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>> CHAIR: Ladies and Gentlemen, good morning. We can start today in five minutes again.

(Pause)

>> CHAIR: Good morning. Now we can start with the last day of this Plenary. And according to revision 12 of the DT2 we can start with the document C17/3 and about the obsolete Council resolution and decisions. And I will invite Ms. Beatrice Pluchon to present this document.

>> BEATRICE PLUCHON: Thank you. On behalf of the Secretary‑General I have the pleasure of introducing document C17/3 on obsolete Council resolutions and decisions. Following every ordinary session of the Council there is a need to abrogate and therefore, delete from the volume of resolutions and decisions of the Council those resolutions and decisions that have been implemented. The list which should be abrogated is submitted to the Council to be submitted. Thank you.

>> CHAIR: Thank you. The floor is open for any comments. Venezuela, you have the floor. No? So if there is not any comments, I will invite you to approve the list of resolutions and decisions to be abrogated.

(Gavel).

>> CHAIR: Approved. Now we are going to document C17/123 about the report of CWG on SFP. And I will present Mr. Mario Canazza to present this document.

>> MARIO CANAZZA: Thank you, Madam Chair. Good morning, everyone. The Council Working Group on this ‑‑ on the elaboration of the draft strategic and draft financial plans for 2020‑2023 met two days again on the 23rd at noon. And we discussed a schedule of meetings, the scope of the group, and the content of the Strategic Plan.

First we were informed that Mr. Francois Rancy is chairing the internal intersectoral Committee to draft the Strategic Plan with the support of the corporate strategy division of the ITU. Then we discussed Resolution 1384 and there was a request to clarify that the Council Working Group is supposed to present the draft Strategic Plan to the 2018 ordinary session of Council in April. Not the one previous to PP‑18. It is in April. We are going to present a draft Strategic Plan. Then we approved the schedule of meetings.

The second meeting will take place in the cluster of Council Working Groups in September 2017. The third meeting will take place in the cluster of January‑February 2018. And the fourth meeting will be a one‑day meeting immediately prior to the 2018 session of Council in April. Then we reviewed the structure of the current Strategic Plan. And we changed annex 1 to annex 2. Annex 1 is currently the background study on telecommunications/ ICTs and annex 2 is the actual Strategic Plan and then we changed that. Annex 1 will be the Strategic Plan and annex 2 will be the background study. We changed that. We agreed on the scope of the Council Working Group. We are supposed to discuss and draft Resolution 71 which is the Strategic Plan. Resolution 72 which is the linkage between the strategic financial and operational plans of the Union. Resolution 151, which is on the results placed management, 191 which is the coordination of efforts among the sectors and 200 which is the Connect 2020 agenda. We are going to be reviewing all of those resolutions in the group.

Then we discussed the contributions by RAG and it was proposed that we contact the Chairman of RAG to create a correspondence group to discuss the ITU‑R input to the Strategic Plan as it is with the TDAG and TSAG. They have their own correspondence groups to do that. And then in the floor the discussions highlighted the difficulty to fully map Operational and Strategic Plans as the activities of the Bureau are different from the activities of the sector as well as the need to review current performance indicators, particularly regarding the radio regulations. This was a request specifically for the ITU‑R section of the Strategic Plan.

Then Mr. Bruce Gracie, Chairman of the TSAG suggested that we consider the new standardization strategy initiatives that have been discussed in TSAG. Finally, we discussed the questions that were to be asked in the first public consultation that we are going to launch right after the end of Council.

We had decided ‑‑ after consultations we decided on four questions. I'm going to read them. The first question is what should be the key strategic priorities for the ITU for the 2020‑2023 period taking in to account the UN 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and the Sustainable Development Goals. That's the first question.

The second question asks what are the key technological trends ITU should consider while planning its strategy.

The third question is what do you consider to be the top three challenges for the ITU and the top three achievements you would like to see the ITU accomplish in the 2020‑2023 time frame.

And finally an open question that asks for any thoughts or comments you would like to make. Very open question.

And this is the first public consultation. We are going to launch public consultations after the second and the third meetings. The next meeting will take place during the next Council Working Group cluster in September.

I would like to thank everyone for attending the meeting. And for the Secretariat for the wonderful work in holding the meeting. And I'm here for any questions that the floor may have. Thank you very much.

>> CHAIR: Thank you very much. Now the floor is open for any comments. Canada, you have the floor.

>> CANADA: Thank you. Good morning to you and to all colleagues. I would like to start by thanking Brazil and Mr. Mario Canazza for the presentation of this document.

Just one minor question for clarification in terms of the times of the meetings. And 5.3, the third bullet on the fourth meeting it is a one or two‑day meeting before the 2018 session of Council? Yesterday we agreed to move ‑‑ add an additional day to the 2018 session of Council and that would be from the 17th to the 25th or so. Because the 12th and 13th are the days allocated for the expert group on ITRs and Council would start on a Tuesday. And then just for confirmation we are assuming that there would be a one‑day meeting of this Working Group that Monday prior to the opening of Council. Just wanted to ensure in the planning of our travel and everything else that we have that absolutely clear. Thank you.

>> CHAIR: Yes. Correct. If there are any comments ‑‑ okay. We will invite you to note this report. The document 123 is noted.

(Gavel).

>> CHAIR: Thank you. And now we can go to the document C17/102. And yesterday I invited Mr. Majed Al Mazyed to lead the discussion. So I will give you the floor.

>> MAJED AL MAZYED: Thank you, Madam Chair. Good morning, Distinguished Delegates. Pursuant to Council recommendations we were asked to hold informal discussions. We had a meeting with the participation of Member States which had demonstrated an interest in document 102 from Saudi Arabia adopting international public policy on access to the Internet for Persons with Disabilities and specific needs.

These consultations, Madam, were held and they only finished a few minutes before the beginning of this session. And it is my pleasure to be able to tell you that we achieved a result which I will describe in English.

Council in its 2017 session considered the contribution from the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia proposing adoption of a resolution on adopting international public policy on access to the Internet for Persons with Disabilities and specific needs.

There was support and opposition to this proposal. However, due to the scope of its application and in particular lack of sufficient time it was concluded that the issue is referred to the 2018 session of the Council with the view to further elaborate the matter and take appropriate action which could include transmission of its conclusion to Plenipotentiary 2018. This conclusion would not prevent the Council Working Group on international Internet related public policy issues to review the topic in light of the further contributions from Member States which may be received by the Council Working Group Internet.

Thus, Madam Chair, we would like this result to be taken in to account and reflected in the record of this meeting. Thank you.

>> CHAIR: Thank you very much, Mr. Al Mazyed. And thank you to all for this agreement. I understand it is old. And now I will invite the Council to accept this agreement and this document will be recorded in the summary record.

(Gavel).

>> CHAIR: Done. Thank you very much. Mr. Zhao, please, you have the floor.

>> HOULIN ZHAO: Thank you, Madam Chair. Good morning, Dear Councillors and Colleagues. I am very pleased to see a very smooth running of the session this morning and congratulations to our participants and the Chairman that we have concluded those topics on the agenda for this morning. I would like to add one small item on the agenda. That yesterday we informed you that for the Council Working Groups we managed to get all the candidates for Vice‑Chairmen and Chairmanship, except for Child Online Protection Council Working Group. We were still looking for the Chairman for leading this group. And I'm very pleased to advise you that we got a very good proposal from the UAE. And they suggested Dr. Brahima Mohammed Yaseen Abdul to be a candidate of the Chairman of this very important Council Working Group. And I understand that the CV of Brahima Mohammed Yaseen Abdul is also posted on the Web. So I would very much appreciate it if our Council could endorse this proposal to have Dr. Brahima Mohammed Yaseen Abdul to be the Chairman of the Council Working Group on child online protection. Madam, that is the issue that I would like to present to you.

>> CHAIR: Thank you very much, Mr. Zhao. And now I can say that we can stop the discussion of the Plenary for this morning because we must be waiting for the complete translation of the report of the ADM. So we can resume in the Plenary in the afternoon. Please Mr. Zhao.

>> HOULIN ZHAO: I think I present the candidate of Brahima Abdul as Chairman of the Council Working Group on child online protection and ask your kind endorsement for that.

>> CHAIR: Please. Uganda, please, you have the floor.

>> UGANDA: Good morning. And thank you, Madam Chairperson. Since I can see we have some lazy moments I want to take the chance to thank you very much for the work well done. I think that we will be thanked much later on, but I sitting from my Chair I'm very impressed with the work so far done. And the Chairmen that we have had all along have done a fantastic job. But Madam Chairperson, coming from a Developing Country and having a heart for ITU like many other colleagues have allow me some two minutes or three to put down some thoughts so maybe start thinking. One I wanted to take a moment to reflect on the capacity building for ITU members and staff and as an organization. I want to thank the ITU Secretariat for all the efforts which they have taken in ensuring capacity building for all of us, me inclusive and others.

We see gender mainstreaming in ITU at a very high level. Geographical representation is very high. Rotational basis for Council leadership has viewed very, very wonderful results. The Chair and Vice‑Chair in ITU meetings is a wonderful opportunity for capacity building. All of these are directly and indirectly contributing to capacity building of members and staff of the ITU. However, Madam Chairperson, I note that going forward we have some challenges. As an ITU which is unique and which whose decisions are mainly based on consensus we need to preserve the culture of ITU.

I remember when I had just started coming to the ITU I used to see a lot of gray haired men and women in ‑‑ and when you talk to them they will tell you they have been here for about 30 years but I think the current system does not allow that. You must retire at some stage and must go home. We are going to see less and less of those. So that means that we have to find other radical ways of transferring the expertise and experience of ITU to generate through those people in some other ways. And that's why I come to the floor.

Madam Chairperson, we need to have members and staff that will continue the work and the spirit of the ITU in this flamboyant environment. There are many competing organizations that want to take away our good staff. There are issues of retirement. So we are going to see new and newer faces literally every other time. So how do we ensure that we have continuity? We have people who have the history and keep the spirit of the ITU.

I want to thank the ITU again for the issue of Chairmanship and Vice‑Chairmanship. I note, for example, you have a very effective Vice‑Chair and next year the Vice‑Chair will become the Chair. And that's a very good thing, but for some Council Working Groups and some other ITU arrangements we have some Vice‑Chairs who have never done anything. They spend their time coming to the meeting and going away. And when you have an assignment, Madam Chairperson, you are very quick to look to the Delegation sitting at the podium to pick on them, to go and carry out a task. I have observed that as a trained you normally pick one of the proponents of the idea to become the Convenor, meaning that you are sucking energy out of that discussion. Because that proponent is going to become a Convenor and become neutral, is not going to speak as freely as before.

Maybe we can consider that any task that you have should follow ‑‑ should fall on one of your Vice‑Chairs, not you because we know where they are going next, but in such meetings you should choose on the leadership that we have given you. If there is any task that a Chair has it should look to his or her Vice‑Chairman first. So that will force us to choose Vice‑Chairmen and Vice‑Chairwomen who are competent and able to carry on the work. When, for example, you have decided to go to the shops, you should be very, very confident that your Vice‑Chairs should be able to carry on the work.

So, Madam Chairperson, we have a WTDC coming. We have other meetings that are coming. I know there is going to be an effort to choose Chairmen of committees and Vice‑Chairmen. It is my humble submission here that the leadership of ITU should consider to call for those people who can very easily carry on the work of that meeting in case the Chairman calls upon them as opposed to having Vice‑Chairmen who may not be in the room when the activity is going on. That's No. 1.

No. 2, Madam Chairperson, on the issue of geographical representation, I note, I don't know whether by design or intentionally, that the regional offices are launched by the people that come from the region. I want to applaud the ITU for that because that ensures that there is capacity from that side that is maintained. Uganda had an opportunity to have somebody work in the ITU and the quality of that person when they went back home was exceptional. So for us getting an opportunity like that is really capacity building. And I'm thinking that how are we tracking the geographical representation here at the headquarters. For us it is not an issue of working abroad but an issue of international level capacity building. I know there is a lot of international representation here but I hope in the future the Secretary‑General can give us a specific note of how that is going on as a way of capacity building.

I want to stop here, Madam Chairperson, since I wasn't scheduled but I felt that I would be cheating myself since I also have developed gray hair if I never put that on record as a request from Uganda. Capacity building for the ITU is very important. I believe what has kept us going is the spirit that we have. And that spirit comes from people who know about ITU and who are willing to work for the ITU. Thank you very much and congratulations.

>> CHAIR: Thank you very much, Uganda, for your intervention and comments. They will be noted. Now we have other comments. No? So I pass the floor to Ms. Bogdan for some announcements.

>> DOREEN BOGDAN: Thank you very much. And good morning, Ladies and Gentlemen. We will convene this afternoon at 1430 to take up our last agenda item which is the report of the Standing Committee which will be document 120. The English version should be posted very shortly. And we are trying to finalize the other languages but we expect that they will be available in all six languages before we reconvene at 1430.

Also, Madam Chair, if I could invite the Chairs of the Council Working Groups and their respective secretaries to join us as soon as we conclude this morning in room D as we will meet to finalize the scheduling of the two cluster meetings. Thank you, Madam Chair.

>> CHAIR: Thank you very much. And so we can resume in the afternoon. Bye‑bye.

(Session concluded at 10:09 a.m. CET)

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