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WORLD CONFERENCE ON INTERNATIONAL TELECOMMUNICATIONS

DUBAI, UNITED ARAB EMIRATES

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>> Excellencies, ladies and gentlemen, please take your seats. The first plenary will begin in a few minutes. Thank you.

>> Good afternoon ladies and gentlemen.

I'm very happy to begin with you this first plenary session of the WCIT.

Ladies and gentlemen, in accordance with the regular rules of procedure for conferences, meetings, and Committees of the Union and rule 51, the United Arab Emirates have nominated Mr. Tariq Al-Awadhi to open the first session. He comes from the Telecommunications Regulatory Agency and it is he who will be proceeding over the first part of this meeting.

Could I ask you to come up and join us on the rostrum, please, and may I ask you to welcome him. Thank you.

(Applause)

>> TARIQ AL-AWADHI: In the name of God the Merciful, may the peace and blessings of a God be upon our prophet and his companions.

Dr. Hamadoun I. Touré, Secretary-General of the International Telecommunications Union, your Excellencies, ladies and gentlemen, guests, may I convey my greetings to you on behalf of the United Arab Emirates and welcome you here.

We are now beginning our work at this first plenary session of the WCIT. I should like to wish you a very pleasant stay here in the United Arab Emirates and particularly in this wonderful City of Dubai.

We have in front of us document ADM/5. That is containing the agenda of the first plenary meeting of WCIT.

Do you all have a copy of the document? Are there any observations to be made on the agenda?

Document ADM/5.

Iran, please.

>> IRAN: I thank you, Mr. Chairman.

First of all, congratulations to the United Arab Emirates for its 41st anniversary of establishment of the UAE and congratulations to you, Chairman, and to yourself.

Chairman, we have some point to make with respect to document addendum -- sorry, ADM/5, Item 15, DT4, examination and discussion of proposals from Member States. We understand that according to today's morning session, this is a document allocated to the plenary. Before adopting the agenda, we would wish to request, if possible, Chairman, some clarification with respect to the origin of this document and the rationale and argument by which this document would have been put together to come to the plenary.

Mr. Chairman, we fully agree that on some principle issues it would be appropriate that the plenary decides on that, and possibly come to some sort of consensus, and that would reduce the overload of the Committees and sub Working Groups. We fully agree with that.

However, apart from the logic and rational base which this document has been assembled, we would like also to know the working arrangements that should this or similar type of document's principle issue be discussed at the plenary, and if we could not reach a consensus, what would be the subsequent action? Would it be given to a Committee? Would it be given to an ad hoc group of plenary or would it be given to different entities?

Having said that, because of the nature of this document, which is principles, once we agree on the content, any mechanism by which the subsequent discussion would be carried out needs to be totally transparent and open to all Member States.

As I have mentioned, ad hoc group of plenary is one solution. Another solution, it would be assigned to other entities. But from the outset, discussing this principle issue in some consultation which may not be open to all Member States may not be appropriate.

So before approving the agenda, we seek some clarification on the matter as I have suggested.

And I thank you very much, Chairman.

>> TARIQ AL-AWADHI: Thank you, Iran.

Mr. Secretary-General, you want to say something?

>> SECRETARY-GENERAL: Frankly, this is not the type of start I want for this conference. So discussing whether this issue is on the table, you took five minutes, and the whole world is listening to us.

And I beg you, please, this document is about whether you like this point 15 on the agenda or not. Then when we come to discussing the agenda item, you raise your points. That's what this is about here. So I urge you, all delegates, let's try to be kind to one another and not waste the conference time in explanation, long explanations on these issues.

The point of the agenda here is whether point 15 should be on the agenda item. Then the DT4 will be discussed and the substance of it will be discussed then. That's how we present these documents. Therefore, I don't want to go over explanations that I will go over in going over DT4. So I'm sorry.

>> TARIQ AL-AWADHI: Thank you, Secretary-General. I may switch to English right now just to say that before going for approval of the agenda, I just want to have a request to all of you, we are in the afternoon starting the first day here. Just a request from my side to all of you, so please if you can bear with me, I want all of you to be smiling. Real smiling.

You are here in the beautiful City of Dubai and I want all of you to be really happy. We would like to start the conference together, smoothly. And the issues have been raised, and the principles, so this one can be discussed during the conference. And there we can come with a solution for each one of them.

Algeria asked for the floor. Can you press...

>> ALGERIA: Thank you, sir.

Sir, the fact that we're not smiling doesn't mean that we don't want to smile. It means that many of us are tired. We have had long trips in order to come here. We haven't slept very much. Our planes were late, and that may explain why we haven't got a big smile on our faces.

However, we are still very happy to be here in Dubai. It is, indeed, a city which is known for its hospitality, which is very faithful to its traditions and faithful to the Arab tradition of hospitality. I would therefore, sir, like to support what Mr. Arasteh said and convey to you Algeria's best wishes on the 41st anniversary of the founding of the United Arab Emirates.

Having made those points, sir, we cannot at this stage I think preJudge what agenda item 15 will involve. I don't think we can ask you to put it within brackets as of now. We do, however, think that 15 will include documents from Member States. And I see that agenda item 10 also deals with documents, including documents submitted by Member States.

It's entitled "Allocation of documents to Committees," so I think we can assume that it will also cover agenda item 15. Therefore, as far as I can see it, agenda item 10 is sufficient of itself at this stage in our conference.

And here I agree with the Secretary-General. I do not think we should waste our time singling out one document over any other documents. We are going to consider agenda item 10, which as I say is the allocation of documents to Committee, and in my opinion that will also cover agenda item 15.

Thank you.

>> TARIQ AL-AWADHI: I thank the representative of Algeria. Thank you for your proposal.

I would like to ask the Secretariat to be kind enough to provide us additional information on DT4, then we will take the appropriate action.

>> SECRETARIAT: DT1 contains all of the proposals that have been made to this conference.

As the Distinguished Delegate from Algeria mentioned, DT3 is the allocation of documents, and we will of course come to that in the course of this first plenary meeting.

DT4 was prepared on the basis of DT3, but of course DT3 needs to be approved first. And what DT4 is, it's an extract of the proposals that are contained in DT1 that are allocated into this plenary. So I hope that that clarifies.

But as the delegate from Algeria mentioned, we do have to first agree on the respective allocation of proposals.

Thank you very much, Mr. Chairman.

>> TARIQ AL-AWADHI: Thank you very much.

If I understand this document, DT4 is an information document, showing how the proposals are allocated or distributed.

We will first of all discuss agenda item 10, allocation of documents to Committees, and I think that will be sufficient to deal with the issue.

Once again, could I urge all of us to approve the agenda as it currently stands in ADM/5 draft agenda of the first plenary meeting? Do I have your approval?

Any comment?

In that case, the agenda is adopted. Thank you. The agenda of the first plenary meeting of the World Conference on International Telecommunications is thereby adopted.

I would like to move on to agenda item number 3. Election of the Chairman of the Conference. I would like to ask the Secretary-General, Dr. Hamadoun Touré, to be kind enough to make the nomination. Thank you.

>> HAMADOUN TOURE: Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

The heads of delegations met this morning, and we propose the nomination of Mr. Mohamed Nasser Al-Ghanim, Director General of the ITU United Arab Emirates, to be elected Chairman of the Conference.

I would like to submit it for your approval.

(Applause)

>> CHAIR (MOHAMED NASSER AL-GHANIM): In the name of God the merciful and compassionate, Secretary-General Dr. Hamadoun I. Touré, Excellencies, ladies and gentlemen, peace be upon you, and God's mercies and blessings.

I should like to extend my thanks to the entire ITU and the Secretary-General and representatives of the Member States on the precious trust you have shown me to head the World Conference on International Telecommunications 2012.

Ladies and gentlemen, WCIT occupies a special place in the telecommunications industry and information technology because of developments and changes witnessed by the industry during the past two decades. That has not been matched by modifications of the International Telecommunication Regulations governing the industry at the level it was since in 1988 at the conference in Melbourne, Australia. We have moved from voice communications to video and data communications, from fixed to mobile communications. And greater reliance on infrastructure and applications that run according to Internet Protocols is being seen.

This has necessitated the need to modernize and develop these regulations to reflect this evolution. The regulations will be the general principles of international communication, their operation, and interconnection and interoperability globally. And they will be pillars of balanced development and operation of the technical facilities that everyone needs.

This is important for the development of societies on many levels, particularly in terms of economic, cognitive, cultural, social and other types of development.

Ladies and gentlemen, the topics to be discussed at this conference are particularly important. There are sensitive issues here which require us to cooperate fully to forge a compromise. We need compromises. I repeat: A consensus in the interests of all the countries of the world.

So I'd like to call upon you to cooperate with me through your experience and skills in the domains with which we're dealing.

I will need advice as well from you. We should all cooperate to achieve our common goals; namely, to make this conference a success through the efforts which have been made since the first agreement was signed in 1988.

Colleagues, this conference will discuss important topics in a very limited timeframe, and so we need to strive to adopt the following principles, if you agree with this, to achieve the desired goals in time.

First of all, optimal use of time. secondly, we need to work in order to reach consensual decisions that will satisfy all parties. I repeat consensual decisions that will satisfy all parties.

Thirdly, we need to make sincere efforts to overcome the outstanding issues. And we need of course to demonstrate flexibility and hear others' opinions.

I myself will be present with you to determine and follow the course of the discussions. I wish you a full measure of success and stand convinced that close cooperation will lead us to appropriate solutions for all.

Thank you very much.

(Applause)

Thank you. And now we will go to the election of the Vice Chairman of the conference. And I give the floor to the Secretary-General of the ITU, to Hamadoun I. Touré.

>> HAMADOUN TOURE: Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

From the meeting of the Heads of Delegations meeting today, the vice Chairs for the conference are as follows.

Mr. Manuel Costa Cabral, from Portugal.

Mr. Edgardo Cabarios, Phillippines.

Mr. Terry Kramer, United States of America.

Ambassador, His Excellence Nikolai Nikiforov, Russian Federation. Mr. Gift, from South Africa.

And Dr. Amr Badawi from Egypt. I give you this list for approval and for approval of the conference.

>> CHAIR: Thank you, Mr. Secretary-General.

The names and proposals for the Vice Chairmans of the conference is put forward for you for approval.

(Applause)

And now we move to item number 6 of the agenda of the first plenary, the address by the Secretary-General.

Mr. Touré, you have the floor.

>> HAMADOUN TOURE: Thank you. Good afternoon again, Excellencies. Ministers, Mr. Chairman, distinguished delegates, ladies and gentlemen and friends.

I would like to thank you for this opportunity to speak in some detail about the work we are engaged in here in Dubai over the next two weeks.

Firstly, however, I would like to take a moment to honor the achievements of the original ITRs which came out of the Melbourne conference in 1988. The 1988 ITRs were negotiated by publicly-minded civil servants and telecom engineers who were in those days one and the same.

They acknowledged the tremendous public benefit inherent in communications networks and services. As a result, the original ITRs paved the way for the phenomenal growth we have witnessed across the information and communication technology sector. The original ITRs established milestone principles of public service; acknowledged the right of users to communicate by accessing networks; recognized the right to operate free from harm to technical facilities; and enabled the transition from the traditional settlement system to the new bilateral commercial agreements that have served us well for the past two decades, and which set the stage for the stellar growth in the exchange of International telecoms traffic, encompassing both voice and data. The original ITRs paved the way for the liberalization of the ICT sector, for which we should all be grateful. They paved the way for the explosive growth we have seen over the past two decades. In 1988, there were just 4.3 million mobile cellular subscriptions worldwide. Today there are over 6 billion, representing growth of over one thousand fold. In 1988, hardly anybody was online. Today we are approaching 2.5 billion users of the Internet.

In preparing for this conference, we have seen and heard many comments about ITU or the United Nations trying to take over the Internet. Let me be very clear one more time: WCIT is not about taking over the Internet. And WCIT is not about Internet governance. WCIT is about making sure that we connect the billion people without access to mobile telephony, and that we connect the 4.5 billion people who are still off line.

The 1988 ITRs were instrumental in enabling rapid growth in the ICT sector. They also made possible the global deployment of the Internet. And many other ITU activities continue to be essential components of Internet growth.

I can congratulate our friends from Canada at this point. I remember much respected Secretary-General of the time, the much missed Dick Butler, who passed away at the end of last year.

At the time, we knew that the same tensions which we see today were a source of tension at that time as well. But at the time we were undergoing the Cold War, and I'm surprised there are those who wish to bring that Cold War back here today.

I'd like here today to mention some of the aspects of the ITU, the standards of the ITU, which are used every day on the Internet and which didn't involve control.

Standards for end-user access equipment, such as modems, including xDLS and cable modems; compression standards; security standards, including standards to combat spam; standards for backbone networks, including fibre optics. And, of course, the radio frequencies used to implement WiFi, which you are no doubt using here in this room today.

None of this meant that the ITU was controlling anything or contributing to such control. In this second decade of the 21st Century, ICTs play an increasingly central role in our lives not just as a means of communication, but also as a source of news and entertainment, information, and education.

For an increasing percentage of the global population, ICTs are also a vital source of income, savings, and employment opportunities.

Demand for ICTs continues to grow everywhere in the world. And we should congratulate ourselves for successfully serving humanity so well.

We managed to survive two world wars and a Cold War and a series of economic depressions and recessions. This is not a fluke or a coincidence, it is a credit to the hard work each and every one of your Administrations has put in.

The progress made in ICT growth over the past 25 years is the most extraordinary achievement and it has happened thanks at least in part to the principles and ground rules enshrined in the ITRs.

The Internet is no longer an innovation whose scope and benefits are limited to the developed world. It is a global phenomenon. I think we can all agree that the Internet is a valuable global public resource which every citizen in the world should be able to benefit from.

I hope we will reiterate that here. I hope that in the 2012 version of the ITRs, we will manage to achieve certain goals.

As Ban Ki-moon, the Secretary-General of the United Nations, said this morning: The digital divide has no place in the knowledge economy of the 21st Century.

Distinguished Delegates, ladies and gentlemen, I think we can also agree that continued progress in bringing the world online can only be assured by continuing to practice a multi-stakeholder approach. Here at WCIT-12, you can see an excellent demonstration of ITU as the original multi-stakeholder organisation. This is achieved here in Dubai by the composition of civil society, Government, as well as technical and legal experts gathered here today to work toward the common good. ITU has made every effort in the run-up to this conference to ensure that everyone can have a say and that everybody's voice is heard. Indeed, over the past weeks and months we have heard from all sides and all stakeholders. There has been a very healthy debate which spread online and through print media and across the Web and through blogs and social media sites.

This is an opportunity for me to thank all of those who have even criticized the event, because their views were positions that we all needed to hear. And we appreciate everybody, every contribution that everyone has made here to the debate.

I'm personally pleased to have been able to meet and to listen to so many representatives of civil society over the past months, and to hear their concerns and their hopes for the future.

Here with us in the room, let us welcome the participation of civil society organisations, including International organisations such as Article 19, Public Knowledge, IT for Change and ISOC, and regional organisations such as CAPTA and ACSIS, coming all the way from Cameroon and central Africa, as well as many others.

So let me give a special welcome to ICANN, also, whose President and CEO, Mr. Fadi Chehadé, addressed us this morning, and to whose Chairman, Chairman of ICANN, Dr. Steve Crocker, is also here as a special guest. And I look to exciting opportunities that lie ahead and can be achieved by ICANN and ITU together in a positive spirit of collaboration.

The work of ICANN and ITU can be and should be fully complementary. And we should note quite clearly that ITU has no wish or desire to play a role in critical Internet resources such as domain names, and that ITU does not have any mandate to challenge ICANN's role and competency.

I believe under the Chairman's leadership, Mr. Fadi Chehadé's leadership, I am confident that a new season of cooperation will unfold and a new season that will benefit our connected world. This is a good demonstration of how WCIT-12 is very much an open-door meeting.

We have onsite participation through various delegations of all stakeholders. But we also welcome the presence of the world's media and members of the public, both here in Geneva as well as around the world through remote participation online. Such as things that we do in all of our plenipotentiary conferences and our council meetings in Geneva.

We have heard many stakeholders over the past month, both in the form of formal contributions from Member States and formal contributions from our wider audience, and of course through many articles and blogs that have been published. Indeed, there has been quite a lot of buzz and noise around the conference, which is the way it should be.

But let me add a word here about silence. There is an old African saying: "Silence is also a language, but not everybody speaks it. And certainly not everybody understands it. But it is a powerful language that we should all value." This is why it's also so important to know that the silent majority, what the silent majority also thinks. There will be some people who are voiceless. There are so many things we put online, but remember we only have one-third of the human population that is online.

Two-thirds, large majority, who have not connected them and therefore they are not following our debates online. This is the silent majority. We have to listen to silence.

And it's powerful.

So while we welcome and indeed look forward to hearing many individual contributions over the next two weeks, we should also bear in mind one of Gandhi's great sayings: "Speak only if it improves upon the silence."

"Speak only when it improves upon silence."

Distinguished colleagues, you are here to negotiate a Treaty. Member States become parties to Treaties because they expect the benefits of signing the Treaty, whether commercial, moral, or potential benefits, to outweigh any potential disadvantages.

My hope and conviction, and I'm sure that this is shared by all of us here and out there, is that by coming here voluntarily to negotiate, you seek win-win solutions that benefit everyone, because there is so much to be gained.

Ladies and gentlemen, the most important goal to achieve is to bring the benefits of broadband to all the world's people. It is easy, here in Dubai, where we are provided with excellent facilities and connectivity, to forget that the Internet is still just a dream for two-thirds of the world's population. Most people in most of ITU's Member States still have no access to what could arguably be the greatest public good ever made available to humanity.

In 1988, the ITRs led the way to ubiquitous mobile connectivity. How can we make sure that the ITRs 2012 do the same thing for broadband?

As Ban Ki-moon, the United Nations Secretary-General, mentioned earlier this morning, "I trust that together -- Governments, industry and civil society -- will rise to this occasion."

Here in Dubai, we will be looking at a number of areas where there is a great promise of being able to achieve compromise text based on Member State proposals, and in doing so set the stage for increased ICT infrastructure rollout and access around the world. And it includes broadband investment, energy efficiency, accessibility, security, the networks, the impact of unsolicited content or spam on the networks, number misuse, roaming. When was the last time you came back home and had a very unpleasant surprise of higher roaming costs? Reducing taxation is a key issue, price transparency, nondiscriminatory pricing, the fostering of competitive and liberalized telecommunications markets, and freedom of expression. Let me remind you that we need to stick to high level principles, which drive continuous competition, innovation and growth.

I'm pleased to note that a number of contributions to WCIT-12 have reminded us of some key ITU declarations regarding these issues, and let me cite some of these. The report of the fifth World Telecommunications Development Conference in 2010, Hyderabad, which highlighted the importance of telecommunications infrastructure and technology development, particularly in developing countries.

The Geneva declaration of principles adopted at WSIS which recognized that policies creating a favorable climate for stability, predictability and fair competition at all levels should be developed and implemented in a manner that attracts more private investment in telecommunications infrastructure.

The policy recommendations of the ITU/UNESCO Broadband Commission for Digital Development for encouraging broadband infrastructure development, which were published in the "State of Broadband 2012" publication, "achieving digital inclusion for all."

And it is just in this spirit that I greeted the Broadband Commission for Digital Development in 2010 and I invited UNESCO to join me, because my considerations will be dealing with the infrastructure, and UNESCO will be dealing with content regarding education, science or culture. So the two can come together and meet.

Our expectation in this room is not in the content business or in the infrastructure, how can we make it available. There is a lot of information out there and it needs to be online and so that everyone can access it in their languages, no matter what circumstances there, whether they are People with Disabilities or not.

Distinguished colleagues, we all know that the discussions regarding Article 6 of the ITRs, dealing with financial matters, will be delicate. But we all agree, I'm sure, on the need to foster the continuing development of broadband and we all agree on the importance of competition in promoting investment, as recognized in the Broadband Commission.

In light of those two points, I would urge you to consider how best to adapt Article 6 so that it will help to achieve the desired goals: To bring the benefits of broadband to all the world's people.

I keep reminding you on that. Because that's the basis, the fundamental, the objective, the final objective of this conference.

So some have said that broadband is a national matter, and therefore not within the scope of the ITRs. It is hard to share this view, however, in a global village. In a village -- global village where commerce goes quickly beyond national borders and where we can all choose to buy products and services from other countries to suit our tastes and our pocketbooks. In a global village where my grandchildren can watch videos online at their home in New York, which have been uploaded by their friends in Europe or Africa or Asia.

In a global village where health workers in even the remotest regions can consult the vast wealth of information and even other specialists online when making diagnoses and prescribing treatment. If a country does not have adequate ICT infrastructure, and that must include broadband in this 21st Century, then it simply cannot participate in the global market. That penalizes the citizens of that country, but it also penalizes the citizens of the other countries who cannot benefit from interacting with them. So access to modern high speed telecommunications is not merely a national matter.

On the contrary, it's one of the most important International matters, something we have seen or been aware of since 1865, when Governments founded ITU to address issues of international interconnection.

Different contribution from Member States have given us different views on what a revised framework might look like, and I would like to thank all of our membership for this. So let's work together to find what the different views have in common and find the consensus that will help drive growth in ICT networks over the next decades.

Distinguished Delegates, ladies and gentlemen, over the months leading to the WCIT, some incorrect information regarding this conference has been published in various media, and my staff and I have worked hard to try to correct them. The misinformation has not been helpful in terms of clarifying the plain facts and the enormous benefits we can hope to achieve here in Dubai over the next two weeks. But I would like nonetheless to thank all of those who have published material about WCIT-12, including the detractors, who have done so much in just a few months to bring this important issue to the public eye, all around the world.

They have participated their way, in their fashion. It's a way of participating. But we have to listen to them as well. They made some relevant points, we may disagree with them, but we have to take them on board here. Thanks to them, the ITRs have never been so much talked about. And as the Irish playwright Oscar Wilde once said, "The only thing worse than being talked about, is not being talked about."

Let me take this opportunity to address some of the myths that have been created around WCIT-12 and to clarify several matters.

Freedom of Expression. And it has been suggested that this conference might in some way act to restrict the open and free flow of information. In Article 33 of the ITU's constitution, however, Member States recognize the right of the public to correspond by means of the international service of public correspondence. And the ITRs cannot contradict that provision, or indeed any of the articles in the ITU constitution.

This concept is paralleled in Article 19 of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, which I will quote here in full.

"Everyone has the right to freedom of opinion and expression; this right includes freedom to hold opinions without interference and to seek, receive and impart information and ideas through any media and regardless of frontiers."

Clearly, there is universal agreement on this matter and these freedoms are not up for negotiation, every word has been negotiated carefully. It's not up for negotiation. We make reference of that in the preamble of our Treaty here. So that nothing, nothing in this conference can contradict that.

Here in Dubai, we're not going to be challenging Article 19 or any other Article of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights. I want to make sure that all of you out there are listening.

On this note, let me say I welcome the proposal from Tunisia and others to include a provision on freedom of expression in the ITRs. It comes at a perfect time.

Fears also were expressed that new provisions in updated ITRs might have to legitimize Government censorship, and I agree that this should not happen. This conference will not stand in the way of the need to protect the right of the freedom of expression, the right to communicate, and the right to privacy.

But we must recognize that none of these freedoms can exist without security, especially the online -- in the online world. If you, your personal information, your banking details, or even your identity, are not secure, then how can you use ICTs with trust and confidence?

Since the World Summit on the Information Society, we have seen widespread support for greater recognition of the importance of security in the use of ICTs. This delicate issue was assigned by WSIS in Tunisia, 2005, to ITU, and we understand very clearly that there is a fine line which must not be crossed, a fine line which must not be crossed, in balancing the needs for freedom and privacy, on one hand, and security on the other.

We have to keep that in mind. So let me urge you to work together in good faith to achieve a sound, reliable and Honorable compromise so that we all can benefit from cyber-resilience instead of cyberthreats. Cybersecurity instead of cybercrime. And cyberpeace instead of cyberwar. As I said before, the only way to win any war is to avoid it in the first place, and in this conference is a very good place to start making peace.

Distinguished Delegates, let's talk about affordability. The simple Question of affordability remains the biggest single barrier faced by the billions of people around the world who are still offline. We all know that the cost of connectivity is too high in most developing countries, and not just in developing countries. Recently, in a New York hotel, I had to pay 76 dollars for three days' Internet access. That is the equivalent of 760 US dollars a month. How can anyone afford that? And yet the same connectivity is given to every citizen in the U.S. at $9.99. That is one of the successes of the national broadband plan in the United States. They have succeeded doing so.

Government has no control over what hotels will be doing. It's the same thing, they have no control over what the private sector does. We may encourage them to do something good so that everyone can benefit.

We are also aware that International roaming prices are in many parts of the world still too high. Let's discuss it, find ways, but let's not go -- let's not cross the line and give them in detail what they should do, how they should do it. We should keep some key principles in here of transparency, affordability, of equal treatment, nondiscriminatory treatment, and full openness so that consumers know what they are paying for when they are paying it, before they use it. These are there principles I would like us to agree here and put it in a Treaty that will last long enough. We want to see greater Internet usage across the world, and I presume that we want consumers to feel that they are getting good value for the money as they roam. We look forward to these discussions and debates over these issues over the next two weeks.

And I'm sure that a consensus view will be found, in the true tradition of ITU. But let's disagree sometimes in the start of the discussion, let's not take anything personal. Let's debate, let's convince one another, and let's understand one another's problems. Let's define them when you define a problem is half solved. And most of the time we may not agree on things simply because we don't have the same understanding of it. We're speaking after all in different languages. And that's normal. And from friction comes light. We will find ways to bring down the cost of Internet connectivity while ensuring sufficient revenues for operators to deploy broadband infrastructure. We will find ways that both consumers and operators feel that roaming prices are fair and reasonable.

And by consensus, I mean consensus in the true tradition of ITU. We have done that all the time. It works here.

To reach consensus, delegates will need to show willingness to compromise, so I urge you to work together for the common good, again, in the true tradition of ITU.

In conclusion, ladies and gentlemen, dear colleagues, we must not be complacent in taking the benefits of the online world for granted. One-third of the world's people, including those here in Dubai, expect to be able to access information easily online. One-third of the world's people expect to be able to give their children a proper education, and for their children to be able to access all the academic resources they need online. One-third of the world's people expect to be able to provide themselves and their families with decent healthcare and for their doctors and healthcare workers to provide the necessary access to the full wealth of medical information online.

But we all know that two-thirds of the world's people today do not have these privileges. And if we stay unconnected to the Internet, they will never have these privileges.

All people from all regions of the world have a right to participate in this knowledge society and the dawning digital economy. This includes people, no matter where they come from. This includes people, no matter what their personal circumstances. And this includes the 650 million people worldwide living with a disability of some kind.

So let me urge you to recognize the vital importance of measures to promote access to broadband around the world, in all countries, and in all regions, and to help deliver total inclusion.

This is a moral duty. It's our moral duty. And George Washington, one of America's founding fathers and great high-minded public servants, once said: "Happiness and moral duty are inseparably connected."

This conference has the power to ensure continuing innovation, the free flow of information, and an investment in network, services and applications.

Ladies and gentlemen, I have no doubt that the work ahead of us at this conference will be intense, constructive, and productive. And that however long the night, the dawn will break. I have no doubt that we will sometimes struggle to find agreement, indeed, we will welcome differences of opinion and as we have always done here in Dubai, we will not see clashes between people, but friction between minds. Again, from friction comes light. And as we all know, the light, that light will help us see our common goal.

Our common goal is to build a knowledge society where everyone, whatever their circumstances, can access, use, create, and share information. That's what we need to do. We have the power to do this, together. We have the power to make the world a better place, together.

We have the power to create a brave new world, where society, social and economic justice prevails, together. So let's work together.

Thank you.

(Applause)

>> CHAIR: Thank you, Mr. Secretary-General.

Now we move to agenda item number 7. Structure of the conference. You can find it in DT 2. And I'll give now the floor to Mr. Secretary-General to present the document.

>> HAMADOUN TOURE: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The document DT2 as presented here has been again looked at by the informal Heads of Delegations, and the formal one. And we present it as a Committee here to the plenary for final approval. You have in this document the terms of reference of the different -- of the five Committees and two Working Groups. And I'm presenting this to you for your approval, Mr. Chairman.

Thank you.

>> CHAIR: Thank you.

The document DT2 right now is put forward for your approval.

Thank you. The document is approved. I see no comments.

We move now to agenda item number 8. Election of the Chairman and Vice Chairman of the Committees. And I give the floor to the Secretary-General to present the document.

>> HAMADOUN TOURE: Thank you, Mr.  Chairman.

Committee 1 is composed by the vice Chairs, the Chairman and the Vice Chairman of the conference, and the Chairman and Vice Chairman of the Committees.

Committee 2 is proposed Chairman Mr. Ravindra Jha and vice Chair Mr. Bruno Ramos and Sameera Mohammad. Committee 2 is the credentials Committee.

Committee 3 is the budget control.

Chairman, Mr. Bruce Gracie, from Canada. And Vice Chairman, Ms. Nurzat Boljobekova, from Kyrzygstan. Committee 4, editorial Committee. Chairman, Ms. Marie-Therese Alajoujanine, France. Vice chairmen, Mr. Sami Salih, Sudan.

Mr. Xue Fei Wang, China. Mr. Chris Woolford, United Kingdom. Ms. Blanca Gonzalez, Spain. Mr. Vladimir Minkin, Russian Federation. As you can see, those are the representatives for the six official languages of the UN: French, and then the vice Chairs for Arabic, Chinese, English, Spanish and the Russian languages.

Committee 5, review Committee. Proposed to have Chairman, Mr. Joshua Peprah from Ghana, and the following vice chairmen, Mr. Albert Nalbandian, Armenia. Mr. Luis Lucatero, Mexico. Mr. Frederic Riehl, Switzerland. Mr. Bob Horton, Australia. And Mr. Al-Mashakbeh Alansari, Jordan. And the two Working Groups of that Committee 5 are as follows: Working Group Com 5-1. That will be covering everything including Article 6 and 9, Chairman Bernadette Lewis, Trinidad and Tobago, and Vice Chair Seiichi Tsugawa, Japan. And Mr. Fahed Al-Fallaj, Kingdom of Saudi Arabia.

Working Group com 5-2. Chairman Fabio Bigi of Italy and vice Chair Gertrude Aka. So far those are the names that we received, Mr. Chairman, and I propose this for approval of this Assembly.

>> CHAIR: Thank you. And now I ask the meeting to approve the names of the chairmen and vice chairmen of the Committees and Working Groups.

(Applause)

Thank you. And I wish the chairmen and vice Chairmen of the Committees and Working Groups all the best for the conference.

Now, going to agenda item 9. Composition of the conference Secretariat, and I give the floor to the Secretary-General again.

>> HAMADOUN TOURE': Thank you. The secretary of the conference is myself, Hamadoun I. Touré, Secretary-General of ITU.

The executive secretary, by the way, I don't know why they should not address something to secretary. I'm always secretary, never general, so we should probably find a way to change secretary into general. I'm just joking, because I see people...

The secretary, Doreen Bogdan-Martin.

Administrative secretary, Mr. Samaké.

Legal affairs, Mr. Guillot.

Plenary Meeting and Com 1, steering, Doreen Bogdan-Martin.

Committee 2, credentials, Ms. B. Pluchon.

Committee 3, budget control, Mr. A. Ba.

Committee 4, editorial Committee, Mr. E. Dalhen.

Committee 5, review Committee, we have Richard Hill and Alexander Ntoko.

Committee 5-1, we have again Richard Hill and Mario Maniewicz.

Working Group 5-2, articles 2, 3, 4, 5, 7, 8, 10 and related matters, we have P. Maloor and Ms. Yang.

I would also like to inform you that as I started the tradition during the plenipotentiary conference after my election, I also assigned the elected officials to some of those Committees during the conference, so each and every official has been assigned a task.

What did I have that detail here?

I have myself for the plenaries. And Mr. Zhao is in charge of the budget Committee. Francois Rancy is Committee 2. And Malcolm Johnson -- I'll be taking also Working Group 5. But the two Working Groups -- Committee 5. But the two Working Groups under that will be Malcolm Johnson for group 1 and Brahima Sanou for the Working Group 2. And they will be reporting to me during the course of the conference to facilitate the work here.

I have experimented that in the past two plenipotentiary conferences it worked very well, and I intend to continue to do so. So please notice all of that.

But of course beyond those humble people who have been appointed here, I can assure you that all ITU staff present here and those in Geneva working for us online will be at your disposal to make and facilitate the work of this conference.

So I present that for your information, Mr. Chairman.

Thank you.

>> CHAIR: Thank you. And I'm sure that those people have been working very, very hard, I can tell you, before the conference. And I'm sure they will be of great assistance to everyone here.

Now we can move to agenda item 10, allocation of documents to Committees. And I want you to pull DT3 and I give the floor to the Secretary-General.

>> HAMADOUN TOURE: Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

The recommendation DT3 which proposes an initial allocation, and I repeat initial allocation of documents.

But if you allow me, I would like to point out that DT3 proposals and allocation of proposals received from Member States as well as reports by the Working Group, the Working Group to propose for WCIT. New documents will be referred by the conference Chairman to Committees and plenaries, in plenary, as appropriate in accordance with the general rules number 82.

For contributions recently received and submitted, the secretariat is doing his best to ensure timely processing and publication. When a document comes, we make sure that it's available as soon as possible in all of the six official languages. It's published in the original language first for efficiency. But please forgive us if there is a small delay between the original publication of the original document and the translated ones. Our people are working in different parts of the world for us to expedite that.

So I present this for your approval, Mr. Chairman. Of course, membership may as usual suggest some modifications in this, and I think it is the tradition of the unit. Thank you very much.

>> CHAIR: Thank you. And I submit this document to the meeting for approval with the understanding that this document is going to be updated by the Secretariat as necessary when the Member States wish to add, modify their proposals.

I see that the Russian Federation is asking for the floor. Russian Federation, you have the floor.

>> RUSSIAN FEDERATION: Distinguished ladies and gentlemen, first of all I want to congratulate the Chairman of the conference on the selection.

We looked at the allocation of documents carefully. We want number 27 one to be looked at at the plenary meeting. The Federation is suggesting additions to the ITRs, the purpose of which is to formulate an approach and understanding of Internet and ICT as a new global communications infrastructure and also as part of the national communications infrastructure of each individual Member State.

The document contains proposals to Article 2 definition and a new Article 3A Internet work. Our proposal on 3A and 5A is not referred to anywhere in the documents in the plenary, and we do have examples of other places where contributions were taken into account.

In order to assure that we have the contribution of all States, and after discussion of these documents at the plenary, we think that the more detailed proposals could be considered in the working parties of Working Group 5.

These proposals echo what we have already heard, the need for transparency, the need for openness, the need to -- through doors and Windows open. The need to open ourselves up to the Oasis rather than close ourselves off into a council or effort.

Thank you.

>> CHAIR: Thank you, the Russian Federation.

The document is going to be updated, so document 27 to be allocated to the plenary, and the Secretariat is going to update this document and present it. It will be uploaded for the delegates' information.

United States?

>> UNITED STATES OF AMERICA: Thank you very much, Mr. Chairman. And we wish to join with the Russian Federation in congratulate you on your selection as Chair. And we would of course wish you and all colleagues a successful conference.

Mr. Chairman, as we look at this document, a number of questions occur. As this is a document that allocates by proposals, in addition to document number, there may be a greater clarification needs to be brought to the document.

For example, this document, we are to understand this document in what manner in terms of method of proceeding. For example, in the plenary sessions, there are a number of proposals that are listed against the plenary. Is it the proposal or view, Mr. Chairman, that we would take each of those proposals in succession, starting from the top and proceeding to the last item? That's the first Question.

Secondly, Mr. Chairman, there was an indication by the Secretary-General that this document includes contributions from the council Working Group, Member States, and the Secretariat. At least that is what we understood him to say.

Mr. Chairman, we would ask that you would confirm that at a Treaty conference, only proposals from Member States can be considered. And if, for example, a proposal that had arisen during the council Working Group has not been adopted by a Member State, then it cannot be introduced into the Treaty conference. That needs to be confirmed, Mr. Chairman.

So if we could, we would ask your clarification as to how we are to read this document, in terms of working method. And, secondly, we are to ask that you confirm that at a Treaty conference, pursuant to the constitutional Convention and ITU practice, only Member States can make a contribution to a Treaty conference.

Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

>> CHAIR: Thank you. United States.

First of all, thank you for your very good questions. On the plenary, I would propose not to take the document numbers in order. We will come to it when it comes to examination and discussions of proposals by Member States.

And that's going to -- we will put at least, to start with, but we will come to it at a later stage. And first discuss the principles for the conference and then take issues as we go in terms of priority, to set the tone right for the conference and the complexity of issues that we have and we have at hand.

On the second issue, your understanding is correct. The conference -- the council Working Group for the preparatory process of WCIT is going to be presented only for information and only Member States proposals are put forward and will be considered by the conference.

China and then Japan. I'll take them both, and then we will... then we will get back to this. China.

>> CHINA: Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

We are very happy to come to the beautiful City of Dubai. The flower in the desert. This is the first time for us to speak. We send, then, congratulations to you and we will work together with you and make efforts to make this conference a success.

Mr. Chairman, regarding to the DT4 document, we have several questions through you to the Secretariat for clarification.

DT4, how come that DT4 has come to the plenary session? What is the nature and status of this document and what is the relationship between this DT4 and other documents. DT1 and 4, what is the relationship between DT1 and 4? Maybe there is some overlap.

As to DT1 and 4, is that a summary of all other proposals? Either we say that DT4 is not a complete document. For an example, some of the ACP proposals are not included. For example, 5A1, concerning the security issues, it's not included in the DT4 document.

Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

>> CHAIR: Thank you. Japan?

>> JAPAN: Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Our question is concerning DT3. When I looked at this DT3, I was surprised to see that many items are listed against the plenary, and I believe that all the proposals concerning this provision of ITR should be first reviewed in Committee 5. And when I look at this, each number, carefully, it's all the proposals concerning the preamble and Article 1 is listed there. And besides, all proposals concern the name of each Article, like Article 1, 2, 3, 4, 5. Only the title is listed there. So I really don't understand what is their idea of this listing of the preamble, Article 1, and just the name of the Article there, of the document to be allocated in the plenary.

Thank you very much.

>> CHAIR: Thank you. First of all, I wanted to answer to China's Question.

DT1 includes all proposals, so it's a complete document. DT3 is just allocation of documents to the plenary, to Committees, and to Working Groups.

DT4 is just items that were put together by the Secretariat to be addressed by the plenary. And as you know, there are issues that need to be addressed first by the plenary before it goes to the Working Group.

And coming to Japan's Question, you are right. There has been a careful selection so that we make some progress on the conference, and there are things that already have been put to the plenary so that -- and consideration was taken to all the proposals that come to the table at this conference, which some of them have majority agreement, and some major principles and some major differences that have to be resolved by the plenary. And that's why it was put to the plenary.

I hope my explanation is clear.

With that, can we approve DT3? Thank you very much.

The document is approved, again with the understanding that this document is going to be updated by the secretary as necessary.

United States and Mexico.

>> UNITED STATES OF AMERICA: Thank you very much, Mr. Chairman.

Mr. Chairman, we can go along with the consensus, but we should note that we remain confused as to exactly how we are to interpret DT3 with respect to, in addition to DT4. It is not clear at all at this point how these documents are going to be taken in plenary. We would understand that today you are not going to address these documents in plenary, but that may need to be clarified, if you are going to address these documents in plenary.

If you are going to address these documents in plenary, which document comes first? Which document comes first and in which order of the proposals? If you are to take the first document that is listed in DT3, there are six proposals against that document. Are they to take each of their proposals and present them to the plenary? If that's the principle, then by the time we get to other colleagues' proposals, there are two lines listed for proposals. At this rate, we certainly may not have what modestly could be called "Progress" in the conference.

But, Mr. Chairman, we would again ask you to consider the difficulty that colleagues may be having in understanding exactly what this document means. This is not a document that is -- has clear precedence to other documents in this area that we have seen at Treaty conferences.

So, Mr. Chairman, we don't want to stand between the consensus, colleagues in consensus, but we do remain confused as to how we are to interpret this DT3.

Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

>> CHAIR: Mexico?

>> MEXICO: Thank you, Chairman.

I'd like, firstly, to echo the congratulations which have been uttered on your election.

We would also like to congratulate the United Arab Emirates on their 41st anniversary.

I'd like now to say that we agree somewhat with what was said by the United States concerning how to interpret DT3. We understand that this has now been approved and we don't see any drawback to that. But we have a number of proposals in our document 20 for the plenary, and they do not appear in the work of Committee 5.

So our Question is in what form will they be submitted to the plenary, and what certain principles have been determined by the plenary, what will happen to the proposals which have been assigned to the plenary?

So if they have been determined, how will they be built into the Working Groups?

Thank you very much.

>> CHAIR: Thank you, Mexico. And I'll try one more time.

The intention when we get to the examination -- and I'm planning to do it today, if I can, and we will try to push to reach to this item -- is to group key issues in plenary. For example, general principles. There are a number of Administration/regional groups who presented proposals for general principles. The preamble, the use of the term "Operating agency" or "Recognized operating agency." The overlap with CS and CV. New proposals for Article 1. The binding nature of the ITU recommendations and basically finishes. So we will be taking those in groups. And once we come to the right group, we will ask Administrations to submit their proposals.

For example, after moving from general principles and preamble, we will get into the operating agency and recognizable operating agency, because this is critical for the conference and we need to resolve it.

So we will group the issues, and then we will allow Administrations to present their proposals and have some discussions.

I hope I'm clear.

United States and Mexico.

United Arab Emirates first and then United States of America.

>> UNITED ARAB EMIRATES: Thank you, Chairman.

Indeed, you have actually summarized in your last intervention exactly what I wanted to say. There are some issues that are genetic by nature. As you can see, the two Working Groups, at least one of them discusses more towards financial matters, and the other one is more about operational matters. However, these other issues that are genetic, and as you mentioned, the preamble, general principles, maybe ROA versus AO, these are genetic issues that fall into the Working Groups. And then we decide on them on something higher than the two Working Groups or the Committee itself and cover it by the plenary in order to save time for the Working Groups and their discussions.

So the Question I think that was raised by the United States was more about we should find out what will be the mechanism that the plenary is going to use on discussing this, and I think this is something that we can discuss, whether we create an ad hoc group or is it something that the Chairman of the plenary prepares something for us?

So this is something that I think we should take into account, what would be the mechanism on how we're going to discuss this? Because it's definitely a valid point. The plenary wants to be as direct as possible.

Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

>> UNITED STATES OF AMERICA: We wish to express our appreciation to the United Arab Emirates who has stated very clearly for us the issue that we are trying to understand in terms of working procedures.

Mr. Chairman, we can certainly can proceed in the fashion that you have laid out. We would ask as a first step in clarity if we could see exactly in writing what are the key principles that are to be addressed and when and what order will they be addressed, and against which documents are the principles to be discussed?

Secondly, Mr. Chairman, we would note in that regard, and you have correctly mentioned at least one of the subjects, that we have document 31 that seeks to address as a matter of some urgency of the conference the preamble, definition of telecommunications, and the issue of ROA and OA. As you were providing clarity to how we're going to proceed, we will be very interested to know exactly then when document 31 would appear on the agenda.

Thank you very much, Mr. Chairman.

>> CHAIR: Thank you. And I think as soon as we reach the urgent item to be concerned, I will lay down exactly, it will be very difficult to print it right now and distribute it, but I'll just lay down an order. As I just said, general principles, preamble, ROA and OA, overlap with CSCV, binding natures and others. I know this cannot be reached in plenary 1, but we will try to reach them today. And I'm optimistic to the OA/ROA issue before tomorrow's plenary.

With that, can we proceed?

Thank you.

I'll take two items before we have coffee break, and try to be quick.

The agenda item 11, date of submission of the report of the Committee.

>> HAMADOUN TOURE: Pursuant to the 11 provisions of the Convention and the procedures adopted at the previous plenipotentiary conferences, the plenary must decide on the date for submission of the report of the credential Committee.

The preliminary draft time plan proposes that the first meeting of the Committee be on December 5. It is noted that the date of the Commission of the report of the Credentials Committee be Wednesday, 12 December.

I'm asking for your approval. Thank you.

>> CHAIR: Thank you. And it's put for the meeting for approval.

I see no comments --

Thank you. The document is approved.

>> HAMADOUN TOURE: Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

I forgot to mention an exception that was requested by the delegation of Mexico to have their approval on the 13th of December. This is due to national elections taking place in the country, and therefore they have requested that and presented that to the heads of delegations meeting, and we should present this also, the delegates of the conference for allowing Mexico to present their credentials up to the 13th of December.

Thank you.

>> CHAIR: Thank you.

Is the proposal by the Secretary-General approved? It's put for your approval.

Thank you.

We move to agenda item 12. Working hours of the meetings of the conference. I give the floor to the Secretary-General.

>> HAMADOUN TOURE: Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

I would like to propose the following schedule in line with our past practices. 9:30 to 12:30 and 14:30 to 17:30 on weekdays.

On Friday, work will begin at 9 o'clock and end at 12 o'clock. And the afternoon session will resume as usual at 14:30.

The Steering Committee will of course -- the work of the Steering Committee will be updated every time, but the first one will be meeting tonight. And I would like to present this for your approval and the Steering Committee will approve the general schedule of the work of the conference as well as a detailed timetable for the first week. And as we move along, the Steering Committee will report to you any changes made.

I present this for your approval, Mr. Chairman. Thank you.

>> CHAIR: Thank you. The time plan is -- the working hours of the meeting of the conference is put forward to you for approval, and the steering Committee for today is going to start immediately after plenary.

So with that, I see no comments. So the working hours of the meeting of the conference is approved.

And the last thing before we break for coffee, I would ask the Secretary-General to present the participation request by International organisations.

Secretary-General?

>> HAMADOUN TOURE: Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

According to number 279 of the Convention, ITU Convention, observers of International organisations other than those referred in numbers 269A to 269D of this Convention are invited in accordance with the relevant provisions of chapter 1 of the General Rules of Conferences, assemblies and meetings of the Union, and those should be admitted to participate in the conference in an advisory capacity. See also annex 2 to resolution 145.

Formal requests have been received from: Council of Europe, European Union and International Academy. And I would like to propose this conference approval for them to be accepted as observers with an advisory capacity in this conference.

Thank you.

>> CHAIR: This is clear. They have asked to join in an advisory capacity and it's put forward for your approval.

I see no one is asking for the floor, and the three entities have been approved.

And now we will adjourn the meeting for coffee, 15 minutes. Please, Secretary-General?

>> HAMADOUN TOURE: Mr. Chairman, just allow me to ask all delegates when you are taking the floor, we hope that the first speaker will congratulate the Chairman for his election and congratulate our host country for hosting us, and thank them on behalf of everybody. And so that, to save time of the conference, as the tradition in ITU, you don't have to repeat that every time you take the floor or even the first time for taking the floor for delegations. You can save it. We ask kindly the host -- our Chairman to accept that from all of you. I believe that saves tremendous time.

And also if you allow me, I will send a letter from this conference -- from this conference to His Highness here, the Presidents of United Arab Emirates, thanking them and congratulating them also upon their 41st anniversary, so all of that will be done as a conference, so we will save valuable time and resources.

Thank you very much.

(Applause)

>> CHAIR: Thank you. And we will have a coffee break right now and we will come back at 4:40 sharp and we will start. We have lots of work for us in front of us, and we hope that we finish today by 5:30. So please enjoy your coffee break. (break)

>> CHAIR: Seems I'll start the meeting without the Secretary-General.

Ladies and gentlemen, if you can resume your seat.

resuming the plenary, and we will go straight to agenda item 14. Examination of the output of the preparatory process. And I'll give the floor to Armenia to present the document. Please.

>> ARMENIA: Thank you, Chairman.

Chairman, ladies and gentlemen, the Chairman of the council Working Group to prepare for the 2012 World Conference on International communications, Mr. Kushtuev, has been unable to attend the conference, which is why I've been requested to report the final report of the Working Group, which now I'm doing.

The work to prepare for the 2012 World Conference on International communications was set up in accordance with council resolution 13.19. -- 13.12.

>> INTERPRETER: The interpreter apologizes.

>> ARMENIA: The plenipotentiary conference of 2010 -- in 2010 in Guadalajara in its resolution 17.01, >> INTERPRETER: 171. Interpreter error.

>> ARMENIA: -- Resolution 171 stipulated that the Working Group should continue to prepare for the 2012 WCIT.

That the agenda and the dates for the holding of the conference should be those which was stipulated in council resolution 137.

Furthermore, the Working Group was to consider and study the results of the work done by ITU on the regulations. Discuss and consider all the proposals which are being made in the revision and review of those regulations, provided those proposals were in accordance with the goals of the Union as set forth in Article 1 of the constitution of the organisation, were in accordance with the goals of the regulations as set forth in their Article 1, and then the Working Group was able to consider the proposals being made and the revision and review of Article 1 of the regulations.

It was also necessary to take into account technical progress, and the need for these proposals to be a topic and ripe for inclusion in an International Treaty.

Furthermore, the work of the Working Group was to prepare four months before the beginning of the conference a final consolidated report, and that so that the Member States particularly the developing Member States would be able to use it in their preparations for the WCIT 2012.

The Working Group, acting in accordance with council resolution 13.17 and plenipotentiary conference resolution 171, held eight meetings and prepared a final consolidated report for WCIT 2012, so that the Member States could use it in their preparation of their own proposals to WCIT 2012.

The report for WCIT 2012 is now in document 4 for this conference, and that contains three addenda.

Addendum one is a quite voluminous document, and that is the completion of proposals with options for revisions to the ITRs.

Addendum two contains the draft of the future ITRs, including A proposals and review of resolutions, recommendations and opinions of the conference in 1988.

Addendum 3 contains the text of the regulations of 1988 in the Arabic, Chinese and Russian versions with selected changes. I would like to point out in this connection that as a result of the work of the Council Working Group, it was pointed out that the versions of the texts of the regulations of 1988 in the Arabic, Russian and Chinese languages were not agreed to by the Drafting Committee of the 1988 conference. These versions were prepared after the conference. The group agreed that the text reflecting the drafting changes, if delegates agreed, were to be included in the addendum to the report. And that is, indeed, what has been done.

Chairman, ladies and gentlemen, at its session in 2012, the Council has discussed the Question of opening access to the draft of the future ITRs, and it was decided that an ITU Web Page would be set up and that this would be accessible from the 15th of August through to the 7th of November. During that time we received and published 28 comments. Furthermore, it was decided that 4800 accesses to the draft regulations had been made, and I think the figures speak for themselves.

So the council Working Group in preparing for WCIT 2012 completed its work which it did on schedule and has submitted its final report to WCIT. It was submitted by the Secretary-General to this conference, and is now published as I said in document number 4.

Thank you very much, Chairman.

>> CHAIR: Thank you very much. And with that, the meeting can take note of this document.

And now we can go to agenda item 15, and DT4. And before I start I just wanted to also put some clarifications for the meeting. Because there have been questions raised during coffee break on the selected items that were put in DT4, and I just want to repeat that DT4 is a sub set of DT1, to clarify any contusion fusion. The reason it was put there was because they were items to be considered by plenary. And this is either items that have serious disagreement between Member States that requires intervention of the plenary or items that they have majority agreements that can be agreed by plenary and move forward. And, of course, the issues regarding general principles that we will start with.

So these contributions were grouped into key issues, and we will start the first key issue, and that's general principles now, with DT4. And the Member States' contribution, and I'll start with the CITEL proposal. CITEL, you have the floor to present general principles only. I gave give the floor for CITEL to present their proposal, and please I want to limit the presentation by three minutes.

CITEL

Sorry. I'll be specific in your contribution. Proposals 1, 2, 10 and 12 of your contribution. That's related to general principles.

If you are not ready, we will go to Asia Pacific for the sake of time. Is that okay?

>> Mr. Chairman?

>> CHAIR: Yes?

>> Yes. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

The first document is the American proposal number 1. And if you give me just a second to bring it up in my computer, it's a proposal --

>> CHAIR: Just to --

>> It's a proposal to review and revise the --

>> CHAIR: Just to help the meeting, it's page 80 of DT4.

>> At the WCIT 2012, the essence of this proposal, Mr. Chairman, the proposal presents a background on the WCIT, some principles that are embedded in resolution 171. But most importantly, Mr. Chairman, the proposal reflects the views of the region in regards to the enormous changes that have happened between 1988 and 2012, changes that are clearly reflected by the technological evolution and by the liberalization of markets worldwide.

It is the view reflected in this interAmerican proposal, Mr. Chairman, that what we require is not necessarily regulatory provisions, but that regulatory environment that promotes competition, investment, and entrepreneurship and innovation.

Furthermore, Mr. Chairman, the proposal, the views of the region clearly articulate that establishing detailed regulatory provisions would be detrimental to achieving and maintaining the goals of a regulatory environment that has proven to be successful, one that promotes competition, investment, entrepreneurship and innovation.

Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

>> CHAIR: Thank you.

I'll take now Asia Pacific proposal. Page 82 for reference in DT4.

I give now the floor to Asia Pacific.

>> ASIA PACIFIC: --

>> CHAIR: India will present the Asia Pacific proposal.

>> INDIA: Mr. Chairman, thank you, Mr. Chairman. Actually, it's not the Asia Pacific proposal that we are presenting. India has made a separate submission. So I think there is a little bit of confusion here.

>> CHAIR: Okay. Then can you hold and try to find who is going to present the Asia Pacific proposal and then we will come to the Indian proposal.

>> INDIA: Okay.

>> CHAIR: I cannot see any flag of... Japan? Will you present the Asia Pacific proposal? Japan?

>> JAPAN: Yes, Chairman. I understand that now we are now dealing with the part -- the last part of the DT4, right? And the ACP has principles there concerning the issues of -- for the -- over ITR revisions.

The first one is that whenever "CCITT" appears in the text, that should be replaced by "ITU-T."

The second one is whenever there is "a member," it will represented by the "Member State." And if there is a "demonstration," that should be replaced by "Member States," whether "operating agencies," or -- well, in the APT we discussed these issues about this in the operating agencies. And there are divergent views concerning whether we should use the operating agencies or ROAs. And we come to some compromise that -- to adopt the operating agencies with asterisks. It shows that if Member States prefer to use this, they can do that. And if they want to limit the scope of this application to the ROA, they can do that.

We would like to have -- to see this kind of flexibility in the operating agencies with asterisks. And if you see the asterisks, maybe some people thinks that there needs to be some modification to make it more clear. But our intention is that according to each situation of the Member States, that can be -- the scope can be just ROA or operating agency, according to each country's case. This is the idea.

And having said that, I have to add that there are divergent views among the AP countries. And we, Japan, believe that just the "operating agencies," without any restriction, is too broad.

>> CHAIR: Japan, I'm sorry to interrupt you. But we are not discussing OA or ROA right away. We will get to it. But if you have any comments on general principles, I would love to put it to the meeting. Otherwise, we will come to the ROA/OA proposal at a later stage.

>> JAPAN: Chairman, I thought that we are now at the end of the DT4. And if you see this DT4, there are three parts concerning these principles. But if it's not appropriate, I will stop here. Thank you very much.

>> CHAIR: Thank you, Japan.

We will take right now Canada and US proposal on general principles. So document 31. And I'll give the floor to whoever wants to take it. US or Canada. Thank you.

U.S. You have the floor.

>> UNITED STATES OF AMERICA: Mr. Chairman, we have submitted document 31, which contains three of the principles for consideration at this plenary.

This document 31 seeks an agreement on the scope issues as they relate to the ITRs' classification of "operating agencies" or "recognized operating agencies," as well as retaining the existing definition of "telecommunications." Should we reach an agreement on these issues, we will bolster the likelihood of a successful outcome to the conference and ensure there is consensus from the beginning of the conference on what will be the reach of the ITRs.

As a Member State, we prefer to know the impact of the proposals to revise the ITRs before we agree to those proposals. With a common understanding of the scope issues at the start of the conference, those issues will not have to be addressed and debated in the context of each Article.

The proposals concerning scope fall into one of three categories. First, revision of the preamble and Article 1. Second, application of ITRs to operating agency, recognized operating agencies, or some other category of entities. And, finally, the definition of telecommunications.

As a contribution states, the preamble and Article 1 set forth the principle and scope of the ITRs, and it is essential to agree on those fundamental issues before considering specific proposals to amend provisions of these ITRs.

In addition, WCIT-12 should agree whether the ITRs should apply to recognized operating agencies, operating agency, or some other category, and whether to revise the definition of telecommunications.

These are threshold issues that we believe will affect the scope and application of the ITRs as well as their relationship to the ITU constitution and Convention, and we seek a conversation about these issues as early as possible.

Member States as positions on these issues will allow the conference to develop a common understanding of the impact of the proposals to revise the scope. In this way, the implications will be clear to everyone as we advance on specific proposals.

I reserve the right later on to describe each of these three proposals in detail.

Thank you.

>> CHAIR: Thank you. And I think also we -- your proposal focuses on the ROA and OA issue and primarily on some of the definitions. But we will come to that soon, very soon.

I'll now give the floor to the European Common Procedure, and again focusing on the general principles.

So... Portugal. You have the floor.

>> PORTUGAL: Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Good afternoon to all of you. Contribution 16 and its addendum 1 presents the European Common Proposals for WCIT-12. These were developed by the European Conference of Telecommunications Administrations in several meetings that took place throughout 2011 and 2012.

Europe recalls that one size fits all and proscriptive solutions are not advisable. In fact, the revised International Telecommunications Regulations are expected to be applicable, helpful and meaningful in every region and country of the world.

This will not be achievable if there is an intention to micromanage. The International Telecommunication Services as a positive position to a given country may be meaningless or even harmful to its neighbor.

Europe considers that WCIT shall find win/win solutions, as the Secretary-General correctly said in his opening speech.

For that hand, Europe agreed on a set of criteria which, in our opinion, should guide the ITR revision. First, in accordance to this criteria, which have a legal basis and in our opinion are balanced criteria, as an International Treaty, the ITR should address high level strategic policy issues related to international telecommunications services and facilities. The basis for this criteria is laid down in resolution 171, preparations for the 2012 World Conference on International Telecommunications, Guadalajara 2010.

Secondly, consistent with ITU-T -- with ITU constitution, and in particular the preamble and Article 1, Europe considers that ITU constitution does not prescribe that ITU-T recommendations are binding, and therefore the ITR's revision should not be used to change the nature of ITU recommendations.

Consistent with International agreements and legislation adopted by CPT Members, under this criteria it calls that the large number of Europe countries are EU, UAE members and also (inaudible) members, the same way that Europe respects different market landscapes and different regional and nationals, throughout the scope, we respect that the International agreements were made by a large number of Members.

Third, Europe will consider proposals related to national defense, national content, and cybercrime issues in the context of results free of resolution 130, revised in Guadalajara 2010.

Finally, exclusions of areas not related to the purpose and scope of the ITRs. Europe considers that proposals concerning national or regional telecommunications service or transport should not be included in the ITRs. The compliance with this criteria is also linked to the preambles of both the ITU constitution and the ITRs, which fully recognize the sovereign right of each state to regulate its telecommunications.

Taking into consideration the above criteria, Europe estimated a number of proposals for amending each Article of the existing ITR and is also proposing a revision of appendix 2 of this Treaty

Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

>> CHAIR: Thank you. And now I open the floor for any comments. And before I forget, South Africa is asking for the floor but before giving South Africa the floor, India asked a Question. Is it on general principles or do you want to comment on the general principles before giving the -- before giving South Africa the floor? India?

>> INDIA: Thank you, Chairman. Our contribution was not on the subject of general principle, so we will come in at the appropriate stage. Thank you.

>> CHAIR: Thank you. South Africa? You asked for the floor.

So under general principles and the comments on the presentation of documents by the different groups, is there any comment from the meeting?

I see none and I can summarize the general principles here. As we did in terms of consultation with the regional groups and looking at proposals as well, I can say that the general principles, that the way I can summarize it, the ITRs, the outcome of this conference and the ITRs shall contain high level guiding principles. I think there is an agreement on this.

And the ITRs should be technology neutral. And I think there is an agreement on this.

And there has to be -- the ITRs have to be consistent with the preamble and Article 1 of the constitution. And there is an agreement on this.

And the ITRs should be long lasting, without the need of frequent revision.

Would that -- if there is agreement that we move on these general principles for the conference, we can move right now -- there -- if there is an agreement we can move right now to the discussion of a more specific subject, which is ROA/OA.

Thank you very much.

So we will take a lot of these general principles, and I wanted to give the floor, we have Algeria on the general principles or the ROA/OA?

Algeria?

>> ALGERIA: Thank you, Chairman.

Chairman, when the Secretary-General took the floor, he stressed and reminded the International community of the fact that the ITRs were established in 1988, 24 years ago, at an administrative conference. And yet the title is very revealing. Since 1988, significant changes have occurred, revolutions we might say, radical change.

Radical change has marked the telecommunications context. Let us compare the current situation. Looking at technology, looking at the difference between the situation in 1988 and that which we face in 2012, if we believe that the ITRs shouldn't reflect those radical changes, we might wonder what the role of this WCIT is.

It is important for us, for the International community of today and tomorrow, that we understand what purpose should be given to this conference, this first conference of its kind, which is another thing we must stress.

If this conference, which is the first of its kind, were not to tackle this radical change which has affected telecommunications and information technologies, future generations will fail to understand what our role in Dubai in 2012 was. And we would not like to be judged by those future generations in that way.

On the contrary, we must emerge from this conference with a sense that we have acquitted ourselves of our duties with the awareness that we have completed the line of work which involved updating those ITRs and bringing them in line with the current time and the progress which the telecommunications and information technology sector has undergone.

Chairman, I say this in my general principles, we're talking about general principles here, these regulations shouldn't talk about a particular type of technology. That's not what I'm saying, no. They should take into account the radical change which has affected telecommunications.

Thank you, Chairman.

>> CHAIR: Thank you. And when we said that these ITRs should contain high level principles, we talk about all the issues that were put on the table as contributions from Member States. So, basically, we are saying the same thing. And it will be discussed during the course of the conference.

Now, we have full presentation from United States on the ROA/OA, and I will come back to Japan and the ACP proposal.

And I will give now the floor to Japan. Japan, you have three minutes, because we need to have some discussions before the end of the meeting.

Japan, you have the floor.

>> JAPAN: Thank you, Chairman.

Now I think it's the appropriate time to have some discussion concerning whether we should use these operating agencies or ROA issues. ROA. According to my understanding, the issue of the -- now, if we see the current text of ITR, the Administrations of my peers, these administrations, are for private recognized operating agencies. And now I understand this PROA is now ROA, as defined in the constitutions of this ITU.

And if I look -- we look at this constitution number 38, it says that the Member States have an obligation to impose the application described in this ITR to the operating agencies, which the Member States authorized to operate. And so we can see -- we can understand that when we talk about these obligations contained in ITR, maybe it's not appropriate to understand this obligation can be imposed to all the operating agencies. Maybe there should be some limitations concerning whether Member States will import these obligations to these operating agencies.

So I understand that maybe in the context, ROA is a better wording to replace this Administration with the private operating agencies. Private recognized operating agencies.

In the APT proposal, we had divergent views concerning of use of OA and ROA, and we just presented as the APT proposal to say operating agencies asterisk, and allowing Member States to have some flexibility concerning the scope of ITR, and we have divided views. I'll stop here. Thank you very much.

>> CHAIR: Thank you. I'll give the floor to Sweden. Australia. Please be brief, because we are very close to the end of the day, working day.

I'll take Sweden first and then Australia.

>> SWEDEN: Thank you very much, Mr. Chairman.

I asked for the floor in order to provide support for the proposals in document 31, which in our reading does not only deal with the Question of ROA and OA, it also deals with the general issue of the scope of the ITRs and the definition of telecommunications. And we believe that is important and it has to be resolved before we discuss the matter of substance.

With regard to the ROA or OAs, we are in favor of using the word "recognized operating agencies," in order not to change the context and the application of the ITRs.

Thank you.

>> CHAIR: Australia?

>> AUSTRALIA: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Given the range and number of proposals that have been put forward to this conference, it's important that we decide on certain matters early in our discussion, otherwise we risk creating a situation where text that has been agreed for inclusion will later become unacceptable.

For this reason, Australia wishes to speak in support of the proposals put forward to this conference by the United States and Canada. Specifically, Australia agrees that any revisions to the ITRs should be considered with full knowledge of whether they would apply to recognized operating agencies, operating agencies, or other entities.

Australia would prefer to use the term "recognized operating agencies" to remain consistent with the definitions in the current ITU constitution. This will provide clarity for subsequent discussions to know that we are talking about an entity that operates a public telecommunications network.

We also agree that the definition of "telecommunications" should be considered before this conference moves on to discussing specific proposals to revise the ITRs.

Considering these underlying elements of the ITRs before moving on to other discussions is a sensible approach which Australia supports.

Thank you.

>> CHAIR: I have three requests, and I want to stop the floor.

I have Brazil, Russia, UAE, and Portugal on the ROA/OA issue. And I would like to ask the interpreters if they can stay with us for ten minutes.

>> INTERPRETER: We will give you ten minutes, yes, Chair.

>> CHAIR: Sorry, Argentina, that is the end of the list. Brazil, UAE, Argentina, please be brief. Costa Rica wants to have the floor. Brazil first.

>> BRAZIL: Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Brazil supports the use of both terms. OA is not a new concept. It's established in the base instruments of the union. OAs moreover are users and providers of International telecommunication services. They currently -- and due to convergence of market and technology -- are providing important telecommunications services, and therefore must be covered by this Treaty.

But its appearance has to be analyzed in-depth and on a case-by-case basis. As Europe, we don't think that "one size fits all "solution is advisable at this moment.

Brazil should like to enforce the concept of having OAs and ROAs according to the views of each Article.

Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

>> CHAIR: UAE, briefly.

>> UNITED ARAB EMIRATES: Thank you, Chairman. I will try to be very brief.

First of all, the general principles, maybe we haven't submitted as a proposal a document 7 Rev 1. But we have our principles and we have discussed it many times almost in line with the same that you have mentioned.

However, with regard to the ROA and OA, the Arab group also has submitted their proposals. In regard to this one, we are supporting that to cover OA instead of ROA in the ITR, and the reason for that one is if we go to the definitions of the ROA, it has to have two things, which is the head Office of this country, and the country will provide service or authorized by a Member State to provide the services.

And ROA always we are thinking that it is recognized by one country but it's not really recognized by other countries. However, the operating agency, it is covered both.

Mr. Chairman, I agree with all, that these are important issues and they are reflected in all ITRs, and we have to find a way how we can proceed further with this one. And I'm sure that you have a solution on this issue and I'll be happy to explain our position.

Thank you very much.

>> CHAIR: Thank you.

Russia.

>> RUSSIAN FEDERATION: I'd like to thank that I'm speaking on behalf of the RCC. In our proposals we have suggested the use of the term "agency," which we prefer to retain, because many developing countries, including Member States of the RSS, continue to have agencies playing a very important role in the area of communications within the framework of their organisation.

We also believe that the use of the term "operating agency" as a general understanding, a general definition, would include state and private organisations, and that brings our proposal I think closer to the proposal made by our colleagues from the Arab countries.

In these two points, if you bring them together, in the text of the ITUs, we will be using roughly the construction Administration/operating agency.

Now, as far as document 31 is concerned, it is of course extremely interesting, although having said that we would like to return to our understanding if we might be able to do so later, as I think suggested by the USA.

Thank you.

>> CHAIR: Portugal, please, briefly.

>> PORTUGAL: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I'll be brief.

First of all, we would like to support the methods described in contribution 31. We think -- Europe thinks that it's important to generally agree in the scope of the ITRs and on crucial matters, such as ROA, OA issue, as well as the telecommunication definition before we proceed to the remaining provisions.

In relation to the ROA/OA issue, Europe has run a legal analysis on this Question. And as a conclusion, we noted that Article 1, 1A of the ITRs, says that the ITRs establish general principles, which relates to the provision and operation of International Telecommunication Service offered to the public, and I underline the word "Public."

And in line with this, the definition which better suits for the purpose of the ITRs is, in our opinion, the "recognized operating agents."

Thank you very much.

>> CHAIR: Thank you.

Argentina, please brief. We have to close the meeting.

>> ARGENTINA: Thank you very much, Chairman. I will indeed try and be brief. I simply wanted to make the point that we agree with the methodology which is proposed in document number 31. We think we need to reach agreement on the fundamental principles before we actually embark upon the rest of our discussions.

Thank you.

>> CHAIR: Costa Rica, please brief as well.

>> COSTA RICA: Yes, Chairman. Thank you very much.

Like the delegation of Argentina, we want to offer our support to the proposal made in document 31 and introduced by the United States. We believe that it's essential that we sort this out before we make any further progress and move on to consider all the other specific proposals relating to the ITRs.

First of all, we have to have this matter sorted out. And, therefore, Costa Rica also believes that "recognized operating agency" is probably the most appropriate definition.

Thank you.

>> CHAIR: Thank you. I have closed the list. Philippines and Brazil, for the sake of time, so I will really ask you to bear with me.

With the issues at hand, this is one of the issues that was seen from the contribution that it will have a serious disagreement. I hope we will agree at the end of the day.

I propose that an informal discussion takes place and I suggest that I will lead this discussion and I will ask the regional representatives to be with me tomorrow at 8 o'clock, in a meeting that we will get right now, to discuss this fundamental issue before us on the conference.

If you are in agreement with this, then we will have this discussion in an informal meeting, chaired by the Chairman of the conference, starting from tomorrow at 8, before the plenary.

I see still Philippines and Spain are asking for the floor. And Mexico.

And we are running out of time. We have four minutes before the interpreters... Philippines? I'll give the floor to the Philippines and then Spain.

>> PHILIPPINES: Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

The Philippines would like to express its positions on the various issues raised, particularly on the term "Operating agency, recognized operating agency, Member State and Administration."

It is our position that these terms may be used interchangeably, but within the context of a provision these different words may, in fact, have different meanings.

So we also are amplifying the position of the AP community, we say that the term "Administration" when it refers to a provision in the ITR, which in fact refers to the state as parties to the signatory or a party by accession, then the term "Administration" must be replaced by the word "Member State." Because in the Treaty, it is the Member State which has the obligations, where the Administration only has operational obligations.

>> CHAIR: Philippines, I'm sorry, I hate to interrupt you. But we are -- we have two minutes. And if you can join us in the informal meeting and discuss this, this critical issue, I would really appreciate it.

We have to close the meeting in two minutes.

>> PHILIPPINES: We will. Thank you.

>> CHAIR: Thank you.

With that, I see no objection on establishing an informal meeting. And I really need the representatives from the regional groups and Philippines, and we will have that discussion tomorrow morning at 8 o'clock. I will announce the meeting soon.

With that, we are coming to the last agenda item that is other business.

Is there any other business?

>> SECRETARIAT: Thank you very much, Mr. Chairman.

I'd like to make a few announcements. As was previously mentioned, the first meeting of the Steering Committee will take place immediately at the end of this session. And that meeting will take place in room B.

I'd also like to just say a brief word about document distribution. In line with ITU's commitment to reduce its carbon footprint and in accordance with the plenipotentiary recommendations and practice, the conference will work as far as practicable in a paperless manner. And so in that regard, Mr. Chairman, we will be limiting document distribution to two sets per delegation and that will be on request.

Also, Mr. Chairman, we have made available an application which is called SYNC. You can get that from the ITU website. And I encourage you to download it and you will have access to all of the documents and then you just need to update it each day.

Also, we have made available a number of laptops for those delegates that were not able to come with their laptops. So please contact a member of the ITU Secretariat. We have a number of colleagues in the back of the room, wearing blue ITU caps, should you need any technical assistance.

And then finally, Mr. Chairman, we are piloting a mobile Web app for this event. It's a new feature for ITU conferences, and I welcome delegates to try out the app. And if you have comments, please share them with the Secretariat. Thank you very much.

>> CHAIR: Thank you. And I think there is a social event today. UAE you can announce that.

>> UNITED ARAB EMIRATES: Thank you.

In order to invite all delegates to a dinner, which will be in the Jumeirah Beach Hotel, the buses will start moving from here at 6:30. So I'd like to request everybody to take the buses, which will be at the registration area, at 6:30. And please enjoy yourselves there and bring your family also.

So I would like to see you there. At 7:30 we will be available.

Thank you very much.

(Applause)

>> CHAIR: The informal meeting is in room E at 8 o'clock. Mexico is asking for the floor. Are you insisting on on taking the floor? Mexico?

>> MEXICO: Yes, Chairman, thank you very much.

I just wanted to ask if Mexico could be included in this informal group, since I think you had requested the presence of the representatives. We think this is a very important point and we would like to be present and I'd like some clarification if possible on the scope of these discussions.

That way we can be absolutely clear about the specific issues that are going to be dealt with. Thank you.

>> CHAIR: Thank you. You are welcome to join the meeting.

With that, I will close... United Arab Emirates? Do you still -- UAE?

>> UNITED ARAB EMIRATES: Sorry, Chairman. But I have to say it, this social event is sponsored by our telecom operator. If I will not say that, they will not be happy with me. So I have to say it here.

(Applause)

>> CHAIR: Thank you.

The meeting is adjourned, and I'll see you tomorrow at 9:30 for the plenary and for the informal meeting at 8, in room E. Thank you.

(End of meeting, 17:40)

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