FINISHED TRANSCRIPT

WORLD CONFERENCE ON INTERNATIONAL TELECOMMUNICATIONS WORLD CONFERENCE ON INTERNATIONAL TELECOMMUNICATIONS

DUBAI, UNITED ARAB EMIRATES

14 DECEMBER 2012

11:00

PLENARY 16

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>> CHAIR: Good morning. The meeting will begin.

Good morning, ladies and gentlemen. And welcome to the 16th plenary meeting. I did not realize we had 16 plenary meetings, but we did.

So the agenda is in front of you for approval. And if you have no objection, we will proceed with the approval of the agenda. I see no one is asking for the floor. Thank you. The agenda is approved.

Now, you see the declaration and reservations in document 66. And I ask the indulgence of the delegation and the agreement to note this document which contains the declarations and reservations. We will not have any discussion on this document. So if there is no objection, we can take a note of it.

Thank you.

And now since we took note of it, I'm announcing that we will have additional declarations and reservations one hour after the closure of this meeting or this plenary, and it's set to be at 12:00.

Italy?

>> ITALY: Sorry, Mr. Chairman. Just a point of clarification. The declarations are now at 12:00?

>> CHAIR: From now and up to 12:00, the additional declarations and reservations.

Italy?

>> ITALY: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Thanks for giving me the floor.

First of all, we want to thank you and through you, your country, for their outstanding organisation of this conference, to which we have contributed actively in all aspects in order to reach a consensus and to respond to the requirement of the entire world, in particular to the developing world.

We are sorry not to be able to sign the text of the Treaty, since we are in consultation with our capital. We strongly believe in the role of ITU in order to foster development of the communication world, and in the guidance provided by its Secretary-General, my friend Hamadoun Toure.

We thank you once again for your leadership in this conference. We learned a lot. And we appreciate your role.

Thank you again.

(Applause)

>> CHAIR: Thank you, Italy.

Secretariat, please?

>> SECRETARIAT: Thank you very much, Mr. Chairman. And good morning, ladies and gentlemen.

The signing ceremony will take place this afternoon at 15:30. And before the signing ceremony begins, delegations are invited to collect their signature files by 15:00, in room A, prior to the signing ceremony, which will begin at 15:30. Thank you very much.

>> CHAIR: Thank you.

Now is there any other matter? Burkina Faso?

>> BURKINA FASO: Thank you, Chairman.

The delegation of Burkina Faso would like to take this opportunity to express to you its great satisfaction at the efficacy with which you Chaired the work of this conference. We would like to offer you our sincere congratulations on your accomplishments.

We would also like to express our gratitude to the Government and the people of the United Arab Emirates for their hospitality and for providing excellent working conditions for this conference.

Thank you.

>> CHAIR: Thank you, Burkina Faso.

Now is there any other business before we close? Thank you. So we will adjourn -- Tunisia?

>> TUNISIA: Thank you, Chairman.

The Tunisian delegation would like to make a statement, sir, and it would like it to be taken into consideration in the plenary document.

Chairman, Tunisia would like to reiterate its congratulations to the Chairman on the excellent way in which he has Chaired the work of this conference, and we would like to thank him for his tireless efforts in order to build consensus, which was not easy. That was clear from the beginning.

We would like to thank our host country, the UAE, for its hospitality and for providing the appropriate conditions in which our work was made firstly, possible; lastly straightforward; and, thirdly, very pleasant.

We would also like to thank the ITU for the excellent organisation and backup which it has provided throughout the conference and which has made our work easier.

We would also like to express our thanks to Mr. Hamadoun Toure, ITU Secretary-General, for the way he has spoken out in favor of the Freedom of Expression and human rights.

Tunisia would endorse what the ITU Secretary-General said to the effect that WCIT has proved ITU's commitment to a dialog and to bringing the world of the Internet and telecommunications closer together. He has proved that it is possible and that the world's telecommunications and Internet are inextricable one from the other. Work can be done while respecting the mandates of both ITU and ICANN. The presence of the manager of ICANN here at this conference shows that the two organisations are moving closer together and we believe that process will continue and be accelerated.

Guided by the principles of its revolution, Tunisia welcomes the fact that human rights have been taken into account in the Preamble to the International Telecommunications Regulations and will guide our conduct in impacting the relations.

Tunisia, which was the host country of the second phase of the WSIS in 2005, and which has suffered for a period of 14 years from Internet censorship, believes that the Internet can only develop in a multistakeholder system of governance which will guarantee access to an open, nondiscriminatory Internet. In other words, a free Internet.

Thank you, sir.

(Applause)

>> CHAIR: Finland.

>> FINLAND: Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Mr. Chairman, Finland expresses its appreciation to the ITU Secretariat, to the host country, and to all those who spared no efforts in the course of this process.

Unfortunately, in this stage, Finland is unable to sign the ITRs because they seem to fall outside the scope of the mandate that we have received from our Government.

We would still like to note that the course of events during this conference demonstrates that it is by consensus that we should work in the ITU-T and not by the force of the most powerful, neither by majority decisions.

Thank you very much, Mr. Chairman.

(Applause)

>> CHAIR: Thank you.

Krygyzstan.

>> KRYGYZSTAN: Thank you very much, Chairman.

The Republic would like to take this opportunity to express its gratitude to you personally for your wisdom and your successful Chairmanship of the conference.

We also want to take this opportunity to express our deepest gratitude to the ITU Secretary-General for the tireless efforts he has put in in order to try and reach a compromise on the issues under consideration at this conference.

Through you, may I convey my gratitude to the authorities of the United Arab Emirates for their hospitality and for the excellent organisation of this conference.

And I'm also very grateful to all the chairmen of the various committees, Working Groups and ad hoc groups which were set up in the course of the conference and to have made a very considerable contribution to the work done in the course of it. It is our hope that the decisions taken at this conference will be useful and beneficial to all the Member States of the ITU, and that in the future the work of the organisation will continue in the same spirit.

Thank you.

>> CHAIR: Thank you.

Portugal.

>> PORTUGAL: We would like to start by thanking Mr. Chairman and Secretary-General, Hamadoun Toure, for all your efforts in conducting this important meeting in a positive way.

During the last two weeks and after hours and days of discussion, many progresses have been made in important topics for the ITU. Many Member States have built-up solutions, trying to achieve a global compromising outcome in the meeting. And, Mr. Chairman, among all these efforts, let me note the collaborative attitude and positive contribution from the participants of Portugal to this process.

Unfortunately, the final version of the new Treaty adopted yesterday is not in conditions that allow us to associate to the signing procedure today. But the future of telecommunications is there, in front of us, and cooperation among all ITU Member States will be needed to address and overpass successfully all the challenges we face. And Portugal, as a founding nation of ITU, is very committed to embrace them.

Thank you.

>> CHAIR: Thank you.

Malaysia.

>> MALAYSIA: Thank you.

Mr. Chairman, Mr. Secretary-General, colleagues, Mr. Chairman.

Malaysia would like to thank and congratulate you and your team and the Government of The United Arab Emirates for hosting this conference.

Judging from the tone of the conference up to this stage, Malaysia feels that this is indeed a defining moment for the ITU. We have addressed and touched on so many issues, including that of human rights. Now that the conference has agreed to include a reference to it in these Regulations, we would like to see that the element of human rights is included in the Constitution of the ITU, without delay.

Mr. Chairman, in particular, Malaysia would like to congratulate and thank you for your leadership in handling all manner of sensitive issues during the entire conference.

Mr. Secretary-General, we would also like to acknowledge the pivotal role that you have played in getting us to this stage. We also express our appreciation to your team for their hard work. And we look forward to the signing ceremony. And take this opportunity to wish all our colleagues a safe journey home and a very happy end of year season.

Thank you.

(Applause)

>> CHAIR: Thank you.

Morocco.

>> MOROCCO: Thank you, Chairman.

I will keep it brief. The Moroccan delegation, speaking on behalf of the Kingdom of Morocco would like to thank you for the tireless efforts which you have been making throughout the course of this conference.

It goes without saying that we would also like to thank our host country, the United Arab Emirates, for their warm welcome and also for the quality of the organisation of this event.

Last but not least, we would like to thank the Secretary-General and the Secretariat staff of ITU for the efficiency with which they have done their work. Before leaving, we also would like to thank all other delegates from all countries for their commitment throughout the conference.

Thank you.

>> CHAIR: Thank you.

Somalia.

>> SOMALIA: First of of all, I want to thank you, Chairman, for the way you conducted this meeting. Somalia was away for 20 years from these meetings, and I just want to express our thanks and also I want to express our gratitude to ITU for enabling our membership again.

Quickly, I just want to mention what we learned over the last 3 or 4 weeks since 19 November.

I come from Mogadishu. I guess the saying is when the going gets tough, the tough goes as well. But what I learned is that really, where I'm from, Mogadishu, where we set with another set of ITRs, but we call them insurgency and terrorists and radical groups, all of a sudden we came to another set of ITRs, and I'm happy with what we have done so far. When I go back, I want to let the people know what we learned from here.

And I prefer, if we were able to get all of us to sign this and support this Treaty, so from our experience of 22 years of not having proper and functioning Government, we appreciate and we would like to remind everyone that it's better to be united and for all of us to put our agreements in place instead of divergent views.

I want to thank the Secretary-General for the leadership he has shown over the last few weeks. I want to wish everybody a happy new year and safe trip home.

Thank you.

(Applause)

>> CHAIR: Thank you. I see South Sudan?

>> SOUTH SUSAN: Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

South Sudan, being the 193 Member State of ITU and the youngest in the United Nations, would like to thank you, Mr. Secretary-General, for the wise leadership with the WCIT-12 in Dubai, the beautiful city. We were more than happy to join the world community in Dubai, and particularly the colleagues, Member States, in this city. And we are also more happy for the hospitality also of UAE; and hopefully that we meet in the coming functions and conferences. And we take the message back home to our Government and we are happy for these results, sir.

Thank you.

(Applause)

>> CHAIR: Trinidad and Tobago.

>> TRINIDAD AND TOBAGO: Mr. Chairman, Trinidad and Tobago wishes to commend you for your sterling chairmanship of this conference over the past two weeks and to note your tireless efforts in bringing us to this point in signing the final acts.

The hard work of the Secretary-general of the ITU, the directors of the Bureau and ITU staff cannot be understated.

We also wish to sincerely thank the Government of the UAE, its citizens and the City of Dubai for opening their arms to us and welcoming us warmly into this beautiful and impressive city.

Mr. Chairman, Trinidad and Tobago came to this with our opinions formed with interests and needs of the region. After intense negotiations, we are leaving Dubai with a compromise package in which we have won some and lost some, but that is the nature of International negotiations.

There is a general recognition that telecommunications, and I dare say ICTs, are facilitators of sustainable development. We therefore wish to thank all delegations for their demonstration of a spirit of compromise and collaboration in bringing us to this historical point.

This is not the end, fellow delegates, as we are on a journey which is intended to reap great rewards for our countries and citizens. And Trinidad and Tobago will continue to be a collaborative partner.

Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

(Applause)

>> CHAIR: Mongolia. Mongolia?

>> MONGOLIA: Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

So I'm sorry, the head of the delegation is not available now, so he will come again and say his words.

Thank you.

>> CHAIR: Thank you. Indonesia?

>> INDONESIA: Chairman, Mr. Secretary-General and team, we would like to thank you for all your hard-working efforts for the success of this conference. We do realize that the progress of telecommunications as well as Internet, it becomes very difficult to separate or isolate one to each other. So cooperation hand in hand between ITU and ICANN and all other stakeholders is a must. We hope that the Treaty that will be signed today will bring us further for the use of telecommunication for the facilitations.

Thank you.

>> CHAIR: Lebanon. And I will close, because we can have the -- this -- these statements, the closing ceremony, but I'll give the floor to Turkey, Greece and Lebanon.

Turkey?

>> TURKEY: Thank you very much, Chairman. Good morning.

Turkey would like to express its gratitude to UAE Administration for this kind hospitality of this conference, and want to express sincere thanks to you and to you for Chairing this conference so successfully.

And, also, we want to express our thanks to Secretary-General and all of the elected officials and to all ITU staff and everyone who has contributed to this conference.

The discussions among all of the States has been amicably set up during the conference. Many hard and sensitive issues have been brought before us and discussed. All those issues have been handled and Chaired in a very successful way. Turkey is sure that further studies and further work will go on through ITU without spoiling compromises.

Finally, Turkey would like to express its thanks to everyone who participated in this conference.

(Applause)

>> CHAIR: Greece.

>> GREECE: Thank you for your tireless efforts to reach an agreement that is acceptable to everyone. But we find ourselves not to be able to sign the Treaty today as we are in negotiation with our capital. We affirm the commitment to work with ITU and support the efforts it has taken onboard.

We also wish to express our gratitude to the UAE for the great hospitality, to the Secretary-General for his wise interventions and guidance, and all the ITU staff for their truly tireless efforts.

Thank you.

(Applause)

>> CHAIR: Thank you, Greece. Lebanon.

>> LEBANON: Thank you, Chairman.

This is important to reflect on what has happened here, and I'm not going to go through the usual thanking of everybody who has done an excellent job during this whole process, except that I do feel and I regretfully feel that if this conference had not compromised many of the things, the people who are ending up signing this Treaty would have ended up signing a much stronger and better Treaty for everybody.

It is regretful that we have countries who feel -- Member States who feel that they cannot sign this Treaty. And I ask each and every one of them to reconsider, to make sure that everybody continues to feel that they are a member of the same world community and they are a member of the International Telecommunications Union. That is important to everybody, to make sure that development, better standards of living, and the different human rights that everybody calls for are really spread and are really implemented throughout the world.

I ask everybody to reconsider, but at the same time I am sorry to some extent that the concessions that were made were not met and people still insist on not signing.

Thank you.

(Applause)

>> CHAIR: Thank you.

Chile.

>> CHILE: Thank you, Chairman.

Chile would firstly like to thank the UAE for its hospitality and the Chairman of the plenary for his tireless efforts to reach a consensus among the different countries.

Chile would like to take this opportunity to state that it will have to consult with its capital before signing this Treaty.

A number of achievements have been made, such as relating to traffic and roaming. These are very significant for the South America region. Chile has been a pioneer in seeking a free Internet and network neutrality, and it was the first country in the world to approve a law on that. This allows freedom for Internet users and other such benefits.

Chile would like to state that they will not sign these Regulations until it has confirmation from capital and from the relevant ministry. We would, however, like to reiterate our gratitude to all the countries which have participated in this conference and to all delegates as well as to the Secretary-General of the ITU. We also would like to express a word of thanks to the Chairman, who has shown a great deal of wisdom and great leadership in carrying out his work.

Thank you.

>> CHAIR: Thank you. And I would like to ask interpreters to stay with us for the next two to three minutes, and I'll take the last speaker. Algeria.

>> ALGERIA: Thank you on behalf of the Algerian delegation.

I should like to express a word of thanks for the efforts which have been invested in this conference, in spite of the difficulties which we have faced. You, sir, have had to be patient in many late night sessions, and thanks to your patience and energy you have been able to discharge your mandate.

Thank you very much yet again.

We also would like to thank the United Arab Emirates for their efforts. Thank you.

(Applause)

>> CHAIR: And thank you for that.

We will close the meeting and reconvene at the closing ceremony at 3:30. And I'm looking forward to seeing you at 3:30.

Thank you very much.

(End of plenary 16 at 11:30)

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