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EIGHTH MEETING OF COMMITTEE 6

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>> CHAIRMAN: Good morning, everyone. If you could take your seats, please. We are about to start our Eighth Meeting of Committee 6.

Good morning, everyone.

Now, first item is to approve our agenda, which is Document ADM/45. There is one change to the agenda which is Item Number 6, Support and Assistance for the Republic of Iraq to Rebuild Its Telecommunications sector. That has been postponed possibly until tomorrow. That's Document 79A1/9.

So I will begin this morning with the proposed revision to Resolution 58, Document DT/35. I ask Iran if they could introduce the document, please. Iran.

>> ISLAMIC REPUBLIC OF IRAN: Thank you, Madam Chair. Based on the discussions on your meeting we have implemented the comments received during the meeting and also offline discussions. And now the consolidated text is ready for consideration by your meeting. Thank you.

>> CHAIRMAN: Thank you, Mr. Darvishi. The floor is now open for any comments.

I see none. So we can -- Ahh, United Arab Emirates, please.

>> UNITED ARAB EMIRATES: Thank you, Madam Chair. Good morning to you all. Madam Chair, in as much as possible I would like to ask if the Honorable Delegate from Iran, could the Honorable Delegate of Iran simply read the text? Thinks a text, yes, we agree on this. We didn't take part in these consultations, that's true. If he can simply read this part of the text, that would be good. Thank you.

>> CHAIRMAN: Russian Federation, please.

>> RUSSIAN FEDERATION: Thank you, Madam Chair. We have had a close look at this document and in principle we are in favor of it. We can endorse it. But in the "decides" part it's difficult for us. Item 1, "resolves." Item 1, it's difficult for us to accept this. We are talking about ITU regional preparatory meetings. Well, as you know full well, this is not exactly the same thing, the ITU regional preparatory meetings. They are not quite the same. They are regional organizations working at the regional level.

For "resolves" 1, instead of saying for each one of the ITU Regions, we should be saying for each regional organization of telecommunications. In this way we would understand that here we are talking about proposing to the ITU Regions to continue their preparations. This is how we interpret the text, holding regional meetings in order to prepare the meetings.

This is the proposal we would like to submit to you, Madam Chair. Thank you.

>> CHAIRMAN: Just to confirm, Russia, that was "resolves" 1.

Sweden, please.

>> SWEDEN: Thank you, Madam Chair. Sweden would like to propose to maintain the "resolves" 1 as it is stated in Document DT/35. We believe that the change proposed by the Russian Federation may have unintended consequences, because on the previous page it is clearly indicated that we have 11 regional telecommunications organizations. It is in footnote 1 on that page.

And I think it is important to keep the preparatory meetings based on the Regions. I think the proposal of the Russian Federation changes the content as we thought it was agreed in the document. Thank you.

>> CHAIRMAN: In light of those comments I would like to ask Iran if they could have a further consultation with the Russian Federation, Sweden, and also with the UAE, so the UAE is fully across the changes that are proposed.

I know that coming from the APT Region, the intent behind the change to resolves 1 was to clarify something that was a little unclear in the original text. So Mr. Darvishi, if you could do that and then bring it back to the Committee. Thank you very much.

We now move on to consideration of Resolution 25, Strengthening the Regional Presence, which Mr. Canazza has been in charge of. I ask Mr. Canazza to comment on DT/15, Rev 2. Mr. Canazza.

>> ITU COUNCIL: Thank you. Yesterday in the presentation of Rev 1 of DT/15 there was a proposal from the Russian Federation and Saudi Arabia.

So the changes that were presented to the floor are in DT/15 Rev 2, "resolves" 3. I read the whole "resolves." It says: "Regional Offices play a key role in facilitating the discussions on regional matters and the dissemination of information and results of activities of all three sectors of the ITU, while avoiding the duplication of such functions with headquarters."

So hopefully these are the last changes that we will have for this draft amendment to Resolution 25. Thank you very much.

>> CHAIRMAN: Thank you, Mr. Canazza. With that I open the floor for any comments to the revision of the document.

I see none. So we can take this document as endorsed and send it on to Committee 4. I would like to thank you once again, Mr. Canazza, for all the work you have done in getting us to this point with this Resolution. So thank you very much.

The next point on the agenda is, I'll read a note by the Chairman of Committee 5 to me as Chairman of Committee 6. That is: "Please note that at its Sixth Meeting on 28 October 2014 Committee 5 reached the following conclusions by consensus: That no modification to the structure of, and hierarchy between, the Constitution and the Convention (as currently stipulated in the relevant parts of Article 4 of the Constitution.) and no amendment to any individual provision of the Constitution and Convention should be adopted at PP-14."

So Committee 5 has determined that there will be no changes to the Constitution and Convention at this Plenipotentiary Conference.

Now, that has consequences for a number of documents that have been submitted to Committee 6 from the Russian Federation relating to changes to the Constitution and the Convention and the procedure for fixing the magnitude of penalties applied to members in respect of overdue contributions and other dues payable to the ITU budget.

So in that case, the procedure would normally be for those documents to be withdrawn. So I would ask the Russian Federation whether they would be, whether that would be acceptable to them. Russian Federation.

>> RUSSIAN FEDERATION: Thank you, Madam Chair. We don't want to withdraw the documents entirely, but if you don't think it's possible to introduce the content of these documents right now, then we would ask about presenting them in a new format, if you don't like the current content, presenting them later when we would introduce the content of the documents. The idea without amendments to the Convention or Constitution. So we can do this; we can keep the spirit of our contribution in the decision. So we could put this off until later discussions in our group.

>> CHAIRMAN: I'll ask Mr. Ba to respond, Russian Federation.

>> SECRETARY OF COM 6: Thank you. Thank you, Madam Chair. Good morning to you all. We take note of the intervention just made by the Russian Federation, but as Madam Chair indicated and also with regard to the note we received from Committee 5, it will be difficult for us to make any modifications, any changes to the various articles pertaining to the Constitution, especially Articles 10, 28, and 33. We take note of what Committee 5 voiced regarding the difficulties arising from making any modifications. If the Russian Federation nonetheless would like to voice some proposals via a DT, then we could consult with our Legal Counsel to ask for information regarding the legality of such an approach.

That is information I wish to share with you right now, Madam Chair. Thank you.

>> CHAIRMAN: Thank you, Russian Federation. So we will ask Mr. Ba to do that, to take advice from the Legal Counsel. We will come back to you with that advice.

Mali, please.

>> MALI: Thank you, Madam Chair. Good morning to you all. I wished to speak in the same direction in a like fashion. I would like for us to consult with our Legal Counsel to see whether or not the Russian Federation could accept to have their proposal put forward and have that to go on the record. I know in Committee 5 there were proposals for modification on the part of the African Group as well. These were submitted.

So Mali would like to propose at this time that once we have consulted Legal Counsel, we ask whether or not we can simply limit ourselves to the submission of a document and have this to go into the record, into the minutes. Thank you.

>> CHAIRMAN: Thank you very much, Mali. So that said, we will come back to the Russian Federation and advise Committee 6 of the outcome of that discussion.

We now move on to item 5 on our Agenda, which is a statement by the ITU Staff Council. So I invite Mr. Makrem to present that to us. Mr. Makrem, please.

>> STAFF COUNCIL: Thank you, Madam Chair, for giving me the floor. Madam Chair, ladies and gentlemen, the Delegates, dear colleagues. On behalf of the Staff Council personnel and staff of the Union, I would like to thank you for giving me the opportunity to address this Assembly. First and foremost, I would like to congratulate the new team that will be taking its functions very soon and also like to thank the Secretary-General, Dr. Touré, for all the work that he's carried out in order to spur dialogue in recent years.

As the Director of the BDT and Secretary-General, Dr. Touré has made it possible for the Union to strengthen its leading position in the arena of telecommunications. The staff is committing itself to work with the new elected officials in order to reach the objectives of the Union. We would like to say nonetheless it is a daunting task we have ahead of us. As was stated during the Council Session in 2014, the Staff Council is motivated to be a constructive and strategic partner of the administration in order to arrive at solutions to the challenges raised by the current situation of the Union. The ITU staff find themselves in a very delicate position. The work that has been carried out has been very constructive. We still have a lot of ground to cover. The will of the ITU and its members to continue offering the same services and accomplishing the same activities with resources that are shrinking will have an impact on staff members going forward.

The personnel, the staff of the Union are aware of the efforts that are required to make sure that every single Swiss franc that is available be managed in a very effective way. We will have to have rationalization of resources. Some measures have been put in place and they have a direct impact on staff members. The staff members of the Union stand ready to take part in the collective effort.

Nonetheless, we are concerned because we see a strong trend in the total number of the staff members in the employ of the Union. We draw your attention to the fact that between now and 2020 some 140 staff members will be retiring. In accordance with the calculations, more than 25 percent of these posts will not be replaced. That's why we think a progressive replacement plan for the staff members must be implemented. Also there will have to be training and mobility measures as well within the organization.

This will make it possible for us to have continuity in our activity and continue the service of the Union. We must motivate, at the same time motivate the staff members towards professional progression. We would like to congratulate and commend the administration that took changes to the process to increase the numbers of posts to be filled from within.

This is an arduous task but we are convinced we can do even better. We must plan against a backdrop where it is increasingly necessary to optimize resources, be they financial or human. There has to be increased productivity in order to support ITU. Competencies of our officials must be commensurate with our Union's needs. We call upon the administration of the ITU to promote two projects. First and foremost, to establish for each staff member respectively of their level, of their rank.

So as I was saying, irrespective of their grade, to have a career plan that is put in place for each and every staff member.

Secondly, in order to support the career plan, there will have to be tools to make it possible for our administration to manage in an effective way the progression of the staff members and their promotion. There are some very good examples that could be spread, encouraging mobility as well. So there can be movement of different staff members between departments. We would like to require that staff members also have retraining. This is the second major thrust. Adequate training of the staff members, of course, is necessary to reach our objective when it comes to optimization of resources that was aforementioned.

Also it is a major step when it comes to a realistic career plan. We believe firmly these two projects will have a positive effect on the staff members and also indirectly on the functioning of our organization as well.

Honorable Delegates, it is on these two items that we hope to have your support. It is high time that ITU now have a true plan for human resource planning, and the success of the ITU hinges on the investment in our staff members. They work hard to further the endeavors of the Union. I would like to reiterate two requests already voiced by ITU members in the past. Revision of the selection process after the publication of a vacancy, especially in the final phase of selection, so the revision of the selection process which in its current phase does not take this into account.

To finish up, I would like to recall the staff is a driving force of the ITU. I would like to support, underscore the importance of our staff of Resolution 48. We hope this will come into force through a career planning management system, modernization of the assessment system as well, and improvement of the selection process and also the implementation of different administrative and informatic members on behalf of the ITU and all staff members I thank you for your kind attention. We count on you for your support. The staff representatives will be available throughout the conference to address any questions you may have.

Thank you very much indeed.

>> CHAIRMAN: Thank you very much, Mr. Makrem. I now open the floor for any comments.

Mali, please.

>> MALI: Thank you, Madam Chair. I would like to also thank the representative of the Staff Council. For a number of years we have seen that there has been improvement in the relations between the ITU, ITU's management, and the Staff Council, and the statement that we just heard is in keeping with this trend that we have observed.

What is encouraging is that we see that in this statement, the statement outlined a number of ways forward, some food for thought when it comes to career management, career plans, and staff assessment.

And career progression, training, retraining. These are tools that are very important when it comes to human resource management. So we want to have optimum use of such tools. I do say optimum. That's very important. Such optimum use should make it possible for us to progress on a number of different fronts.

But we also have to be mindful of the budget restrictions. This is the message that must be understood. There's another aspect as well that we must look at. It is also necessary for the Staff Council to commit itself to mobilize all of its members so that they work in a symbiotic relationship with the new management staff of the ITU. This is very important.

We want to make sure that this sound atmosphere of cooperation that has taken root be maintained going forward as well. It is our hope that this continues to be the case with the new management team now. Thank you.

>> CHAIRMAN: Thank you, Mali. And thank you again, Mr. Makrem.

Now, as previously mentioned, our Agenda Item 6 has now been postponed. So we can move on to what was then Agenda Item 7, the Draft Financial Plan for the Union for 2016 to 2019. We have two regional proposals on Decision 5 and we have one regional proposal on Annex 2 to Decision 5 on measures for reducing expenditures.

So if I could ask a representative from the APT to introduce their document on Decision 5, which is ACP/67A1/7. APT, please.

Iran, please.

>> ISLAMIC REPUBLIC OF IRAN: Thank you, Madam Chair. On behalf of APT I have the pleasure to introduce Document ACP/67A1/7.

On revision to Decision 5 and also its Annex 2. APT members propose to change the title as revenues and expenses for the period 2016 to 2019. The essential revisions are related to the identification of additional measures toward reducing expenses, as mentioned in parts, "instructs the Secretary-General." It is ADD Number 3, to make every effort to achieve balanced biennial budgets and to bring to the attention of the membership through the Council Working Group HHR and the decisions that may have financial impact likely to affect the achievement of such a balance.

Also under the section "instructs the Council," we added two new numbers, Number 7 in considering measures that could be adopted to strengthen the control of the finances of the Union to take into account the financial impact of such issues as ASHI funding and the medium to long-term maintenance and/or replacement of buildings at the premises of the Union.

Also in Item 8, to invite the External Auditor, the IMAC, and Council Working Group on Financial and Human Resources to develop recommendations on the strengthening financial control mechanisms in ITU, outlining specific objectives as well as timelines and responsibilities for implementation, for consideration of Council, taking into account inter alia the issues identified in "instructs the Council" 7 above.

Also in Annex 2 to Decision 5, there are some measures for reducing expenditures as mentioned in Item 1 bis and other items to integration, termination of Council Working Groups.

And also there are some proposals for reduction and/or elimination of travel to meetings, that proceedings of each are webcasted and captioned, including remote presentation of documents and contributions to these meetings; and careful consideration of the agenda of WRC, to reduce to the extent possible the activities between the two WRCs. Also there are some more additional measures under item 20 for consideration by your meeting. Thank you, Madam Chair.

>> CHAIRMAN: Thank you very much, Iran. If I could ask a representative from CITEL to introduce Document 34R1-A1/10, and possibly A1/11 together. CITEL, please.

Brazil.

>> BRAZIL: Thank you, Madam Chair. On behalf of the Member States of CITEL, presenting Inter-American proposal 10 which is presented in Document 34R1-A1. Basically, this proposal is endorsing the outcomes of the Council Working Group on financial resources. As the colleague from the APT has read, we have a proposal on "instructs the Secretary-General," 3: To make every effort to achieve balanced biennial budgets, and to bring to the attention of the membership through the Council Working Group of Financial and Human Resources any of its decisions that may have financial impact likely to affect the achievement of such a balance. In light of the discussions we had today this is a very important new "instructs the Secretary-General."

And we have two new paragraphs in "instructs the Council." The first one, considers the ASHI and replacement of the buildings. Here we are specifically speaking to Varembé and Montbrillant in the tower. And a new paragraph that advices the CWG-FHR to ensure greater financial control of the Union, taking into account the issues that they find in "instructs" 7, which are ASHI and the renovation of buildings.

The second Inter-American proposal deals with measures for reducing expenditure.

Now, I would like to personally as Brazil first thank the APT for presenting their proposals on this Annex. I see that they enjoyed the Brazilian proposal that was presented this year. They actually improved it. Thank you very much. We are together working on this issue.

But the Inter-American proposal goes a little bit further than the Brazilian proposal that was presented to counsel. So in here we are presenting several measures for reducing expenditure which we think are essential for increasing the efficiency of the Union and reducing expenditures.

So the first one asks that the Union avoid to the maximum extent possible duplication and overlap of functions. In order to avoid inefficiencies and gain from a specialized workforce.

Secondly, we should be having coordination and harmonization of all seminars and workshops by a centralized intersectional task force. Third one asks for full involvement of planning and organization of meetings, conferences, every event held outside of Geneva.

Following that, we ask that the organization of co-location meetings with regional organizations be emphasized in order to share the costs and gain from the synergy between the ITU and regional organizations.

We ask also for avoidance of hiring replacement for staff that retires. In order to progressively reduce the number of staff of ITU and to reach optimal levels of productivity, efficiency, and effectiveness.

We ask also for prioritization of staff redeployment for the implementation of new or additional activities. New hirings should be the last option.

To help improve the mobility of staff of current staff, we ask that the capacity building be upgraded so staff have multi-sector proficiency. So it will not be necessary to hire new staff if it is possible to redeploy capacity building programs would enable the staff to be redeployed and move in between sectors.

We also ask for the reduction in cost of documentation by conducting completely paperless events, meetings, conferences, and fostering the adoption of ICTs as viable and more sustainable substitutes for paper.

After all, we are here at the U.N. agency for telecommunications and ICT. So I think we should encourage to the maximum extent possible the utilization of these tools.

Following, we ask that we start a program of making the ITU a completely paperless organization. And I know this is a proposal that has to be taken step-by-step. It will be very helpful if we had feedback from the Secretariat on how it can be achieved.

Then we ask for the evaluation of alternative translation procedures that could reduce the costs of translations. But we emphasize that the current quality should be maintained or improved. For this we have also discussions in Resolution 154, and they are finished. And they also ask for this alternative translation procedures to be reported to Council.

We also ask for reevaluation of regional Study Groups on whether their competencies in terms of reference are duplicated or overlap with existing Working Groups and co-meetings of the six regional organizations. Here I would like to tell you that we have a lot of overlaps in between the ITU-T regional Study Groups and the work that we perform at CITEL. So this should be reevaluated. If there is overlap, we should find ways to eliminate this overlap.

We should also prioritize the allocation of staff from the regional and area offices to avoid unnecessary travel from Geneva to regional events in the Regions. Also we propose a few new travel policies, such as 30-day notice, traveling business class only according to some criteria like above a certain category of employment or above a certain age and according to the hours of travel. So Mr. Ba yesterday reported to us that they have an 11-hour policy, but we need more detail on that. What is comprising this 11 hours? Is it the whole trip? Only flying time? It would be useful to know that.

Also we ask that we improve and prioritize internal working methods in order to reduce travel to and from Regional Offices to Geneva. So if the Regional Offices have excellent electronic working methods and meeting rooms that have electronic capabilities, perhaps we could reduce the need to travel to and from Geneva.

Finally, we ask that the ITU discontinue permanently present communications by fax and traditional postal mail between the Union and Member States, and replace them with modern electronic communication methods. This is to increase the use of ICTs instead of outdated communication methods.

So sorry for taking so long, but I wanted to be thorough because in light of what we have been discussing it is important that we implement every efficiency gaining measure that we can. Thank you very much.

>> CHAIRMAN: Thank you, Brazil. I will now open the floor for any comments on the proposals. Canada, please.

>> CANADA: Yes, thank you, Madam Chairman. And good morning, everyone. Madam Chairman, of course as a member of the CITEL group we support these measures that have been identified and presented by Mr. Canazza of Brazil. I do believe, however, that it is very important that the membership provide feedback on the measures that are being put forward. The first opportunity will be the February meeting of the Council Working Group on Financial and Human Resources. This will provide an opportunity for both the membership and the Secretariat to provide some comments on these various measures that are being identified in this contribution. Indeed, in the contribution from the APT.

I do believe it is very important that these measures be implemented as soon as possible, but it would be equally important that the membership provide comments on each and every one of these proposals.

So Madam Chairman, as the Chairman of the Council Working Group on Financial and Human Resources, I would appeal to the membership to provide comments as soon as possible so that these measures can be implemented at the earliest opportunity.

Thank you.

>> CHAIRMAN: Thank you, Canada. Spain, please.

>> SPAIN: Thank you, Madam Chair. Good morning to you all. We would like to begin first and foremost by thanking the Regions for the proposals that have been voiced. Generally speaking we share these positions. It is our belief that this is the necessary discussion, necessary debate that must be entertained regarding the way in which you can identify new measures for savings and efficiency. This is something we see in all international organizations, in fact, even more so here at ITU given the delicate financial straits we find ourselves in. We have to be diligent when it comes to looking for possible opportunities, more opportunities to save, to cut our overhead. But also when it comes to setting forth priorities in the activities we engage in.

I would like, if I may, to make a contribution looking at some possible savings. I would like to say that as an example, I mention some examples that have been applied in other organizations. Many of these also are being looked at in the proposals from the two Regional Groups. Notwithstanding that, I would nonetheless like to mention them, single them out.

First of all, an additional effort to avoid duplication, overlap as much as possible, avoid meetings or sustainable increase because very often what we see is a trend to meet as much as possible, but meeting doesn't always mean heightened results.

Now, when it comes to staff, there is a measure which would not be all that painful. That is to say, to try to make sure that when somebody goes into retirement, reduce the level of qualification of classification of the post as time goes by. And another measure, it won't be simple but at the same time it could be very interesting and bear fruit. Not only reducing the amount of travel, the number of trips to what is strictly necessary, but also try to cut down the number of people who travel, the number of staff members. This often can generate a sizable reduction as well.

Also when it comes to printing publications, as Brazil mentioned on behalf of the Americas, not only seeking to print the least amount possible, but those publications that can be available on the website should be put up there on the website. That would make it possible to cut down on publication, on printing costs. Most of our Delegations, I'm sure, read on the Internet. We don't always read them when we receive them in hard copy.

Something else that international organizations have worked with and which has borne fruit and I'm sure can work here is actually the number of printing companies. For example, that there be one printing company -- these are printers, computer printers. Not necessarily having to have one in each office. Also something else when we look at regional presence, for example, there can be very effective regional presence through cord nation when it comes to the rendering of common services. But also we have to look at the and have review of what happens in the headquarters but also what happens out in the Regions as well. This is to generate some ideas. I would like to underscore something else that is very important. This is not only the responsibility of the Member States. It is a responsibility to be borne by one and all.

It is the Secretariat that is best placed to help us identifying additional cost saving measures. It is the Secretariat that is best placed to help us identify and prioritize activities. Member States don't always dispose information as necessary. Often we are not able to reach agreement. But with the Secretariat, they have a very important role. The Secretariat should not have a passive role in this. The Secretariat should be exercising its functions in order to help the Member States, help the ITU to explore, to blaze a trail here and so that we can arrive at very good results. Thank you.

>> CHAIRMAN: Thank you, Spain. Mali, please.

>> MALI: Thank you, Madam Chair. We would like to thank the regional organizations for presenting these two documents. They contain indeed very useful information. We hope that this will allow us to establish a financial plan that will be in line with everyone's wishes subsequent to the discussion that we had yesterday afternoon.

Generally, first, it is our view that there are a number of measures contained in the document. Perhaps we can get more information on this. I think the Secretariat may be able to tell us, for example, which measures have already been put in place. One should avoid giving the impression that all of these measures may be new. So I would really like to have some information on this from the Secretariat about what really is going on in terms of cost reduction measures. That's one thing.

The second thing now, if you want to get down to the nitty-gritty, there are some things I would require a clarification on, especially in 67-A1 and "decides" 3, "instructs the Secretary-General." To do everything that is possible to achieve balanced budgets and bring to the attention of the membership through the Council Working Group on Financial and Human Resources any decision that may have financial impact.

Now, the word "decisions" here, if we don't have any clarification it really gives one the impression that it might be any decision whatsoever. I think that we need to frame this more carefully. We have to tell the Secretary-General what sorts of decisions this really refers to. So once again we need to clearly define the word "decisions."

In the same document when we look at "instructs the Council," under Item 7, 1 talks about the buildings of the Union and maintaining them over the medium and long-term. We heard yesterday during the Committee 6 meeting that replacing the buildings will be less costly than maintaining the current set of buildings. I'm wondering if this aspect was taken into account when one added Item 7 here.

One other question I have concerns Item 8, once again under "instructs the Council."

At the end of this sentence, given the delays, one should take into account the items identified under 7 above. We want to know whose responsibility this is. For example, is it the responsibility of IMAC or is it the responsibility of the Council Working Group? If I'm not mistaken, IMAC was put in place to help the Union. I'm wondering if this item in particular is the responsibility of the External Auditors. So that's yet another question that we have. In this particular case we are looking at the issue of responsibility.

Let me dwell on cost reduction measures. This is Item 2, if I'm not mistaken. Also Item 4. At the end of Item 2, I read, we talk about full integration so that they become seminars. The speaker didn't reference the document. Number 4, we are talking about nonessential services of the Bureaux. I'm wondering what one means by nonessential or nonsensitive under Item 4.

I'll stop there. But to conclude, I think that there will be or should be a small group that will work on these items. Maybe it's really the responsibility of the Ad Hoc Group that was established yesterday. The Ad Hoc Group may be looking at all of the cost reduction measures. Now, the question is to me, what is Committee 6 going to do at this stage of the game if this Ad Hoc Group has already been established? Thank you.

>> CHAIRMAN: Thank you, Mali. U.K., please.

>> UNITED KINGDOM: Thank you, Madam Chairman, and good morning, colleagues. We wanted to take the microphone to thank the Regions for these proposals and to express our support for the concepts in them.

This kind of effort is particularly important, more important now than ever, we would argue. We particularly but not exclusively commend those proposals that look at avoiding duplication. In this way we may continue the range of activities in the Union but reduce replication and therefore avoid increasing our costs unnecessarily. We believe that this is something that the Strategic Plan aims to do, and the two concepts should work closely together.

We would also welcome, as set out by Brazil yesterday, an idea -- I say idea rather than exact figure. We appreciate that would be very figure -- of what sort of impacts these measures could have on the financial situation of the Union. We would like to take the opportunity to reiterate the comment made by Spain, and call on the Secretariat and staff who know the Union's workings more intimately than perhaps some of us do to help us continue to identify opportunities to create efficiencies and cost saving measures. Thank you.

>> CHAIRMAN: Thank you, U.K. Sweden, please.

>> SWEDEN: Thank you, Madam Chair. First of all, we would like to thank the APT and APC for their proposals. After the previous speakers, I think I have a quite easy task. We fully share the views shared by Spain and the U.K. We only would like to highlight a few issues. One is what was also mentioned by the U.K. that the Member States may give some advice on savings, but we believe that the detailed decisions should be taken by the management of the Union in order to fulfill decisions on the budget by the Council.

The management should be responsible for taking the correct and necessary steps to save within the limits set by the Council. We do not believe in micromanagement. It would not be for the Council to say exactly what to say to make the right decisions and be responsible for the Plenipotentiary for the decisions.

We believe that the new management is capable to do that. We know the management. We have full trust in them and we know they are capable of taking the right decisions in order to ensure that the Union will continue to be run efficiently but with the necessary savings, taking into account the existing situation in the Member States and in the Union's budget.

Thank you very much.

>> CHAIRMAN: Thank you, Sweden. United Arab Emirates, please.

>> UNITED ARAB EMIRATES: Thank you very much, Mrs. Chair. I would like at the outset to thank the Asia-Pacific and CITEL for the proposals made.

Mrs. Chair, there are a certain number of issues I would like to raise with regard to the staff. The staff represent the ITU and, therefore, we have to take care of the staff and take care of the important tasks that they are accomplishing. We should ensure that there is no lessening in the quality of the staff's work.

Secondly, Mrs. Chair, with regard to the measures that have been taken at the ITU-T during the past four years, some measures have been taken with regard to the ITU-T. These were taken by the Director of the ITU-T because the financial resources at the ITU-T were quite limited. And we believe that these measures should not just be implemented in one sector, but there has to be equity between the different sectors and equity between all staff members of the ITU.

With regard to the Regional Offices and increasing their role and coordination in work, we all know that Regional Offices have a limited number of staff and the activities that have been implemented by these Regional Offices are great. And we have to consider that we should provide the necessary resources for Regional Offices and also ensure there are sufficient staff in such Regional Offices.

As for translation, we also concur in the importance of finding other means to find alternative translations because the current costs of translation are very high. And the translation of one single page to the other five languages costs the ITU 800 Swiss francs. And, therefore, we have to find other mechanisms with regard to translation. And finally, many of these measures are already implemented and, therefore, these measures have to be well studied. Many of them have already been implemented during the past four years, whether at the level of one sector or at the level of the ITU as a whole.

Thank you, Mrs. Chairperson.

>> CHAIRMAN: Thank you, UAE. Saudi Arabia, please.

>> SAUDI ARABIA: Thank you, Mrs. Chairperson. And good morning to you all. We thank the countries of Asia-Pacific and CITEL for presenting their proposals. I have a number of questions with regard to the proposal made by the Asia-Pacific and with regard to the second Annex in "resolves" 5.

In paragraph 20 bis, we have to take into consideration the agenda of the WRCs to the maximum in order to reduce the issues related to the WRCs and between two ITU WRCs. We have a question here. What are the criteria that will be looked into in order to ensure such respect? And do we mean by this that the agenda of the WRC should lead to a reduction of the agenda to a maximum so that we can reduce costs during the preparatory meeting of the conference. We are all aware that the Agenda of the WRC is usually formulated and prepared based on the needs of the membership at the ITU in order to disseminate technology, whether regionally or internationally. Therefore, we would like to have a bit more clarification with regard to this paragraph.

Thank you, Mrs. Chairperson.

>> CHAIRMAN: Thank you, Saudi Arabia. United States, please.

>> UNITED STATES: Good morning, Madam Chair. We support the CITEL proposal but want to include one clarification regarding the need to go paperless. It has to include some exceptions for people with disabilities consistent with Resolution 75. I take the inspiration from Spain to suggest further measures. Something that I observed here was because of the timing of the Plenipotentiary and the Council, the report of the External Auditor wasn't completed in time to be discussed at Council. It had to be discussed at a special section previous to PP. It seemed to me it was rather expensive to have the External Auditor flown here for just one day for a five-minute presentation. I think this provides a great example of how in the new 2014, to improve the working methods of using electronic, maybe like webcasting where in some cases we can prepare questions ahead of time and maybe have particular speakers come via webcast.

I will take the opportunity that the Bureaux Directors are here, as mentioned by other speakers. The Member States only can offer general guidelines for efficiency measures. And many of us would love to hear if there are any bureau-specific efficiency measures that can be included for consideration. Thank you.

>> CHAIRMAN: Thank you, U.S. Germany, please.

>> GERMANY: Thank you very much, Madam Chairman. Germany, as some others before, also welcomes the contribution from APT and CITEL as well. So there are a lot of useful and helpful measures within these contributions which needs to be considered in further discussion. Germany will support this as well. When it comes to one point, we have some doubt that, for example, which was just mentioned in the CITEL contribution, discontinue permanently permanent communication by fax as well as traditional postal mail. We fear that could be not done for all. The postal mail, which has been an institutional part, could not be replaced by modern electronic communication methods, if it may be an addition, okay, we can leave that. For example, when it comes to invoice or content with legal background, we are quite convinced that we should except here further traditional postal mail.

Thank you very much.

>> CHAIRMAN: Thank you, Germany. Russian Federation, please.

>> RUSSIAN FEDERATION: Thank you, Madam Chair. Good morning, everyone. We are also grateful for the proposals on improving the efficiency of the Union. Overall, we support the measures proposed. I think they have been mentioned before in the group on financial and human resources, and indeed at the Council.

So given the problem of balancing the budget, we would propose considering the possibility of including in the PP these measures under Decision 5. We understand that the financial evaluation and the consequences of these measures could only be considered after a certain period of time. We won't see the effects immediately. And given these measures, we should use this platform for harmonizing our views on the budget and for presenting the possibilities of removing these items from the reserve account.

So this is a way that we could improve the efficiency of the Union by these measures. And the list of these measures could be discussed, with the objective of balancing the budget.

We think that this platform will be useful. And we should link these issues to that discussion.

>> CHAIRMAN: Thank you, Russian Federation. I'll now give the floor to Mr. Ba to respond to some of the questions.

>> SECRETARY OF COM 6: Thank you, Madam Chair. I would like to thank ACT and CITEL for their proposals. I would like to voice some comments in the wake of these proposals.

I would like to talk about some of the measures which the administration already put in place. As I said yesterday, as of 1 January 2014, there have been a number of measures put in place regarding travel. At the same time, I will be addressing the question raised by Brazil. Brazil wanted to know, talking about this 11-hour period. Does that also mean waiting time? Yes, the 11 hours do include waiting time but that is limited to a maximum of two hours. If an official has to remain four hours somewhere for a stopover, that only counts as two hours. Those are added to nine hours in the plane. Well, that's 11 hours. If they have to stay say four hours waiting, he would not be entitled to business class.

Also the daily subsistence allowances not in place with time spent on the plane. That has been in force as of 1 January 2014. Something else that we set up is the systematic use of e-mail. I'm sure that you've seen that the final choice of the class of contribution was made through e-mail and not by fax, not via fax.

There were some 11 countries where e-mail didn't work. So we had to use faxes, but the other 193 countries received the letter from the Secretary-General for the final selection via e-mail.

Also we put in place a paperless policy. As I like to say, paperless doesn't mean no paper whatsoever. I'm sure you've also seen each Delegate receives only two sets of documents. These are cost saving measures.

Within the framework of the preparation of our financial plan, what we did was to reduce the use of ITU News. We have sought to digitize the publication of this periodical. The periodical, ITU News.

Regarding printers, now printers, photo copy machines are used for making photocopies, but also printing as well. In this way we can generate some savings, cost cutting.

Now, Mali has called for a little bit more information under Item 3 of the CITEL document, if I'm not mistaken. Yes, this information, this is something we wanted to make available on the "resolves" 5. Last time we encountered some problem in WRG2015 was not in the 2012-2015 plan. There were long winded discussions in 2013 regarding the funding of the WRC and we asked for some 4 million to be taken from the reserve fund. In so far as that conference had not actually been put on the screen. We want to avoid such problems. So that's the reason why we decided, well, if there was some conference activity that was not planned and the organization was called upon to organize it, then the Member States will have to tell us how the activity or the conference in question should be funded.

Now, regarding paragraph 8 of the same document, these are the review bodies within the ITU. We have the External Auditor, and IMAC as well. That is a body which is there to help the management team in the administration of our limited resources.

Regarding other requests for clarification. Yes, there are a number of proposals better placed to provide clarification than I would be, with regard to some of the concerns raised by Mali. Those are the various items I want to clarify.

Furthermore with the Working Group that was set up yesterday, yesterday for the drafting of the financial plan, we will be able to review those two or three proposals that were made here. Then we can come back to you with a document, consolidated document and so hopefully for 2016-2019 our financial plan will be balanced.

Since I have the floor, I want to say that we have a meeting slated as of half past 2 in Room E for those interested. We will be debating the financial plan and also Decision 5 and the various Annexes there to. Thank you, Madam Chair.

>> CHAIRMAN: Thank you, Mr. Ba. I will give the floor to Mr. Johnson, the Deputy Secretary-General elect and currently Director of TSB. Mr. Johnson.

>> DIRECTOR OF TSB: Thank you very much, Madam Chairman, good morning, everybody else. On behalf of the Secretary-General I would like to thank CITEL and APT for their proposals that they've submitted on cost saving measures. And I would just like to say that the Secretariat, of course, has made every effort to look at ways we can reduce costs. We will continue to do so. Looking at the proposals, I believe many of them have been implemented, or at least are in the process of being implemented to some extent. And perhaps there are some additional ones as was mentioned that we have implemented that are not listed here, and so could be listed.

For example, on the need to avoid duplication of events organized by the difference sectors, immediately after the last Plenipotentiary Conference the three Directors did agree to establish a task force on events and workshops to make sure that there was no duplication that the Bureaux were not organizing independently workshops and events, but that it was coordinated across the three Bureaux and, of course, the General Secretariat.

Of course, since then we have been branding all the events as ITU events. Previously they were branded as ITU-T, ITU-R, ITU-D.

We have made every effort on that, understand also now publish a single page listing all ITU events. Also on translation, we have initiated a pilot project on out-sourcing translation. We've already placed contracts for Russian and Chinese these are costing between 30 and 60 francs per page per language which compares to 70 per page in Geneva. There is an opportunity for considerable savings there. Of course, we need to assure the quality is maintained. That's part of this trial process we are currently conducting.

We've also stopped sending out by post circular letters and calls for meetings we asked all our members in the T Sector whether or not they still needed these letters in paper. And we only do so now to those who said they still needed to have them in paper. That's considerably reduced the amount of post.

On the booking of airfares, we've already introduced a need for requesting missions not less than 30 days before the mission, so that the flight tickets can be booked at a reduced cost.

In addition to that, I don't think it was mentioned, but we also encourage staff even if they are entitled to travel business to travel economy and then have one extra night to recover from the flight before the start of the meeting or the event.

So we certainly will look at all these proposals and continue to implement them to the fullest extent possible. Thank you, Madam Chairman.

>> CHAIRMAN: Thank you, Mr. Johnson. I have a request for the floor from Uganda. Uganda, please.

>> UGANDA: Thank you, Madam Chair. Madam, Uganda would like to thank APT and CITEL for these proposals. And we are glad to hear that the Secretariat is already implementing these measures in order to reduce the cost of the Union.

Madam Chair, we hope the Secretariat will continue reporting on the progress of implementing these measures to future Council meetings. I thank you, Chair.

>> CHAIRMAN: Thank you, Uganda. And as Mr. Ba outlined, we would ask Ms. Rios as Chair of her ad hoc Committee on the financial plan to take account of these documents and also the opinions that have come out during this discussion. So thank you very much.

I understand we now have an opinion from the ITU Legal Adviser on the matter of the documents and the decision by Committee 5. So if I could ask the Legal Adviser to explain to us what his views are?

>> LEGAL ADVISER: Thank you, Madam Chair. First and foremost I would like to apologize for the fact that I wasn't here at the beginning of your meeting because there were other meetings I had to attend. I will be very brief. But the note from the Chairperson of Committee 5 contains conclusions that Committee 5 arrived at. Committee 5 does not have any decision-making authority or power. All they can do is forward recommendations, voice recommendations to other Committees and also to, therefore, to the Plenary.

The recommendation of Committee 5 will only be definitive once it has been approved during the Plenary, by the Plenary. So Committee 6 can examine the proposals that would tend to amend both the Constitution and the Convention. It is possible to review them, notwithstanding the recommendation of Committee 5.

However, I would like to draw your attention to the fact that if a decision made by Committee 6 were to lead to recommending an amendment to the Constitution or the Convention, that this decision would be forwarded to Committee 5 for their examination, for their review before this were to be sent to the Drafting Committee and to the Plenary. Thank you, Madam Chair. If there are any other questions, I'm fully available to address them. Thank you.

>> CHAIRMAN: Thank you, Mr. Guillot. I think on the basis of that, the best way forward would be, we can offer the opportunity to the Russian Federation to introduce those documents. And we can then incorporate that into the report of the Committee, if that is acceptable to the Russian Federation.

>> RUSSIAN FEDERATION: Thank you, Madam Chair. Well, clearly we accept this proposal, but we want to say right off the bat that we don't want to create any difficulties to Committee 6. We clearly understand that the PP likely will take the decisions to not include amendments to the Constitution or Convention. If all States agree to this and will not make any proposals of their own, that is amendments to the Constitution or the Convention, then we already have a version of our document such that -- well, I'm referring to a temporary document in this case. Where there are no proposed amendments to the Constitution or Convention. This DT has the form of a decision where we express the main points of the original documents. Now, if you allow me, I will start with Document 33 and the relevant parts of Document 73 that are almost identical. They are addressing the financing of ITU.

I think that everyone here, all of the colleagues in the room clearly understand the importance of the financial resources of the ITU. And we all understand that finances are just some of the main factors of the Union. Now, I'm wondering if we all have the same understanding of what finances means. This is a complex term. We have encountered the fact that many different members of the Union have very different concepts of the term "finances."

But the most important thing is that there is really no definition for this term in any of the basic documents of the ITU. I would like to highlight these documents, but it is not possible. Well, actually we are not going to.

On Article 27 of the basic document, it clearly talks about the costs of the Union and Article 59 talks about declaring the cost. But financing, Article 33 of the Convention of the ITU just starts with a description of the contribution, the financial regulations from 2010 which in its first Article in managing financing of the Union, the financial control, it doesn't really define the term finances or financing. There are various references to financial activities and whatnot.

So we understand that we really need to come up with a definition of this word so that we can all be on the same page. And we can deal with the issues. I think this will be helpful as well for all of the members of the Union as well as for the management team.

So our proposal contains the following. Clarification of the term financing. The PP of the ITU taking into account, and here is a list of documents that refers to our basics, taking into account, in addition. Here we have a list and the fact that we have no definition of financing, noting that financing or finances are very important should require a definition of financing.

The ITU, financing of the ITU is a system and a process which is linked with the identification, the use of financial resources funds and relevant financial controls to fulfill the mission, achievements, goals of the Union.

To ensure the Union's stability and to activate, ensure the activities in the future. The financing of the ITU is based on the budget, which is made almost exclusively from the financial contributions of the members and also other sources that are referred to in relevant documents of the ITU. The ITU's financing is regulated according to the Convention and the Constitution and the financial regulations.

Our document also contains instructions to the Council in line with Article 4 of the Constitution of the ITU to make the necessary amendments to the financial regulations of the ITU, which does not run counter to the current trends that we've seen here at the PP.

Thank you, Madam Chair, for letting me make this introduction. I'm ready to take any questions that you may have.

>> CHAIRMAN: Thank you, Russian Federation. I think that procedurally we will need a new document, a DT to base any discussion on. Given that we are changing from a change to the Constitution and Convention to a decision. So we will be able to discuss that offline with you about how to proceed with that.

So with that, I would like to call a 20-minute coffee break. U.S., please.

>> UNITED STATES: Thank you, Madam Chair. I wanted to address, I think I may have an alternative proposal for the Russian Federation. We would rather not change the CVCS at all, but we are supportive of the underlying concept that they are presenting in their paper.

I was wondering if perhaps their concerns could be addressed by actually including some language under the "considering" sections of Decision 5. Maybe that will satisfy the request, but not having to change the Convention at all.

Thank you.

>> CHAIRMAN: Thank you, U.S. I think that the Russian Federation, if I can speak for them, would be interested in exploring that further. I think there was an acceptance that there will be no change at this PP to the Constitution and Convention. So we are interested in exploring other ways in which to bring about the particular changes that they were interested in. Thank you for that.

Mali, please.

>> MALI: Thank you, Madam Chair. I would like to thank the Russian Federation for having submitted this document to us. The document is very rich in information. I would like to say that if there are other ways whereby some proposals can be envisioned, we see nothing wrong with that. We listened to the Legal Counsel, but what would be the implication if any change to the Convention or Constitution is sent to the DT? What would be the implications of that? That's what we would like to know. Thank you.

>> CHAIRMAN: Canada, please.

>> CANADA: Yes, thank you, Madam Chairman. Madam Chairman, we too would like to thank the Russian Federation for their contribution. Perhaps an additional option that could be considered would be additional language in the preamble to the financial regulations. We note in the first provision in the preamble, it makes specific reference to the finances of the Union and the provisions under which they are governed, including the Constitution and the Convention, and of course the financial regulations themselves.

So the first provision reads along the lines of the finances of the Union and here perhaps you could insert descriptive language in this part. Then continue with the remainder of the provision which describes the finances of the Union.

It is just offered as a possible option and alternative to any amendments to the Constitution and Convention.

Perhaps this along with the suggestion by the United States regarding Decision 5 could be discussed further. Thank you.

>> CHAIRMAN: Thank you, Dr. Gracie. If I could ask Mr. Guillot if he could respond?

>> LEGAL ADVISER: Thank you, Madam Chair. In so far as I am not totally certain to have understood the very substance of the question that was raised by the Delegate of Mali, perhaps we would be well advised, the two of us to get together during the break. I can speak with the Delegate from Mali and revert back to you after I have discussed with him. Thank you, Madam Chair.

>> CHAIRMAN: Thank you for that. And I might ask if the U.S. and the Chairman of the Council Working Group on Financial and Human Resources could discuss with the Russian Federation a way that they propose changes could be incorporated, particularly into the financial regulations, and bring that back to us. Russian Federation, please.

>> RUSSIAN FEDERATION: Thank you, Madam Chair. During the break we agree that we should hold consultations with the Delegation of the U.S. because compromise on Decision 5 is possibly something which would be acceptable to everyone. Then we can give our view of the financial regulations because when you asked can we give a proposal for the financial rules and regulations now, the answer was that this is a matter for the Council and not for the Plenipotentiary.

Thank you. So we will work together during the break.

>> CHAIRMAN: Excellent, Russian Federation. That's what we would like to hear. We will call a coffee break now and come back at 25 past 11. See you then.

(Coffee break.)

>> CHAIRMAN: Welcome back. We are about to commence. And we might start by asking the Russian Federation to report to us the outcome of their discussions during the coffee break.

Russian Federation, please.

>> RUSSIAN FEDERATION: Thank you very much, Madam Chair. Firstly, with regard to the definition of finances, we discussed this with the Chair of the Working Group of the Council on Finances and Human Resources and with the representatives of other that were interested in participating.

Based on our proposal we were able to see positive response from those individuals. We would ask that this be note the in the report of the Chair of the Com 6 of the Plenary and that the Council be mandated to consider, pursuant to its existing Rules of Procedure, the possibility of including the definition of finances in the first section. Let's say the preambular section of the financial regulations and the financial rules of ITU.

Thank you very much, Madam.

>> CHAIRMAN: Thank you, Russian Federation. I was just taking a note of that. Mali, please.

>> MALI: I thank you very much, Madam Chair. So we wanted to inform you that we received feedback from the Legal Counsel. We were satisfied with their response. And through our exchange of information with them we were able to understand that we don't have to go through a DT. Thank you very much.

>> CHAIRMAN: Thank you very much, Mali. Yes, that was our understanding, too. So thank you very much to the Russian Federation. I know there was a great deal of work put forward in these proposals. We will certainly include that in our report of the meeting. Once again, thank you very much.

We will now go to Item 8 of the agenda, decisions of the WTDC, World Telecommunication Development Conference, Document PP14 50 Rev 1. Russian Federation, please.

>> RUSSIAN FEDERATION: Forgive me, Madam Chair. I just wanted to come back to the previous item in that fourth Agenda Item we also had another document which we tabled. Were you intending to give me the floor at a later juncture? Could you please just advise?

>> CHAIRMAN: You could speak to that now, Russian Federation.

>> RUSSIAN FEDERATION: Thank you very much, Madam Chair.

The second proposal from the Russian Federation has been supported by the RCC countries. It speaks to the percentage of the contributions, financial contributions of those countries to the ITU. So our proposal here is linked again with an amendment to the Convention.

We have now consulted with lawyers, and our understanding is that we need to submit this for consideration at a later stage. But allow me to just explain the general idea behind the document. We would like to inform the Distinguished Delegates about this question. For many years there have been difficulties because of the need to pay contributions to the ITU. Even though Resolution 152 did give the Secretary-General some leeway to deal with those who were in debt, the problem of debt owed still exists.

Today if we look at the data from 2012, the total debt, although it has decreased, is still some 61 million Swiss francs. Moreover, every year at every Council session the total sum of immediate arrears has been noted to increase some nine fold over the last ten years.

In 2013 it was some 4.8 million Swiss francs, or 4.8 million Swiss francs. What that means, every year we are almost throwing away some 5 million Swiss francs in terms of these arrears.

That is because these arrears have been written off. What this means is that on the one hand the idea of debt and arrears has become symbolic. We are not talking about 3 percent or 6 percent that people are actually paying. These are debts that are being written off. This has existed for some time now.

At the same time the total sums written off have a financial impact on the overall financial situation of the ITU.

So we need to come up with an innovative response to this. We should change the fines. It is at some 3 percent. The RCC believes that the fines for these debts should be about 2 percent or maybe they should be linked to the interest rates in Swiss banks or 0 percent as exists in the United Nations and other parts of the U.N. family.

But the idea behind our proposal is to invite members of the ITU to reflect on this issue. When we table this again at a later stage, we will be able to understand how we should deal with it, firstly.

Secondly, if we need some sort of interest maybe we should just do what the U.N. does which, if you don't pay for two years, you lose the right to vote. Thank you for listening to my proposal. Unfortunately, we cannot table it officially because there is an issue with the numbering of this document. But thank you very much for allowing me to take the floor and to just explain the idea behind this document.

>> CHAIRMAN: Thank you very much, Russian Federation. United States, please.

>> UNITED STATES: Thank you, Madam Chair. We wanted to thank the Russian Federation for both of their excellent proposals. I think sometimes we need more of the out-of-the-box thinking to get some real results.

The United States shares a lot of the concerns of the Russian Federation in terms of the effectiveness of the interest on arrears scheme. We understand that we are not going to change the Convention at this particular Plenipotentiary, but we will certainly encourage the Russian Federation to, at a future date when changes are being possibly considered, to please resubmit their proposal. Thank you.

>> CHAIRMAN: Thank you, U.S. Mali, please.

>> MALI: Thank you, Madam Chair. And Mali thanks the Russian Federation along with the U.S. Delegate. This really is a real problem. And the proposal is a relevant one. I think it is very well complemented by your proposal.

Certainly there are countries with arrears of three or four years. When we look at the books of the organization, we can see that in the pluses and the minuses that it is a relevant issue with these virtual figures. So we would like to support Russia in the idea of coming back to this. In any case, it would be an excellent thing for the finances of the ITU itself. Thank you.

>> CHAIRMAN: Thank you, Mali. Mr. Ba would like to make a response.

>> SECRETARY OF COM 6: Thank you very much, Madam Chair. The Secretariat would also like to thank sincerely the Russian Federation for its contributions which are looking to clarify and bring more transparency to the process. We would also like to thank the Russian Federation for having postponed the consideration of Article 33 with regard to interest.

Now, I would just like to remind you that these amendments had been tabled at the Plenipotentiary Conference in '98, but at that time the bank rates were quite high. So it was upon the recommendation of the Secretariat that we decided to decide on a 3 and 6 percentages, 3 percent from the beginning of April and 6 percent at the beginning of the 16th month. This is something that the Secretary-General also wanted to have negotiations about in the debt coverage issue. Once the nominal debt had been identified, the Council was to revise these interest rates. The interest rates were those rates that were applied against the debtors. So that was the history of the question.

Now, bank rates have decreased. The interest rates have decreased. But we are still about 3 or 4 percent lending rate in the Swiss banks. Even though interest rates have decreased, we are still at about 3 to 4 percent lending rate.

So that's why the Secretariat is very pleased to see the Russian Federation bring this subject back at future Plenipotentiary meetings. Thank you very much, Madam.

>> CHAIRMAN: Thank you, Mr. Ba. Russian Federation, please.

>> RUSSIAN FEDERATION: Thank you very much, Madam Chair. Thanks to all of those who have taken the floor, those who supported our proposal. Since this is a very important issue we would like to ask you, Madam Chair, if you would be able to look into possibilities for investigating a decision or just mentioning this in your report, perhaps, to consider the issue at the next conference.

What I've understood is that making changes to the Constitution and the Convention at this conference was something that was not possible because these changes need to be made at a later date. I would be very thankful if you can clarify and report whether these should be made at the next Plenipotentiary Conference. Thank you, Madam Chair.

>> CHAIRMAN: Thank you, Russian Federation. We will certainly do that.

I would like to now ask Mr. Torigoe to introduce his Document PP14 50, Rev. 1, thank you.

>> DEPUTY TO THE DIRECTOR: Thank you, ladies and gentlemen. On behalf of the Secretary-General it is my pleasure to present 50 Rev 1, decisions of the WTDC-14, which presents the list of WTDC-14 resolutions requiring actions by or information to the Plenipotentiary Conference.

The WTDC-14 was held in Dubai, United Arab Emirates from 30 of March to 10 of April 2014, under the theme of "Broadband for Sustainable Development."

The key outcomes of the conference are the adoption of the Dubai Declaration, the development of the ITU-D contribution to the ITU Strategic Plan, the adoption of Dubai action plan, and the adoption of new and revised Resolutions text of WTDC Resolutions which calls for actions by or information to the Plenipotentiary Conference is attached as Annex to this document. Thank you, Madam Chairman.

>> CHAIRMAN: Thank you. I will now open the floor for any comments on this document.

Thank you, Mr. Torigoe. We'll note that document in our report.

The final item on our Agenda is a report by the Council on the advantages and disadvantages of utilizing revenue generated from international numbering resources for the purpose of balancing revenue and expenses, Document PP14/91. Mr. Johnson will introduce the report. Mr. Johnson?

>> DIRECTOR of TSB: Thank you, Madam Chairman. It was in the context of Resolution 158, Guadalajara, which instructs the organization to identify revenue generation items that the Secretary-General proposed to the first session of the 2014 Council in May to review the charges associated with the assignment of international numbering resources, INRs at the present we provide INRs free of charge or for a nominal one-off fee. Most INRs are provided to members and nonmembers. Some are restricted to members only.

However, it is estimated that there are at least 1,000 operators using INRs that are not members of ITU and do not pay any fees to ITU, even if they pay fees to national administrations.

The Council agreed to submit to this Plenipotentiary Conference the Draft Financial Plan which includes an estimated 7 million income from INRs, and requested the Director of TSB to submit a report to the second session of the Council, which was held on the 18th of October, on the advantages and disadvantages.

Also to invite ITU-T Study Group 2 to establish a Expert Group to look at the possibilities for making the criteria which ITU uses to assign INRs more flexible so they would be more attractive to industry.

So this is Document 91, which was submitted to the second session of the Council, and the document includes a summary of the comments raised in the discussion on this document at the second session. Reflecting on that discussion and after receiving some suggestions from Member States, the Secretariat has prepared a more detailed document which could be considered in the Ad Hoc Group on the financial plan, if you agree. There seems to be a preference for the option of an annual fee for certain INRs, mostly those that ITU assigns directly. Also for a fee structure which differentiates between ITU members and nonmembers. Rather than the other two options of requiring membership or a fee for E164 numbers.

So we have prepared a document which goes into further consideration of the option in section 2 of Document 91. If this Committee agrees, we can submit this document considering this option in more detail to the ad hoc group on the financial plan. Thank you, Madam Chairman.

>> CHAIRMAN: Thank you, Mr. Johnson. I now open the floor for any comments.

United States, please.

>> UNITED STATES: Thank you, Chair. And good afternoon, friends. The United States has significant concerns with the proposals in Document 91. We do not believe that anything has been presented that would justify any further conversation of these ideas. We understand the importance of a balanced budget and appreciate the complexity involved in achieving one. There are a variety of levers, revenues, and costs which can be moved to balance the budget. Which lever to move, how far, and in which direction requires a fact-based holistic, rigorous analysis to understand the myriad impacts that will occur based on any change.

When this proposal was first presented to Council in May, some countries thought it may be a good idea. Other countries raised a variety concerns. But most countries understood that they simply didn't have enough information to know for sure. That is why Council agreed to the proposal to establish an experts group to analyze the advantages and disadvantages of using revenues from fees for international numbers resources directly assigned by the ITU to balance the ITU budget.

What happened at the Experts Group and what didn't? Five meetings were held, each one two hours long. The majority of members participated remotely, including the Chairman. The remote participation equipment performed very poorly. As a result, there were probably seven hours of actual meeting time.

The average number of Member States participating in the group was three. In at least two meetings there were only two Member States. The Secretariat, the Chair, and the consultant hired to work with the Experts Group and assist in the preparation of the report to Council.

The TSB provided some high level information to the Experts Group after a number of requests regarding costs and revenues, as well as information about the numbers of INRs assigned by the ITU. The report submitted to Council on the 18th of this month contains a series of high level statements and opinions that are not supported by necessary data or analysis. Three concerns stand out.

First, Council directed the Experts Group to study INRs directly assigned by the ITU. As the report states, there are not enough INRs directly assigned by the ITU to have a meaningful impact on the budget. The report says it does not appear practical, therefore, to obtain significant additional revenue by levying charges on direct assignments made by the TSB.

The proposals in the report therefore ignore Council direction and requests from experts group participants, and include indirectly assigned INRs. Most indirectly assigned INRs are managed by Member States. It is not appropriate to consider ITU generation of revenue from such INRs.

This will raise many concerns for members, including that they could become collection agencies for the ITU.

Second, a big concern at the May Council meeting was whether INR fees should be based on cost recovery, consistent with Resolution 91, or revenue generation as described in Resolution 158. The report doesn't decide, but simply says INR fees are both. Critically, there was no analysis to support anything other than the recovery of the ITU's costs for directly assigning these resources.

If the ITU were to decide to simply generate revenue from this source because it needs money, where does this process end?

Most importantly, to decide whether INR fees are a good source of new revenue or a better lever to move to balance the budget than some other one, the impacts on the ITU, members, operators, customers, must be analyzed. This was not done. Any new fees will be passed through to customers, regressively raising prices and reducing demand at the very time that we are trying to increase demand and deployment.

Customers and some countries will likely view these fees as a new tax. That may require legislation in some countries to implement. No data was received or requested from operators or members that would be needed to perform the necessary analysis of these impacts.

Instead, the report simply says that any increased fees would be small compared to an operator's revenue. Therefore, it should have no negative effects. That is an opinion, not a fact or the result of any analysis.

Opinions do not form the basis of sound budget decisions. We understand that balancing the budget will require difficult decisions. Fortunately, there are contributions to this conference like those from APT and CITEL, presented earlier by Iran and Brazil, that may help us. But the decision whether revenues from INR fees should be used to balance the budget is not difficult.

Based on the lack of necessary data or meaning full analysis, this should not be done.

Thank you.

>> CHAIRMAN: Thank you, U.S. Rwanda, please.

>> RWANDA: Thank you very much, Madam Chair. With regard to the summary of the discussions which took place in the Council session and which are presented in the report, I believe that the TSB has appropriately reflected all of the remarks that were made.

The Secretariat was saying that they were going to present a balanced document, explaining the way in which this could be implemented.

I think that it would be advisable to accept the presentation of this document to the ad hoc on the financial plan in order to have that group at least be able to understand all the remarks that were made, how they fit together, and then after that perhaps we will be able to come to some sort of conclusion that will also reflect the USA's recent comments.

Thank you.

>> CHAIRMAN: Thank you, Rwanda. Tunisia, please.

>> TUNISIA: Thank you, Madam Chair. The Delegate of Tunisia would like to start by thanking the Secretariat for presenting Document 91 on the use of revenue generated from INRs for the purposes of balancing revenue and expenses.

We consider that this is a realistic and logical option because it is based on something we all accept, which is that the services provided by the ITU should be something for which we can recover the costs of those services. So this includes the INR resources, especially as we need to maintain the databases on these resources. So there are different options mentioned in this document and different services. We see that the services do entail costs to the organization. Therefore we consider it would be perfectly logical to impose what is proposed when it comes to assigning resources.

Tunisia also considers that the figures given in this document are acceptable when we compare them with the situation in other organizations, which also deal with numbering resources. So the options presented here are justified, since the numbering resources are among those very rare resources which need to be assigned for financial resources because of their rarity. Thank you.

>> CHAIRMAN: Thank you, Tunisia. Russian Federation, please.

>> RUSSIAN FEDERATION: Thank you, Madam Chair. We are very grateful for this document. In the current situation which was called exceptional in our Committee yesterday, in this situation we consider that the methodology which would increase the ITU's income and therefore have a positive effect on the budget is a useful idea. At the same time we consider that the measures proposed to increase the fee for international numbering should indeed become practice of the organization and the ITU's activity should be presented and evaluated at the Council.

At the same time the concerns of the U.S. about whether this is in fact an efficient approach should be taken into account. We propose that we ensure ourselves, as it were. In other words, if we don't get the income that is expected, the revenue that is expected from this, then we would propose that we take funds from the reserve fund if that is necessary. And we talked about the sums yesterday, the reserve account.

The Russian Federation has done an evaluation among the operators of the possible implications of these measures. Not a single operator expressed any concern at the use of this approach. So given that, we support the use of these measures. Immediately after the conference and that the presumed revenue would be included in the budget. At the same time in support of this, we would leave ourselves the option of taking 10 million Swiss francs out of the reserve account if necessary. Thank you.

>> CHAIRMAN: Thank you, Russian Federation. Mali, please.

>> MALI: Thank you, Madam Chair. We think that our views have been put forward by Rwanda and Tunisia.

And we are grateful for this document that gives the detailed information on the issues where concerns were expressed in Council. This document takes into account the discussions which took place on the financial plan. For the sake of the future, it would indeed be a good idea to make sure that the ITU considers all possible sources of revenue in order to increase income especially considering that some Member States are talking about diminishing their contribution. We can't help regretting if Member States take that decision. If that is so, we need to undertake all possible initiatives to explore all other possible sources of revenue for the ITU. Thank you.

>> CHAIRMAN: Thank you, Mali. Uganda, please.

>> UGANDA: Thank you, Madam Chair. Madam, Uganda thanks for the proposal on charging of the INR in order to contribute to balancing of the budget. We also note from the submission of the U.S. that these proposals need further detailed analysis. We therefore agree that the proposal should be further considered in detail by the ad hoc Committee on the financial plan. We thank you, Chair.

>> CHAIRMAN: Thank you, Uganda. Netherlands, please.

>> NETHERLANDS: Yes, thank you, Madam. We also have the feeling that the only rationale behind this proposal is to generate revenue and in our view it could create some dangerous precedents. What would be next? A levy on frequencies? To be paid by operators? I don't know.

I also have the feeling that it needs more thinking, these kind of proposals. My main concern is that numbers assigned indirectly. Where national administrations would be required to request to levy the fees. It would be strange, it would need national legislation to make that possible. I doubt very much whether that would fit in our national law.

One could also reason that the work done by ITU in this respect is being paid by the membership already we are paying a number of contributory units per year. For that, work needs to be done in the ITU. Why not pay this out of the general contributions paid by members and sector members?

The idea of forcing operators to become a member of the ITU, those are using this kind of number, is a far-reaching proposal. I don't know how many operators we have in the Netherlands, but I know there are 700 registered operators, probably not always doing voice telephony, but we only have already more than 70 MVNOs. A lot of these companies are very small and they are important for competition in the markets. For such operators to become a member in whatever form is quite an expense. It would increase the costs for the consumers.

So there is a lot of arguments probably against doing this. We are not happy with the proposal and we cannot support it. Thank you very much.

>> CHAIRMAN: Thank you, Netherlands. Australia, please.

>> AUSTRALIA: Thank you, Chair. And thank you to the Secretariat for the proposal and introducing the document.

Australia continues to have a number of questions about the proposal, most of which have already been raised by the USA, Netherlands and Uganda, in particular questions about whether this is a cost recovery exercise or a revenue raising exercise and the long-term implications for all the different parties involved.

In the interests of time I won't go into the points raised previously. Thank you.

>> CHAIRMAN: Thank you, Australia. The U.K., please.

>> UNITED KINGDOM: Thank you, Madam Chair. The U.K. share many of the concerns that were expressed by the U.S. concerning the overall issue of the budget. But at this stage I would really like to confine my comments to the proposal concerning the INRs. Nobody should be in any doubt of the importance of this issue. That said, INRs are part of a complex, challenging and important area of the ITU's responsibilities. It is transfer important that any decision that impacts the potential use, future take-up or administration of those resources is taken with a comprehensive understanding of the issue.

There are several types of INRs, some of which lend themselves to this new approach more than others. And responsibility for those resources is spread across many parts of the organization and Study Groups. There is also a need to clearly understand the basis for introducing charges, and any potential impact on Member States and their relationship with both sector members and non-sector members who utilize those resources.

Within the ITU there is a need to understand the mechanisms required to collect fees and to establish processes that would be required, for instance, in the case of noncompliance where resources have already been assigned. Yesterday during the budget discussion there was also a suggestion from New Zealand which really underlined the need to understand the cost recovery implications for any INRs being considered. Such a decision needs to consider the very broad picture that goes way beyond an understanding of the likely revenues that could be achieved. And it certainly is the experience of the U.K. that often charging for numbers is introduced to limit demand. That would not be the prime requirement in this case, but it is a consideration.

There is a need to make sure that the discussions that are required and the essential elements of the proposal are given all the attention required, so that we can make a careful and considered decision on this matter that will stand the Union in good stead going forward.

>> CHAIRMAN: Thank you, U.K. Poland, please.

>> POLAND: Thank you very much. I would like to repeat what our representative yesterday in Com 6 said, that we are in not favor of the proposal for increasing the existing fees on the international numbering resources or imposing the new fees. We are aware of the fact that a stable ITU budget should be ensured, but at the same time we are also of the opinion that a new fee should be well justified as it concerns and affects the market and the customers.

We shall not forget that our task is to foster the development on the market, and guarantee the right of the customer. The budget for the period from 2016 to 2019 should be realistic. ITU should work towards resolving these issues, but utilizing revenue from ITU-R for expenses would be harmful to the customers.

Considering this, we are not in favor of the proposed approach for increasing the existing fees on INRs and imposing new fees. Thank you.

>> CHAIRMAN: Thank you, Poland. On my list I have Germany, Sweden, Czech Republic, Portugal and Spain. And I would like to close the list. And Brazil.

Germany, please.

>> GERMANY: Thank you, Madam Chairman. Madam Chairman, I would like to be brief in order to mention that the Germany shares the views previously raised by the Netherlands, U.K. as well as Poland. Germany is of the view that looking to all possibilities which may increase the income of the ITU could be very good opportunity. But on the other hand, we should reflect also on the savings which might be possible in the same way. So both elements should be complementary and considered further by the ITU. Thank you very much.

>> CHAIRMAN: Thank you, Germany. Sweden, please.

>> SWEDEN: Thank you, Madam Chair. Sweden shares the views as stated by Netherlands, United Kingdom, Poland, and Germany. We believe that we are discussing a number of different issues. We have to separate between INRs directly assigned by the ITU and those indirectly assigned by the ITU.

In the case of indirectly assigned numbers, that is numbers assigned by the Member States, it should not be further discussed. The State, the cost for this is already covered by the member fee that the Member States pay to the ITU. With regard to directly assigned numbers we need to discuss cost recovery or revenue generating. As far as we can see we believe the only cost recovery should be considered in this case. We do not see the numbers to be used for revenue generating.

The request of users of operators to become members of ITU is not as far as we can see not a possible way forward. This is also a way of generating revenue more than covering the cost for the work.

We are of the view that funding should only be included in the financial plan when confirmed by the Plenipotentiary Conference, and they should not be used in the Draft Plan submitted to the Plenipotentiary Conference or during the discussions before they are adopted by the PP. In this case we note that a large number of administrations also those who are not against the revenue generating still believes that there is a need for further studies. If this is going to be studied between now and the next Plenipotentiary Conference, we should not include the 7 million for INRs in the draft budget or the draft financial plan. We need to make additional savings in order to cover this. We are not in favor of using the reserve account to cover this because we don't see that this is really a shortfall in the financial plan. We need to save to achieve the balanced budget, or balanced financial plan. Thank you.

>> CHAIRMAN: Thank you, Sweden. Czech Republic, please.

>> CZECH REPUBLIC: Thank you, Madam Chair. I will also be brief because we share the same concerns as our previous speakers, United States, Netherlands, New Zealand, Australia, Great Britain, Poland, Germany, Sweden, and maybe others I didn't mention.

We would like to stress one concern that was already said by U.S. Delegate, and that is the impact to the customers that could have very negative impact, especially for the Developing Countries and could harm the further development of telecommunications or ICTs in those countries.

So that's our concern. Thank you.

>> CHAIRMAN: Thank you, Czech Republic. Portugal, please.

>> PORTUGAL: Thank you, Madam Chair. We too fully associate with some of the previous speakers and in particular with the questions, concerns, and points raised by the U.S., Netherlands, the U.K. and then emphasized by some of the following speakers. We do not agree that this should be considered as an input for the financial plan for the next period. We do think there are still questions to be discussed. And this is an ongoing issue, but mainly this has market implications and we cannot accept most of the proposals in this document. Thank you.

>> CHAIRMAN: Thank you, Portugal. Spain, please.

>> SPAIN: Thank you, Madam Chair. Madam Chair, may I start by saying that we agree with the others who have spoken. We are aware of the financial situation of the ITU, of course. We consider that we should indeed explore other possibilities for generating. Given that, this proposal and the idea it contains of allowing the ITU to recover the costs of this does seem to us an interesting proposal. We also appreciate the idea of establishing a difference between operators who are sector members and operators who are not.

But when it is numbers assigned by Member States, there is a problem of are we paying twice? Here we need a more detailed analysis of the situation. That's why we would like to express the same concern as other Delegations have. Having said that, the final message is that we support the idea at a future Plenipotentiary Conference of tackling this and seeking to find a solution that other Member States would agree with. Thank you.

>> CHAIRMAN: Thank you, Spain. Brazil, please.

>> BRAZIL: Thank you, Chair. I believe Brazil agrees with a lot of what has been said already by previous speakers. We do understand the problem we are having with the budget and trying to find ways to try to balance the budget. I do not believe this should be done at any cost. We do have a lot of concerns with the idea of charging for numbering resources, especially in how this impacts the market and how this impacts user connectivity and how the basis growing. Because it might turn out to be something that raises prices for consumers.

So it is very troublesome for us to agree with something like that without further studies. I believe it was Sweden and Spain who mentioned very good points: When you separate numbering resources that are assigned about by the metals and the numbering resources which are assigned by the ITU, I don't believe there is a major problem with the numbering assigned by the ITU to find some kind of cost recovery mechanism. But the numbering schemes assigned specifically by Member States, we do not believe they should be charged specifically by the ITU. They have a specific arrangement in each country, but we do understand it is an important issue. We could try to continue studying this issue, but it should not be reflected as a decision to be charging INRs as a whole at this point. Thank you.

>> CHAIRMAN: Thank you, Brazil. United Arab Emirates.

>> UNITED ARAB EMIRATES: Thank you very much, Madam Chair. With regard to INRs and the resources that can be provided by them, we do have a document already which explains the studies that have been carried out pursuant to the directive of the Council.

We do not support the idea of postponing the discussion on this issue to the next Plenipotentiary. Rather, we would prefer to have the studies carried out and continued over the interim period. And we hope that this subject will be submitted to the consideration of the Plenary because not all countries participate in this Com 6. So let us put the decision on the subject to the Plenary. Thank you very much, Madam Chair.

>> CHAIRMAN: Switzerland, please.

>> SWITZERLAND: Thank you very much, Madam Chair. Switzerland is of the view that this subject should be put to an Ad Hoc Group. It is important that in planning we consider the resources under the view of prudence. We should think about whether or not these resources will be applicable during the period in question. Thank you.

>> CHAIRMAN: Thank you, Switzerland. If I could ask Mr. Johnson to respond? Mr. Johnson.

>> DIRECTOR TSB: Yes, thank you, Madam Chairman. Just to repeat again that this document or this proposal was submitted to the first session of Council in the context of Resolution 158, which was instructing Council to identify some possible revenue generation. And I believe this is the only proposal that has come from the Council since the last Plenipotentiary Conference. That does suggest a possible revenue generation. So it is not a cost recovery proposal. It is a proposal in the context of Resolution 158.

And I would also make the point that there is a document which was submitted to Council which gives a lot more detail. It is the information Document 24 which gives a lot more detail than is in this document.

I would also point out that the majority of the recipients of these INRs are not members of ITU. So the budget of the ITU is being used to provide a resource to companies which are not members of ITU. And the statistics we have is that there are over 1,000 users of INRs which are not members of ITU.

The discussion that we have had here really reflects the discussion in the second session of the Council on the 18th of October, which is why we did do further work on the option of an annual fee for certain INRs. Most of these are the INRs which ITU assigns directly. And we've also given further consideration to a differentiated fee structure for members and nonmembers. So the possibility of no additional fee for members. If you agree, Madam Chairman, then we can make this document available for further consideration in the ad hoc. Thank you.

Oh, sorry, one last point with regard to the suggestion from the United States that the Document 91 was going beyond the instructions from the Council. That is not our understanding and we would like to discuss that with the U.S. and indicate to them where we believe it does comply with the instruction from Council. Thank you, Madam Chairman.

>> CHAIRMAN: Thank you, Mr. Johnson. This is obviously an issue in which there is a great deal of interest and a desire for further information. The proposal was that it be considered as part of the Ad Hoc Group looking at the financial plan, which Ms. Rios is chairing. I would like to ask Ms. Rios if she is agreeable to including this under her Agenda.

If someone could assist the U.S.?

>> UNITED STATES: Thank you, Madam Chair. I was saying the Ad Hoc Group on the Financial Plan will mostly center around Decision 5 and the two Annexes. Annex 2 includes information related to the final decision on how to treat the revenue generated by the INR scheme.

I think for the purpose of maximum efficiency, perhaps a separate group can be set to meet concurrently and then the Ad Hoc on the Financial Plan can work on Decision 5 and Annex two which deals with the efficiency measures, which we have many proposals, they will take quite a long time to get agreement upon. Then we can circle back with the Annex 1 after a decision has been taken on how to deal with the issue of INRs. Thank you.

>> CHAIRMAN: Thank you, Ms. Rios.

Mali, please.

>> MALI: Thank you very much, Madam. We would like to have clarification on the way all these questions are going to be dealt with pursuant to the United States, so we can see clearly how are we going to deal with the subject.

Could we have proposals from them? Because it doesn't seem we are at the same stage in the information process as the other Ad Hoc Groups that are working on this.

>> CHAIRMAN: Switzerland, please.

>> SWITZERLAND: Thank you very much, Madam Chair. We thank the United States and Ms. Rios for her proposal to have a separate group consider, if I may say in that way, this possible resources. Then under the Ad Hoc Group we could consider the financial planning for those eventual resources. Thank you very much, Madam Chair.

>> CHAIRMAN: Russian Federation, please.

>> RUSSIAN FEDERATION: Thank you very much, Madam. Currently there are a sufficient number of Ad Hoc Groups. And given that we think these are interrelated questions, both balancing the budget and increasing efficiency, we think we should consider them under the same Ad Hoc Group.

>> CHAIRMAN: Tunisia, please.

>> TUNISIA: Thank you very much, Madam Chair. Tunisia believes that the smaller groups cannot be used by all Delegations, particularly those who have very few members. We would prefer to avoid that Ad Hoc Group.

>> CHAIRMAN: Thank you, Tunisia. Mali, please.

>> MALI: Mali agrees with Tunisia and the Russian Federation. Let's also bear in mind the amount of time that we have left before the end of the conference. If you work in separate smaller groups, you have to come back to the same group of the larger group and then agree on something. That would be very difficult. Without mentioning that Regions have already made proposals, so all of those proposals have to be considered separately. It would be difficult, complex to do that. We are relying on your wise stewardship, Madam Chair.

>> CHAIRMAN: United States, please.

>> UNITED STATES: Thank you, Madam Chair. To amplify on the comments from my colleague and from Mali, we do need to be mindful of the time. We have been told that there has been some further thinking on possible alternatives. We haven't seen those. So it will take some time to review them. While we are doing that, perhaps in a separate ad hoc, then the Financial Plan Ad Hoc can continue with its work. Depending on the outcome of the INR Ad Hoc, there may be no additional work for the financial plan ad hoc. Thank you.

>> CHAIRMAN: Thank you, United States. United Kingdom, please.

>> UNITED KINGDOM: Thank you, Madam Chair. We certainly share the opinion that we have to maximize the use of our time and we consider that the discussion that this issue has already generated reflects the intensity of the debate that will help shape the way forward.

On that basis running in two separate groups in parallel seems to be the best option. Thank you.

>> CHAIRMAN: Thank you, U.K.

Now, the proposal is that the Secretariat will make a consultation and will come back with a proposal on how we will address the issue of INRs, specifically in relation to the Ad Hoc Group on the financial plan given that there seem to be a range of views.

Now, Mr. Ba has information for the group. Before that, I will summarize our discussions this morning.

In relation to the proposed revision to Resolution 58, Iran will be discussing further with the Russian Federation the UAE and Sweden, and I think some of those discussions have already taken place during the coffee break. The proposed revision to Resolution 25 has been endorsed and sent to Com 4.

In relation to the proposals by the Russian Federation in relation to changing the Constitution and Convention, given the note that we have had from the Chairman of Com 4, the Russian Federation has agreed we will put a note in the report of the meeting that Council consider including the possibility of including the matters under discussion in the preamble of the financial regulations.

In relation to the procedure for fixing the magnitude of penalties applied to members in respect of overdue contribution and other dues payable to the ITU budget, the report will note the support for that proposal and that it be further considered at the next PP.

We took note of the statement by the Staff Council. The proposal for support and assistance for the Republic of Iraq to rebuild its telecommunications sector was postponed to another meeting. We had a discussion about the proposals from the APT and CITEL relating to Decision 5 and Annex 2. That will be part of the consideration of the Ad Hoc Group on the Financial Plan. We took note of the decisions of the World Telecommunications Development Conference and we discussed the report by the Council on International Numbering Resources, and the Secretariat will be undertaking a consultation with members on a proposal on how to take this forward, what kind of mechanism we will use.

So Mali, please.

>> MALI: Thank you, Madam Chair. We've just had a proposal that we should allow the Secretariat the time to have consultations. We think this is an excellent proposal. We support it. Thank you.

>> CHAIRMAN: Thank you, and constructive as always, Mali. And now Mr. Ba has some information for us.

>> SECRETARY OF COM 6: Thank you, Chair. We would like to announce that the second round table focusing on the inclusiveness in the ICT sector will be hosted today from 1 to 2:00 p.m. in Room D. Panelists to include Dr. Toure and special invited guests from the conference. So we can look for look forward to an engaging dialogue. Feel free to bring your packaged lunch also.

The other two pieces of information I wanted to bring to the table was at the request of certain Member States, as follows: We published a document on contributive units. It is PP14 INF 12. This is at the request of some Member States that we have published this list of the contribution units of Member States. The second piece of information is about the meeting at 2:30 in E. We have a Document DL33. DL33 will be the text for our discussions this afternoon at 2:30.

Thank you, Madam Chair.

>> CHAIRMAN: Thank you, Mr. Ba. With that, we end our meeting and I think Session 9 is tomorrow afternoon at 2:30. See you all then.

(The meeting concluded.)

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