use of the term white list to describe mobile devices that essentially meet ITU's recommendations. For the United States and possibly others a white list connotes more than superior quality of connectivity. It could be misinterpreted ‑‑ the U.S. requests to discontinue the term white list and list the phone as a list of devices, meeting ITU recommendations. We note also that the ITU is considering establishing a special logo which may appear on a hands‑free terminal display in a car when a phone in device list connects to it.

We also believe that such a device list and special log may signify an ITU endorsement of certain phones or an endorsement of those automobile manufacturers who are willing to display the logo in their car. The U.S. likewise requests the ITU discontinue the use of the logo. Thank you.

 >> CHAIR: Thank you U.S. Algeria, you have the floor.

 >> ALGERIA: Thank you to the Secretariat for this report. The conformance and interoperability program is very valuable and could contribute in developing the telecommunication sector and therefore it is important to see what the dangers are currently in such a field in terms of the equipment and by working with the experts at the ITU and relevant organizations. On the other hand, we have to contribute in establishing research centers more than we see today, especially in Africa. So that they can have an important role in looking in to the conformance and interoperability program because there is a lack of such research centers with regards to telecommunications, especially in the African coast. And if there is a support program by the ITU we propose that a center of that kind be established in Algeria. Thank you, Madam.

 >> CHAIR: Venezuela, you have the floor.

 >> VENEZUELA: Thank you, Madam Chair. We are grateful for the report presented. The Bolivian Republic of Venezuela would like to share that in our country we are continuing to make efforts to progress on work linked to conformance and interoperability, in particular the work on pillars 3 and 4. We are aware of the work done in ITU‑T and ITU‑D in addition to their pillars. We are also ready to share our knowledge on the establishment of infrastructure in our country with all members of the Union. Thank you.

 >> CHAIR: Thank you. Saudi Arabia, you have the floor.

 >> SAUDI ARABIA: Thank you, Madam Chair. We thank the Secretary‑General for this document. And we thank the ITU for the various activities included in the report. We would also like to support the ITU in implementing the activities, especially with regards to interoperability and with regards to the conformance with regards to mobile phones. And with regards to supporting the white list which is included in paragraph 222. Thank you, Madam Chair.

 >> CHAIR: Thank you. Germany, you have the floor.

 >> GERMANY: Thank you, Madam Chair. I will try to be very brief. My comment is related to the issue of the logo. We would like to have a more neutral position on that. If you look on this device which is power supply of my computer I have a lot of logos here. I think as long as testing methodologies, they must be certified by a logo. Whether an Intergovernmental organization should do so I think it deserves a little bit more so. So this should be discussed and at the appropriate level and we should come to an appropriate result. But we would not support the suppression or ‑‑ not support suppression but we would also note support at the moment without further discussion introduction. Thank you very much.

 >> CHAIR: Thank you, Germany. Mali, you have the floor.

 >> MALI: Thank you, Madam Chair. We thank the General‑Secretariat for presenting this document. We support the actions which have already been carried out on pillars 3 and 4. We would like to encourage the Secretary‑General to continue with work in this regard in order to implement this plan. Thank you.

 >> CHAIR: Thank you, Mali. Now we will close the list. We have Burkina Faso, UAE and Ghana. Ghana will be the last.

 >> BURKINA FASO: Thank you very much, Madam Chair. Burkina Faso has taken note of the report on conformance and interoperatibility in the evaluation of the program. There is a need to highlight in this area that Resolution 44 Dubai 2012, 66 from WTSA and 177 of the Plenipotentiary Conference takes stock of the implementation of programs in the area of conformance and interoperability in Developing Countries, particularly test laboratories for our countries.

Madam Chair, at the moment we can note that the only pillar on capacity building is the one that's been taken in to account. However actions aimed at the establishment of test laboratories are still outstanding issues. This program is crucial for our states, developing states I mean. And my Delegation would like to take this opportunity when we are considering this issue to encourage the ITU to really implement this program. Thank you very much.

 >> CHAIR: Thank you. UAE, you have the floor.

 >> UNITED ARAB EMIRATES: Thank you very much, Madam Chair. And we thank the Secretary‑General for this document. We support the activities carried out by the ITU in general and the standardization section in particular. With regards to the ITU logo, there are resolutions that are requesting from the director of the standardization sector to carry out studies. And we hope that the standardization sector would carry out continuous studies based on the resolutions of the Plenipotentiary Conference and also the World Assembly Standardization, the WTDC. Thank you.

 >> CHAIR: Thank you. Ghana, please you have the floor.

 >> GHANA: Thank you, Madam Chair. And thanks to the Secretary‑General for this report. To acknowledge the benefit as the report says that Ghana has aimed on capacity burden for this program and to the extent that as on the pillar 4 the assistance of test centers Ghana currently with the support of the ITU guidance have been able to establish a test lab for EMF and something, Sala which is similar to that is in Tunisia. And we will continue to count on the ITU to support us all the way to get accredited and it would be a good potential for help testing center for West Africa if not for Africa. But again to go to the test events on compatibility of mobile phones and hands‑free terminals, there is a crucial item of safety of life. And it is important that the work that was carried out by Study Group 12 in developing the recommendation on this which has been transferred to Study Group 11. And they are assisting with these tests. They come out with a certain identity. In this report it calls it a special logo. For ones which are in conformance or have compatibility is to be clear to the world that these work for everyone and safety is assured. So that we don't leave it just that it is in a certain list or documentation. It is not obvious to use. Thank you.

 >> CHAIR: Thank you. Now for the replay, Mr. Bilel Jamoussi.

 >> BILEL JAMOUSSI: Thank you for the Distinguished Councillors for their comments and questions. We note the remark by the U.S. in terms of the use of the white list. And we will take note of that. And the ‑‑ we also note a number of Councillors that address the use of the ITU logo. I wish to mention that during the recent discussions within Study Group 11 the Roundtable on compatibility of mobile phones and hands‑free that was attended by the current industry and telecom, phone industry there was a market demand for some sort of logo that indicates as the Chairman of Study Group 12 from Ghana highlighted there an aspect of safety of life and that Study Group 12 has done a significant amount of work and issued recommendations in this direction. And that Study Group 11 then took those recommendations and worked on them for this compatibility to the ITU recommendations of the mobile phones in cars. So we will note those guidance by the Councillors as well as the agreements at the Plenipotentiary Conference and the various Assemblies. And we will use that as guidance in our actions going forward. We also note the request for enhancement of the test laboratories, the pillar 4 that was highlighted by a number of Councillors. And we will certainly work closely with our colleagues in BDT to continue in the execution of that pillar 4 of the action item. And we also note the offer by Algeria to provide assistance in this direction of providing some sort of regional support for test laboratories. Thank you, Madam Chair.

 >> CHAIR: Thank you, Mr. Bilel Jamoussi. So I think with this clarification we will note the comments raised by the floor. Oh, Venezuela, you have the floor.

 >> VENEZUELA: Thank you, Madam Chair. I would also like to make note in the summary records of Venezuela's readiness to make available its conformance and interoperability infrastructure. Thank you.

 >> CHAIR: Thank you. It will be recorded in summary records and I will invite you to note this report No. 24.

(Gavel).

 >> CHAIR: Noted. Now we can pass to the document C17/23 and that is facilitating the IoT. I will invite Mr. Reinhard Scholl to present this document. Please, you have the floor.

 >> REINHARD SCHOLL: Thank you, Madam Chair. I would like to introduce document 23, facilitating the Internet of Things to prepare for a globally connected world. ITU‑T, ITU‑R, ITU‑D and I will start with the ITU‑T activities. ITU‑T Study Group 20 continues to develop standards that leverage IoT technologies to address urban development challenges. A long list of standards is listed in the document. Among them is a new standard that gives general guidance to cities and provides key performance indicators for smart sustainable cities to help cities achieve the Sustainable Development Goals. A case study was published on implementing ITU‑T international standards to shape smart sustainable cities, the case of Dubai. And this case study details Dubai's ambitious journey toward becoming a Smart City. ITU is one of the co‑organizers of the IoT weekly, will take place the week after next. We are here in Geneva together with other organizers of the ITU Forum, the IoT Forum, the University of Applied Sciences and Arts of Western Switzerland and an organization called Mandat International. The ITU at its March meeting established a new focus group with the title Data Processing and Management to support IoT and Smart Cities and communities. And the goal of this group is to research data processing and management in the context of Smart Cities. The priority of this focus group will be to propose mechanisms supporting the interoperability of datasets and data management systems. And the first meeting of this group will take place in July.

ITU and UN ECE have launched last year a global initiative called the United for Smart Sustainable Cities Global Initiative. The initiative advocates for public policy to enable the transition to smart sustainable cities. The initiative has currently the support of 16 other UN nation agencies, programs and regional commissions. In April, so last month, at its second meeting a flipbook containing 24 deliverables and an action plan was presented.

And the last item for ITU‑T the ITU together with the municipality of Manizales and lots of other partners organized the 7th edition of the green standards week in Colombia. And the week was dedicated to the theme of Circular Economy and Smart Cities and close to a thousand people participated at the event.

Now moving to ITU‑R, spectrum management studies within ITU‑R continues to address the harmonization and frequency bands for the use of short range radio devices. Recognizing the role of short range radio devices in the mobile Internet economy, mobile broadband applications, and the Internet of Things. ITU has recommendations on those devices that provides the globally or regionally harmonized frequency ranges identified so far as well as a report that provides the technical and operating parameters and spectrum requirements for short range radio devices plus the associated national regulations in place in many countries. Also carried out on white sensor and actuator networks. Support machine‑to‑machine service applications irrespective of machine location.

Further the report of ITU‑R provides detailed information for system design policy, wireless applications and examples of white areas and actuator network systems for information sharing. Focuses on enabling of 5G seamlessly connected society and invitation to propose candidate radio interface technologies for MD 2020 is being issued and the proposals submitted will be presented in a workshop in October 2017.

ITU‑R studies are under way for IoT. And the urgent part of this work in preparation for WRC‑2019 on studies on technical and operational aspects of ‑‑ as well as spectrum needed including possible harmonized use of spectrum to the implementation of a narrow band and broadband type infrastructures.

And last but not least ITU‑R organized a workshop on spectrum management issues related to the deployment of Internet of Things in the last year.

Moving to ITU‑D has prepared discussion papers and addressed the issue of ITU‑D at the global symposium of regulators and it will be continuing the discussions in 2017. The papers focused on the regulation and the Internet of Things emerging technologies and the global regulatory agenda. The theme last year was be empowered, be including ‑‑ and the theme for this year will be living in a world of digital opportunities. And it will address the social and economic impact of digital transformation and smart societies. Throughout the study period ITU‑D's question on creating the smart society, sharing best practices and case studies on how to enable the use of telecommunications and other means of connectivity including machine‑to‑machine communication to support sustainable development and to force the smart societies in Developing Countries. ITU‑D is also helping develop ‑‑ helping countries to build human capacity with IoT and Big Data. Content development for training is ongoing and a number of training workshops have been organized and data collection and analysis for ICT indicators is looking at using Big Data including IoT to augment current data collection and analysis for the measurement of the Information Society.

And the last item the ITU, the national broadcasting and telecommunications commissions and the Ministry of Digital Economy and Society of Thailand organized under the ITU Asia‑Pacific center of excellence program a training on developing the ICT ecosystem to harness Internet of Things, the training has spanned participants from 12 countries in the Asia‑Pacific Region. Thank you.

 >> CHAIR: This report is only for noting. I ask you to be brief. The floor is open. Spain, you have the floor.

 >> SPAIN: Thank you very much, Madam Chair. We would like to thank the Secretariat for introducing the document. And we'd like to congratulate Mr. Nasser Al Marzooqi and Ms. Cristina Bueti, Chair and secretary of Study Group 20 respectively for the excellent work which Spain participated in. We would like to congratulate Colombia for having held the green standards week. Spain would also like to express its gratitude for the confidence placed in it and its nomination to Chair of the United for Smart Sustainable Cities chairmanship. We support the work of the development sector in this regard.

In the next study period we hope to continue to work on Smart Cities. And with regard to part 4 on events to come, I'd just like to specify that the dates for the Smart City expo in Barcelona are the 14th to the 16th of November and you are all welcome to come. Thank you very much.

 >> CHAIR: Thank you. I will close the list with Russia.

 >> RUSSIAN FEDERATION: Thank you, Madam Chair. We would like to thank the Secretariat for preparing a report on this important and promising topic. At the same time we note that 2.6 of the report does not contain specific information about studies carried out in the R sector, the radio sector of the ITU. We believe that this subparagraph should be added to and corrected in the future. Thank you very much.

 >> CHAIR: Thank you. I see Senegal and Korea. Do you insist? Please. Senegal, you have the floor.

 >> SENEGAL: Thank you, Madam Chair. We would like to thank the General‑Secretariat for this report on the Internet of Things. We commend the work done by the development sector and Study Group 20. For Developing Countries it would be desirable to have the ITU's assistance, particularly on capacity building with training in ITU's Centers of Excellence around the world and also adaptation to the regulations ethical to this technology. Thank you very much.

 >> CHAIR: Thank you. Korea, you have the floor.

 >> REPUBLIC OF KOREA: Thank you, Madam Chair. First of all, the Republic of Korea appreciates the General‑Secretariat preparing this report related to Resolution 197. The report compounds that after the adoption of new Resolution 197 at the PP‑14 various IoT related discussions and capacity building activities have been carried out. At a time when the role of IoTs becoming evermore important as a core technology and enabler for new coming, innovative digital economy we suggest ITU to continue relevant activities and more enhanced close collaboration with the private sector to implement the agenda successfully. Thank you.

 >> CHAIR: Thank you. And now I will invite you to note this report C17/23.

(Gavel).

 >> CHAIR: Noted. Thank you. Now we can pass to the document 68, digital financial services. And I will invite Mr. Bilel Jamoussi to present this document.

 >> BILEL JAMOUSSI: I am pleased to introduce C17/68 on digital financial services. Madam Chair, WTSA‑16 new Resolution 89, Hammamet 2016 instructs the sector of in collaboration with the directors of the other bureaux to report to Council annually on the work to promote the use of ICTs to bridge the financial inclusion gap. The document provides an update on the activities in the ITU‑T and ITU‑D in the area of digital financial inclusion. The ITU focus Group DFS was established to facilitate effective consultation and collaboration on key issues for the first time at the global level focus group on digital financial services, assembled financial and telecommunication authorities, digital financial services, providers, consumer advocates, DFS technical experts, development partners and other key DFS stakeholders to do the following. First increase and formalize the collaboration between the financial and telecommunication authorities with respect to digital financial services.

Two, to identify key issues limiting the development of safe, efficient and enabling DFS ecosystem. Three, to analyze how these issues have been addressed in practice and exchange information on best practices. And four to develop policy recommendations for public and private sector stakeholders on how to approach these issues. The ITU focus group on digital financial services concluded its work in December 2016 producing 28 reports and some 85 recommendations which provide policy guidance and best practice for regulators, policy makers and DFS providers to overcome the challenges they face to bridge the financial inclusion gap. At the TSAG meeting a few weeks ago the report of the focus group have been forwarded ‑‑ the reports of the Focus Group have been forwarded for action to the ITU‑T Study Groups 2, 3, 12, 16 and 17.

Building on the strong collaboration initiated a financial inclusion global initiative or FIGI, will be set up as a joint collaboration of the bank for international settlement to accelerate progress towards universal access to financial services over the next three years, 2017 to 2020. FIGI will focus on the implementation from the recommendations, the payment aspects of financial inclusion or reports to the World Bank of ‑‑ the World Bank and the bank of the international settlement and the level 1 project of the Gates Foundation. Both TSB and BDT from ‑‑ involved from the ITU in the FIGI activities. The Gates Foundation will fund the activities under FIGI. The global dialogue on digital financial inclusion in the ‑‑ in ITU‑D initiative responding to the mandates set out in WTDC Resolution 48 in Hyderabad and Resolution 64 in Dubai, 2014.

GDDFI 2016 identified policy regulatory and business collaborative guidelines guiding measuring to move forward the digital financial inclusion agenda by building synergies at the national, regional and global levels. GDDFI 2017 will focus on the security of the digital financial services and will take place on the 11th of July 2017 as a pre‑event to GSR‑2017 which will take place in Nassau, Bahamas from 11 to 14 July this year.

The ITU‑D chief regulatory officers group has established a Working Group that will work with ITU to assist members to increase telecommunications/ICT access and innovative solutions of digital financial inclusion as well as to increase awareness on the importance of collaborative regulation between the financial and telecommunications sectors and competition authorities. Thank you, Madam Chair.

 >> CHAIR: Thank you. The floor is open. Okay. Algeria, you have the floor.

 >> ALGERIA: Thank you. I would like to thank the SG for this report. Strengthening cooperation and exchanging data concerning digital services is a very good idea. We can even stop illegal transactions. This is why we would like to invite the ITU to work to reinforce partnership between Member States in the digital economy, especially in the exchange of information and data and experiences in the digital services sector. We also need to reinforce infrastructure. Thanks, Madam.

 >> CHAIR: Thank you. Now Tunisia, but I want you to remember that it is only for noting, please.

 >> TUNISIA: Thank you, Madam Chair. Very shortly and in brief Tunisia would like to congratulate the ITU for the success made by this Working Group, especially in the field of digital financial services. We support that the ITU would continue in the standardization sector and the development sector to fill the gap in the digital economy. Tunisia has participated in this Working Group. The Tunisian post administration does this in Africa. Thank you.

 >> CHAIR: Now I think that we can note this report C17/68.

(Gavel).

 >> CHAIR: Noted. Now we can pass to the document C17/72 and I will invite Mr. Bilel Jamoussi to present this document. Please, you have the floor.

 >> BILEL JAMOUSSI: Thank you, Madam Chair. On behalf of the Secretary‑General I'm pleased to introduce document C17/72. This report sets forth information on the effectiveness of the regional groups as instructed by Resolution 44. This document is supplemented by information of document C/17 info 9 that contains a presentation on ITU‑T regional groups. In part 1 of this ‑‑ of the C72, Madam, PP‑14 revised Resolution 23, on bridging the standardization gap between Developing and Developed Countries recognizing that the implementation of the recommendations of the ITU Radiocommunication Sector and the ITU standardization sector is a basic step towards bridging the standardization gap between Developed and Developing Countries.

It further instructs the Secretary‑General and the directors of the Bureau to work closely with each other on the follow‑up and implementation of this resolution and related resolutions. Resolution 1353 of the Council recognizes that telecommunication and ICTs are essential components for Developed and Developing Countries for achievable Sustainable Development Goals and instructs the Secretary‑General in collaboration with the director of the Bureau to identify new activities to be undertaken by ITU to support the Developing Countries to achieve sustainable development through telecommunications and ICTs.

WTSA‑16 revised the Resolution 54 on the creation and assistance to regional groups and resolve to support the creation of regional groups in the ITU‑T Study Groups. Finally, Madam Chair, WTSA Resolution 16 revised Resolution 44 on BSG, bridging standards gap, and its action plan to further address the disparity and standardization between Developed and Developing Countries including Least Developed Countries, small islands, developing states and countries with economies in transition. Part 2 of the report talks about the history of regional groups and upcoming 50th year anniversary of regional groups of ITU‑T Study Groups.

In 2018 ITU will celebrate 50 years of existence of regional groups. And we were first established in 1968 for four different regions. They have proven an effective mechanism to bridging the standards gap and increasing the number of and quality of contributions from the Developing Countries that could eventually lead to standards or ITU‑T recommendations. As of March 1st, 2017 ITU‑T had 18 regional groups. Key figures and statistics are set out in the document. A total of 45 Study Group regional meetings were held in the last study period.

Part 3, Forums held in association with regional groups meetings 23 ‑‑ from 2013 to 2016. The BDT and TSB have been jointly organizing regional, economic and financial forums that are held back to back with study group regional groups since 1990s. 12 regional standardization forums were held in the last study period covering a wide range of themes including human exposure to EMF and smart water management and international mobile roaming, digital identity and big data as well as tutorials and ITU‑T working methods.

Part 4, the BSG hands‑on sessions are geared towards assisting Developing Countries in acquiring the right skills for international standards making and to draft contributions for submission to Study Group meetings. The sessions focus on the development of practical skills to maximize the effectiveness of the Developing Countries participation in the ITU‑T standardization process. Covering topics such as strategies for participation in Study Groups, drafting contributions, presenting proposals, gaining support and Consensus and building Consensus. The Council is invited to note this document. Thank you, Madam Chair.

 >> CHAIR: Thank you. The floor is open. Egypt, you have the floor.

 >> EGYPT: Thank you, Madam Chair. Good morning, everyone. Good morning, Dear Colleagues. In fact, Madam Chair, the regional groups are very active participation in their activities in the standardization sector, are very important in order to fill the gap between the Developing Countries and Developed Countries. The regional groups that participate in study groups have a very efficient role. They are very strong and they participate in filling the gap between the Developed and Developing Countries. This is what we witnessed in the Arab group and the African Group. We have noticed that the regions are very active. Everyone pays attention to what they do.

Therefore we have to work to increase a number of experts who learn from these Study Groups which participate in the ‑‑ in filling the gaps between Developed and Developing Countries. We support everything that was said in the report. We encourage the sector to continue to support regional groups in order to encourage everyone to participate in the activities. Thank you.

 >> CHAIR: Now we close the list. Venezuela, you have the floor.

 >> VENEZUELA: Thank you, Madam Chair. We are grateful for the report. Bearing in mind Resolution 123 on bridging the standardization gap between Developing and Developed Countries and aware of the need to have a normative framework supporting conformance and interoperability activities, the Bolivian Republic of Venezuela is doing work to developing a normative framework for. So for 2017 the standardization plan covers the development of four main projects. The BDT and the TSB with the support of the regional office are invited to exchange experiences and reach out to the relevant authorities in our country so as to ensure this can benefit others. Thank you.

 >> CHAIR: Thank you. Tunisia, you have the floor.

 >> TUNISIA: Thank you, Madam Chair. I would like to thank the SG for the efficiency of the regional group that works in the sector. We have hosted many Study Groups and we have noticed there is a qualitative advance. Many Tunisian experts participate nowadays in the sector. We will invite the Secretariat to continue working to bridge the gap through regional groups. Thank you.

 >> CHAIR: Thank you. Algeria, you have the floor.

 >> ALGERIA: Thank you, Madam Chair. I thank the Secretariat for this excellent report. We would like to improve the information distributed about seminars so that we can participate together in bridging the gap. We would like to be informed not only through Study Groups and regional groups but also through publications and through informing all the Member States. Thank you.

 >> CHAIR: Thank you. I see now also Brazil. But we closed the list before. And we have all only 15 minutes before the end of this Plenary. So do you insist? Brazil be brief, please.

 >> BRAZIL: Thank you, Madam Chair. Sorry for asking for the floor but we believe this is the moment to express the concern that we have already expressed in document 97 which is the proliferation of regional groups. There was another regional group created for SG20 in almost all the regions but in Latin America was created and it was an initiative by some countries in the Americas. And this initiative even though it doesn't come from the regional organization or from a regional Consensus it affects the regional organization. And I am mentioning it specifically here CITEL. We have been trying to strengthen CITEL by all means by providing incentives for the Member States of the Americas to present contributions to CITEL. They are in dire need of being strengthened and having the participation increased. And then we see that, you know, by almost, you know, bilateral decisions or decisions from a few countries affecting the work of the entire region.

So perhaps we should be thinking of a mechanism to require the support of the regional organizations in creating regional Study Groups in the ITU‑T. For us it seems it is too easy to create regional groups. For the work of the main Study Group that meets here in Geneva and it creates financial impacts. Perhaps we should think about creating a mechanism that requires the support of the regional organization in creating regional Study Groups. Thank you very much.

 >> CHAIR: Thank you. I see now USA and Canada. Please be brief.

 >> UNITED STATES: Thank you, Madam Chair. We would like to support the comments just made by Brazil and also note their document No. 97 which deals with enhancing the participation of nonstate members in the work of the ITU. For us this philosophy should extend to the regional groups as well as the ‑‑ we continue to have the view that regional groups should be open to all ITU members. Thank you, Madam Chair.

 >> CHAIR: Thank you. Canada, please.

 >> CANADA: Thank you, Madam Chair. Very briefly, first of all, to thank Brazil for that very important and timely intervention. Thank you.

 >> CHAIR: Thank you. Now I think we can note this report but noting also your concern and the concerns raised by some councillors now. UAE, you have the floor.

 >> UNITED ARAB EMIRATES: Thank you very much, Madam Chair. Sorry for asking for the floor a little bit late. After listening to many interventions lately I personally think that regional groups are important. A decision doesn't ‑‑ a decision doesn't need the agreement of everyone including regional organizations. I wish this to be taken in to account.

As far as the participation of countries and of Member States in the ITU in regional groups, in the different regional groups this has been discussed in the world conference and it wasn't agreed. But the Chairman of the Study Group can invite experts from different countries, from different regions if he wants to do that. I hope to clarify these things and please include them in your report, Madam. Thank you.

 >> CHAIR: Thank you. We have Cuba, Russia and Venezuela. Again Cuba, please.

 >> CUBA: Thank you very much, Madam Chair. We carefully listened to the interventions made by various Delegations on the topic of participation in and creation of regional groups to participate actively in preparatory processes for any kind of meeting. As is well‑known Cuba is not a member of CITEL. And Cuba is not planning to return. Therefore, we are grateful that the importance of creating regional spaces which are universal is emphasized. It is important for them to be open spaces for consultation for agreeing on technical positions on a regional level, improving regional capacities, international conferences at which there is a need for cohesion and a community of interest and agreements. Having said that we do not support and I would like to repeat it, we do not support regional organizations being those that decide on the creation of regional groups. We believe that a decision of this nature will require a detailed examination taking note of what was expressed by the Delegation of the UAE with regard to not being a firm decision on this issue at the Plenipotentiary Conference.

We would like to thank those members from our region who have advocated the creation of a regional group in the Americas where all the states of the continent can on an equal footing participate and come up with common views on technical issues facilitating the taking common positions. We would like to reiterate our readiness to participate in a regional universal space of open composition so that Cuba can participate together with all the other countries on the continent. And so that it would be able to express without discrimination or exclusion on its views of technical interest. Thank you.

 >> CHAIR: Thank you. I will remember now we are only noting this report and not any decision will be taken now. I will give the floor to Mr. Bilel Jamoussi to replay for the decision. We have Russia, Romania and Germany and Ghana. And I hope after the clarification of Mr. Bilel Jamoussi this list can be cleared.

 >> BILEL JAMOUSSI: Thank you, Madam Chair. I believe there are two main points that require further clarification. The first one is the creation of the regional groups. The creation of a regional group is governed by WTSA Resolution 54 that was longly debated in Hammamet. And the Union came to a Resolution that guides the membership and Secretariat on how these regional groups are created.

The second point is related to the participation in these regional groups and this was also discussed in Hammamet Resolution 1, governs who participates in these regional groups. And also the WTSA as the Chairman of Study Group 20 from UAE mentioned that the Chair is always able to invite experts who may not be from the region or may not be from the Member States in the region to participate in the works of the regional groups. So there is clarity as far as the creation of the regional groups and the participation in the regional groups from the WTSA Resolutions 54, and Resolution 1. Thank you, Madam Chair.

 >> CHAIR: Thank you. Now I will suggest you to note this report with the clarification given by Mr. Bilel Jamoussi and if you agree ‑‑ you can clear the list. Russia, you have the floor.

 >> RUSSIAN FEDERATION: Thank you, Madam Chair. Very briefly, not to repeat arguments already heard we fully associate ourselves with the statement of UAE.

 >> CHAIR: Thank you. Venezuela, you have the floor.

 >> VENEZUELA: Thank you, Madam Chair. In view of the time I will be very brief. We support what was indicated by Cuba. Thank you.

 >> CHAIR: Thank you. Romania.

 >> ROMANIA: Thank you, Madam Chair. We would like to support the comments made by Brazil. We also have concerns about duplication of work between regional groups and regional organizations. When these regional groups are being created we believe they should be coordinated with the regional organizations. Thank you.

 >> GERMANY: I will be very brief. Our principles are basically three in this regard, budgetary, discipline, avoid duplication of work and strengthen cooperation with regional organizations. And we will see your final text of your report and we will hope that the contribution of Brazil is correctly reflected in your report. Thank you.

 >> CHAIR: Paraguay, you are the last one, please.

 >> PARAGUAY: Thank you, Madam Chair. We merely wish to say that Paraguay supports what was expressed by the Delegation of Brazil. Thank you very much.

 >> CHAIR: So I will suggest you to note this report and then we can come back in the afternoon with the document 4. And ‑‑ yeah. Because this team, the regional person will be ‑‑ will deal with the document DT4. So if you agree now we can note this report and then we can discuss about this matter in the afternoon. The report is noted.

(Gavel).

 >> CHAIR: Thank you. So before ending we can pass to document DT4. And please I give the floor to Professor Minkin.

 >> VLADIMIR MINKIN: Thank you, Madam Chair. The Ad Hoc Group met and agreed the text of the draft new Council Resolution on a joint Committee on terminology. The text is given in document DT4. After pub ‑‑ since publication I have not received any additional comments on this text. I submit this document for consideration and approval by the Plenary.

 >> CHAIR: Thank you, Professor Minkin. Are there any comments? We can adopt this document on the new Council Resolution on ITU coordination Committee for vocabulary.

(Gavel).

 >> CHAIR: Adopted. Thank you. I will ask the interpreters and captioning services ten minutes only for a presentation of the next document, please.

 >> INTERPRETER: Yes, Madam Chair. Ten more minutes is fine.

 >> CHAIR: Thank you very much. Please document 25. Mr. Yushi Torigoe, you have the floor.

 >> YUSHI TORIGOE: Thank you, Madam Chair. Distinguished Delegates, Ladies and Gentlemen, on behalf of the ITU Secretary‑General it is my pleasure to introduce document C17/25. The purpose of this document is to report the consolidated results of the implementation of Resolution 25. The strengthening of the regional presence is an evolving process. A range of measures have been taken in this regard to enable the Union to be as close as possible to its membership and to effectively deliver timely and high quality results at country and regional levels. The measures taken have already yielded significant results that have been regularly reported to Council. This report sets forth information on the action plan and regional initiatives implementations. It provides detailed information on the 2016 budget implementation for regular and extra budgetary resources of funding, on the staff level of various regional and area offices as well as other operational information. Section 1 introduces the background of document 25. Section 2 describes the achievements at each of ITU‑D six regions. The specific regional activities are implemented by each regional office are headed by each regional director. The new area representative of CIS who took office recently is attending this Council.

I would like to take this opportunity to welcome Mr. Operan. Section 3 describes the contribution to ITU‑R, ITU‑T and the General‑Secretariat. Section 4 mentions structure and staffing level. Section 5 presents support activities towards empowering regional and area offices. Section 6 describes the preliminary results of the survey of satisfaction with ITU's regional presence in response to PP Resolution 25. The overall results were generally favorable for all aspects. More information is presented in information document 12. This document is supplemented by information document 11 which contains six annexes, operational, additional information on. Annex 1 operational plan and project implementation level, summary of regional area offices expenditure. Annex 2, operational plan, implementation level by regional objective as well as technical cooperation project implementation by regional source of funding.

Annex 3, breakdown of regional and area offices expenditure by category and expenditure.

Annex 4, 2016 fellowship awarded recruited experts. And annex 5, summary of staffing level by regional and area offices. And annex 6, breakdown of staffing level by regional and area offices. The Council is invited to note this report. Thank you, Madam Chair.

 >> CHAIR: Thank you. And now the document 98 Rev 1 will be discussed after lunch. And now I will verify if there is any comment about this. Cuba, you have the floor.

 >> CUBA: Thank you very much, Madam Chair. We are grateful for the presentation of report 25. We take note of it. We agreed that it is crucial to strengthen the role of the ITU in preparatory activities in each region and interregional level. It is crucial for the ITU's office to have a crucial role in achieving greater inclusivity and equality for all countries in the region in all the preparatory processes for all meetings of the ITU. What we would wish to do is to instruct the director of the development sector to increase the role of the office in the region in order to ensure that there are effective mechanisms of the ITU enabling the full participation of all members in the region in the consideration of all processes and all documents related to all the meetings of the ITU.

We believe that this mechanism of the ITU would strengthen the role of the ITU and would contribute to the finding of common positions on technical aspects required to make progress on the work of the Union, in particular with a view to international conferences where decisions are to be taken. We request the Union to support in particular those members who are implementing infrastructure development policies and in general who are promoting the informization of their societies in order to strengthen their role in this area.

We also believe that further efforts should be made without any limitations with full access to all debates and all proposals and all documents presented by the various members from all regions. We would also like to express gratitude for the information included in the report. And we hope that future reports break down in a detailed manner the resources allocated to these ends. Thank you.

 >> CHAIR: Thank you. And now I will invite you to note this report 25.

(Gavel).

 >> CHAIR: Noted. Now the floor is for Ms. Bogdan for some announcements. Please.

 >> DOREEN BOGDAN: Thank you very much, Madam Chair. Just two quick announcements. Just now in this room we will have a presentation on the ITU visual identity exercise. We would invite you to stay behind for that presentation. Also at 2 o'clock in this room prior to our afternoon Plenary we will be having the ITU staff award ceremony. So we would invite you as well if you are interested to join us for that ceremony in this room. Thank you.

 >> CHAIR: Thank you. And now the break for lunch.

(Session concluded at 12:37 p.m. CET)

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