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BUSAN, KOREA

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NINTH WORKING GROUP OF THE PLENARY

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>> CHAIRMAN: Good afternoon, ladies and gentlemen, and welcome back to the Working Group of the Plenary. As always, I would like to begin by checking the translation.

English?

>> INTERPRETER: Good afternoon.

>> CHAIRMAN: Thank you. French? Merci.

Spanish? Is Spanish interpretation active?

Gracias.

Russian? Spaceeba. Chinese?

>> INTERPRETER: Hello. Hello.

Hello. Yes, hello.

>> CHAIRMAN: Xie xie.

Arabic?

>> INTERPRETER: Good morning, sir.

>> CHAIRMAN: With that, we resume our agenda. Although I do feel somewhat obligated to wish you all happy Halloween, seeing as we have some very festive Delegates out and about. Photos seem to be the order of the day. I tip my hat to everyone who is getting into the festive season. Thank you for lightening the mood.

Right. I would like to continue with the reports on the ad hocs that have met. So I would like to first call on Canada to update us on the progress of work on the new Resolution, connectivity to mobile broadband networks.

Canada, you have the floor.

>> CANADA: Thank you, Chairman. I am happy to be able to say that just before your session started we were able to have a discussion with one of the administrations involved. And we have reached agreement. We now have to consult with a couple of others, but I am fairly confident that we will be able to reach a conclusion very soon. Thank you.

>> CHAIRMAN: Thank you very much, Canada. Please let us know if you require any assistance in this matter. Please note that we will need the text by the end much Sunday at the absolute latest so we can present it on Monday. Thank you for all your efforts.

Next I would like to invite Korea to give us an update on the progress of work for the new Resolution creating an enabling environment for the deployment and use of ICT applications.

Korea, you have the floor.

>> REPUBLIC OF KOREA: Thank you, Chair. Yes, we had a very constructive proposal from Russia to the Radiocommunication Bureau Director in the "instructs the Director of the Telecommunication Development Bureau." We consulted with the other Member States, like the United States and Canada, who also were willing to add the Radio Bureau. So now we have the full agreement about this new Draft Resolution. So now I am happy to present this DT document, which is now available, 49-E, in the website. Thank you.

>> CHAIRMAN: Thank you very much, Korea. Korea, just so we're all clear, could you read out the amended text? Which I believe was "instructs the Director of the Telecommunication Development Bureau" point 3. If you could read out the text. Korea, you have the floor.

>> REPUBLIC OF KOREA: It now reads: "To work with the Director of the Telecommunication Standardization Bureau (TSB) and the Director of the Radiocommunication Bureau (BR), as appropriate, to encourage cooperation with other relevant organizations in the development of best practices relating to the network infrastructure that enables the use of a wide range of applications." Thank you.

>> CHAIRMAN: Thank you very much, Korea. I put forward for your consideration and approval DT/49 with the amendment as just read by Korea. Do I have your approval on DT/49?

I have no requests for the floor. DT/49 is approved as amended.

Next I would like to call upon Egypt to give us an update on the progress of the work on the Revision of Resolution 182 and Abrogation of Resolution 35.

Egypt, you have the floor.

>> EGYPT: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. And good afternoon to all colleagues in the room. Mr. Chairman, the consolidation group was formed to discuss the modifications to Resolution 182 on the issue of climate change and the role of ICTs. And after having four meetings and representatives of all the Regions and all the countries who had contributions on this Resolution were present. After a lengthy discussion that we had, yet it was adorned by the spirit of cooperation and compromise and understanding by all the Delegates that were present in the meetings, the four meetings. I have the pleasure to announce we reached consensus and that modifications to Resolution 182 is now a clean document with no square brackets. It is now a DT document. I was advised by the Secretariat that it will be sent to the Working Group of the Plenary as a DT on Monday.

So we are done with this document and, moreover, on the suppression of Resolution 35, it is also, we reached consensus that it should be suppressed. This was accepted by all Delegates present in the consolidation group.

Of course, I can't conclude without thanking all the Delegates for their compromising and cooperative attitude and for the hard work which really took us quite a long time to reach this work, but yet it was very fruitful. We are happy and proud of what we did. Thank you very much, Honorable Chair.

>> CHAIRMAN: Thank you very much, Egypt, and thank you to everyone who participated in the work. We will present the DT on Monday for approval.

And in fact, I should have and I apologize for not doing so, I should have thanked Korea and everyone who participated in the work on the new Resolutions. So thank you for your efforts.

Next we have the revision of Resolution 179. I would like to invite the United Kingdom to give us an update on the progress of work.

United Kingdom, you have the floor.

>> UNITED KINGDOM: Thank you, Chair. Good afternoon. Revised Resolution 179 appears in DT/50 and is put forward to your meeting, Chair, for consideration. We met over the last week, as you well know from the update reports that we provided. And I am glad to say that through the spirit of compromise and great efforts, we have managed to revise the text of Resolution 179.

We would point out, Chair, there are two sets of square brackets within the text: The first in "requests the Council;" and the second in "instructs the Secretary-General." These are there, Chair, dealing with openness of participation and openness and availability of the documentation. These are awaiting the results of other discussions and can be amended as a result of those other discussions. But it is put forward in DT/50 for your consideration. Thank you.

>> CHAIRMAN: Thank you very much, United Kingdom, for your efforts and thank you to everyone who participated in this work. As DT/50 is not yet translated into all six languages, we will be presenting it on Monday for final approval.

Next we have Resolution 64 and the associated new Resolution. I would like to call upon Korea to give us an update on the progress of work.

Korea, you have the floor.

>> REPUBLIC OF KOREA: Thank you, Chair. The Ad Hoc Group on Resolution 64 met twice, last night for more than four hours and today also four hours.

So among those eight hours, all those members who were interested in Resolution 64, we consulted with those interested parties and made a lot of progress.

But we didn't really reach the agreement yet, final agreement yet. So that means we need another Ad Hoc Group meeting, if that's possible. We are asking for another consultation meeting, either sometime this evening or sometime tomorrow. Thank you.

Taking advantage of this opportunity, I would also like to appreciate those who are willing to collaborate with this whole consultation process, especially the administration from Cuba and Sudan and United States and also other Arab States and Africa and states who were willing to cooperate on this one. Thank you.

>> CHAIRMAN: Thank you very much, Korea. Again, thank you for everyone participating in this. Please note that we will need preferably a final document by end of day Sunday so that we can present it on Monday.

I would like to ask the Secretariat to find us a room. I believe we can schedule one for this evening if everyone is available. We will provide an update on that at the end of the session.

Next I would like to invite Italy to provide us with an update on the progress of work on the Ad Hoc Group on Internet related Resolutions. Italy, you have the floor.

>> ITALY: Thank you, Chairman. We held two meetings, one this morning before the Plenary and one this afternoon. We have completed the first reading, let's say, of Resolution 101, 102, 133 and 180. We have to tackle the proposed text for new Resolution and come back to the Resolution I just quoted to have finally agreed text. There were some points that were left for informal discussion. I hope that in the time being they found the right terminology and solution for all.

So we need to meet definitely tomorrow and maybe also Sunday. I will try to avoid, but I cannot guarantee, in order to finish our work. Thanks.

>> CHAIRMAN: Thank you very much, Italy. As mentioned to the other ad hoc chairs, please try to complete the work by end of day Sunday if at all possible, or at least the major points.

I would like to ask on the progress of Resolution 102 as it pertains to the discussion on Decision 11. Have we reached consensus on Resolution 102? Italy, you have the floor.

>> ITALY: I am afraid there are still something coming from the informal consultation group. As I say, there is something that will take tomorrow to see how really the final text looks like. So I cannot say it is completely agreed text.

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

With that, we complete the reports from the ad hoc chairs. I would ask that everyone give them your utmost support, particularly since we need to work over the weekend. And I ask for your patience as we try to complete all the work in time for next week.

I would like to note as I've mentioned to the Chairs that we do need to try to complete this work by end of day Sunday because our final session is on Wednesday. We are going to need those days to go through the texts and approve them. We will also be having Plenaries during that time. We do not have that much time to work with. Thank you for all your patience, time and understanding during this time.

Next we move to Agenda Item 3, Decision 11. We opened the discussion yesterday and at the conclusion we had a few points.

These were primary, sort of primary policy positions. None of which were fully agreed. I would like to tackle again today. However, I would like to begin with the section that did not seem to have any major disagreements, which is the preambular parts of Decision 11.

What I would like to do is take us through them, each change at a time, and see if we have broad consensus on these points. Do I have any objection to this approach? I have no requests for the floor. So we will proceed.

To begin, we have a change in "considering." I have a proposal from all three contributions, from APT, CEPT and the United States, which make reference to Resolution 71. Most of the changes are editorial in nature. Do I have any objection to adopting this text?

Sorry, before I ask for the adoption I should note that the text is essentially identical.

Okay. The only extra change is the one in the U.S. text which says that the Strategic Plan for the Union is from 2016 to 2019, which I believe is correct. So I propose that we adopt the text as in the U.S. proposal.

Do I have any objection?

I see none. Next we have three contributions to amend "considering" E. They are all the same in substance and simply include a reference to Resolution of the Council on Council Working Groups. I would suggest accepting the text of APT, which is also identical to the U.S. text. The European proposal is similar in substance with minor changes. So my proposal is to accept the Asia-Pacific text in "considering" E.

Do I have any objection?

I see none.

Next we have a U.S. contribution on new "recognizing" A to D. Do I have any objection with approving "recognizing" A to D as per the U.S. contribution?

I have no requests for the floor. Russian Federation, you have the floor.

>> RUSSIAN FEDERATION: Thank you very much, Chairman. Not all participants could look through this decision. We got a little lost. Please, could you let us know which document precisely you are looking at so that we can look at the changes or the text which we are to adopt? Thank you.

>> CHAIRMAN: Thank you very much, Russian Federation. There is no DT on this. So I am looking at the three proposals as they are, which are, in order of document number, USA/27 Addendum 1/4; ACP 67 Addendum 1/8; and EUR80, Addendum 1/4.

What I'm trying to understand here is merely which points require further discussion and which points can be agreed broadly in consensus. If it would be helpful I can read out the sections clearly so that all participants know exactly which sections we are discussing.

United Arab Emirates, you have the floor.

>> UNITED ARAB EMIRATES: Thank you very much, Mr. Chairperson. I would like topping thank you for your initiative in looking into the text where there is some consensus with regard to "recognizing"" 11, or Decision 11. If you would like to establish a tiny small Working Group to look into the proposal made by the different regions and to provide a report to be presented to our next meeting on Monday and that the group meet either on Saturday or Sunday to look into the amendments to Decision 11, because as the Honorable Delegate from the Russian Federation said, it is difficult for us to look into three texts at the same time. And, therefore, we propose to you, Mr. Chairperson, that there be a Drafting Group or an Ad Hoc Group, as you wish, in order to look into Decision 11. Thank you very much, Mr. Chairperson.

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

>> RUSSIAN FEDERATION: Thank you very much, Chairman, for your clarification. We found the Document DT/7 where all the three proposals are covered together. In principle we can look at them there. However, it will be difficult for us to work without the document which would be a consolidated proposal, a consolidation of all of these proposals.

So we support the previous proposal from the United Arab Emirates. At any rate, we would like to have a consolidated document so that we could look through that and quickly assess any proposals for changes. Thank you, sir.

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

Cuba, you have the floor.

>> CUBA: Thank you, Chairman. Our Delegation while being very much in favor of your efforts in trying to advance as quickly as possible in these discussions, we do also believe it would be productive to have more than one view on what we are doing at the moment. We are not very clear on all of these documents and we believe that the proposal which was made is a useful one. We could support it. If this group within is to be created could work as quickly as possible and bring together all these ideas as quickly as possible, that would be a good way in order to enable us to make progress as quickly as possible on this decision.

I understand there is a great deal of consensus around this issue already. Thank you, sir.

>> CHAIRMAN: Thank you very much, Cuba. My intention here was to walk us through the document, due to the fact that it is interlinked with other documents as we had, and other work as we had mentioned yesterday. So that in order to have a clear mandate, we would work through it, identify the areas of consensus that would not need further work, and then identify areas that do need work so that we can focus on them once we have the results back from the other groups, most notably the Internet-related ad hoc with relation to Resolution 102.

My preference would be to walk through the preambular parts. I do have an objection to that and I have a request to form an Ad Hoc Group. We now have two approaches. I can either create a smaller group, or we can continue the discussion on policy positions. I had yesterday tasked the United States with consulting with other Member States on the text for the gender balance and geographical balance in selection of the Council Chairmen. Do I have any other comments on preference of approach?

I have none. Very well.

What I would propose is that we can form a smaller Drafting Group where we put this text up on the screen. But before doing so, I would like to ask the United States to present the outcomes of their work on the consultation with regard to the gender and geographical balance in selection of Council Chairmen.

United States? United States, you have the floor.

>> UNITED STATES: Thank you very much, Mr. Chairman. We consulted with more than a dozen administrations, and I'm happy to report that there was support for adding the text to decide -- to "decides" three with the aim of providing geographical and gender balance. We did discuss during that consultation that it seems that the translation of the word "aim" which is aspirational, has come across as something more in the line of a mandatory requirement in the Arabic text. So there may need to be some alignment between the Arabic and the English text on this point.

Thank you, Chairman.

>> CHAIRMAN: Thank you very much, United States. Since this seems to be an editorial and translation problem I would like to propose that the text is amended such as the word "aims" is changed to "with the intention of."

Is that acceptable?

I have no requests for the floor. If you give me one moment to find the text in my notes.

There we go, found it. I do have a request for the floor. Iran, you have the floor.

>> ISLAMIC REPUBLIC OF IRAN: Thank you, sir. There is a third term which could be used. "With a view to. With a view to." Thank you.

>> CHAIRMAN: I have a proposal from the floor. The proposal is in point under "decides" 3 that the Council should decide the leadership of the Working Groups "with a view to providing geographical and gender balance."

Do I have any objection to that? I see none.

United States, you have the floor.

>> UNITED STATES: Thank you, Chairman. I believe that your proposal made the text clearer about what is intended. So I would prefer to stick with your proposal, "with the intention of providing geographical and gender balance."

Thank you, Chairman.

>> CHAIRMAN: Thank you very much, United States. Can I ask you all to accept that the Council should decide the leadership of the Working Groups "with the intention of providing geographical and gender balance"?

I have no requests for the floor. I will take that as consensus on this text.

The second -- Iran, you have the floor.

>> ISLAMIC REPUBLIC OF IRAN: Thank you, Chairman. I think "with a view" is much stronger than the intention. You have intention, but you do not have "with a view to."

"With a view to" is more similar to the aiming at. Intention, something there. You sign a letter of intention, but you never buy anything.

>> CHAIRMAN: So my question now is, should we put this in brackets? United States, you have the floor.

>> UNITED STATES: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Either "aim" or "intention" imply effort. "With a view to" does not recognize effort. We feel we would request that we stick with "an intention to."

>> CHAIRMAN: Cuba, you have the floor.

>> CUBA: Thank you, Chairman. In English because I think now the discussion is ... you know, we fully support what was suggested by our colleague from Iran. I think that this proposal is more in line with what, the language that we normally use here at the United Nations in the ITU and United Nations in general. So I think that all the language is similar. The one suggested by Iran is more in line with what we normally do here at the United Nations. Thank you.

>> CHAIRMAN: Thank you very much, Cuba. Senegal, you have the floor.

>> SENEGAL: Thank you, Chair. With regard to this text this morning, we heard from the United States and other countries, in the English version it was less strong. It was less of an obligation. However, in the French text we had this morning it was an obligation which was given to the Council to ensure a geographical, equitable geographical distribution and gender balance.

So there needs to be a new translation made for this in French. I do have the impression that there should not be an obligation. There could in fact be confusion here between the English and French texts in that respect. I would like to request that this be taken into account, thank you.

>> CHAIRMAN: Very well. It seems to me that there is still some work that needs to be done. We still need to look into the drafting. I take on the suggestion that we form a smaller group based on our terminology, I will term this an Ad Hoc Group. If you will give me a few minutes to consider who to lead this group. I beg your indulgence in this matter.

Thank you for your patience. I would like to propose the following. We form an Ad Hoc Group that will meet immediately, considering that we have come to the end of our Agenda. I would like to propose that Sweden leads this Ad Hoc Group.

Would this be an acceptable proposal?

I have no objection. Therefore, the Ad Hoc Group will be formed.

Sweden, you have the floor.

>> SWEDEN: It is a matter of resource for us. I can't actually promise that we can do that. So if there is any other that could easily do it, we would be very grateful for that. If not, we will clearly do it, as you ask. Thank you, Chairman.

>> CHAIRMAN: Thank you very much, Sweden. Apologies for not consulting with you first.

In that case what I would like to do is to take a 20-minute recess to consult with parties to find someone who is available. Is that acceptable? Thank you for your patience. Twenty minutes.

(Standing by.)

>> CHAIRMAN: Ladies and gentlemen, thank you for your patience. After some quick informal consultations I would like to propose the following: I will propose that Decision 11 be handed to a small Ad Hoc Group, which will be led by Australia. And will meet tomorrow from 12:30 to 2:30.

The room is to be allocated by the Secretariat. Do I have any objection to this approach?

I have no requests for the floor. Australia, do you accept? Australia, you have the floor.

>> AUSTRALIA: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. We would be happy to accept this responsibility. Thank you.

>> CHAIRMAN: Thank you very much, Australia, for your kind support.

With that, we have no more items on the agenda to discuss for today. Before we close I open for any general comments or other business.

I have no requests for the floor. Therefore, I will give you the reminders on the ad hocs schedule. Today we have from 6:30 onwards the WSIS-related Resolutions in Room C.

We also have at 6:30 today Resolution 130 in Room B. We also have at 6:30 Resolution 64, and the related new Resolution in Room G.

Apparently it is in Room E.

Tomorrow, Saturday, at 9:30 we have the Internet-related Resolutions in Room B. At 10:00 a.m. we have the WSIS-related Resolutions in Room C. And from 12:30 to 2:30 we have the Decision 11 Ad Hoc that we just discussed.

On Sunday we will have -- give me one moment to double-check this.

We have the Internet-related Resolutions in Room A.

As always, all of these ad hocs will be posted on the screens. I have two requests for the floor. Iran, you have the floor.

>> ISLAMIC REPUBLIC OF IRAN: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. First, important point for me. I hope you have not put on any meeting on Sunday. I hope you have heard never on Sunday. Melina Mercouri, many years ago. We don't expect any meeting on Sunday. That is as I understand.

Having said that, Mr. Chairman, I have one point to raise. First, the reply, on Sunday do you have any meeting or not?

>> CHAIRMAN: Well, I have not heard of Melina Mercouri before. Whether we have a meeting on Sunday depends upon the work of the ad hocs, but we do have a meeting scheduled for Sunday. If the Ad Hoc Groups complete the work on Saturday, obviously I don't need to bring you in on Sunday. If the work does not complete, we probably will have to meet on Sunday.

Just one correction.

>> ISLAMIC REPUBLIC OF IRAN: Okay, okay, Chairman.

>> CHAIRMAN: Sorry, Iran, if I can make one correction for Sunday. Resolution 130 is not the Internet-related Resolutions on Sunday. Iran, you have the floor.

>> ISLAMIC REPUBLIC OF IRAN: Thank you, Chairman. The second point I wanted to raise. During the other small -- I don't know what size -- Ad Hoc Group, various Ad Hoc Group created by your meeting, some distinguished government representative mentioned they don't want to give any concessions to anything. Is not a very good way of collaborations. They take a very tough positions and they are not prepared to move forward with the others.

Whereas some other countries, or the majority, they made a lot of concessions. Chairman, in order to maintain the healthy environment and friendly environment under your leadership, Chairman, that we have a competent young man, I suggest that you recommend everybody to make utmost efforts to be engaged in consensus building. It is not the objectives nor the aim of this conference that colleagues stand on their position and do not move. They should move towards each other, Chairman.

If that is the idea that people do not move, they implicitly force other countries to take the same positions. And then we would not achieve our goal and agreement.

So that is a plea to you. We have one last night and we had one today. And that is to the extent that some other Member States requested those very tough Member States to please respect others. So this is mutual respect. I'm sure that all of us, we are all collaborating. But you need to give this guidance to the meeting because now we are reaching towards the end of the issues, coming to very critical points, selection of some elements from Option 1, 2, and 3 and we need to collaborate, Chairman. We need to follow this golden approach of ITU. Everybody equally happy or everybody equally unhappy.

Thank you.

>> CHAIRMAN: Thank you very much for your comments, Iran. It would trouble me greatly if that was the approach taken. However, I'm sure that there must be some sort of misunderstanding. As from what I have seen in the room we are all working together in a friendly, engaging and constructive manner. Nevertheless, once again I would urge all to seek consensus as I'm sure you are already doing.

Cuba, you have the floor.

>> CUBA: Thank you, Chairman. We requested the floor first to support what Iran was saying about Sunday. We now know that we will be working on Resolution 130 on Sunday and we will be there.

You also made another announcement which was that today at 6:30 we would discuss Resolution 64 along with Resolution 130. In the case of our Delegation, we are very interested in both those Resolutions. Yet we are a very small Delegation. It will be very difficult for us to participate in those concurrent meetings. I don't know whether there might be a solution for this.

Maybe the discussion of Resolution 130 could begin later, perhaps at 8:30 or early tomorrow morning. That is my suggestion.

We are very interested in that Resolution, but I repeat it is very difficult for us to participate in two concurrent meetings of this type. Thank you.

>> CHAIRMAN: Thank you very much, Cuba. I appreciate the difficulty of a small Delegation taking part in multiple groups. We do have a scheduling problem. This would mean that I would have to shift the Resolution 64, ad hoc, to Saturday morning which would then run alongside the Internet-related Resolutions. If this is acceptable to the floor and I have no objection, we can make the change now. Otherwise I will have to ask the Secretariat to look more carefully into the schedule.

Do I have any objection to shifting the Resolution 64 ad hoc to tomorrow morning? Saudi Arabia, you have the floor.

>> SAUDI ARABIA: Thank you, Chairman. Perhaps the third suggestion to avoid concurrent meetings on 64 and 130, maybe there would be some way to have some third potential solution which would keep those two meetings apart. That might be better for administrations interested in both Resolutions.

>> CHAIRMAN: Sorry, Saudi Arabia, I'm not sure. What exactly were you proposing? Saudi Arabia, you have the floor.

>> SAUDI ARABIA: Thank you, Chairman. Would it be possible to find another solution to the ones already mentioned concerning the scheduling of the meetings in question? We are being told that one option is to postpone Resolution 64 to tomorrow morning. But that is not ideal for us. We too are interested in Resolution 64 and in Resolution 130.

So could there be another solution?

>> CHAIRMAN: The solution that I'm proposing at this time is that it be held on Saturday. However, as I said at the beginning of this discussion, if the initial proposal was not acceptable, I would ask the Secretariat to look into it and post the times, which I do so now.

So Resolution 64 will not meet today. It will meet tomorrow. The specific time and room will be announced on the boards by the Secretariat pending availability.

Do I have any other comments from the floor?

I have none. Therefore, this meeting of the Working Group of the Plenary is now closed. Thank you all for your time and efforts.

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