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ITU PLENIPOTENTIARY CONFERENCE 2014

BUSAN, KOREA

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ROOM A

COMMITTEE 5 – SECOND MEETING

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>> ANNOUNCER: Ladies and gentlemen, the session will be starting shortly. Please be seated and put on your headset. Once again, the session will begin shortly. Please be seated and put on your headset. Thank you.

>> CHAIRMAN: Good afternoon and welcome to our second meeting of Committee 5. We are here in the largest room. I don't know if that's a compliment or a punishment. It's not so easy to work in such a big room when you want to be close in your work and in your dialogue, but we'll do our best. So we have an hour and a half of meeting time, and you all have before you, I think, document ADM/14, which is our agenda for this second meeting of the Committee.

So would you please consider this document, and decide whether you can agree to approve it. I see that nobody is asking for the floor, so Document ADM/14 is approved, and we will follow this agenda. So our main subject this afternoon is flight tracking, and we have several documents for our consideration, which are proposals from a number of different regions, and we will take these documents in turn, so I will ask the proposers to give us a brief presentation, and then we will discuss the proposals.

We'll start with IAP/34R1‑A1/6. This is a proposal from the CITEL region. I would request the delegate of that region to present this document and to take the floor.

Mexico, you have the floor.

>> MEXICO: Good afternoon, Chairman. I should like to introduce CITEL's position to the room on the question of global flight tracking. The determination of commercial aircraft and the reporting of this information to traffic control centers represents an important element of aviation safety and the safety of thousands of travelers. Recent events, unfortunate events, have spurred debate on the need to improve security for commercial aviation through using the most modern, the most recent, technology, which would cover the oceans and those areas where there is no terrestrial coverage.

This undoubtedly would be necessary, but I do not think that we should act only in reaction to unfortunate events. We want to ensure that these tools which would guarantee maximum safety be accessible to all as soon as possible.

In response to the call from the international community to have safer aeronautical systems, CITEL, in preparing Plenipotentiary 14, has prepared a regional proposal with a Draft New Resolution which could be submitted to WRC‑15, considering the spectrum needs for global flight tracking, and take the necessary steps, including the allocation of speck for safety and security, taking into account the systems which function according to recognized systems, the relevant studies should also be taken into account.

Mr. Chairman, the Arab Region and other regions have also drafted positions which are the principles which are contained in the CITEL's proposal, including the need to have a Resolution at Plenipotentiary 14 on this particular issue. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

>> CHAIRMAN: I thank the delegate of Mexico. Now we have another proposal, which is ACP/67A1/20 and 21, so would you please take up this document and I would request representative of the Asia Pacific region to present us these two proposals. Iran, representing the Asia Pacific region for this subject, could you please give us clarification on this proposal? You have the floor, Iran.

>> ISLAMIC REPUBLIC OF IRAN: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. In the name of Asia Pacific telecommunity APT I would like to present the proposal of APT. In this regard, Chairman, with your permission, we need just two or three minutes to discuss a little bit the background of the situation, but not to get into any sort of detail, which is outside the patience time of this Conference.

Chairman, currently, the issue of so‑called, or the issue of flight tracking, which is different from the safety of flight. The issue is to track where the airplane is in case of any difficulty, which may an extension also involve flight safety so this is not the issue to address. The issues that currently there are currently terrestrial and some satellites. The satellites which is complementary to the terrestrial, Chairman, covers most of the measure part or great part of the world, including oceans.

However, in some area of polar area and very removed access currently is not covered by satellites because there are geostation satellites. There are other techniques available today with the non‑jurisdictional satellites which could provide this complementary to the terrestrial having a tracking system in the polar and also very removed area.

This is just distinction that there are technology of satellite available today and is working. I do not refer to any name or any company.

Having said that, Mr. Chairman, the issue is the urgency of the matter. Everybody, Chairman, agree that issue is very important to everybody. We are very deeply concerned and sadness of us to what has happened to our distinguished colleagues and people of Malaysia that had this accident and so on, so forth. But I hope that would not happened, but nevertheless nobody could predict any probability so therefore we should prepare ourselves for that. So the issue of urgency of the matter is not a question. The issue is the modality, how to do that.

So we have to find a way whether in the Resolution or in another way. APT Common Proposal talking that there are provisions in the Convention, two provisions, 118 and 119. 119 is the provision left from 1947 Atlantic City International Telecommunication Convention, no change. However, in 1992, afterwards, in 1994 and after, they added another provision and that is 118, and that provision establishes how a Conference deal with the agenda items. I don't want to get to that detail now but I said that these are other provisions so two provisions should be looked at together, but not only one.

The most important issue, that Plenipotentiary Conference should not decide on something which contradicts with other provision of Plenipotentiary Conference so we should find a way between the two why we need to address the importance of the issuing. So what is that procedure that is important? Something that APT would like to mention is that it is not the duty or mandate of the Plenipotentiary Conference to go to the detailed instruction to the WRC so far to go to the allocation.

The Plenipotentiary Conference under 119 is mandating the WRC to the questions, so we have to raise the question and leave the matter to WRC to find the appropriate ways and means to address the questions. Mr. Chairman, not to go beyond the 3 minutes, I'll stop at this stage but I would provide further clarification of that. Thank you.

>> CHAIRMAN: I thank the Delegation of Iran for giving us the Asia Pacific region's view, and now we have another contribution which is in document 69A1/17. This is the African telecommunications Union's point of view and I would ask Nigeria to take the floor. You have the floor, Nigeria.

>> NIGERIA: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Since this is my first time of taking the floor I want to congratulate you on your appointment as the Chairman of Committee 5. Mr. Chairman, this is a new proposed Resolution on global flight tracking, and I am speaking on behalf of the entire Africa Continent.

The recent incident that took place where the Malaysian aircraft MH370 disappeared without trace has made us to propose this Resolution to this Plenipotentiary Conference. The Resolution is seeking to consider the spectrum requirements for global flight tracking and realtime flight data monitoring and take appropriate action including possible frequency allocations to satellite services used for safety of life aviation applications limited to systems that operate in accordance with recognized international aeronautical standards.

The Resolution is also seeking to direct the WRC‑15 to place this item on its agenda in accordance with CV119. And, Mr. Chairman, if you will permit me, I want to just read out the portion of this CV which states that this agenda shall include any question which the Plenipotentiary Conference has directed to be placed on the agenda so this particular Conference is competent to direct WRC‑15 to include this particular issue on its agenda.

Mr. Chairman, we actually know the concern of the international community which is evident from responses and comments received from interested parties. This Resolution has one basic objective, and the objective is to seek the next ‑‑ to ask the next WRC to look at the whole issue holistically. We are aware that there are existing systems that provide some level of tracking. The Resolution is not prescriptive. It's simply meant to send a strong message to the international community that the highest body of the ITU is concerned.

Whether or not WRC will allocate spectrum is not the business of the PP‑14 but a strong signal. So, Mr. Chairman, the African Continent is inviting Delegates to see this Resolution positively, and not prescriptive or directive to WRC.

Mr. Chairman, some portions of ‑‑ some regions in Africa, when aircrafts are flying across those regions, the pilots are left on their own. They depend mainly on the instruments that directs them. They have no communication link with any control tower, and so we feel that with this Resolution, it will go a long way in combating the issue of terrorism globally, because areas where flights are flying without any contact with control towers, anything can happen.

Terrorists can use that opportunity to strike. And so, Mr. Chairman, all that we are asking this Plenipotentiary Conference to do is to request WRC‑15 to place this issue on the agenda. What comes out of WRC‑15 is not the business of this particular Conference. The issue is that Plenipotentiary Conference 14 would have sent a strong and positive signal to the entire world that ITU is concerned.

Mr. Chairman, we know that it is the duty of ITU in accordance with Article 1 of ITU Constitution that the Union shall in particular promote the adoption of measures for ensuring the safety of life through the cooperation of telecommunications services. Mr. Chairman, this is an issue that has to do with a matter of life and death. This is an urgent issue, and we want to call on this Conference to look at it holistically and to look at it positively and consider this Resolution.

We are prepared to answer further questions or clarify issues where need be. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

>> CHAIRMAN: I thank the distinguished representative of Nigeria for that presentation and now I would move on to the next document, which comes from the Arab States. It is 79 Add 1/10, and I call upon a representative of the Arab States to introduce this text.

The United Arab Emirates, you have the floor.

>> UNITED ARAB EMIRATES: I would like to introduce the Arab document regarding the flight tracking of civil aircraft by satellite. Just so I don't take from the time of the Conference, I would like to go directly to the instructs part of the document, where the resolves to instruct the World Radiocommunication Conference 2015 to study this topic, giving its priority, and look into the current frequency spectrum allocations for aviation services relevant to this topic and any other requirements, and to take the necessary measures in this regard, taking into account the relevant provisions of the Constitution and Convention, instructs the Director of the Radiocommunication Bureau to transmit all materials, information and studies in the Union's possession on this topic to the WRC‑15.

And finally, to instruct the Secretary‑General to take the necessary steps to facilitate the implementation of this resolution, and to cooperate with the ICAO in this area. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

>> CHAIRMAN: I thank the United Arab Emirates for this brief and clear presentation. I now move on to the last document we have before us, which is the document from the CEPT. It's 80 Addendum 1/6. Would the CEPT kindly give us a presentation of this document. Germany, you have the floor.

>> GERMANY: Since I have for the first time taken the floor, my credit to you ‑‑ can you hear me? Okay. Then once again, Mr. Chairman, since I got the floor for the very first time at this meeting, I would like to provide my credit to you to your election of this Committee, and to the issue itself. I'm speaking on behalf of CPS and have the pleasure to be requested to introduce document 80, Addendum 6.

The document also deals with a new Resolution on international standards for realtime global flight tracking for safety of life aviation applications. The objective of this draft Resolution, Mr. Chairman, is to address the issue of realtime global flight tracking for safety of life aviation applications. The expected increase in the volume of air traffic and the rising risk of dangerous situations clearly demonstrated by this year calls for an urgent action, and our contribution calls upon the next WRC to basically consider the issue and take action if appropriate. However, Mr. Chairman, this Resolution is not intending to project any solution or decision which may be adopted at the upcoming WRC‑15 or subsequent World Radio Conferences, including frequency allocations, nor does it have specific references to services or systems envisaged to be used for these applications.

With regard to the objective, CEPT is of the view that any action on the World Radio Conference should be based on the satisfactory completion of technical studies which should be prioritized and completed in advance without undue delay. Again, Mr. Chairman, CEPT supports the development of a Resolution on the issue and seeks also support from the other regions of ITU. Thank you very much.

>> CHAIRMAN: I thank the Delegate of Germany. I will now give the floor to the Federation ‑‑ the Russian Federation which would also like to speak on this subject. Russian Federation, you have the floor.

>> RUSSIAN FEDERATION: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Since I, too, am speaking in your Committee for the first time, may I congratulate you on being appointed to lead us, and wish you all success in this work, whether we're given a big room, a small room, or a medium sized room.

As you noted, the RCC region hasn't proposed a Resolution on this issue, but I would like to note that in the RCC region, this has been discussed, and there was full support for the idea of safety and flight tracking being discussed at the Plenipotentiary, and a positive response was given to the situation as it stands today. We have very closely studied the proposals which have been tabled by other regional organizations, and I would like to note firstly that we share the understanding of the idea that the Plenipotentiary should not be dealing in the details of this subject. It should not be talking about specific bandwidth and specific frequencies.

As we noted in the ACP position, in the African position, and in the IAP position, too, and in this respect, I would like to note that on the other hand, we fully support the necessity of providing a very clear signal about flight safety and the fact that safety requires immediate action both from the ITU itself and also from other international organizations, including ICAO. Thank you very much, Sir.

>> CHAIRMAN: I thank the Delegation of Russia. After this, I would just like to state that we have heard of how urgent this matter is. All who spoke stressed that in the context of the very sad event which took place with Malaysian airlines recently. I think that we would all like to send a message to the next WRC, and many spoke of the need to have a Resolution on this issue.

Now, the issue of the content of this Resolution has President been fully unified. There are various divergent approaches to that content, but the majority seems to consider we shouldn't go into too great detail, that we shouldn't give too much detail to the WRC on the way in which it should proceed.

Most stressed that the Plenipotentiary should be sending a strong political message on the urgency of provisions being adopted on this subject. I would now like to open the discussion on the basis of the summing up which I have just given, and perhaps in that discussion, we can discern what would be the most appropriate way to move forward through a Resolution which would be addressed to the WRC.

So I will give the floor to the different Delegations who are asking for it, starting perhaps with an observer who has an important part to play in this discussion, ICAO, then Malaysia. So I will start by giving the floor to ICAO as an observer. You have the floor.

>> ICAO: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. ICAO, the international civil aviation organization, a specialized Agency of the United Nations like the ITU, is participating in an advisory capacity to this Conference. As laid out in ITU Convention Article 23, number 269D. We believe we have information that may be of interest to this Conference, and therefore take the liberty of sharing it with you.

Following the disappearance of Malaysian flight MH370, ICAO held a meeting on global flight tracking in May 2014 which involved the Member States of ICAO and Member States from industry. The ITU was also represented at the meeting.

One of the conclusions of the meeting was the states and ITU should be encouraged to take action at the earliest opportunity to provide the necessary spectrum allocations as emerging aviation needs are identified. This includes spectrum for satellite and radio services, used for safety of life aviation services. More specifically, for aircraft surveillance by satellite.

This is a technology that has significant advantages over other potential approaches to global aircraft tracking insofar as no new equipment is required on board aircraft, and the tracking service could be available as soon as appropriately equipped satellites are available.

The conclusion of the meeting was that ICAO would encourage ITU to place this issue on the agenda for the upcoming ITU World Radiocommunications Conference 2015, WRC‑15.

We are now extremely grateful to the membership of the Union seeing that the number of proposals to this Plenipotentiary Conference do address this very same issue, and propose that the issue should be placed on the agenda of WRC‑15.

It is, of course, not for ICAO to express views on the procedural aspects of the proposal. We recognize that those aspects are solely for the Union to deliberate on.

We would just like to reiterate the importance that the issue has for international civil aviation, and express our hope that as is often the case in human affairs, where there is a will, there is a way. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

>> CHAIRMAN: Thank you, representative of ICAO I now give the floor to Malaysia, and then Uganda. Malaysia, you have the floor.

>> MALAYSIA: Malaysia is very thankful for the proposals which have been put forward to this Conference in Committee 5. We also thank the RCC region for their support. What we would like to reiterate is our stand and position which is similar to what you have so eloquently summarized. We do not wish for any prescriptive Resolutions to be made to the WRC. Indeed, Malaysia's intention is for the dialogue to start in 2015, as we feel very strongly that we cannot wait until 2019 for this to start. We understand precisely that it will take time. There are technical details to be dealt with. We have to respect all forms of appropriate and relevant provisions which are contained in the Constitution of the ITU.

And as such, we just wanted to reassure you also that we stand firmly behind the APT and similar positions which have been pronounced already by our colleagues from other regions. Thank you very much again, and thank you, Chairman, for giving us the floor.

>> CHAIRMAN: Thank you, representative of Malaysia. I did have some other requests for the floor, which seem to have disappeared from my screen. Ah. I think Uganda was first, and then Kenya. Uganda, go ahead.

>> UGANDA: Thank you very much, Mr. Chairman. In line with African Common Proposal, Uganda supports the proposal to place the issue of global flight tracking on the agenda of WRC 2015 for its appropriate decision, including, if appropriate, carrying out further studies on the matter. I thank you.

>> CHAIRMAN: Thank you, Uganda. Kenya, and then Australia. Kenya, go ahead.

>> KENYA: Thank you very much, Chairman, and good afternoon to colleagues. Indeed, I want to thank you for the summary that you have made after the first round of interventions, that there's agreement on both the relevance and the urgency to agree on and craft some solution to the problem, and the challenge that the world community is facing. I think there's also understanding and agreement in line with the intervention that the Nigerian delegate made on behalf of the African countries, that this Plenipotentiary not necessarily be prescriptive, but needs to send a strong message to the WRC, another Treaty‑making body of the concern of the Plenipotentiary that action needs to be taken.

So the reason for taking the floor Kenya, Chairman, is to say that there a seems to us to be agreement on the principle that what we can probably then spend some time on is to craft a Resolution that will satisfy the needs of both regions. I see that there may be very slight variances in the Resolutions, but I think there's a common thread in them that we should be able to agree on fairly quickly.

Thank you very much, Chairman.

>> CHAIRMAN: Thank you, delegate from Nigeria. I do have a series of requests from the floor, and then I will close the list. On my list which I have scribbled down because the system isn't working terribly well, I have Australia, China, Vietnam, United Kingdom, India, New Zealand, and Iran.

And I see that Nigeria has asked for the floor again. So I will conclude with Nigeria. The list is closed. And I now give the floor to Australia.

>> AUSTRALIA: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. As this is the first time that Australia is speaking in your Committee, may I offer my congratulations to you and your Vice‑Chairs for your elections to positions in this Committee. Mr. Chairman as previous speakers have indicated Australia also supports consideration of this issue at the Plenipotentiary Conference, particularly given the gravity of the circumstances in which this issue was brought to our attention.

Australia does recognize that technical studies on this topic need to be mature prior to consideration of a possible spectrum allocation and/or regulatory considerations by the next WRC. We appreciate the comments made by Nigeria, Germany and also Malaysia that this Resolution from this Plenipotentiary Conference should not be prescriptive to the WRC as to the outcome, but that it should be a clear statement from this Conference as to the importance of the issue.

In terms of the form of the Resolution to be adopted, we particularly support the drafts that have been suggested by CITEL, the African group, and the CEPT. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

>> CHAIRMAN: Thank you. I now give the floor to China. China, you have the floor.

>> CHINA: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. As a signatory of the proposal made by CEPT, China fully supports the position expressed by the Iranian delegate on behalf of ACP. We also appreciate your summary made before the first round of intervention.

It's a very grave situation and problem. We also support this Plenipotentiary to express a very serious political will to address this issue. Although we have disagreement that we do not want to go into details which might be dealt with at WRC‑15. Yet I still want to make some points, because this is a very complex issue. Europe for example in WRC twice we use to discuss the new spectrum for the navigation system, satellite navigation system. Even if in the future the aviation monitoring system what requirements can the system have for the satellite network? How many satellite networks there will be, how to ensure the safety and what impact will be on the terrestrial system and what impact will be on the echo system, all this is very complicated.

Therefore, China supports that the PP could make some suggestions to the WRC. However, it cannot make any prejudgment in place of the WRC. Thank you.

>> CHAIRMAN: Thank you, China. The next speaker is Vietnam.

>> VIETNAM: Thank you, Mr. Chairman, ladies and gentlemen, sharing the understanding of the urgent matter while respecting the procedure to have a new Agenda Item, Vietnam would like to support the proposal from APT as well as proposals from CEPT and other regions to invite PP‑2014 to request the WRC‑2015 to consider the issue and take appropriate action for flight checking on exceptional basis and with those setting precedence. However I would like to get the Conference to consider the question that where it is global flight checking or global flight collecting for safety. This should concern to flight safety and we also support the proposal from the previous colleague that no detail and everything should be considered and discussed on WRC 2015.

I would like to write this question to Conference to further consideration. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

>> CHAIRMAN: Thank you, delegate of Vietnam. I now give the floor to the United Kingdom, followed by India. U.K.

>> UNITED KINGDOM: Thank you, Chair, and first of all, we'd like to congratulate you on your appointment. We look forward to working with you in the days ahead.

For the United Kingdom, this is a very important issue, and it's clearly one that needs to be studied properly, and those studies need to take place without delay. For us, the key issue is that the technical studies are completed properly, and these issues are, of course, for WRC. It is WRC which has the expertise to look into these, and take the proper decisions.

Because these are such important safety issues, for us it's important that decisions are taken on the basis of proper evidence by technical experts, and without undue political pressure. So for that reason, we strongly support the CEPT position and the positions that others have said that the Plenipotentiary Conference should ask WRC to look at this issue, but we should not pre‑judge any particular possible actions.

We've heard talk today about the urgency involved, and we understand the very strong feelings that are involved. And we agree there should be no delay to proper technical studies, but there is a danger, we believe, that if we rush decisions, if we make decisions in haste without proper evidence, there is a risk that we may take wrong decisions.

We note that there is a fair degree of consensus from a number of parts of the world and a number of speakers today, and we hope that we will be able to find consensus to raise this as an important issue for WRC to consider, but without undermining in any way the proper role of WRC, and the need for proper technical consideration of all the issues involved.

Thank you.

>> CHAIRMAN: Thank you, United Kingdom. I now give the floor to India, followed by New Zealand. India, you have the floor.

>> INDIA: Thank you, Chairman. Indeed the issue of human safety in the space is very important to all of us. We support the proposal made by Malaysia for placing the issue before the WRC for technical studies and if found necessary for human safety to allocate any spectrum.

These are the sentiments expressed by all the regions, and what our draft is agreeable to all the members, it will be agreeable as long as these sentiments are expressed in the Resolution. Thank you.

>> CHAIRMAN: Thank you, India. New Zealand, and then Iran. New Zealand, you have the floor the floor.

>> NEW ZEALAND: Thank you, Chairman. Good afternoon to you and to my colleagues in the room, and congratulations also on your appointment to Chair this Committee. We look forward to working with you over the next few weeks.

Mr. Chairman, there seems to be quite good consensus on the broad issues here. As I'm sure most administrations, most countries, know, New Zealand is a small country surrounded by a lot of water. As part of that, we have the second largest search and rescue area on the planet. We are comforted by the positive approach that nations are taking in relation to addressing this urgent and serious safety flight issue.

And on that basis, we fully support that the next World Radio Conference in 2015 should address the issue at that meeting. Thank you, Chair.

>> CHAIRMAN: Thank you, New Zealand. Iran, followed by Nigeria. Iran, you have the floor.

>> ISLAMIC REPUBLIC OF IRAN: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. As the Delegation of the Islamic Republic of Iran, we would like to appreciate and commend the distinguished Delegate of Malaysia that so eloquently and so wisely and presently made the statements which could be used as a framework to the strong message that we have to pass the WRC to take necessary, urgent, appropriate action in this regard. Thank you.

>> CHAIRMAN: Thank you. Our last speaker, Nigeria.

>> NIGERIA: Thank you, Mr. Chairman, and sorry for requesting the floor again. Having listened to contributions from Delegates, we decided to request for the floor just to maybe suggest a way forward on how we need to handle this issue in order to come up with an acceptable Resolution to all concerned.

Nigeria, on behalf of African countries, want to suggest that Mr. Chairman set up a small Drafting Group that will look into all the presentations, all the inputs, and harmonize them and come up with an acceptable resolution to all concerned, and this small Drafting Group will then report back to this particular Committee. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

>> CHAIRMAN: Thank you, Delegate of Nigeria. We have heard a number of speakers who have reiterated the urgency of sending a message to the WRC. There are still some differences of opinion as to the content of this message, and we have just heard a proposal for the establishment of a Drafting Group which would seek to achieve a consensus on the content of a Resolution which would be submitted to the WRC.

I'm not a particular fan of setting up little groups, but I think that in this particular case, it would be a useful exercise. I therefore propose that we establish a small Drafting Group open to all, of course, where much like the group established yesterday, we would inform you on the screens as to when that group will be meeting.

The group will look at the various proposals submitted, and will seek to make a consolidated proposal which achieves a consensus, and that by next Tuesday.

As to the leadership of such a group, I don't think we have agreement as to the individual who would be leading that group. I would propose that the regions consult today so that at the next meeting of Com 5 tomorrow, you would be in a position to propose a name on which all have agreed, all the regional representatives have agreed, and I think this would be a way to save time during this meeting of Com 5, so I would ask you to please get together as representatives of the regions and choose somebody who is agreeable to all of you as Chair of the group.

Nigeria, you have the floor.

>> NIGERIA: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Sorry for coming back again. I think before now a small group had already started working on the proposal, and this group was conveyed by Canada under the Chairmanship of I think it's Marc, so I don't know if he will agree to continue piloting the affair of this small group so that we know right from here who we will hold responsible for this particular small group. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

>> CHAIRMAN: Thank you. Kenya, you have the floor.

>> KENYA: Thank you very much, Chair, for allowing me to come onto the floor again. I just wanted a small variant to the proposal that you had made, which is more in line with what Nigeria has made, that just before we end at the end of this session, various Regional Groups, I mean proposals of the ‑‑ the proposals from various groups would walk to the table and then appoint a Chair amongst themselves and then they would start working straight away, instead of letting them consult and report back to us tomorrow.

Something between that and what Nigeria has proposed I think would make us work a bit faster. Thank you.

>> CHAIRMAN: Thank you. I think that we are thinking along the same lines. The idea is to find a Chairman as quickly as possible, a Chairman who would meet the approval of all concerned, and since there are a number of proposals from all of the regions, aside from the RCC who nevertheless has spoken on the issue, this is why I am suggesting that the regional representatives consult after this meeting and agree on a Chairman, and I will be delighted to learn who that Chairman will be.

Uganda?

>> UGANDA: Thank you, Chair. Chair, I had requested the floor to support the Nigerian proposal that Canada leads this group. I thank you, Chair.

>> CHAIRMAN: Thank you. Iran?

>> ISLAMIC REPUBLIC OF IRAN: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. We have no difficulty anyone that you decide as the Chairman to lead this group, but yesterday, Chairman, on other subject of a stable Constitution you had taken some good approach. Perhaps use the same approach today if you wish to consider that appropriate, and that was having a Chair from regions which have not have any proposal to this matter. Thank you.

>> CHAIRMAN: United Kingdom?

>> UNITED KINGDOM: Thank you, Chair. We'd just like to be clear about what your proposal is, and make a couple of observations. As I understand it, you're proposing to set up an Ad Hoc Group with support from the Secretariat, so that's just a question for clarification.

But we've noted during the discussion today that a very large number of Member States have intervened and have made points. There may have been a small group which has been discussing these issues up to now, but we are not sure that all of the countries who have an interest in this was involved in that small group, or even knew about it.

Secondly, we note that although there is a great deal of consensus, there are some quite specific drafting points which have been raised about whether our text should be technology neutral, whether it should talk about specific actions, whether it should talk about urgency, about particular technical studies and so forth. There are some quite complex issues here, and it would appear to us that it would be helpful if we could have a more formal approach where all countries were able to contribute and we were able to have some assistance in building consensus and finding a way forward so that's our observations and we'd be grateful for your clarification. Thank you.

>> CHAIRMAN: Thank you. Mexico, were you asking for the floor?

>> MEXICO: I would like to speak briefly. I simply wish to support the proposals of those Delegations who have spoken before me ‑‑ Nigeria and Uganda ‑‑ and I am speaking on behalf of CITEL in support of the Canadian administration, since one of their representatives should be Chairing this group. Thank you.

>> CHAIRMAN: Thank you, Mexico. A number of Delegations have proposed a Chairman, and if there's general support for that proposal, I should be delighted if that person Chair the Drafting Group, which with the assistance of the Secretariat would draft a Resolution. New Zealand, you have the floor.

>> NEW ZEALAND: Thank you, Chairman. Chairman, I'd like to seek clarification. Perhaps of the meeting through you or by you. Chairman, there were a significant number of interventions that were made earlier in support of a Resolution addressing this issue of global flight tracking.

To my mind and the position of New Zealand then would be that there is not a lot of major debate over the issues. There is perhaps some debate over some of the finer details that we might address. But the major issue is relatively straightforward, and has been well represented.

To that extent, Chairman, New Zealand is happy to support that these issues be addressed by a Drafting Group. The question then is whether we need to go into great detail in relation to how that Drafting Group is formed by this Committee.

And perhaps I would seek your clarification as to how that might occur. Thank you, Chair.

>> CHAIRMAN: I thank the delegate of New Zealand and I don't want to overcomplicate the situation. I think we've all understood that everybody would like to treat this proposal as an urgent matter, and to have a Resolution for this Plenipotentiary, so I don't think we should waste too much time on the details. I think we all agree that we will have a proposal for a Resolution based on the different approaches.

I don't think we need to rework a whole text. There are various things which a group could agree upon with a text that would refer to a request to the WRC to deal with this issue.

I have heard a certain number of speakers who proposed Mr. Marc Girourd of Canada. If you agree, because I heard that name offered several times, so I gather it has a certain amount of support, so I think if we could ask Mr. Girourd to lead that group and ask him to report back next Tuesday with a text, and that would take things forward, and I'd be very grateful to everybody if we can unite behind this idea. The Delegate of the Russian Federation, are you asking for the floor?

>> RUSSIAN FEDERATION: Thank you very much, Mr. Chairman. Yes, indeed, I was asking for the floor to speak but you have already done your summing up. So I was somewhat lost. The point is that we supported your first proposal, the proposal that we need consultations between the Regional Groups, since as you noted yourself there are at least three perhaps even four draft Resolutions from Regional Groups, and we didn't want to find that the discussion turned into a discussion of which draft from which regional organization would be the basis for our work. In preparing a text which is a correct response to the feeling in Committee 5 during the discussion on the issue.

As we see it, from the Resolutions which were tabled, the closest to the conclusions which we reached was the Resolution from the Europeans and perhaps from the Africans, so our view is that perhaps the Regional Groups should get together, they should discuss it, and they should choose a Chair for the group, rather than here engaging in a detailed discussion, which as we see it might be about to start. And instead of having a detailed discussion on the text of the Resolution here, that Drafting Group would be able to work on it, and that wouldn't drag out your work here in the Committee. Thank you, Sir.

>> CHAIRMAN: I thank the Delegate of Russia. We actually have five minutes left, and I would prefer us to leave the room with a decision on how we're going to work, because we've been discussing this Working Group for more than half an hour. I think that now we should take a decision if we want to work effectively, so I have three requests from the floor.

Ireland, U.K., Netherlands. I'll close the list, and I would ask us to take a decision. Ireland, you have the floor.

>> IRELAND: I wish to support your suggestion and the suggestion of others that Mr. Girourd from Canada would work forward on something to be done by next Tuesday. I think that's an excellent idea and that will be a quick decision that you've clearly got a logical straight forward way of thinking with this Committee. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

>> CHAIRMAN: Thank you. U.K.

>> UNITED KINGDOM: Thank you, Chair, and apologies for taking the floor once more. I will be brief. We've noted that during the discussion so far, there have been at least 15 Member States who have taken a view and contributed. And as we mentioned earlier, we are concerned that we need the proper structure for all Member States to be able to contribute.

We note, as wells that there may be other candidates for the Chairmanship, and so we would have agreed with your initial proposal that perhaps we need a little more time to have some consultations between regions, because we would like to make sure that we get this work off to the best possible start. We don't want to start with an approach which doesn't work, because it's not thought through carefully enough.

We would like to get off on the best possible foot, and perhaps a little more time for some regional consultations would be helpful in that regard. Thank you.

>> CHAIRMAN: Thank you to the United Kingdom. The Netherlands, you have the floor.

>> NETHERLANDS: The Netherlands was also very happy with the original proposal you made. As you said it was half an hour ago. I didn't count the time. But we were happy with this proposal that the regional organizations should get together and choose a Chairman, as was just also stated by the Russian Federation and the U.K., so we would like to support that. Thank you.

>> CHAIRMAN: Thank you. I think, then, as I understand it, and I'd like to add that if we have a Working Group, it needs to be able to work in peace and in a spirit of consensus. So I don't want to push the process in one direction or another. I think that as things stand in our discussion at the moment, I would prefer for that Drafting Group, which would be an open‑ended Drafting Group, I stress, that that group should be able to discuss until tomorrow to see if it has a proposal for who would Chair it, and I think for the sake of fairness, that should be a discussion between all those who spoke and all those who contributed to the issue.

So I would call upon all the different parties who have a view and who would like to offer a view on this issue and on who should preside to get together and bring us a proposal for a name to lead this Working Group. And I hope you will achieve unanimity which will allow us to move forward with proposals, proposals that would come back to us next Tuesday.

I will now adjourn the meeting, and we'll meet tomorrow. I hope you'll bring me a name, and I would be very grateful for that, because it can take us forward in our work.

Thank you. The meeting will continue at 4:00 p.m. with the Plenary, and for Committee 5, I'll see you tomorrow.

Thank you to everybody.

[ End of Committee 5 meeting ]

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