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ROOM A

EIGHTH MEETING OF THE WORKING GROUP OF THE PLENARY

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>> CHAIRMAN: Good morning, ladies and gentlemen, and welcome to the Eighth Meeting of the Working Group of the Plenary. I would like to begin by checking the interpretation. English?

>> INTERPRETER: Good morning, sir.

>> CHAIRMAN: Thank you. French? Merci.

Spanish? Gracias.

Russian? Spaceeba.

Chinese? Xie xie.

Arabic? Shokran.

The first item on our Agenda is the approval of our Agenda today. I put forward for your consideration Document ADM/55, Revision 1. I have no requests for the floor. Therefore, the agenda for today is approved.

I would like to note a couple of things. First of all, we will be meeting from 9 to 10 this morning and then adjourning to allow the ad hocs to meet and continue their work. We will be meeting again at 4:00 p.m. to continue the work of the Working Group of the Plenary. The Ad Hoc Groups on the Internet-related Resolutions, Resolution 64, and the related new Resolutions and the WSIS-related Resolutions will be meeting immediately after this Working Group of the Plenary at approximately 10:00 a.m. to continue their work and report back, hopefully in the afternoon session.

Do I have any comments on this approach?

I have no requests for the floor. So we will proceed. We move to Agenda Item 2, Progress On Previously Discussed Items. We begin with the revision of Resolution 131. I would like to invite Argentina to provide us with an update on the progress of work. I do not see the Argentina Delegation at this time. Therefore, we will move on and come back.

Next I would like to invite Egypt to provide us with an update on the progress of work on Resolution 139. Egypt, you have the floor.

>> EGYPT: Thank you, sir. As to Resolution 139 on the reduction of the digital divide, as already said during your previous meeting, we took account of all of the proposals under this Resolution. You will find all of this summarized in DT/38. We would like to reiterate my thanks to all of the parties which took part in these proceedings. Thank you.

>> CHAIRMAN: I put forward for your consideration and approval, DT/38.

Do I have any comments? I have no requests for the floor. I move that we approve DT/38 as is.

I have no requests for the floor. DT/38 is approved.

Next we have Agenda Item 2.3, the new Resolution, Connectivity to Mobile Broadband Networks. I would like to invite Canada to provide us with an update on the progress of work. Canada, you have the floor.

>> CANADA: Thank you, Chairman. I am happy to report that we are making progress, but we still have a few elements left. And we are hoping to have a discussion this morning to close out the remaining elements. Thank you.

>> CHAIRMAN: Thank you very much, Canada. Would it be helpful if we arranged for a short ad hoc similar to some of the other Resolutions that we have done? Canada, you have the floor.

>> CANADA: At this point in time, Chairman, I don't think it is required. Certainly if the discussions begin to diverge rather than converge we will come back and let you know if an ad hoc is required. Thank you.

>> CHAIRMAN: Thank you very much, Canada.

Next we have Agenda Item 2.4, new Resolution on creating an enabling environment for the deployment and use of ICT applications.

I would like to invite Korea to provide us with an update on the progress of work. Korea, you have the floor.

>> REPUBLIC OF KOREA: Thank you, Chairman and good morning, everyone. Korea was asked to Chair the APT common proposal on harnessing the benefits of convergence through the utilization of ICT applications. Ad Hoc Group met yesterday afternoon. The group started to review the consolidated version of the document carefully and the group reached the consensus in a very effective manner. The agreed text is now available at DT/49 in the ITU website. The group presents the DT/49 to Working Group of the Plenary. The new draft document is read to Creating An Enabling Environment For The Deployment And Use Of ICT Applications.

On behalf of APT, Korea would like to appreciate those who have been providing constructive comments to improve this new Draft Resolution. APT would also like to extend our appreciation to those who have actively participated in Ad Hoc Group yesterday afternoon. Thank you.

>> CHAIRMAN: Thank you very much, Korea. I put forward for your consideration and approval DT/49. Russian Federation, you have the floor.

>> RUSSIAN FEDERATION: Thank you, sir. And good morning, Distinguished Colleagues. We fully support this document. We have just a small addition on page 4, Item 3. To work with the Director of Telecommunications, TSB currently, says to work with the TSB and the remaining text.

In our opinion, we have to carry out work not only with the TSB and its Director, but also with the Directors or Director of the RRB, Radio Telecommunications Bureau.

>> CHAIRMAN: Thank you very much, Russian Federation. Korea, you have the floor.

>> REPUBLIC OF KOREA: Korea is willing to accept that modification. We also have to consult with other Member States. So we can come back to Working Group of the Plenary after consultation with Russia and other APT Member States. Thank you.

>> CHAIRMAN: I have a proposal from Korea to take this back and consult. I would like to ask the floor if there is a need for consultation or whether we can add this, as I believe it to be a small change. South Africa, you have the floor.

>> SOUTH AFRICA: Thank you, Chairperson. I think it is a minor thing and it makes a major difference. So can we adopt what Russia is saying, the way it is without having to create a lot of engagements unnecessarily? So Korea must accept the input that it is making.

>> CHAIRMAN: Thank you very much, South Africa. United States, you have the floor.

>> UNITED STATES: Thank you very much, Mr. Chairman. And we wish to express our thanks to the administration of Korea for their hard work on this document and for bringing us DT/49 in such excellent shape.

With respect to the addition to "instructs the Director of the Telecommunications Development Bureau," when I read "instructs" 3 calling for encouraging cooperation with relevant organizations in the development of best practices relating to the network infrastructure that enables the use of a wide range of eApplications, it seems to me that it is appropriate for the Director of the BDT to work with the Director of the Telecom Standardization Bureau on these matters, but it does not seem to me that the Director of the Radiocommunication Bureau would have such a role in this space. So I think we would like to see the text before we approve it. Thank you.

>> CHAIRMAN: Thank you very much, United States. Canada, you have the floor.

>> CANADA: Thank you, Chair. That was my point as well. We would like to see the text before we approve it. Thank you.

>> CHAIRMAN: Thank you very much, Canada.

Russia, do you insist on the text?

Russian Federation, you have the floor.

>> RUSSIAN FEDERATION: Many thanks, Chair. From our point of view the radiocommunication system is really the core part of the network structure, and has to deal with the whole series of issues so that it operates correctly. But I see that there are various points of view. But without the RB or components of the Radiocommunications sector it would be obviously impossible to set up a good structure. So this is why we wanted to add the Director of the RB to this item, Item 3, "instructs the Director of the Telecommunications Development Bureau." Now, I don't know which Bureau, which issues are the most important, but today it is very difficult to set up any kind of a system related to telecommunications or rather radiocommunications especially if you look at wireless, for example.

>> CHAIRMAN: Thank you very much, Russian Federation. Based on what I heard, I would like to ask Korea to take this text back and report back this afternoon with a consensus text.

Korea, you have the floor.

>> REPUBLIC OF KOREA: Thank you, Chairman. I do that this afternoon. Thank you.

>> CHAIRMAN: Thank you very much, Korea.

Next we move to the revision of Resolution 176. I would like to invite Vietnam to provide us with a report on the progress of work. Vietnam, you have the floor.

>> VIETNAM: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Good morning, ladies and gentlemen. Vietnam is happy to report to you that the Ad Hoc Group on the Resolution 176, the group has met twice on the draft, based on the common proposal from APT, from ITU and from the Arab Group. Through the cooperation of the Delegates, the group was able to have consensus on the draft of the Resolutions. Therefore, I would put forward to the Working Group of the Plenary for consideration an adoption the document under DT/46. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

>> CHAIRMAN: Thank you very much, Vietnam. I put forward for your consideration and approval, DT/46.

I have one request for the floor. Russian Federation, you have the floor.

>> RUSSIAN FEDERATION: Many thanks, Chair. Good morning, everyone. We have one proposal on item 3, section "invites Member States." in this section there is a reference to the relevant recommendation of the standardization sectors, ITU-T. We would also like to add a reference to the relevant recommendations from the ITU-R sector, the radio sector.

And our proposal would be such that after the words "with ITU-T" to add "and ITU-R recommendations."

Thank you, sir.

>> CHAIRMAN: Russian Federation, I might have missed this. Could you specify where? Is this in "invites Member States" 3?

>> INTERPRETER: Interpreter responding, "invites Member States" 3.

>> RUSSIAN FEDERATION: Thank you, sir. Item 3, "invites Member States." After the words "ITU-T recommendations and ITU-R recommendations."

There are recommendations on signals in any of the sectors. So the wording should be "ITU-T and ITU-R recommendations."

>> CHAIRMAN: Thank you very much, Russian Federation.

I have a proposal to amend "invites Member States" 3 to read as follow: "To conduct a periodic review to ascertain compliance with levels of radio signals by relevant entities in accordance with ITU-T recommendations and ITU-R recommendations."

I put forward DT/46 with this amendment for your approval.

United States, you have the floor.

>> UNITED STATES: Thank you very much, Mr. Chairman. We are perfectly happy with the modifications to "invites Member States" 3, but I think we need to align the text in "invites Member States" 1 with the text in "invites Member States" 3. Have it read: To take the appropriate measures to ascertain compliance with guidelines produced by ITU and other relevant international organizations with respect to exposure to EMF," because having the wording "ensure compliance" implies that there's a requirement to comply with these recommendations.

Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

>> CHAIRMAN: Thank you very much, United States. Gabon, you have the floor.

>> GABON: Thank you, sir. And good morning, everyone. I would like to thank all of the administrations who have worked on this important issue; and thank them for providing us with this document, which we appreciate and endorse today. Thank you, sir.

>> CHAIRMAN: Thank you very much, Gabon. I put forward DT/46 for your approval, with two amendments. "Invites Member States" 1 will now read: "To take the appropriate measures to ascertain compliance with guidelines produced by ITU," and it will continue as written.

The second amendment is "invites Member States" 3, "to conduct a periodic review to ascertain compliance with levels of radio signals by relevant entities in accordance with ITU-T recommendations and ITU-R recommendations."

Do I have your approval on DT/46 with these two amendments?

I have no requests for the floor. Therefore, DT/46 is approved as amended.

Next we have Agenda Item 2.6, the revision of Resolution 182 and the abrogation of Resolution 35. I would like to invite Egypt to provide us with an update on the progress of work.

Egypt, you have the floor.

>> EGYPT: Thank you, sir. Looking at Resolution 182, I would ask that we push this back to the next meeting, if possible.

>> CHAIRMAN: Thank you very much, Egypt. Please report on the progress in this afternoon's session.

We move to Agenda Item 2.7, the revision of Resolutions 140 and 172. I would like to invite the Russian Federation to give us an update on the progress of work.

Russian Federation, you have the floor.

>> RUSSIAN FEDERATION: Many thanks, sir. Unfortunately, the Chair of the Ad Hoc Group is currently in another meeting. As far as we know, the work is ongoing under these Resolutions. Currently the documents have not yet been presented.

>> CHAIRMAN: Thank you very much, Russian Federation.

We will return to this point in the afternoon. We next move to Agenda Item 2.8, the revision of Resolution 179. I would like to invite the United Kingdom to provide us with an update on the progress of work.

United Kingdom, you have the floor.

>> UNITED KINGDOM: Thank you, Chair. Good morning. Good morning to colleagues. Good news for you, Chair. We have revised the text based on the input documents and now have a consolidated document that will be published later today as a DT for your consideration. Thank you.

>> CHAIRMAN: Thank you very much, United Kingdom. Assuming the DT is translated in time, we will present it in this afternoon's session.

Next we have Agenda Item 2.9, the revision of Resolution 130. I would like to invite Brazil to provide us with an update on the progress of work. Brazil, you have the floor.

>> BRAZIL: Thank you very much, Mr. Chairman. I have no further improvements since yesterday. Actually, the group will reconvene tonight. We have some few hours to engage in a discussion. I hope that we can have progress by tonight. I will try to present to the group, as we have many options and alternatives in brackets in the text. I will present alternatives from the Chair in order to try to advance the works. I think that with the contribution and help of our colleagues, I think that we can progress more this time, in order to finish the "resolves" and restart the first reading of the document. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

>> CHAIRMAN: Thank you very much, Brazil. Next we have Agenda Item 2.10, the revision of Resolution 64 and the proposed new Resolution. I would like to invite Korea to provide us with an update on the progress of work.

Korea, can you provide us with an update on the progress of Resolution 64?

I have no request for the floor. We will postpone this item.

We move to Agenda Item 2.11, the report on the status of the Ad Hoc Group on the Internet-related Resolutions. I would like to invite Italy to provide us with an update on the progress of work.

I have a request for the floor from South Africa. South Africa, you have the floor.

>> SOUTH AFRICA: Thank you, Chairperson. Can we get from Korea, what is the reason for them not reporting?

>> CHAIRMAN: Thank you very much, South Africa. I think they are meeting immediately after this. So I am expecting a report from them this afternoon. However, I do not have a request from the floor for Korea. I'm not sure if the correct representative is here. Korea, I have a request. You have the floor.

>> REPUBLIC OF KOREA: Thank you, Chairman. Yes, the lady who chairs the Resolution 64 Ad Hoc Group, she is not in this room. So she will come back this afternoon and she will report the progress of the work of the ad hoc on Resolution 64. Thank you very much, Chairman.

>> CHAIRMAN: Thank you very much, Korea.

We are currently on Agenda Item 2.11, which is the Internet-related Resolutions. I would like to invite Italy to provide us with an update on the progress of work.

Is Italy in the room?

I have no requests for the floor so this will be postponed to this afternoon. However, this is one of the ad hocs that I anticipate will be meeting immediately after this morning's session.

I would like to come back to Agenda Item 2.1, which is the revision of Resolution 131. I would like to ask Argentina to give us an update on the progress of work.

>> ARGENTINA: Thank you very much indeed, Mr. Chairman. Good morning to you all. Argentina once again is putting Document 42 before the room regarding the modification of Resolution 131, Measuring ICTs for the Construction of an Inclusive and Integrated Information Society.

This was submitted yesterday and we were pending, waiting for the translation in all of the various languages. This has been done now. Hence, we would like to call for the approval of this document. Thank you.

>> CHAIRMAN: Thank you very much, Argentina. I put forward for your consideration and approval DT/42. Do I have any comments? I have no requests for the floor. I move that we approve DT/42 as is.

Senegal, you have the floor.

>> SENEGAL: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Yes, regarding DT/42, I had two comments I would like to voice. Page 3, "considering" D. If we could add the wording "the private sector," because we have mention here of the sectors, academia, Civil Society and also the governmental authorities. If we could also add private sector to this, that would be good.

Another comment also on page 4, if I may. "Considering" E. If we could add "regional," the term "regional" because we are talking about references here. And we have digital divide, domestic international dimensions. If we could also have regional dimensions in addition to domestic and international. Thank you.

>> CHAIRMAN: Senegal, I need some clarification. Because both D has a lot of subpoints. Could you specify which sub-point under D that you are proposing that we add? And the same for E.

Senegal, could you please provide us with a clarification?

Senegal, you have the floor.

>> SENEGAL: Thank you, Chairman. Regarding D, "considering" D. Yes, looking at page 3, "considering" D. That would be the first paragraph. There under the first bullet. In fact, it's the penultimate bullet point. Sorry, I didn't point that out. Talking about encouraging Member States, the penultimate line, talking about encouraging Member States. And they talk about university and also Civil Society. If we could just add "private sector" to that. This is certainly very important. It's the penultimate bullet point. That was for D.

>> CHAIRMAN: Thank you for the clarification on D, Senegal. Could you also provide us with a clarification on E? Is it the first bullet point?

>> SENEGAL: This is the considering -- yes, the first bullet point under E. It's 113. We talk about the domestic and international dimensions. That's that first dot under E, 113. You see 113? Right in the middle of that paragraph where we talk about domestic and international. I would like to have domestic, regional and international dimensions. I would like to add "regional." Thank you.

>> CHAIRMAN: Thank you very much for the clarification, Senegal.

I put forward for your consideration DT/42 with two amendments. Under considering D, it now reads: "Encourages Member States to bring together different stakeholders in Government, academia and Civil Society in raising national awareness." Sorry.

I repeat "encourages Member States to bring together different stakeholders in Government, academia, Civil Society and private sector in raising national awareness about the importance of production and dissemination of high quality data for policy purposes." With regard to E, however, I have one question which I would like the Argentina to respond to, which is: Is this exact text from the Tunis Agenda? If we are quoting exact text there may be a problem with amending it. I would like to give the floor to the Dominican Republic.

>> DOMINICAN REPUBLIC: Thank you, Chairman. I would like to put a question to Argentina. In the same "considering" high quality data for political -- is it for political use or public policy? That's what I'm trying to see. Thank you.

>> CHAIRMAN: Dominican Republic, could you clarify which point you are referring to? And if necessary, which sub-point?

>> DOMINICAN REPUBLIC: Thank you, Chairman. Under "considering," we are looking at adding also the private sector, "encourage Member States to bring together different stakeholders" at the end there. We have dissemination of high quality data for policy purposes. I'm just wondering, is this for political use or public policy? See, this is a question of translation into Spanish because it is a little bit unclear in Spanish. I would just like to have that clarification. Thank you.

>> CHAIRMAN: Thank you very much, Dominican Republic. Russian Federation, you have the floor.

>> RUSSIAN FEDERATION: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I would like to draw your attention to the fact that the items we are looking at right now, these are "considering" D and E are exact quotes. D makes mention of the Dubai action plan, whereas E quotes the Tunis Agenda. So I have some concerns here. I'm wondering if we can truly, can we modify, can we amend text that were already adopted heretofore by other bodies? Do we have the right to modify them? I have a concern there, some doubts in fact.

>> CHAIRMAN: Thank you, Russian Federation, for drawing our attention to that fact. India, you have the floor.

>> INDIA: Thank you, Chairman. We just want to draw your attention on this "instructs the Director of the Telecommunications Bureau" where it says, the bullet point 5, "to continue to hold the World Telecommunication/ICT Indicators Symposium and Experts Meetings at least once every two years." Here we have discussed that these high profile events cost a lot to the ITU and their commensurate benefit may not be adding the cost to such high profile events.

Maybe in that case the same objective could be achieved by issuing some sort of guidelines or holding small meetings at the ITU and not conducting the high profile World Telecommunications and Indicators Symposium, only if necessary it should be held. But by defining it every two years, it becomes sort of mandatory that they have to be conducted. In that case what happens is that then the attention from the core activity is diverted and activity on these marginal activities which help in refining your indicators or in measurement only happens. It doesn't make much difference whether, with a rough estimate you are able to arrive at 25.2 percent or with the symposium with more refined calculation you raise to 26. So it doesn't make that difference.

Yes, these should be conducted if we have a lot of funds. They are nice to do activities. If that could be appropriately reflected, we would be grateful. Thank you, Chairman.

>> CHAIRMAN: Thank you, India. Argentina, you have the floor. I would also ask that you provide us with some insight into whether these points have been raised in the discussions previously.

Argentina, you have the floor.

>> ARGENTINA: Thank you very much indeed, Mr. Chairman. With regard to the question raised by the Dominican Republic, in the text there "encourages Member States," this makes reference to public policy. Yes. Now, regarding the Tunis Agenda, yes, we agree with the Delegate from the Russian Federation stating that these are exact texts and we ought not to introduce any other terms. These texts seek to guarantee the orientation of this Draft Resolution.

Regarding the question raised by India now, in 5, paragraph 5, we do have the specification that these two meetings, the Expert Group meeting and the symposium are conditioned to the budget. I don't know if this would be enough to determine, in fact, whether or not we actually have the funds, the solvency for these two meetings. I hope that I have been able to address those concerns. Thank you.

>> CHAIRMAN: Thank you very much for your clarification, Argentina. Given that the two changes to the earlier section are both to text that is quoted from the Dubai Action Plan and the Tunis Agenda respectively, I would ask if we can accept the texts on those two as is.

I have no requests for the floor. I'm requesting on the first two amendments under "considering" D and E that we do not amendment it, as these are amendments to quotes from previously approved documents. I have no requests for the floor. I will take that as approval.

With regard to the point under "resolves to instruct the Secretary-General and the Director of the" -- sorry. "Instructs the Director of the BDT," point number 5, I make note of the explanation from Argentina that the text states "to hold the WTIS and experts meetings at least once every two years within budget availability."

Stressing this clause that there must be solvency and budget available, can we accept the text as is without amendment?

I have no requests for the floor. India, you have the floor.

>> INDIA: Thank you, Chairman. We appreciate the explanation what is given here. But when we write "at least to once a year," these two things become sort of conflicting. When the instructions are there, even if you write, even when we write "within the budget availability," the tendency is to find it in the budget, because this is the sort of mandatory conditions. You find that budget from somewhere else. So we would be happy if it is written that if something short of slightly, to continue to apprise the Member States on how to assess the ICT indicators and if necessary, to hold World Telecommunications and ICT Indicators Symposium and Experts Meeting. If it could be slightly redrafted, we would be prepared to work on this and give the draft.

This issue we had raised, we had raised in the Decision 5. There we were, it was mentioned that it will be discussed under Resolution 77 where other conferences and things would be raised. We thought we would raise that issue in that meeting. However, we find that it is getting reflected here. So we would appreciate for the benefit of all that it could be worded in a softer language.

We are not against holding it. But just considering the finances of the Union, we feel that it can be slightly moderated. Thanks, Chairman.

>> CHAIRMAN: Thank you very much, India. Argentina, could you please provide us with some insight into how the discussion went on this particular point? Because I would like to close this document, given that this appears to be a somewhat small point. Argentina, you have the floor.

>> ARGENTINA: Thank you very much, Mr. Chairman. In order to try to moderate the wording here of this "considering" what we can do is to adopt, maintain the holding" in as much as possible once every two years of the Expert Group meeting and the symposium, subject to budget availability."

I don't know if this type of wording, could we perhaps accommodate the concerns of India so that we can move ahead on this? Thank you very much.

>> CHAIRMAN: Thank you very much, Argentina. I have a request from the Secretariat. Secretariat, you have the floor.

>> SECRETARY OF THE WGPL: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Just to clarify one or two things. Of course, we leave it in the hands of the membership to decide. Just to say that we have in fact made a reform with respect to the Expert Group on Telecommunications Indicators, and the Expert Group on Household Indicators. We have combined these two groups. They used to meet separately, but now they meet together and they share experiences.

Secondly, there is an issue concerning the periodicity of the event WTIS. ITU is considered to be the lead agency in terms of ICT indicators. The U.N. as the statistical commission usually convenes once every year. All the U.N. agencies are party to that. We also have a partnership where we have most of the U.N. agencies and currently ITU is chairing that group.

The two groups, EGT and EGH serve as a platform where Member States composed of national statistical offices and also regulated authorities meet and they discuss emerging methodologies. And they come up with agreed methodologies and measurement indicators. And because of the rapid growth and change in the ICT sector, it is important to move in tandem with the developments in that sector.

Normally we have a problem in that when the technology is changing, we don't quite adapt to that change. People like the World Bank, the World Economic Forum and other entities that rely solely on ITU indicators for this purpose. Now the World Telecommunication Indicator Symposium endorses EGTI and EGH. If they don't work in sync it becomes a huge challenge. We may run the risk of not being able to produce the statistics that are used by the Member States in formulating public policy and by the private sector in identifying market opportunities. I just thought it would be important to bring this issue to the attention of the membership and also that we are currently dealing with one critical element, which is the big data issue. And then also the Post-2015 Development Agenda which are quite critical elements, and measuring the Information Society is an integral component of it.

With the aim of serving, we have also combined the WTIS and the launch of the Measuring Information Society report, which also takes place once a year. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

>> CHAIRMAN: Thank you very much, Secretariat, for that clarification.

I would like to make a proposal on this text. The proposal reads: "To continue to hold the World Telecommunications/ICT Indicators Symposium and Experts Meetings periodically, subject to budget availability with participation by all," and it continues.

Could we approve such text and would that address all concerns? South Africa, you have the floor.

>> SOUTH AFRICA: Thank you, Chairperson. With the amendment you made, but given the comments that our colleague is making, maybe subject to budget availability be removed. If we have to take this work seriously, it assists the Developing Countries around measuring themselves and also impacts monitoring. So if we have to really respond to the WEF and other agencies of the U.N. in providing accurate data, we really have to take this work seriously. But subjecting to availability of budget, it makes it inconsistent and relative to whatever is remaining. It doesn't give it the impetus that it deserves. Maybe we can remove that "subject to budget availability" and keep it as it is so it becomes a binding issue.

>> CHAIRMAN: Thank you very much, South Africa. Saudi Arabia, you have the floor.

>> SAUDI ARABIA: Thank you very much, Mr. Chairman. Good morning to you all. Just in a word what I would like to do is to support the speaker who spoke just before me, the Delegate of South Africa. We are talking about here activities of capital importance. It is true there is a budget that must be adopted. Generally speaking, we don't use this type of wording. It makes things too hypothetical in nature. We want more certainty in these matters.

>> CHAIRMAN: Thank you, Saudi Arabia. I have one more request for the floor and I will make a final proposal. Based on the comments to that final proposal I will decide on the way forward.

Nigeria, you have the floor.

>> NIGERIA: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Nigeria wants to support the proposal from the South Africa and the comment from Saudi Arabia. We would like the clause to be removed so that this work would have the impetus of the Union. Thank you.

>> CHAIRMAN: Thank you very much, Nigeria.

My final proposal in this session under point number 5, "to continue to hold the World Telecommunications/ICT Indicators Symposium and Experts Meetings periodically with participation by all Member States, sector members, experts on ICT indicators," and it continues.

Can we approve DT/42 with this amendment?

I have no requests from the floor. DT/42 is approved as amended.

Russian Federation, you have the floor.

>> RUSSIAN FEDERATION: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I do apologize, but I wasn't here. I just have come back to the room, but there is an item on the agenda that I was supposed to report on. It was slated for a bit later. So what I would like to do is give you an update on the work on Resolutions 140 and 172, if I may, thank you.

>> CHAIRMAN: Russian Federation, you may. Please proceed.

>> RUSSIAN FEDERATION: Thank you, sir. Sir, the Ad Hoc Group on Resolutions 140 and 172 held two meetings. On Resolution 140 we moved maybe 50 percent forward. We plan on having a meeting this evening. Maybe we will need a meeting tomorrow in the first half of the day as well.

One of the issues at hand without which it will be difficult to move forward, and I think this will require the assistance of the Legal Adviser, has to do with the status of the WSIS decision and the status of the decisions that will be taken by the U.N. General Assembly at the high level meeting there. Perhaps the General Assembly decisions will change or the decisions of the WSIS, maybe the General Assembly will change or cancel the decisions of the summit. We don't have any clarity on this issue. So we will try to work with the Legal Adviser. We think that that will help us in our further proceedings.

Thank you, sir. I would like to thank all of the participants of this group for working in a good, friendly spirit with me.

>> CHAIRMAN: Thank you very much, Russian Federation. That brings us to the end of Agenda Item 2. I would like to offer my thanks to all ad hoc Chairman and coordinators and congratulate those who had their work completed and approved.

As agreed we will now close this session of the Working Group of the Plenary and reconvene at 4:00 o'clock to continue with our agenda. I have a request from the floor. United States, you have the floor.

>> UNITED STATES: Thank you very much, Mr. Chairman. Yesterday afternoon you asked us to consult with interested parties on the modification to Decision 11 on creation and management of Council Working Groups, specifically on the one element in "decides" 3 and with the aim of providing geographical and gender balance.

We have coordinated with some parties but I would like to invite any others interested to come and see me after the meeting closes. Thank you, Chairman.

>> CHAIRMAN: Thank you very much, United States, for your efforts. Yes, I would encourage all to approach you for their input, to provide their input and comments on this matter.

We have immediately after this session at 10:30 we will have the ad hoc on the Internet-related Resolutions which will be meeting here in Room A. We have the ad hoc on Resolution 64, which will be meeting in Room G.

We also have the ad hoc on WSIS at 6:30 tonight. And the room will be announced. And we have the ad hoc on Resolution 130 which will be at 6:30 tonight in Room B. As always, for all ad hocs, please check the screens for the latest updates.

I have no requests for the floor at this time. Therefore, this session of the Working Group of the Plenary is closed. Thank you.

(The meeting concluded.)

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