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| **Plenipotentiary Conference (PP-14)Busan, 20 October – 7 November 2014** |  |
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| PLENARY MEETING | **Addendum 1 toDocument 73-E** |
|  | **25 September 2014** |
|  | **Original: Russian** |
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| ITU Member States, Members of the RCC |
| COMMON PROPOSALS FOR THE WORK OF THE CONFERENCE |
| PART 1**Clarification of the concept "finances of the Union"** |

Reference documents

Abstract

We propose providing a definition of the expression "finances of the Union" and clarifying the provisions relating to financial matters in the Constitution, Convention and Financial Regulations of ITU, which will involve harmonizing basic concepts and definitions, eliminating potential ambiguity, and making the texts more dynamic by linking finances with the goals and objectives of ITU.

Reference documents

1 ITU Constitution

2 ITU Convention

3 Financial Regulations and Financial Rules of ITU

4 Resolution 72 (Rev. Guadalajara, 2010), on linking strategic, financial and operational planning in ITU

5 Decision 5 (Rev. Guadalajara, 2010), on the income and expenditure of the Union for the period 2012-2015

Introduction

Article 28 of the ITU Constitution ("Finances of the Union") does not define what the finances of the Union are. It begins by indicating what comprises the "expenses of the Union" (Nos. 155‑158), and in No. 159 (*a) – g)*) indicates how the Union's expenses are to be met.

Article 33 of the ITU Convention ("Finances") without further ado gives a description of contribution scales (No. 468) and is almost entirely devoted to issues pertaining to arrangements regarding contributions and defraying expenses, which do not fully cover the concept "finances".

Similarly, the Financial Regulations (2010 edition), which deals with issues of ITU financial management and control, does not define the term "finances of the Union". For example, the title of Article 1 ("Management and control of the finances of the Union") includes the term "finances of the Union" but does not define the expression, and the text uses a number of related terms without explanation ("financial aspects of all activities [of the Union]", "financial [responsibilities]", and "financial questions").

The term "finances of the Union" is thus not explicitly defined in the financial provisions of the basic tests, even if these do in one way or another concern individual aspects and processes of the complex issue of finances.

Western academic and teaching literature in this field offers no general definition of "finances" and the concept is dealt with in fairly broad terms. On the other hand, in order to preclude ambiguity in rt espect of the adjective "financial" used on its own, some authors state that as regards public finances (and ITU is not a commercial organization) it is more correct to use the adjective "fiscal", referring, for example, to "fiscal year" rather than "financial year", so that the concept "finances" acquires a new connotation suggesting specific social (public) outcomes of benefit to individuals and groups.

Seen in this light, it would seem expedient to include in Article 28 of the Constitution a definition of the term "finances of the Union", also clarifying the provisions of the Constitution, Convention and Financial Regulations related to that Article on the basis of harmonized basic concepts and definitions.

The use of the term "finances of the Union" in ITU's instruments is also crucial in terms of the importance of linking all types of plans with the financial resources needed to implement them, of understanding the systemic character and importance of the finances of an international non‑commercial organization at a time of global economic instability, and of enhancing transparency and efficiency of the Union's financial activities in the interests of all stakeholders, with the transition to IPSAS accounting standards, and so on.

In order to provide a comprehensive definition of the term "Finances of the Union" and take into account that:

– the resources and expenses of the Union are based on the budgets approved by the Council according to CV/Article 4, No. 73;

– the budget and management as well as Strategic and Financial plans of the Union are based on the principles of Results-Based Budgeting and Results-Based Management ;

– the internal and external mechanisms of control are in place to enable professional and systematic control over the use of the ITU resources;

– the issues related to the risks of fraud and appropriate measures are covered by the Staff Regulations and Staff Rules, Chapters IX and X.

It is proposed:

1 On condition that PP‑14 adopts a decision regarding the *possibility of revising* the texts of the Constitution and Convention, to amend the **ITU Constitution**, as presented in the Annex below.

2 To authorize the Council according to Nos. 63 and 73 of Article 4 of ITU Convention and No. 69 (4.1)) of Article 10 of ITU Constitution and the Rules of Procedure of the Council to make appropriate amendments to the text of the Financial Regulations and Financial Rules of the Union.

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|  | CONSTITUTION OFTHE INTERNATIONALTELECOMMUNICATION UNION |
|  | CHAPTER VOther Provisions Concerning the Functioningof the Union |
|  | ARTICLE 28Finances of the Union |

ADD RCC/73A1/1#14790

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| 154A | 0 The finances of the Union shall be understood to mean the peremptory system and processes applied to the constitution, allocation and use of financial resources (funds) with appropriate administrative control for the purposes of carrying out the mission, functions and objectives of the Union, and ensuring conditions for its stability and renewed activity in the future. The basis of ITU's finances shall be its budget as constituted almost exclusively from the financial contributions of Members of the Union and from other sources stipulated in the ITU's instruments and other appropriate documents. |

ADD RCC/73A1/2#14791

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| 154B | 0A The finances of the Union shall be regulated on the basis of the provisions of this Constitution, the Convention, and the Financial Regulations adopted by the Council, and shall form part of the international financial system. |

MOD RCC/73A1/3#14792

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| 155 | 1 The expenses of the Union included in the budget shall comprise the costs of: |

MOD RCC/73A1/4#14793

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| 159PP-98 | 2 The budget revenues shall be obtained from: |

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|  | CHAPTER IBasic Provisions |
|  | ARTICLE 10The Council |

MOD RCC/73A1/5#14794

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| 71 |  3) It shall ensure the efficient coordination of the work of the Union and exercise systematic professional financial control over the General Secretariat and the three Sectors, and shall also approve the ITU Financial Regulations governing the financial aspects of all types of activity of the Union. |

PART 2

**Revision of interest rates levied on participants in respect of overdue contributions and other dues payable to the ITU budget, and
transfer of the relevant provisions from the ITU Convention
to the ITU Financial Regulations and Financial Rules**

Summary

It is proposed that consideration be given to the possibility of deleting from a treaty-level document adopted by the Plenipotentiary Conference (ITU Convention or other document) the provisions relating to procedures for the collection of arrears on overdue payments, and adding appropriate provisions to the text of the ITU Financial Regulations and Financial Rules.

In the case of overdue contributions owed by Member States or Sector Members and other dues payable to the ITU budget, it is proposed that the levying procedure should be simplified by ensuring that the setting of the magnitude of the applicable penalty is linked to the adoption of the strategic financial plan (Decision 5) at the Plenipotentiary Conference (PP).

Revised provisions relating to procedures for recovering debts should be included in the ITU Financial Regulations and Financial Rules.

References

1 ITU Constitution, Article 28: Finances of the Union

2 ITU Convention, Article 33: Finances

3 ITU Financial Regulations and Financial Rules

4 Decision 5 (Rev. Guadalajara, 2010)

5 Resolution 151 (Rev. Guadalajara, 2010), on the implementation of results-based management in ITU

6 Resolution 152 (Rev. Guadalajara, 2010), on improvement of management and follow-up of the defrayal of ITU expenses by Sector Members and Associates

7 Resolution 158 (Rev. Guadalajara, 2010), on financial issues for consideration by the Council

8 Document CWG-FHR-2/8 (29 January 2013) – Russian Federation contribution to CWG-FHR on "Some issues on the ITU additional financial mechanisms pursuant to Resolution 158 (PP‑10)"

9 Document C13/61, 24 May 2013, contribution from the Russian Federation on changes to the procedures for dealing with debtors

10 Document C13/59, 24 May 2013, contribution from the Russian Federation on reviewing the interest rates levied on participants in respect of overdue contributions and other dues payable to the ITU budget

11 Report of the Standing Committee on Administration and Management to ITU Council 2013.

# 1 Introduction

All the Union's activities are covered by the ITU budget, which is funded to a large extent from voluntary contributions of Member States, Sector Members and Associates, as well as a number of other sources approved in the ITU Convention and the ITU Financial Regulations. The ability to collect contributions is therefore one of the most important conditions for successful implementation of all activities envisaged in the strategic plan and carried out under the auspices of ITU.

At the same time, the organization faces the rather difficult problem of collecting arrears on overdue payments from the ITU membership, both in relation to the procedures for dealing with debtors and in terms of economic consequences (need to write off considerable sums every year; increased volume of debt). Given the need to balance the budget without withdrawals of funds from the reserve account and to reduce the negative balance, the importance of this problem is not diminishing. All Member States recognize the need to solve the problem of debt, which creates financial risks and, as a consequence, weakens ITU's financial stability, has an impact on the organization's effective implementation of plans and decisions, entails considerable effort and cost in dealing with debtors, and drains resources from turnover for reserves. The issue also has an organizational and political side, insofar as it can lead to suspension of members' participation in the work of ITU.

When PP‑10 adopted Resolution 152 (Rev. Guadalajara, 2010), revising the resolution adopted at PP‑06, it introduced some quite stringent conditions relating to the procedures for the payment of contributions, the charging of penalties and the exclusion of Sector Members or Associates. Furthermore, the Council supported the Secretary-General's initiative to implement the practice of dealing with debtors in a flexible manner. However, despite the possibility of a more customized approach to billing and collection of contributions, the specific penalty rates (3 per cent and 6 per cent) established in the ITU Convention complicate the process of dealing with debtors and do not seem justified or reasonable, as they were put forward back in 1998 and fail to take into account the rapidly changing and complex economic situation over a budgetary period.

The question of arrears owed by ITU members has been discussed on a number of occasions at meetings of the Council Working Group on Financial and Human Resources in 2012 and 2013, and at meetings of the Council in 2012 and 2013, at which the Russian Federation submitted contributions [8, 9, 10] setting out possible ways of improving the procedural and substantive aspects of dealing with debtors.

At the Council of 2013, the General Secretariat was invited to consider the proposals put forward by the Russian Federation and to use them in preparations for PP‑14 (§ 11 of [11] above).

# 2 Proposals

Considering the importance of the issue of recovering arrears of payments owed by Member States, Sector Members and Associates, for strengthening the financial stability of ITU, the following measures are proposed:

2.1 Deletion from a treaty-level document adopted by the Plenipotentiary Conference (ITU Convention or other such document) of the provision relating to specific values of interest rates to be charged on arrears (No. 474, Article 33) and the description of the procedure for their recovery (see Annex 1).

2.2 Calculate the penalties for overdue payments during the year on the basis of the formula:

**Penalty = amount of arrears \* Number of days debt remains outstanding \* 1/365 \* X/100**

whereby the total amount due for the whole period during which the arrears remain outstanding shall be determined as the sum of the annual arrears during the period, taking into account any variation in the annual interest rate X.

2.3 The magnitude of the annual interest rate X shall be set by the ITU Council at the session when it adopts the ITU budget for the biennium.

2.4 Should this approach be endorsed, make the appropriate amendments concerning the procedures for recovering debts in the ITU Financial Regulations and Financial Rules, specifically §§ 3 and 5b) of Article 7 (Budget of the Union – Revenue) of the Financial Regulations to be amended as shown in Annex 2.

2.5 For the period 2016-2017, the magnitude of the interest rate X to be charged on overdue payments shall be 2 per cent per annum over the whole budgetary period, taking into account market conditions, data on the refinancing rate in banks in the Swiss Confederation, and such other factors as delegates to PP‑14 may consider relevant in this case.

Annex 1

Introduction of amendments to CV 474, Article 33[[1]](#footnote-1)

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|  | CONVENTION OFTHE INTERNATIONALTELECOMMUNICATION UNION |
|  | CHAPTER IVOther Provisions |
|  | ARTICLE 33Finances |

MOD RCC/73A1/6#14795

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| 474PP-98 | 3 The amounts due shall bear interest in accordance with the procedure established by the Council and reflected in the Financial Regulations and Financial Rules of ITU. |

PART 3

**Revision of Decision 12 (Guadalajara, 2010)**

Free online access to ITU publications

# I Introduction

Pursuant to the decisions of PP‑10, ITU expanded the scope of its policy of free online access to ITU documents and publications to include, in particular, ITU‑R Recommendations and Reports.

By decisions of its 2011-2014 sessions, the Council endorsed free online access to the ITU Administrative Regulations − the International Telecommunication Regulations and the Radio Regulations, and to final acts of world telecommunication development conferences, rules of procedure and a number of ITU handbooks.

It should be noted that the policy of free online access is helping to attain one of ITU's strategic objectives – dissemination of ITU standards to the general public, in particular in developing countries with financial constraints. This wide outreach via free online access helps to build the visibility of ITU's mission and mandate and reinforce ITU as a global telecommunication authority. Moreover, the extension of free online access has not had a significant financial impact, and in some cases, in particular for the Radio Regulations, has even led to an increase in the volume of sales.

The RCC member countries consider that ITU should further expand the scope of the policy of free online access to ITU documents and publications, concentrating in the first instance on texts that are binding for ITU Member States and on vital publications relating to the use of telecommunications/ICTs in emergency situations. The experience of recent years shows that this approach not only promotes the development and widespread introduction of telecommunications/ICTs worldwide, but also fosters wider use and greater effectiveness of modern telecommunication systems and recognition of ITU's lead role in international standardization of telecommunications/ICTs.

# II Proposal

Revise Decision 12 accordingly.

MOD RCC/73A1/7

DECISION 12 (REV. BUSAN, 2014)

Free online access to ITU publications

The Plenipotentiary Conference of the International Telecommunication Union (Busan, 2014),

considering

*a)* that Article 4 of the ITU Constitution defines the Administrative Regulations (i.e. the International Telecommunication Regulations and the Radio Regulations) as instruments of the Union, and that Member States are bound to abide by the provisions of those texts;

*b)* that, regarding the instruments of ITU that are intended to be incorporated in national law, Member States have *de facto* freedom to reproduce, translate and publish such texts on official government department websites as well as in official journals or equivalent publications, in accordance with their respective national law;

*c)* Resolution 123 (Rev. Busan, 2014) of this conference, on bridging the standardization gap between developing[[2]](#footnote-2)1 and developed countries, which recognizes that the implementation of recommendations of the ITU Radiocommunication Sector (ITU-R) and the ITU Telecommunication Standardization Sector (ITU-T) is a basic step towards bridging the standardization gap between developed and developing countries;

*d)* Resolution 64 (Rev. Busan, 2014) of this conference, and Resolution 20 (Rev. Dubai, 2014) of the World Telecommunication Development Conference (WTDC), on non‑discriminatory access to modern telecommunication/information and communication technology (ICT) facilities and services, which notes that:

– modern telecommunication/ICT facilities and services are established, in the main, on the basis of ITU-R and ITU-T recommendations;

– ITU-R and ITU-T recommendations are the result of the collective efforts of all those taking part in the standardization process within ITU and are adopted by consensus by the members of the Union;

– limitations on the access to telecommunication/ICT facilities and services on which national telecommunication/ICT development depends and which are established on the basis of ITU‑R and ITU-T recommendations constitute an obstacle to the harmonious development and compatibility of telecommunications/ICTs worldwide;

*e)* Resolution 9 (Rev. Dubai, 2014) of WTDC, on the participation of countries, particularly developing countries, in spectrum management, which recognizes the importance of facilitating access to radiocommunication-related documentation in order to facilitate the task of radio-frequency spectrum managers;

*f)* Resolution 34 (Rev. Dubai, 2014) of WTDC, on the role of telecommunications/ICTs in disaster preparedness, early warning, rescue, mitigation, relief and response, which notes the importance for humankind of ITU publications relating to this area of activity;

*g)* Resolution 47 (Rev. Dubai, 2014) of WTDC, on enhancement of knowledge and effective application of ITU recommendations in developing countries, which resolved to invite Member States and Sector Members to engage in activities to enhance knowledge and effective application of ITU-T and ITU-R recommendations in developing countries;

*h)* the provisions of the WSIS+10 Statement on the implementation of WSIS outcomes and the WSIS+10 Vision for WSIS beyond 2015, adopted at the WSIS+10 High-Level Event, relating to the importance of free access to international standards, which enhance the efficiency of use of telecommunications/ICTs in various areas of human activity, including further development of the information society;

*i)* that free access to the basic texts of the Union helps to fulfil the core purposes of the Union, as defined in Article 1 of the Constitution,

recognizing

*a)* the difficulty faced by many countries, particularly developing countries, in participating in the activities of ITU-R study groups;

*b)* the various actions taken by the Council since 2000 to allow free online access to ITU recommendations and to the basic texts of the Union;

*c)* numerous requests made by Member States and Sector Members with respect to free online access to ITU-R and ITU-T recommendations, various ITU handbooks and the basic texts of the Union;

*d)* that, following Council Decision 542, which approved a trial period of free online access to ITU-T recommendations, there was an increase in downloads of more than 7 000 per cent, according to Document C07/32;

*e)* that as a result of the introduction of free online access to ITU-R recommendations approved by Council-09, the quantity of downloads of these recommendations increased almost threefold between 2008 and 2010, thus improving radiocommunication experts' awareness of and participation in the work carried out in ITU‑R;

*f)* that Decisions 571 and 574 adopted by the Council in 2012-2014, on free online access to the ITU Administrative Regulations, final reports of WTDC, Council decisions and resolutions and a number of other publications prompted a significant increase in the number of downloads of these documents, raised public interest in the areas and outcomes of ITU's work and facilitated more active participation of different organizations in the work of ITU;

*g)* that the extension of free online access to ITU documents and publications has not had a significant financial impact, and in some cases, in particular for the Radio Regulations, has even led to an increase in the volume of sales (of around 9 per cent in 2013 compared with 2008),

recognizing further

*a)* that there is a general trend towards free online access to ICT-related standards;

*b)* the strategic need to increase the visibility and availability of ITU outputs;

*c)* that both of the objectives sought by the trial periods and the policies of free online access to ITU recommendations and the basic texts of the Union have been met, namely: ITU has achieved a great improvement in outreach, and the financial implications for ITU revenues were less than initially forecast;

*d)* that free online access to the basic texts of the Union has a limited financial impact, and in the case of the Radio Regulations the volume of sales has even grown;

*e)* that providing free online access to ITU recommendations and other publications facilitates awareness and participation of developing countries in the work of ITU,

noting

*a)* that increased involvement in ITU activities is a fundamental step towards enhanced capacity-building and ICT development potential in developing countries, which will lead to a reduction of the digital divide;

*b)* that, in order to increase, improve and facilitate the participation of Member States and Sector Members from developing countries in ITU activities, these members need to be capable of interpreting and implementing ITU technical publications, the basic texts of the Union and the instruments of the Union;

*c)* that an efficient way to ensure that developing countries have access to ITU publications is to provide them free of charge online,

noting further

that providing free online access to ITU publications will reduce the demand for paper copies of these documents, which converges with the current ITU trend of soft format and of organizing paperless meetings, and with the overall goal of the United Nations to reduce paper usage and greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions,

decides

1 to continue to provide free online access for the general public on a permanent basis to the instruments of the Union that are binding on Member States, namely the Constitution, Convention and General Rules of conferences, assemblies and meetings of the Union and final acts of plenipotentiary conferences;

2 to continue to provide free online access for the general public on a permanent basis to the ITU Administrative Regulations − the International Telecommunication Regulations, the Radio Regulations and final acts of world and regional radiocommunication conferences, as well as of world conferences on international telecommunications − which have the status of binding international agreements;

3 to continue to provide free online access for the general public on a permanent basis to the Rules of Procedure, which contain detailed descriptions of approaches and methods for application of the procedures of the Radio Regulations and are followed by the Director and the Radiocommunication Bureau in applying the Radio Regulations for the registration of frequency assignments notified by Member States;

4 to continue to provide free online access for the general public on a permanent basis to final acts of world telecommunication development conferences;

5 to continue to provide free online access for the general public on a permanent basis to Council resolutions and decisions;

6 to continue to provide free online access for the general public on a permanent basis to ITU‑R handbooks on radio-frequency spectrum management[[3]](#footnote-3)2 and to ITU publications concerning the use of telecommunications/ICTs for ensuring disaster preparedness, early warning, rescue, mitigation, relief and response;

7 to continue to provide free online access for the general public on a permanent basis to recommendations and reports of all the ITU Sectors;

8 that paper copies of all the documents listed under *decides* 1-7 above will continue to be charged for on the basis of a two-tier pricing policy, whereby Member States, Sector Members and Associates pay a price based on cost recovery, whereas for all other customers, i.e. non-members, a "market price"[[4]](#footnote-5)3 shall be set,

instructs the Secretary-General

to prepare a report on an ongoing basis on sales of ITU publications, software and databases, and to present this report to the Council, detailing the following aspects:

– total sales per year, beginning 2011;

– comparison between sales of paper copies and of electronic copies, per year;

– sales by country and by member category;

– comparison of copies sold and not sold,

instructs the Council

1 to examine the report of the Secretary-General and to decide on further policies for improving access to ITU publications, software and databases;

2 to undertake a holistic study on the costs/benefits of providing other texts of the Union free online.

PART 4

**Draft new Decision**

**Terminology and definitions for texts adopted in
the pursuit of ITU's statutory activities**

# I Introduction

As things stand, wide use is made of the concepts "decision", "resolution" and "recommendation" to refer to texts adopted in pursuit of ITU's statutory activities, yet those terms have not been defined.

# II Proposal

Draw up a new decision of the Plenipotentiary Conference establishing the terminology and definitions for texts adopted in pursuit of ITU's statutory activities.

ADD RCC/73A1/8

Draft New Decision [RCC-1]

Terminology and definitions for texts adopted in
the pursuit of ITU's statutory activities

The Plenipotentiary Conference of the International Telecommunication Union (Busan, 2014),

considering

*a)* that, as a whole, the regulatory provisions adopted in ITU, constituting the international organization's internal law, contain not only regulations of an intra-organizational nature but also rules governing relations between the organization (its organs) and Member States;

*b)* that the various functions and the purpose of ITU texts from the point of view of their status and thrust should be fully and clearly reflected in their terminological designation;

*c)* that texts such as resolutions and decisions express both the goals and objectives of the Union and the directions and outcomes of its activities, and are associated with the Union's finances;

*d)* that texts such as recommendations constitute international standards in the telecommunication field for which there is wide and deep interest,

decides

that the concepts "decision", "resolution" and recommendation", where referring to texts adopted in the pursuit of ITU's statutory activities, shall have the meanings laid down in the following definitions:

# 1 Resolution

A **resolution** is a *text* which, taking into account the nature of the Union, embodies a formal expression of the opinion or will of the respective ITU organ (see Article 7 of the ITU Constitution), and whose legal force depends on the Member States' stated intent in regard to its recognition as being binding in effect, i.e. as having the status of an international legal or internal rule.

Resolutions are adopted in respect of *the main aspects of the Union's activity*, including procedural (e.g. adoption of rules of procedure, adoption of the strategic plan, approval of the organization's budget, allocation of resources among areas of activity or of expenses among the Sectors, admission or exclusion of members, elections to the governing organs, and so on).

Types of subject-matter jurisdiction of a resolution

– *Statutory* – concerns the range of issues covered by the constituent instruments.

– *Implicit* – reflects competencies of ITU that are not stated in the Constitution (Convention, Administrative Regulations), but which flow directly from the provisions thereof.

– *Intrinsic* – ITU has the right to reflect in a resolution any competencies not foreseen in the Constitution (Convention, Administrative Regulations) and, should the need arise, not flowing from the provisions thereof, where such competencies do not run counter to the goals and objectives of the Union but facilitate their achievement.

The following criteria underpin the classification of ITU resolutions:

1 *Form* – enshrined in a text (formalized in a relevant statutory instrument)/not enshrined in a text (international practices or agreements formalized in non-statutory instruments).

2 *Domain* – instruments concerning specific aspects of the organization's work (e.g. updating the mandate of a given Sector).

3 *Functional purpose* – regulatory/conservatory (enforcing). The regulatory type establishes specific rights and obligations. The conservatory type ensures implementation of the regulatory type. A resolution can be of either or both type(s).

4 *Nature of legal rights and obligations* – mandatory/prohibiting/entitling (for example, recognizing rights and obligations of all Sector Members of the Union, instructing with respect to collaboration in a given sphere, conferring authority with respect to the allocation of financial (or other) resources, and so on). At the same time, a resolution must reflect the procedural aspect of implementing the rights and obligations of the entities/persons concerned (addressees).

5 *Addressee* – named (bilateral agreement)/unnamed (directed to unspecified set of parties).

6 *Mode of implementation* – self-executing/non-self-executing instruments. The self-executing type are directed to a Member State and do not require the assignment of obligations to its specific government departments. The non-self-executing type are directed to the Union, its General Secretariat and other natural or legal persons.

7 *Reach* – universal (of global interest, affecting an overwhelming majority of States)/local (a specific group of Member States or other ITU members).

Status of a resolution

The adoption of an ITU resolution involves a process of harmonization of the wishes of the authorized parties to the discussion. ITU resolutions that are adopted by a majority vote in accordance with the provisions of the Constitution, Convention and Administrative Regulations, or on a consensual basis, are binding on the entire ITU membership, including on those having voted against. An ITU Member State, the ITU senior management and any other persons referred to in a resolution may not evade implementation of the international organization's resolutions (recommendations). A Member State (other members) and officials are, as a rule, obliged to explain their reasons for failure to execute a resolution.

The legally binding nature of ITU resolutions can also be enshrined in the rules of national (domestic) law.

Resolutions are developed and/or abrogated through negotiation. The text of a resolution remains in force until it is cancelled or revised by a subsequent plenipotentiary conference (or the Council or other ITU organ empowered to adopt resolutions).

Structure of a resolution

A resolution usually comprises three relatively clearly defined parts:

1 *The name of the event having adopted the resolution, and the resolution number.* The venue and year of the conference form an integral part of the resolution number. The word "Resolution" is followed by its numerical designation, and then, in brackets, by an indication, as the case may be, that the text is a revised version, and an indication of the venue and year in which the adopting meeting took place. Where appropriate, this is followed by the name of the event. The sign "No." is not used.

2 *Preambular part*. The preambular paragraphs set forth the considerations on the basis of which the issue was examined, an opinion was expressed or reasons were formulated, giving rise to the need for the resolution.

3 *Operative part*. The operative paragraphs express the opinion of the organ adopting the resolution and/or dictate certain actions to be taken in order to implement the resolution (instructions are given to the relevant persons with respect to arrangements for implementation of the resolution and the resources needed to that end).

Any annexes to a resolution form an integral part thereof.

# 2 Decision

A **decision** is an internal, collegially adopted, ITU managerial text that is used for the designation of administrative and organizational (formal, executive) actions relating to routine or internal (subordinate to the main) components of the Union's work (such as the development of procedures, including the assignment of numbers to resolutions, decisions and recommendations; the formulation of general requirements for the establishment of working groups; establishing the venues for and dates of meetings; taking cognizance of reports; information on revenue and expenses; and so on). Decisions are sometimes also used for the purpose of confirming texts on a given issue that were adopted by consensus by all the members of an ITU organ.

Types of subject-matter jurisdiction of a decision

*Statutory* – the range of issues covered by the constituent instruments.

With respect to decisions adopted in relation to statutory aspects of ITU's work and concerning relations between Member States and the organization or between States themselves, according to their subject matter and bearing in mind the nature of the Union's work, their legal force depends on the Member States' stated intent in regard to their recognition as being binding in effect, i.e. as having the status of an international legal or internal rule.

Status of a decision

Decisions are binding on all parties to whom they are addressed, including the persons and entities subjected to internal law, i.e. Member States where the decision concerns Member States.

Decisions are developed and/or abrogated through negotiation. The text of a decision remains in force until it is cancelled or revised by an event empowered to take such a decision. This being the case, the venue and date of the event in question constitute an integral part of a decision's number.

Structure of a decision

As a rule, a decision comprises a rationale and a findings part. It may also have an operative managerial part. In this case, a decision differs from a resolution only in terms of its *subject-matter jurisdiction*.

Any annexes to a decision form an integral part thereof.

# 3 ITU recommendation

An **ITU recommendation** is an official document, presented in a relatively free form, which indicates to interested parties a given type of actions in a given situation. As a rule, ITU recommendations are the valuable outcome of a collaborative effort; are based on the consolidated results of scientific research, study of practical experience and technical and technological development; and focus on the identification and solution of problems for the greater benefit of society as a whole.

Various categories and types of recommendation are employed in ITU, including:

1 **Recommendation as an administrative-regulatory text**, constituting an international *standard* in the telecommunication sphere, developed in the ITU Sectors (ITU‑R and ITU‑T) according to their respective areas of competence.

A *standard* is a normative *text* (developed on the basis of agreement between the parties and approved by the competent organ) which lays down, for sustained and consistent use, *rules, characteristics* or *general principles* relating to different types of activity or the results thereof. The purpose of such a text is to achieve the highest possible degree of harmonization in a given area. Standards are based on the consolidated results of shared knowledge and practical experience and on the study of trends in technical and technological development, for the greater benefit of society as a whole.

In a context of positive relations between ITU Member States, such rules, characteristics or general principles in the ICT sphere may be viewed as *normative provisions*.

The manner in which an ITU recommendation is presented is determined by the organ adopting it, but above all by its content. As a result, ITU uses homogeneous groups of recommendations, each assigned a unique number. Recommendations may be of a mandatory and/or voluntary nature.

The system for numbering of ITU recommendations and use of abbreviations and acronyms therein are set out in a separate (special) document. Recommendations/standards issued by ITU‑R and ITU‑T are approved in accordance the procedures laid down in the basic texts.

1.1 **Recommendations of the ITU Radiocommunication Sector** (formerly the International Radio Consultative Committee - CCIR) are known as *ITU‑R Recommendations*.

ITU‑R Recommendations are international technical standards dealing with matters that are determined by the goals, objectives and area of activity of ITU‑R. They are the result of studies undertaken by radiocommunication study groups with the participation of leading experts from telecommunication administrations, operators, the industry and other organizations from all over the world with an interest in radiocommunication issues, including management of the radio-frequency spectrum and satellite orbits. Two main types of Recommendation/standard are developed within ITU‑R:

– *Mandatory* – Having the status of an international agreement, adopted within the framework of ITU's world and regional radiocommunication conferences, including Plans adopted by them, as well as the Radio Regulations and ITU‑R Recommendations incorporated therein.

– *Voluntary* – ITU‑R Recommendations not incorporated in the Radio Regulations.

1.2 **Recommendations of the ITU Telecommunication Standardization Sector** (formerly the International Telegraph and Telephone Consultative Committee – CCITT) are known as *ITU‑T Recommendations*.

ITU‑T Recommendations are international technical standards dealing with matters that are determined by the goals, objectives and area of activity of ITU‑T. This body of Recommendations constitutes a system of texts which serve as key elements in the global information and communication technology (ICT) infrastructure and create the conditions for ICT interoperability between countries, while at the same time preventing the emergence of excessive competition over preferred technologies and creating a level playing field for new market entrants.

ITU‑T Recommendations (standards) are developed in the Sector's study groups on the basis of an approach (contributions and consensus) whereby all countries and companies are equally entitled to influence the development of ITU‑T Recommendations. ITU‑T Recommendations are approved in accordance with the procedures laid down in the basic texts.

Two main types of standard are developed within ITU‑T:

– *Mandatory* – Having the status of an international agreement, adopted within the framework of world telecommunication standardization assemblies, including Plans adopted by them, as well as the International Telecommunication Regulations.

– *Voluntary* – ITU‑T Recommendations not incorporated in the texts listed in § 1.

2 **Recommendations of the ITU Telecommunication Development Sector (ITU‑D)**

ITU‑D Recommendations are texts dealing with various aspects of international work in the ICT sphere within the framework of the United Nations development system (in accordance with Article 21 of the ITU Constitution): contributing to the creation of enabling regulatory and market environments; the efficient development, worldwide, of technologies, networks and new ICT applications; promoting the digital inclusion of people with special needs; helping develop emergency telecommunication networks and boosting ICT's input to climate-change monitoring and mitigation; child online protection; equitable access for all to ICTs, irrespective of age or gender; and implementing projects in all these areas.

ITU‑D Recommendations are developed in the Sector's study groups on the basis of an approach (contributions and consensus) whereby all countries, companies and other participants are equally entitled to influence the development of ITU‑D Recommendations relating to individual *Questions*. As a rule, they are backed up by the development of authoritative statistical data and indicators.

As a rule, the force of ITU‑D Recommendations is that of recommending. The manner in which an ITU‑D Recommendation is presented is determined by the Sector, but above all by its content.

3 **Recommendations submitted by one conference to another** (see Article 21, Nos. 250 and 251, and Article 22, No. 252, of the ITU Convention) for the purpose of preparing documents (recommendations) on questions of common interest.

4 **Other types of recommendation**. These may be recommendations that span several categories at once and may therefore not be assignable to any single category. They may be either internal or external in relation to ITU. They may form an integral part of other types of ITU document.

PART 5

**Financial issues for consideration at PP-14**

Reserve Account

Summary

Every ITU plenipotentiary conference (PP) makes amendments and additions to resolutions and decisions concerning financial aspects of the Union’s activities. The purpose of this contribution is to distill some specific outcome from the ongoing discussion on issues relating to the Reserve Account and to provide food for thought to formulate opinions, taking into account new realities.

On the basis of an analysis of the movements of the Reserve Account during the period 2008‑2012, the contribution argues in favour of funding the account on a systematic basis through annual deductions of a set percentage from planned expenses, broken down by Sector, the source being, as now, savings achieved in the Sectors and General Secretariat. Other aspects relating to the core proposal are also discussed.

References

1 Decision 5 (Rev. Guadalajara, 2010)

2 Resolution 72 (Rev. Guadalajara, 2010), on linking strategic, financial and operational planning in ITU

3 Resolution 158 (Rev. Guadalajara, 2010), on financial issues for consideration by the Council

4 ITU Convention, No. 73, according to which the Union is required to carry out an annual review of revenue and expenditure

5 ITU Financial Regulations and Financial Rules 2010

6 MGB-04/7. Contribution by Malaysia. Reserve Account

7 Annual statements of revenue and expenses for the period 2008‑2012

8 Biennial budgets of ITU for 2008‑2015

9 Financial activities reports for the financial years 2008‑2012

10 WG-RG-18/14: Note by the Secretary-General. Cash Reserves Accounts and Working Capital Funds – Best practices in the UN

11 Resolution 96 (Minneapolis, 1998), on the introduction of a long-term care insurance scheme in the Union

# 1 Introduction

Resolution 158 (Rev. Guadalajara, 2010) resolves to instruct the Council to study, among other issues, “the possibility of establishing mechanisms to afford greater financial stability for the Union, and to make recommendations in that regard”. The reason for this is that, in the course of its work, ITU is exposed to a number of financial risks, namely market risk (exchange rates), credit risk and liquidity risk.

ITU’s Secretary-General has set the goal of introducing an adequate Integrated Risk Management (IRM) process in the secretariat, making it possible to capture the budget allocation of resources available to the organization as described in the organization’s basic texts adopted by the Plenipotentiary Conference, and enabling the direction, monitoring and measurement of resource utilization.

But there are still financial risks, and the creation of reserves therefore reflects the system currently used in world practice of enhancing stability and minimizing the risks associated with various operations undertaken by the organization in the course of its dealings with the outside world and carrying out its functions and tasks with due regard to its strategic and current goals.

One of the tools that enable us to maintain the Union’s financial stability is the Reserve Account. Provisions on the Reserve Account, which forms part of the Union’s assets, on the sources from which it is funded and on the purposes for which withdrawals can be made are set out in Article 27 of the ITU Financial Regulations [5]. The Reserve Account is included in the balance of allocated own funds. Variations in the Reserve Account are detailed in the statement of changes in the net assets of the Union. At present the Reserve Account is formed in practice according to the “residual principle”, which increases uncertainty as regards the size of the Reserve Account during the accounting period, on the basis of the following elements:

a) the positive or negative net balance from the regular budget implementation for each financial year;

b) transfers from other reserves/funds as decided by the Council;

c) any amounts to be credited to the Reserve Account as prescribed by the accounting standards common to the organizations of the United Nations system.

The minimum size of the Reserve Account is established at the Union’s Plenipotentiary Conference, and currently may not fall below 6 per cent of total annual expenditures (see [1] and amendments to [5]).

Bearing in mind the need to maintain the Reserve Account at a minimum level determined by the Plenipotentiary Conference, withdrawals may be made from the Reserve Account by special decision of the Council, *inter alia*, for:

a) reducing the amount of the contributory unit;

b) balancing the budget of the Union;

c) transfers to other reserves/funds; or

d) any amounts to be debited to the Reserve Account as prescribed by the accounting standards common to the organizations of the United Nations system.

Under the terms of *further resolves* 10 and 11 of Resolution 1359 (Council-13), although the secretariat is required to continue to implement further efficiency measures, any surpluses from the biennia either on the regular budget or on withdrawals from the Reserve Account must be transferred to the ASHI fund. In particular, it was decided to withdraw CHF 4 million from the Reserve Account on 1 January 2014 to set up the ASHI fund in order to “take a first step towards addressing the unfunded long-term liabilities”.

The condition of and procedures for using the Reserve Account are the subject of constant discussion by the Member States in the Council Working Group on Financial and Human Resources (formerly the FINREGS Group), the ITU Council and the Plenipotentiary Conference. For example, document [6] outlines issues relating to the ITU Reserve Account and, specifically, whether the level of the Reserve Account should be increased in these uncertain financial times, and whether the title or use of the Reserve Account need to be reviewed in light of the adoption of IPSAS. Attention was devoted to the link between this question and any revisions of Decision 5 at the Plenipotentiary Conference, and the assumption expressed regarding the high probability of increasing the Reserve Account at PP-14. There was also discussion of the fact that “the two most likely scenarios, in line with other UN agencies, were either to set the Reserve Account at a level of 10 per cent of the budgeted expenditures or as a floating amount equal to two months’ expenditures”. In both cases, the existing size of the Reserve Account is sufficient to fund any of these increases, and such a change will therefore have no impact on the budget. There was some support for the option of setting the level of the Reserve Account at 10 per cent of expenses, but a final decision has not been taken.

# 2 Analysis

The analysis of the Reserve Account, its annual trends, movements over the period 2008‑2012 (planned and actual values), the ratio of Reserve Account size to revenue/expenses and a number of other ratios that has been carried on the basis of data contained in reports and ITU financial planning documents [7‑9] has revealed that:

– During the course of a year, the size of the Reserve Account fluctuated significantly in every year of the period under consideration: by the end of a year, the Reserve Account could represent only 73 per cent of the amount in the account at the start of the year (as was the case in 2008), but could also considerably exceed the initial amount (e.g. by a factor of 1.38 in 2009).

– Over the course of the period under consideration, there was a trend towards a reduction in the size of the Reserve Account at the beginning of each year and over the entire period under consideration (the change index of the Reserve Account as at 1 January 2012 compared to 1 January 2008 was 75.7 per cent). However, the size of the Reserve Account was up to 17.8 per cent of annual expenses (and about the same proportion of annual revenue), i.e. substantially higher than the permitted level of 6 per cent.

– Actual ITU revenue is fairly consistently greater than actual expenditure, and although the surplus fluctuates (for example, in 2008 it was 5.4 per cent, while for the two-year period 2008‑2009 is was around 3 per cent), it does not fall below 1 per cent.

– The Reserve Account, as a tool for enhancing the ITU’s financial stability, *itself needs to be more stable and predictable* in these financially uncertain times, and a number of tools can be proposed to meet this challenge.

# 3 Proposals

 RCC/73A1/9

3.1 One such instrument proposed is a mechanism for funding the Reserve Account not according to the *residual principle* but by *systematic annual planning and transfers* to the account of a fixed proportion (between 0.5 and 1.0 per cent) of the budget funds allocated for the activities of each Sector, using the savings achieved as a result of efforts within the Sectors to implement the recommendations contained in Annex 2 to Decision 5, linking that proportion as necessary to:

a) increases in salary scales, pension contributions and allowances, including post adjustments, applicable to Geneva, as adopted by the United Nations common system;

b) fluctuations in the exchange rate between the US dollar and the Swiss franc in so far as this affects the staff costs for those staff members on United Nations scales;

c) the overall economic outlook for the four-year period.

However, the amount of the Reserve Account must not be less than 10 per cent of the total ITU budgeted expenses. Any surplus over and above the established 10 per cent threshold may be allocated between the Union’s current requirements and its long-term liabilities, in a specified proportion set by the ITU Council.

 RCC/73A1/10

3.2 If a decision is taken regarding funding of the Reserve Account on a systematic (planned) basis, we propose that the necessary amendments be made to Decision 5 as well as to the ITU Financial Regulations and Financial Rules.

 RCC/73A1/11

3.3 The possibility of using Reserve Account funds to fund current activities should not be ruled out going forward, and the Secretary-General should accordingly be instructed to elaborate proposals to allocate Reserve Account funds between current activities and the After-Service Health Insurance (ASHI) fund (taking into account the need to reduce the ITU balance deficit) over the entire period in which liabilities continue to exceed assets, with due regard to the proposals in §§ 3.1 and 3.4 of this document.

 RCC/73A1/12

3.4 To instruct the Council Working Group on Financial and Human Resources, in accordance with its terms of reference (Decision 563 (Modified 2013) and Document C14/92, Annex D):

a) to formulate a position paper on the ASHI fund with the aim of elaborating clearly defined positions on ITU policy with regard to the ASHI fund, taking into account the possibility of partial use of Reserve Account funds for replenishing the fund, the terms of IPSAS 25, UN recommendations and other aspects pertaining to the determination of the size and funding of the ASHI fund, and to submit such a document to ITU Council for approval.

b) to examine the question of whether to change the name of the Reserve Account in the light of the relevant IPSAS provisions, and the fact that other reserve funds are used in ITU finances.

PART 6

**Revision of Resolution 48 (Rev. Guadalajara, 2010)**

Human resources management and development

# I Introduction

Much importance is currently attributed everywhere to human resources, including aspects relating to evaluation of the effective use of financial resources, achieving savings, and above all ensuring that ITU staff are motivated to carry out their functions in achieving the organization’s strategic and tactical objectives.

# II Proposal

To ensure greater balance and logical consistency in the *matters for reporting to the Council on staff issues, including staff in regional and area offices, and recruitment issues*, contained in the Annex to Resolution 48 (Rev. Guadalajara, 2010), as shown in the annex to this document.

MOD RCC/73A1/13

RESOLUTION 48 (Rev. Busan, 2014)

Human resources management and development

The Plenipotentiary Conference of the International Telecommunication Union (Busan, 2014),

recognizing

No. 154 of the ITU Constitution,

recalling

*a)* Resolution 48 (Rev. Antalya, 2006) of the Plenipotentiary Conference, on human resources management and development;

*b)* Resolution 47 (Rev. Minneapolis, 1998) of the Plenipotentiary Conference, on the issue of protection of the purchasing power of pensions and the competitiveness of the compensation scheme for staff in all categories;

*c)* Resolution 49 (Kyoto, 1994) of the Plenipotentiary Conference, on the need to ensure the correct application of the United Nations common system job classification standards for senior management posts, taking into account the level of responsibilities and the delegation of authority,

noting

*a)* the strategic plan for the Union as described in Resolution 71 (Rev. Busan, 2014) of this conference and the need for a highly skilled and motivated workforce to attain the goals contained therein;

*b)* the various policies[[5]](#footnote-6)1 which impact on the ITU staff including, *inter alia*, the Standards of Conduct for the International Civil Service established by the International Civil Service Commission (ICSC), the ITU Staff Regulations and Staff Rules and the ITU ethics policies;

*c)* Decision 517, adopted by the ITU Council at its 2004 session, on strengthening the dialogue between the Secretary-General and the ITU Staff Council;

*d)* Resolution 1253, adopted by the Council at its 2006 session, establishing the Tripartite Group on Human Resources Management, and the group's various reports to the Council concerning its achievements, such as the elaboration of the strategic plan, the establishment of an ethics policy, and other activities;

*e)* the human resources strategic plan which was adopted by the Council at its 2009 session (Document C09/56) as a living document,

considering

*a)* the value of the human resources of the Union to the fulfilment of its goals;

*b)* that ITU's human resources strategies should emphasize the continued importance of maintaining a well-trained workforce and providing more targeted training to serving staff members, while recognizing budget constraints;

*c)* the value, both to the Union and to the staff, of developing those resources to the fullest extent possible through various human resources development activities, including in-service training and training activities in accordance with staffing levels;

*d)* the impact on the Union and its staff of the continuing evolution of activities in the field of telecommunications and the need for the Union and its human resources to adapt to this evolution through training and staff development;

*e)* the importance of human resources management and development in support of ITU's strategic orientations and goals,

*f)* the need to follow a recruitment policy appropriate to the requirements of the Union, including the redeployment of posts and recruitment of specialists at the start of their career;

*g)* the need to continue to improve the geographical distribution of appointed staff of the Union;

*h)* the need to encourage the recruitment of more women in the Professional and higher categories, especially at the senior levels;

*i)* the constant advances made in telecommunications and information and communication technology and operation and the corresponding need to recruit specialists of the highest standard of competence,

resolves

1 that the management and development of ITU's human resources should be compatible with the goals and activities of the Union and with the United Nations common system;

2 that ICSC recommendations approved by the United Nations General Assembly should continue to be implemented;

3 that, with immediate effect, within available financial resources, and to the extent practicable, vacancies should be filled through greater mobility of existing staff;

4 that internal mobility should, to the extent practicable, be coupled with training so that staff can be used where they are most needed;

5 that internal mobility should be applied, to the extent feasible, to cover needs when staff retire or leave ITU in order to reduce staffing levels without terminating contracts,

6 that, pursuant to *recognizing* above[[6]](#footnote-7)2, staff in the Professional and higher categories shall continue to be recruited on an international basis and that posts identified for external recruitment shall be advertised as widely as possible and communicated to the administrations of all Member States of the Union; however, reasonable promotion possibilities must continue to be offered to existing staff;

7 that, when filling vacant posts by international recruitment, in choosing between candidates who meet the qualification requirements for a post, preference shall be given to candidates from regions of the world which are under-represented in the staffing of the Union, taking into account the desirable balance between female and male staff;

8 that, when filling vacant posts by international recruitment and when no candidate fulfils all the qualification requirements, recruitment can take place at one grade below, on the understanding that since not all the requirements of the post are met, the candidate will have to fulfil certain conditions before being given the full responsibilities of the post and promotion to the grade of the post,

instructs the Secretary-General

1 to ensure that human resources management and development help ITU achieve its management goals;

2 to continue to prepare, with the assistance of the Coordination Committee, and implement medium-term and long-term human resources management and development plans to respond to the needs of the Union, its membership and its staff, including the establishment of benchmarks within these plans;

3 to study how best practices in human resources management might be applied within the Union, and report to the Council on the relationship between management and staff in the Union;

4 to fully develop a long-term recruitment policy designed to improve geographical and gender representation among appointed staff;

5 to recruit, as appropriate within the available financial resources, and taking into account geographical distribution and balance between female and male staff, specialists who are starting their careers at the P.1/P.2 level;

6 with a view to further training in order to enhance professional competence in the Union, based on consultations with staff members, as appropriate, to examine and report to the Council how a programme of training for both managers and their staff could be implemented within the available financial resources throughout the Union;

7 to continue to submit to the Council annual reports on the implementation of the human resources strategic plan and to provide to the Council, electronically where possible, statistics related to the issues in the annex to this resolution, and on other measures adopted in pursuance of this resolution,

instructs the Council

1 to ensure, to the extent feasible within approved budget levels, that the necessary staff and financial resources are made available for addressing issues related to human resources management and development in ITU as they emerge;

2 to examine the Secretary-General's reports on these matters and to decide on the actions to be taken;

3 to allocate the appropriate resources for in-service training in accordance with an established programme, representing, to the extent practicable, three per cent of the budget allocated to staff costs;

4 to follow with the greatest attention the question of recruitment and to adopt, within existing resources and consistent with the United Nations common system, the measures it deems necessary to secure an adequate number of qualified candidates for Union posts, particularly taking account of *considering* *b)* and *c)* above.

ANNEX TO RESOLUTION 48 (Rev. busan, 2014)

Matters for reporting to the Council on staff issues, including staff in
 regional and area offices, and recruitment issues

– Staff career and staff promotion policy

– Use of best practices

– Staff recruitment processes and openness

– Balance between external and internal recruitment

– General characteristics of implementation of a human resources development plan indicating outcomes of work designed to "ensure effective and efficient use of human, financial and capital resources, as well as a safe and secure working environment that is conducive to work"

– Total staff development spend including a breakdown by specific items of the development plan

– Analysis of the consistency of ITU's compensation package with the United Nations common system, with a view to examining all elements of staff compensation together with other HR elements, in order to seek ways of reducing the burden on the budget

– Improvements to human resources services

Employment of p

– Staff in regional and area offices

– In-service training

– External training

– Staff breakdown by age

– Social protection of staff

– Flexibility of working conditions

– Relationship between management and staff

– Workplace diversity

– Use of modern management tools

– Ensuring occupational safety

 and measures to improve it

– Reflecting the views of all staff on various aspects of work and relations in the organization using surveys and questionnaires (as required) to collect data

– Conclusions and proposals based on the identification and analysis of strengths and weaknesses (risks) in regard to staff development in the Union and proposed modifications to the Staff Rules.

PART 7

**Revision of Resolution 102 (Rev. Guadalajara, 2010)**

ITU's role with regard to international public policy issues
 pertaining to the Internet and the management of Internet
 resources, including domain names and addresses

# I Introduction

ITU's work with regard to international public policy issues pertaining to the Internet is carried out in accordance with the relevant provisions of the Tunis Agenda for the Information Society, Resolution 102 (Rev. Guadalajara, 2010) and other relevant ITU resolutions.

Resolutions of the United Nations General Assembly, including Resolutions 68/167, 68/198, 68/243 and others, also constitute an important basis for ITU Member States to be guided by and use in work carried out under the auspices of ITU.

Each year, the ITU Council examines the report by the Secretary-General on ITU Internet activities undertaken by the General Secretariat and the ITU Sectors, which covers a wide range of studies and work carried out by the ITU-T and ITU-D study groups.

A significant contributor to fulfilling ITU's role with regard to international public policy issues pertaining to the Internet is the Council Working Group (CWG-Internet), whose terms of reference are set out in ITU Council Resolution 1336 of 2011 and include: "to identify, study and develop matters related to international Internet-related public policy issues, and including those issues identified in Council Resolution 1305 (2009)".

# II Discussion

As stated in the Tunis Agenda (§ 29), the international management of the Internet should be multilateral, transparent and democratic, **with the full involvement of governments, the private sector, civil society and international organizations**. It should ensure an equitable distribution of resources, facilitate access for all and ensure a stable and secure functioning of the Internet, taking into account multilingualism.

Furthermore, countries committed themselves to the stability and security of the Internet as a global facility and to ensuring the requisite legitimacy of its governance, based on the full participation of all stakeholders, from both developed and developing countries, **within their respective roles and responsibilities** (§ 32). The respective roles and responsibilities of the different stakeholders are set out in § 35 of the Tunis Agenda.

ITU, in its area of responsibility, carries out work on the establishment of international standards for the development of IP-based networks, next-generation networks and the future Internet, and ensuring security. The work on international public policy issues carried out within CWG-Internet has unfortunately been limited so far to exchanging experience and refining the process of consulting with other stakeholders.

Despite the fact that the provisions of the Tunis Agenda were adopted by the whole of the world community back in 2005, it may be observed that:

– the current Internet governance system does not ensure equitable participation of all stakeholders, including States, according to their respective roles and areas of responsibility in regard to management of the Internet, including the management of critical Internet resources such as domain names and addresses;

– the foundations and provisions of the international regulatory, legal and investment environment to govern use of the Internet and ICTs as a whole for development purposes has still not been fully formulated;

– the lack of international legal regulation of the Internet is making it impossible to ensure respect for human rights in terms of privacy and protection of personal data, as well as respect for the interests and rights of all segments of society and States as a whole, which significantly diminishes the level of confidence and security in the use of the Internet and could lead to its fragmentation.

These issues, which fall within the sphere of competence of States, should be more effectively studied and developed at the level of ITU, which constitutes the platform for dialogue on an equal footing between all ITU Member States, as well as enabling cooperation with other stakeholders.

# III Proposals

Member States need to focus efforts to pursue the process of developing and formulating, at the international level, standards, principles and rules in the area of Internet governance.

As a specialized agency of the UN, ITU is the most appropriate organization for this purpose in regard to international public policy issues pertaining to the Internet, and should expedite its work with a view to meeting the expectations of the ITU Member States, in particular the developing countries, in terms of their equitable inclusion in the Internet governance and Internet development process for the sake of economic and social development of countries.

We support continuing the work of CWG-Internet, although there is a need to refine and focus the group's terms of reference and also to make the group's work results-oriented: CWG-Internet should not only exchange experience, but also prepare draft documents on aspects of international public policy pertaining to Internet governance, including overviews of best practices, reports, guiding principles, etc.

It is proposed that the text of this resolution be transmitted to the Secretary-General of the United Nations in order to put before the global community ITU's position, as a UN specialized agency, on the need to formulate international public policy in the area of Internet governance by elaborating relevant principles, standards and rules to ensure Internet reliability, robustness, security and stability and its future development, taking into account the interests of all ITU Member States and in particular the concerns and needs of the developing countries.

At the same time, ITU, as a fully-fledged participant in the global Internet governance process in its own right, alongside other stakeholders, must continue to take an active part and bring its contribution to bear in discussions and initiatives on issues of management of Internet resources, and in particular in the discussion of transfer of oversight over functions relating to the allocation and management of critical Internet resources (IANA functions) to the international community.

MOD RCC/73A1/14

RESOLUTION 102 (Rev. BUSAN, 2014)

ITU's role with regard to international public policy issues
 pertaining to the Internet and the management of Internet
 resources, including domain names and addresses

The Plenipotentiary Conference of the International Telecommunication Union (Busan, 2014),

recognizing

*a)* all relevant resolutions of the Plenipotentiary Conference;

*b)* United Nations General Assembly (UNGA) Resolution 68/198, on information and communication technologies (ICTs) for development;

*c)* UNGA Resolution 68/167, on the right to privacy in the digital age;

*d)* UNGA Resolution 68/243, on developments in the field of information and telecommunications in the context of international security;

*e)* all relevant outcomes of the World Summit on the Information Society (WSIS);

*f)* the outcome documents of the WSIS+10 High-Level Event, endorsed by all of the WSIS+10 participants, containing the WSIS+10 Statement on the Implementation of WSIS Outcomes and the WSIS+10 Vision for WSIS Beyond 2015;

*g)* the Dubai Declaration adopted by the World Telecommunication Development Conference (WTDC) (Dubai, 2014), under the theme "Broadband for sustainable development",

taking into account

*a)* Resolution 3 (Dubai, 2012) of the World Conference on International Telecommunications (WCIT), on fostering an enabling environment for greater growth of the Internet;

*b)* Resolutions 47, 48, 49, 50, 52, 64, 69 and 75 (Rev. Dubai, 2012) of the World Telecommunication Standardization Assembly (WTSA) and Resolutions 23 and 69 (Rev. Dubai, 2014) and 82 (Dubai, 2014) of WTDC;

*c)* Resolution 64 (Rev. Dubai, 2012) of WTSA, on IP address allocation and facilitating the transition to and deployment of IPv6, which takes into account the opinion of many developing countries that want the Telecommunication Standardization Sector (ITU-T) to become a registry of IP addresses in order to give the developing countries the option of obtaining IP addresses directly from ITU, while other countries prefer to use the current system,

considering

*a)* that the purposes of the Union are, *inter alia*, to promote, at the international level, the adoption of a broad approach to the issues of telecommunications/information and communication technologies (ICTs) in the global information economy and society, to promote the extension of the benefits of new telecommunication technologies to all the world's inhabitants and to harmonize the efforts of Member States and Sector Members in the attainment of those ends;

*b)* that advances in the global information infrastructure, including the development of Internet Protocol (IP)-based networks and the Internet, taking into account the requirements, features and interoperability of next-generation networks (NGN) and future networks, are of crucial importance as an important engine for growth in the world economy in the twenty-first century;

*c)* that the development of the Internet is essentially market-led and driven by private and government initiatives;

*d)* that the private sector continues to play a very important role in the expansion and development of the Internet, for example through investments in infrastructures and services;

*e)* that management of the registration and allocation of domain names and IP addresses must fully reflect the international and multicultural nature of the Internet, taking into account an equitable balance of interests of all stakeholders;

*f)* the role played by ITU in the successful organization of the two phases of the World Summit on the Information Society (WSIS), and that the Geneva Declaration of Principles and the Geneva Plan of Action, adopted in 2003, and the Tunis Commitment and the Tunis Agenda for the Information Society, adopted in 2005, have been endorsed by the United Nations General Assembly;

*g)* the successful preparation, organization and holding, under the auspices of ITU, of the WSIS+10 High-Level Event, devoted to an analysis of the implementation of the WSIS outcomes and development of a vision for WSIS beyond 2015, which testifies to ITU's effectiveness as the organizer of a global process for the development of proposals on the deployment of ICT for development;

*h)* that the management of the Internet is a subject of valid international interest and must flow from full international and multistakeholder cooperation on the basis of the outcomes of the two phases of WSIS;

*i)* that, as stated in the WSIS outcomes, all governments should have an equal role and responsibility for international Internet governance and for ensuring the stability, security and continuity of the existing Internet and its future development and of the future internet, and that the need for development of public policy by governments in consultation with all stakeholders is also recognized,

recognizing further

*a)* that international public policy issues pertaining to management and use of the Internet include, among others, the following aspects:

– multilingualization of the Internet, including internationalized (multilingual) domain names;

– development of international Internet connectivity;

– management of Internet resources, including allocation of domain names and distribution of IP addresses;

– ensuring the protection, security, continuity, sustainability and robustness of the Internet infrastructure;

– building confidence and security in the use of ICTs, among other things by combating the illicit use of Internet resources, fraud and spam;

– ensuring equitable access to the Internet, including technical and economic aspects, reliability and quality of service;

– contributing to capacity building for Internet governance in developing countries;

– respect for privacy and the protection of personal information and data;

– child online protection;

*b)* that ITU is dealing with technical and policy issues related to IP-based networks, including the existing Internet and evolution to NGN as well as studies into the future internet, and is making a significant contribution to the development of principles and rules in the area of international public policy pertaining to management and use of the Internet;

*c)* that ITU performs worldwide coordination of a number of radiocommunication-related and telecommunication-related resource allocation systems and acts as a forum for policy discussion in this area;

*d)* that significant effort has been put in by ITU on ENUM, ".int", internationalized domain name (IDN), and country code top-level domain (ccTLD) issues through workshops and standardization activities;

*e)* that ITU has published a comprehensive and useful Handbook on Internet Protocol (IP)-based networks and related topics and Issues;

*f)* §§ 71 and 78a) of the Tunis Agenda with regard to the establishment of enhanced cooperation on Internet governance and the establishment of the Internet Governance Forum (IGF), as two distinct processes;

*g)* the relevant WSIS outcomes in §§ 29-82 of the Tunis Agenda concerning Internet governance;

*h)* that ITU should be encouraged to facilitate cooperation with all stakeholders as referred to in § 35 of the Tunis Agenda;

*i)* that Member States represent the interests of the population of the country or territory for which a ccTLD has been delegated;

*j)* that countries should not be involved in decisions regarding another country's ccTLD,

emphasizing

*a)* that the management of the Internet encompasses both technical and public policy issues and should involve all stakeholders and relevant intergovernmental and international organizations in accordance with §§ 35 a)-e) of the Tunis Agenda;

*b)* that the role of governments includes providing a clear, consistent and predictable legal framework, in order to promote a favourable environment in which global ICT networks are interoperable with Internet networks and widely accessible to all citizens without any discrimination and to ensure adequate protection of public interests in the management of Internet resources, including domain names and addresses;

*c)* that WSIS recognized the need for enhanced cooperation in the future, to enable governments, on an equal footing, to carry out their roles and responsibilities, in international public policy issues pertaining to the Internet, but not in the day-to-day technical and operational matters that do not impact on international public policy issues;

*d)* that ITU, for its part, has started the process towards enhanced cooperation as one of the relevant organizations referred to in § 71 of the Tunis Agenda, and that the Council Working Group on international Internet-related public policy issues (CWG-Internet) should continue its work on Internet-related public policy issues;

*e)* that ITU is a platform for Member States for encouraging discussions and for the dissemination of information on the management of Internet domain names and addresses and other Internet resources within the mandate of ITU, taking account of consultations with other stakeholders;

*f)* the need to continue establishing Internet governance mechanisms at the global level, with equitable participation by the stakeholders according to their roles and responsibilities, as indicated in § 35 of the Tunis Agenda for the Information Society, including the internationalization of Internet governance functions and allocation and use of critical Internet resources,

noting

*a)* the outcomes of the fifth World Telecommunication/ICT Policy Forum (2013), which was devoted exclusively to discussion of the issues raised in this resolution, as well as in Resolutions 101 and 133 (Rev. Guadalajara, 2010) of the Plenipotentiary Conference;

*b)* the outcomes of the work done by ITU as a whole, and by CWG-Internet in particular, in pursuit of the objectives of this resolution regarding public policy issues pertaining to the Internet,

concerned

*a)* about the use of the Internet as a means for the large-scale violation of human rights and fundamental freedoms, including the right to personal privacy and protection of personal data, in contravention of both national legislation and international law, while at the same time undermining confidence in the conscientious governance and use of the Internet in the interests of all Member States;

*b)* that more than half of the world's population is still not connected to the Internet, and that the information and communication infrastructure, capacity and local content development requirements therefore need to continue to be addressed, especially in rural and remote areas;

*c)* about the lack of international legal norms, elaborated under the auspices of the United Nations, constituting uniform rules, with binding force for States and other stakeholders, for governance and use of the Internet, and the lack of a mechanism for settling disputes in the event of conflicts with national legislation;

*d)* that, owing to the lack of uniform international legal norms, it is not possible to ensure respect for human rights or safeguard the interests and rights of the various social strata or of States as a whole, and that this considerably reduces the level of confidence and security in use of the Internet and could lead to its fragmentation;

*e)* that with the virtual exhaustion of the IPv4 address resource, many developing countries[[7]](#footnote-8)1 are encountering difficulties in the transition from IPv4 to IPv6, owing to limited technical know-how in that sphere and a lack of the financial resources required for full-scale transition to IPv6;

*f)* that States, as the guarantors of the rights and freedoms of their respective populations, have thus far not enjoyed equitable participation in the multifaceted Internet governance model, including in the management of critical Internet resources,

resolves

1 to endorse the outcomes of the Internet-related activities and efforts deployed by the General Secretariat and Sectors of ITU in pursuit of the implementation of this and other relevant ITU resolutions;

2 that studies should continue on approaches, ways and means for implementing an international Internet-related public policy, including the provision of assistance to Member States, particularly developing and least developed countries, in meeting the challenges of Internet connectivity and development of an information and communication infrastructure;

3 that strategies and regulatory principles need to be developed for internationalization of the Internet governance system so as to ensure maximum benefits to the global community, assist Member States in implementing an international Internet-related public policy, and enhance ITU's role in the Internet governance process;

4 that collaboration should continue between ITU and relevant organizations[[8]](#footnote-10)2 involved in the development of IP-based networks and the future internet, through cooperation agreements, as appropriate, in order to ensure the coordination of joint efforts in Internet governance so as to ensure maximum benefits to the global community;

5 that CWG-Internet, which is open to ITU Member States, shall continue its studies aimed at developing relevant proposals, with particular attention to the issues referred to in *concerned* above, as well as ways of achieving the equitable participation of all States in the development, governance and use of the Internet at the international level,

instructs the Secretary-General

Option 1

1 to submit to the Secretary-General of the United Nations a report on ITU's activities pursuant to the relevant provisions of the Tunis Agenda and on the implementation of this resolution, with proposals regarding the need to develop and adopt internationally agreed principles and legal norms in the area of Internet governance and the desirability of bringing the matter before the United Nations General Assembly for a decision;

Option 2

1 to transmit the text of this resolution to the Secretary-General of the United Nations with a view to bringing to the attention of the world community the viewpoint of ITU, as a specialized agency of the United Nations, regarding the need to establish an international public policy in regard to Internet governance, through the development of appropriate principles, norms and rules designed to ensure the sustainability, reliability, security, stability and ongoing development of the Internet, taking into account the interests of all ITU Member States and, in particular, the concerns and needs of developing countries;

Option 3 (a combination of Options 1 and 2)

1 to transmit the text of this resolution to the Secretary-General of the United Nations, and also to submit to the Secretary-General of the United Nations a report on ITU's activities pursuant to the relevant provisions of the Tunis Agenda and on the implementation of this resolution, with proposals regarding the need to develop and adopt internationally agreed principles and legal norms in the area of Internet governance and the desirability of bringing the matter before the United Nations General Assembly for a decision, with a view to bringing to the attention of the world community the viewpoint of ITU, as a specialized agency of the United Nations;

2 to offer the United Nations and other concerned specialized organizations the Union's assistance and express ITU's interest in coordinating the process of establishing an international public policy in regard to Internet governance;

3 to continue to take a significant role in international discussions and initiatives on the management of Internet domain names and addresses and other Internet resources within the mandate of ITU, taking into account future developments of the Internet, the purposes of the Union and the interests of its membership as expressed in its instruments, resolutions and decisions, and in particular in the discussion of transfer of oversight over functions relating to the allocation and management of critical Internet resources (IANA functions);

4 to take the necessary steps for ITU to continue to play a facilitating role in the coordination of international public policy issues pertaining to the Internet, as expressed in §35 d) of the Tunis Agenda, interacting as necessary with other intergovernmental organizations in these domains;

5 in line with § 78 a) of the Tunis Agenda, to continue to contribute as appropriate to the work of IGF;

6 to continue to take the necessary steps for ITU to play an active and constructive role in the process towards enhanced cooperation as expressed in § 71 of the Tunis Agenda;

7 to continue to take the necessary steps in ITU's own internal process towards enhanced cooperation on international public policy issues pertaining to the Internet as expressed in § 71 of the Tunis Agenda, involving all stakeholders, in their respective roles and responsibilities;

8 to report annually to the Council on the activities undertaken on these subjects and to submit proposals as appropriate;

9 to continue to disseminate, as appropriate, the reports of CWG-Internet to all relevant international organizations and stakeholders actively involved in such matters for their consideration in their policy-making processes,

instructs the Directors of the Bureaux

1 to contribute to CWG-Internet concerning the activities undertaken by their Bureaux which are relevant to the work of the group;

2 to provide assistance, within the Union's expertise, and within available resources, as appropriate, in cooperation with relevant organizations, to Member States, if so requested, in order to achieve their stated policy objectives with respect to the management of Internet domain names and addresses and other Internet resources, and with respect to Internet-related public policy issues;

3 to liaise and to cooperate with the regional telecommunication organizations pursuant to this resolution,

instructs the Director of the Telecommunication Standardization Bureau

1 to ensure that ITU-T performs its role in accordance with Resolution 2 (Rev. Dubai, 2012) of WTSA, and to continue to contribute ITU-T expertise and to liaise and cooperate with appropriate entities on issues related to the management of Internet domain names and addresses and other Internet resources within the mandate of ITU, such as IP version 6 (IPv6), ENUM and IDNs, as well as any other related technological developments and issues, including facilitating appropriate studies on these issues by relevant ITU-T study groups and other groups;

2 in accordance with ITU rules and procedures, and calling upon contributions from the ITU membership, to continue to play a facilitating role in coordination and assistance in the development of public policy issues pertaining to Internet domain names and addresses and other Internet resources within the mandate of ITU and their possible evolution;

3 to work with Member States and Sector Members, recognizing the activities of other appropriate entities, on issues concerning Member States' ccTLDs and related experiences;

4 to report annually to the Council, and also to WTSA, on the activities undertaken and achievements on these subjects, including proposals for further consideration as appropriate,

instructs the Director of the Telecommunication Development Bureau

1 to organize international and regional forums and carry out necessary activities, in conjunction with appropriate entities, for the period 2015-2018, to discuss policy, operational and technical issues on the Internet in general, and on the management of Internet domain names and addresses and other Internet resources within the mandate of ITU in particular, including with regard to multilingualism, for the benefit of Member States, especially for developing countries, including the least developed countries (LDCs), small island developing states (SIDS), landlocked developing countries (LLDCs) and countries with economies in transition, taking into consideration the content of the relevant resolutions of this conference, including this resolution, in addition to the content of the relevant resolutions of WTDC (Dubai, 2014);

2 to continue promoting, through the ITU Telecommunication Development Sector programmes and study groups, the exchange of information, fostering debate and the development of best practices on Internet issues, and to continue to play a key role in outreach by contributing to capacity building, providing technical assistance and encouraging the involvement of developing countries, including LDCs, SIDS, LLDCs and countries with economies in transition, in international Internet forums and issues;

3 to continue reporting annually to the Council and the Telecommunication Development Advisory Group, and also to WTDC, on the activities undertaken and achievements on these subjects, including proposals for further consideration as appropriate,

instructs the Council Working Group on international Internet-related public policy issues

1 to continue its studies aimed at the development of proposals on international public policy issues pertaining to governance and use of the Internet at the international level, with particular attention to the issues referred to in *concerned* above;

2 to take into account, in its work, resolutions of the United Nations General Assembly, all resolutions of this conference and any other ITU resolutions having a bearing on international public policy issues pertaining to governance and use of the Internet;

3 to consider and discuss the activities of the Secretary-General and Directors of the Bureaux in relation to the implementation of this resolution;

4 to prepare ITU inputs into the above-mentioned activities as appropriate, including proposals, reviews of best practices, reports and guidelines relating to all aspects of Internet governance, including those referred to in *recognizing further a)* above;

5 to continue to hold open consultations with all stakeholders on implementation of an international Internet-related public policy;

6 to prepare its output documents on the basis of contributions received from ITU Member States, taking into account the proposals formulated by ITU's General Secretariat and Sectors within the scope of their responsibility, and, as appropriate, opinions expressed in the course of the open consultations with all stakeholders;

7 to strive to ensure that its output documents include positions which, to the extent possible, reconcile the differences in the approaches reflected in the source material, or, in the event that those approaches cannot be reconciled, that they include the differing views and corresponding justifications;

8 to report annually to the Council on the activities undertaken on these subjects and to submit proposals as appropriate,

instructs the Council

1 to revise its appropriate resolutions to ensure the efficient operation of CWG-Internet, with participation limited to Member States and with open consultation to all stakeholders;

2 taking into account annual reports presented by the Secretary-General and the Directors of the Bureaux, to take appropriate measures in order to contribute actively to international discussions and initiatives related to issues on international management of Internet domain names and addresses and other Internet resources within the mandate of ITU;

3 to consider the reports of CWG-Internet and take actions as appropriate;

4 to report to the 2018 plenipotentiary conference on the activities undertaken and achievements on the objectives of this resolution, including proposals for further consideration as appropriate,

invites Member States

1 to participate in the discussions on international management of Internet resources, including domain names and addresses, and in the process towards enhanced cooperation on Internet governance and international public policy issues pertaining to the Internet, so that worldwide representation in the debates can be ensured;

2 to continue to participate actively in the discussions and development of public policy issues related to Internet resources, including domain names and addresses, their possible evolution and the impact of new usages and applications, cooperating with the relevant organizations, and to contribute to the Dedicated Group and ITU study groups on related matters,

invites Member States and Sector Members

to take an active part in and contribute to enhanced cooperation on international public policy issues relating to the Internet, in their respective roles and responsibilities.

PART 8

**Revision of Resolution 123 (Rev. Guadalajara, 2010)**

Bridging the standardization gap between developing and developed countries

# I Introduction

When introducing and/or switching to new technologies, for every new technology there exist a considerable number of interrelated ITU-R and ITU-T Recommendations, as well as those of other standards organizations. This complicates the timely introduction of these new technologies in developing countries constrained by limited human resources and the need to comply with national standardization procedures.

For this reason, at the initial stage of introducing and/or switching to a new technology, it is useful to be able to obtain, at the request of regional organizations, guiding principles for the new technology in question, developed by experts of the relevant ITU-R and ITU-T study groups. These guiding principles can be used for developing a national standard, which would make it possible to introduce and/or switch to the new technology in a timely manner.

# II Proposal

It is proposed that Resolution 123 be amended to incorporate appropriate provisions in this regard.

MOD RCC/73A1/15

RESOLUTION 123 (Rev. BUSAN, 2014)

Bridging the standardization gap between developing and
 developed countries

The Plenipotentiary Conference of the International Telecommunication Union (Busan, 2014),

recalling

Resolution 123 (Rev. Guadalajara, 2010) of the Plenipotentiary Conference,

considering

*a)* that "*the Union shall in particular facilitate the worldwide standardization of telecommunications, with a satisfactory quality of service"* (No. 13 in Article 1 of the ITU Constitution);

*b)* that, in connection with the functions and structure of the Telecommunication Standardization Sector (ITU-T), in Article 17, the Constitution indicates that those functions shall be "..., *bearing in mind the particular concerns of the developing countries, to fulfil the purposes of the Union*...";

*c)* that, under the terms of the outputs of Objective T.2 of the strategic plan for the Union for 2016‑2019, ITU-T is to work to *reduce the standardization gap (for example, through fellowships, remote participation, creation of regional working groups), hold seminars and training courses, and endeavour to achieve universal coverage and progress*,

considering further

*a)* that the World Telecommunication Standardization Assembly adopted Resolutions 44 and 54 (Rev. Dubai, 2012) to assist in bridging the standardization gap between developing and developed countries;

*b)* that the World Telecommunication Development Conference adopted Resolution 47 (Rev. Dubai, 2014), which calls for activities to enhance knowledge and effective application of recommendations of ITU-T and of the ITU Radiocommunication Sector (ITU-R) in developing countries, and Resolution 37 (Rev. Dubai, 2014), which recognizes the need to create digital opportunities in developing countries,

recalling

that the Geneva Plan of Action and Tunis Agenda for the Information Society of the World Summit on Information Society (WSIS) emphasize efforts to overcome the digital divide and development divides,

noting

the following goals for ITU-T in the strategic plan for the Union for 2016-2019, adopted in Resolution 71 (Rev. Busan, 2014) of this conference:

• to develop interoperable, non-discriminatory international standards (ITU-T recommendations);

• to assist in bridging the standardization gap between developed and developing countries;

• to extend and facilitate international cooperation among international and regional standardization bodies;

and the following strategic goal of the Telecommunication Development Sector (ITU-D) in the strategic plan for the Union for 2016-2019, adopted in Resolution 71 (Rev. Busan, 2014):

• to provide assistance to developing countries in bridging the digital divide by achieving broader telecommunication/ICT-enabled socio-economic development,

recognizing

*a)* the continued shortage of human resources in the standardization field in developing countries, resulting in a low level of developing-country participation in ITU-T and ITU-R meetings, in spite of the improvement observed in such participation lately, and, consequently, in the standards-making process, leading to difficulties when interpreting ITU-T and ITU-R recommendations;

*b)* ongoing challenges relating to capacity building, in particular for developing countries, in the light of rapid technological innovation and increased convergence of services;

*c)* the moderate level of participation by representatives of developing countries in ITU standardization activities, whether through lack of awareness of these activities, difficulties in accessing information, lack of training for human talent in standardization-related matters, or lack of financial resources to travel to meeting sites, which are factors with impact in terms of widening the existing knowledge gap;

*d)* that technological needs and realities vary from country to country and region to region, and in many cases developing countries do not have opportunities or mechanisms to make them known;

*e)* that when introducing and/or switching to new technologies, for every new technology there exist a considerable number of interrelated ITU-R and ITU-T recommendations, which complicates the timely introduction of these new technologies in developing countries constrained by limited human resources and the need to comply with national standardization procedures;

*f)* that for developing countries at the initial stage of introducing and/or switching to a new technology, it is important to have guiding principles for the new technology in question that can be used for developing a national standard, which would make it possible to introduce and/or switch to the new technology in a timely manner;

*g)* that in implementation of the provisions of the Annex to Resolution 44 (Rev. Dubai, 2012) and of Resolution 54 (Rev. Dubai, 2012), ITU actions have been carried out through ITU-T to assist in reducing the standardization gap between developing and developed countries;

*h)* the importance for developing countries of developing guiding principles regarding the implementation of ITU recommendations pursuant to Resolution 44 (Rev. Dubai, 2012) and Resolution 47 (Rev. Dubai, 2014),

taking into account

*a)* that developing countries could benefit from improved capability in the application and development of standards;

*b)* that ITU-T and ITU-R activities and the telecommunication/information and communication technology (ICT) market could also benefit from better involvement of developing countries in standards-making and standards application;

*c)* that initiatives to assist in bridging the standardization gap are intrinsic to, and are a high priority task of, the Union;

*d)* that although ITU is making efforts to reduce the standardization gap, major disparities in knowledge and management of standards remain between developing and developed countries,

resolves to instruct the Secretary-General and the Directors of the three Bureaux

1 to work closely with each other on the follow-up and implementation of this resolution, as well as Resolution ITU-R 7 (Geneva, 2007) of the Radiocommunication Assembly, Resolutions 44 and 54 (Rev. Dubai, 2012) and 47 (Rev. Dubai, 2014), and to step up actions intended and to reduce the standardization gap between developing and developed countries;

2 to maintain a close coordination mechanism among the three Sectors at the regional level for bridging the digital divide, through activities of the ITU regional offices to that end;

3 to identify ways and means to support the participation of representatives of developing countries in the meetings of the three Sectors of ITU and the dissemination of information on standardization;

4to further collaborate with the relevant regional organizations and support their work in this area,

5 to strengthen the reporting mechanisms on the implementation of the action plan associated with Resolution 44 (Rev. Dubai, 2012) through, for example, the annual operational plans;

6 to promote the timely development of guiding principles on the basis of existing ITU-R and ITU-T recommendations, within the mandates of the relevant ITU-R and ITU-T study groups, at the request of regional organizations, on issues pertaining to the introduction of and/or switchover to new technologies, with a view to simplifying the process of introduction,

invites Member States and Sector Members

to make voluntary contributions (financial and in kind) to the fund for bridging the standardization gap, as well as to undertake concrete actions to support ITU's actions and the initiatives of its three Sectors and its regional offices in this matter.

PART 9

**Revision of Resolution 130 (Rev. Guadalajara, 2010)**

Strengthening the role of ITU in building confidence
and security in the use of information and
communication technologies

# I Introduction

The number of cyberattacks is growing and they are becoming increasingly subtle. At the same time, our dependence on the Internet and other networks that are essential for accessing critical services and information is increasing.

Yet, at the international level, differences in approaches to the issues of confidence and security in the use of ICTs persist. This impedes efforts to protect against and counter threats of illegitimate use of ICTs, which need to be undertaken at both the national and international level, given that today's networks and computer systems know no boundaries.

Legislation is not the sole or the most effective tool in response to cyberattacks. Technical solutions can be supplemented with standards that ensure interoperability and conformance of security measures. This is especially important in today's world of interdependent networks.

ITU-T has published around 300 standards relating to cybersecurity. Through the ITU-D programmes, ITU is providing assistance to the developing countries in this domain, and supporting the establishment of CIRTs.

# II Proposal

Amend Resolution 130, on strengthening the role of ITU in building confidence and security in the use of ICTs, accordingly.

MOD RCC/73A1/16

RESOLUTION 130 (Rev. BUSAN, 2014)

Strengthening the role of ITU in building confidence
and security in the use of information and
communication technologies

The Plenipotentiary Conference of the International Telecommunication Union (Busan, 2014),

recalling

*a)* United Nations General Assembly (UNGA) Resolution 68/198, on information and communication technologies (ICTs) for development;

*b)* UNGA Resolution 68/167, on the right to privacy in the digital age;

*c)* UNGA Resolution 68/243, on developments in the field of information and telecommunications in the context of international security;

*d)* the outcome documents of the WSIS+10 High-Level Event, containing the WSIS+10 Statement on the Implementation of WSIS Outcomes and the WSIS+10 Vision for WSIS Beyond 2015;

*e)* Resolution 174 (Rev. Guadalajara, 2010) of the Plenipotentiary Conference;

*f)* Resolution 181 (Rev. Guadalajara, 2010) of the Plenipotentiary Conference;

*g)* Resolution 45 (Rev. Dubai, 2014) of the World telecommunication Development Conference (WTDC), on mechanisms for enhancing cooperation on cybersecurity, including countering and combating spam;

*h)* WTDC Resolution 69 (Rev. Dubai, 2014), on the creation of national computer incident response teams (CIRTs), particularly for developing countries, and cooperation between them;

*i)* that ITU Council Resolution 1305, adopted at its 2009 session, identified the security, safety, continuity, sustainability and robustness of the Internet as public policy issues that fall within the scope of ITU,

considering

*a)* that the WSIS+10 Vision for WSIS Beyond 2015 identified, *inter alia*, the following as priority areas to be addressed in the implementation of the WSIS Vision:

– building confidence and security in the use of ICTs, notably on topics such as personal data protection, privacy, security and robustness of networks;

– promoting a culture of online security and safety, empowering users, and encouraging national, regional and international cybersecurity strategies to protect users, including children;

*b)* the crucial importance of information and communication infrastructures and their applications to practically all forms of social and economic activity;

*c)* that, with the application and development of information and communication technologies (ICTs), new threats from various sources have emerged that have had an impact on confidence and security in the use of ICTs by all Member States, Sector Members and other stakeholders, including all users of ICTs, and on the preservation of peace and the economic and social development of all Member States, and that threats to and vulnerabilities of networks continue to give rise to ever-growing security challenges across national borders for all countries, in particular developing countries, including the least developed countries, small island developing states, landlocked developing countries and countries with economies in transition, while noting in this context the strengthening of ITU's role in building confidence and security in the use of ICTs and the need to further enhance international cooperation and develop appropriate existing national, regional and international mechanisms (for example, agreements, best practices, memorandums of understanding, etc);

*d)* that the ITU Secretary-General has been invited to support the International Multilateral Partnership Against Cyber-Threats (IMPACT), the Forum for Incident Response and Security Teams (FIRST) and other global or regional cybersecurity projects, as appropriate, and all countries, particularly developing countries, have been invited to take part in their activities;

*e)* the ITU Global Cybersecurity Agenda (GCA), which encourages international cooperation aimed at proposing strategies for solutions to enhance confidence and security in the use of telecommunications/ICTs;

*f)* that, in order to protect these infrastructures and address these challenges and threats, coordinated national, regional and international action is required for prevention, preparation, response and recovery from computer security incidents, on the part of government authorities, at the national (including the creation of national CIRTs), and sub-national levels, the private sector and citizens and users, in addition to international and regional cooperation and coordination, and that ITU has a lead role to play within its mandate and competencies in this field;

*g)* the need for continual evolution in new technologies to support the early detection of, and coordinated and timely response to, events or incidents compromising computer security, or computer network security incidents that could compromise the availability, integrity and confidentiality of critical infrastructures in ITU Member States, and for strategies that will minimize the impact of such incidents and mitigate the growing risks and threats to which such platforms are exposed;

*h)* that the number of cyberattacks is growing, and they are becoming increasingly subtle, while at the same time our dependence on the Internet and other networks that are essential for accessing critical services and information is increasing;

*i)* that the ITU Telecommunication Standardization Sector (ITU-T) has adopted around 300 standards relating to cybersecurity;

*j)* the final report on Question 22-1/1 (Securing information and communication networks: Best practices for developing a culture of cybersecurity) of the ITU Telecommunication Development Sector (ITU-D),

recognizing

*a)* that the development of ICTs has been and continues to be instrumental for the growth and development of the global economy, underpinned by security and trust;

*b)* that the World Summit on the Information Society (WSIS) affirmed the importance of building confidence and security in the use of ICTs and the great importance of multistakeholder implementation at the international level, and established Action Line C5 (Building confidence and security in the use of ICTs), with ITU identified in the Tunis Agenda for the Information Society as moderator/facilitator for the action line, and that this task has been carried out by the Union in recent years, for example under GCA;

*c)* that WTDC-14 has adopted the Dubai Action Plan and its Objective 3, on enhancing confidence and security in the use of telecommunications/ICTs, and roll-out of relevant applications and services, which identifies cybersecurity as a priority activity of the Telecommunication Development Bureau (BDT) and defines the main areas of work to be undertaken by BDT; and has also adopted Resolution 45 (Rev. Dubai, 2014), on mechanisms for enhancing cooperation on cybersecurity, including countering and combating spam, calling on the Secretary-General to bring the resolution to the attention of the next plenipotentiary conference for consideration and required action, as appropriate; and Resolution 69 (Rev. Dubai, 2014), on the creation of national CIRTs, particularly for developing countries, and cooperation between them; and that moreover, a national IP-based public network security centre for developing countries is under study by ITU-T Study Group 17;

*d)* that, to support the creation of national CIRTs in Member States where these are needed and are currently absent, the World Telecommunication Standardization Assembly (WTSA) adopted Resolution 58 (Rev. Dubai, 2012), on encouraging the creation of national CIRTs, particularly for developing countries; and WTDC-14 adopted Resolution 69 (Rev. Dubai, 2014), on the creation of national CIRTs, including CIRTs responsible for government-to-government cooperation, particularly for developing countries, and cooperation between them;

*e)* § 15 of the Tunis Commitment, which states that: "*Recognizing the principles of universal and non-discriminatory access to ICTs for all nations, the need to take into account the level of social and economic development of each country, and respecting the development-oriented aspects of the information society, we underscore that ICTs are effective tools to promote peace, security and stability, to enhance democracy, social cohesion, good governance and the rule of law, at national, regional and international levels. ICTs can be used to promote economic growth and enterprise development. Infrastructure development, human capacity building, information security and network security are critical to achieve these goals. We further recognize the need to effectively confront challenges and threats resulting from use of ICTs for purposes that are inconsistent with objectives of maintaining international stability and security and may adversely affect the integrity of the infrastructure within States, to the detriment of their security. It is necessary to prevent the abuse of information resources and technologies for criminal and terrorist purposes, while respecting human rights*", and that the challenges created by this misuse of ICT resources have only continued to increase since WSIS;

*f)* that Member States, in particular developing countries, in the elaboration of appropriate and workable legal measures relating to protection against cyberthreats at the national, regional and international levels, may require assistance from ITU in establishing technical and procedural measures, aimed at securing national ICT infrastructures, on request from these Member States, while noting that there are a number of regional and international initiatives which may support these countries in elaborating such legal measures;

*g)*  Opinion 4 (Lisbon, 2009) of the World Telecommunication Policy Forum, on collaborative strategies for creating confidence and security in the use of ICTs;

*h)* the relevant outcomes of WTSA-12, notably:

i) Resolution 50 (Rev. Dubai, 2012), on cybersecurity;

ii) Resolution 52 (Rev. Dubai, 2012), on countering and combating spam;

*i)* that Resolution 69 (Rev. Dubai, 2014) provides for the establishment of national CIRTs, including CIRTs responsible for government-to-government cooperation, where needed or currently lacking,

aware

*a)* that ITU and other international organizations, through a variety of activities, are examining issues related to building confidence and security in the use of ICTs, including stability and measures to combat spam, malware, etc., and to protect personal data and privacy;

*b)* that ITU-T Study Group 17, ITU-D Study Groups 1 and 2 and other relevant ITU study groups continue to work on technical means for the security of information and communication networks, in accordance with Resolutions 50 and 52 (Rev. Dubai, 2012) and Resolutions 45 and 69 (Rev. Dubai, 2014);

*c)* that ITU has a fundamental role to play in building confidence and security in the use of ICTs;

*d)* that Opinion 4 (Lisbon, 2009), on collaborative strategies for creating confidence and security in the use of ICTs, invites ITU to pursue, principally on the basis of membership contributions and direction, further initiatives and activities, in close partnership with other concerned national, regional and international entities and organizations, consistent with Resolution 71 (Rev. Dubai, 2014) of this conference, on the strategic plan for the Union for 2016-2019*,* and all other relevant ITU resolutions;

*e)* that ITU-D Study Group 2 continues to carry out the studies called for in ITU-D SG2 Question 3/2 (Securing information and communications networks: Best practices for developing a culture of cybersecurity), which has been reflected in UNGA Resolution 64/211;

*f)* that ITU is also assisting developing countries in this domain and supporting the establishment of CIRTs,

noting

*a)* that, as an intergovernmental organization with private-sector participation, ITU is well-positioned to play an important role, together with other relevant international bodies and organizations, in addressing threats and vulnerabilities, which affect efforts to build confidence and security in the use of ICTs;

*b)* §§ 35 and 36 of the Geneva Declaration of Principles and § 39 of the Tunis Agenda, on building confidence and security in the use of ICTs;

*c)* that although there are no universally agreed upon definitions of spam and other terms in this sphere, spam was characterized by ITU-T Study Group 2, at its June 2006 session, as a term commonly used to describe unsolicited electronic bulk communications over e-mail or mobile messaging (SMS, MMS), usually with the objective of marketing commercial products or services;

*d)* the Union's initiative concerning IMPACT and FIRST,

bearing in mind

the work of ITU established by Resolutions 50, 52 and 58 (Rev. Dubai, 2012); Resolutions 45 and 69 (Rev. Dubai, 2014); Objective 3 in the Dubai Action Plan; the relevant ITU-T Questions on technical aspects regarding the security of information and communication networks; and ITU-D SG 2 Question 3/2,

resolves

1 to continue to give this work high priority within ITU, in accordance with its competences and expertise;

2 to give high priority to the work in ITU described under *bearing in mind* above, in accordance with its competences and areas of expertise, while being mindful of the need to avoid duplicating work among the Bureaux or the General Secretariat or work which more appropriately falls within the mandates of other intergovernmental and relevant international bodies;

3 that ITU shall focus resources and programmes on those areas of cybersecurity within its core mandate and expertise, notably the technical and development spheres, and not including areas related to Member States' application of legal or policy principles related to national defence, national security, content and cybercrime, which are within their sovereign rights, although this does not however exclude ITU from carrying out its mandate to develop technical recommendations designed to reduce vulnerabilities in the ICT infrastructure, nor from providing all the assistance that was agreed upon at WTDC-14, including work under Objective 3 such as strengthening the capacity of Member States to incorporate and implement cybersecurity policies and strategies into nationwide ICT plans, as well as appropriate legislations, and in activities under ITU-D SG 2 Question 3/2,

instructs the Secretary-General and the Directors of the Bureaux

1 to continue to review:

i) the work done so far in the three Sectors, under the ITU Global Cybersecurity Agenda initiative and in other relevant organizations, and initiatives to address existing and future threats in order to build confidence and security in the use of ICTs, such as the issue of countering spam, which is growing and on the rise;

ii) the progress achieved in the implementation of this resolution, with ITU continuing to play a lead facilitating role as the moderator/facilitator for Action Line C5, with the help of the advisory groups, consistent with the ITU Constitution and the ITU Convention;

2 consistent with Resolution 45 (Rev. Dubai, 2014), to report on memoranda of understanding (MoUs) between countries, as well as existing forms of cooperation, providing analysis of their status, scope and applications of these cooperative mechanisms to strengthen cybersecurity and combat cyberthreats, with a view to enabling Member States to identify whether additional memoranda or mechanisms are required;

3 to facilitate access to tools and resources, within the available budget, required for enhancing confidence and security in the use of ICTs for all Member States, consistent with WSIS provisions on universal and non-discriminatory access to ICTs for all nations;

4 to continue to maintain the cybersecurity gateway as a way to share information on national, regional and international cybersecurity-related initiatives worldwide;

5 to report annually to the Council on these activities and to make proposals as appropriate;

6 to further enhance coordination between the study groups and programmes concerned,

instructs the Director of the Telecommunication Standardization Bureau

1 to intensify work within existing ITU-T study groups in order to:

i) address existing and future threats and vulnerabilities affecting efforts to build confidence and security in the use of ICTs, by developing reports or recommendations, as appropriate, with the goal of implementing the resolutions of WTSA-12, particularly Resolutions 50, 52 and 58 (Rev. Dubai, 2012), allowing work to begin before a Question is approved;

ii) seek ways to enhance the exchange of technical information in these fields, promote the adoption of protocols and standards that enhance security, and promote international cooperation among appropriate entities;

iii) facilitate projects deriving from the outcomes of WTSA-12, in particular:

a) Resolution 50 (Rev. Dubai, 2012), on cybersecurity;

b) Resolution 52 (Rev. Dubai, 2012), on countering and combating spam;

2 to continue collaboration with relevant organizations with a view to exchanging best practices and disseminating information through, for example, joint workshops and training sessions and joint coordination activity groups, and, by invitation, through written contributions from relevant organizations,

instructs the Director of the Telecommunication Development Bureau

1 to develop, consistent with the results of WTDC-14 and pursuant to Resolutions 45 and 69 (Rev. Dubai, 2014) and the programme under Output 3.1 of ITU-D Objective 3 in the ITU-D Action Plan, the project for enhancing cooperation on cybersecurity and combating spam in response to the needs of developing countries, in close collaboration with the relevant partners;

2 upon request, to support ITU Member States in their efforts to build capacity, by facilitating Member States' access to resources developed by other relevant international organizations that are working on national legislation to combat cybercrime; supporting ITU Member States' national and regional efforts to build capacity to protect against cyberthreats/cybercrime, in collaboration with one another; consistent with the national legislation of Member States referred to above, assisting Member States, in particular developing countries, in the elaboration of appropriate and workable legal measures relating to protection against cyberthreats at national, regional and international levels; establishing technical and procedural measures, aimed at securing national ICT infrastructures, taking into the account the work of the relevant ITU-T study groups and, as appropriate, other relevant organizations; establishing organizational structures, such as CIRTs, to identify, manage and respond to cyberthreats, and cooperation mechanisms at the regional and international level;

3 to provide the necessary financial and administrative support for this project within existing resources, and to seek additional resources (in cash and in kind) for the implementation of this project through partnership agreements;

4 to ensure coordination of the work of this project within the context of ITU's overall activities in its role as moderator/facilitator for WSIS Action Line C5, and to eliminate any duplication regarding this important subject with the General Secretariat and ITU-T;

5 to coordinate the work of this project with that of the ITU-D study groups on this topic, and with the relevant programme activities and the General Secretariat;

6 to continue collaboration with relevant organizations with a view to exchanging best practices and disseminating information through, for example, joint workshops and training sessions;

7 to report annually to the Council on these activities and make proposals as appropriate,

further instructs the Director of the Telecommunication Standardization Bureau and the Director of the Telecommunication Development Bureau

each within the scope of his responsibilities:

1 to implement relevant resolutions of both WTSA-12 and WTDC-14, including Objective 3, on providing support and assistance to developing countries in building confidence and security in the use of ICTs;

2 to identify and promote the availability of information on building confidence and security in the use of ICTs, specifically related to the ICT infrastructure, for Member States, Sector Members and relevant organizations;

3 without duplicating the work under ITU-D SG 2 Question 3/2, to identify best practices in establishing CIRTs, to prepare a reference guide for the Member States and, where appropriate, to contribute to SG 2 Question 3/2;

4 to cooperate with relevant organizations and other relevant international and national experts, as appropriate, in order to identify best practices in the establishment of CIRTs;

5 to take action with a view to new Questions being examined by the study groups within the Sectors on the establishment of confidence and security in the use of ICT;

6 to develop a roadmap on cybersecurity, setting out the roles and responsibilities of Member States in combating cyberattacks;

7 to support strategy, organization, awareness-raising, cooperation, evaluation and skills development;

8 to provide the necessary technical and financial support, within the constraints of existing budgetary resources, in accordance with Resolution 58 (Rev. Dubai, 2012);

9 to mobilize appropriate extrabudgetary resources, outside the regular budget of the Union, for the implementation of this resolution, to help developing countries,

instructs the Secretary-General

pursuant to his initiative on this matter:

1 to propose to the Council, taking into account the activities of the three Sectors in this regard, an action plan to strengthen the role of ITU in building confidence and security in the use of ICTs;

2 to strengthen cooperation with relevant international organizations, including through the adoption of MoUs, subject to the approval of the Council in this regard, in accordance with Resolution 100 (Minneapolis, 1998) of the Plenipotentiary Conference,

requests the Council

to include the report of the Secretary-General in the documents sent to Member States in accordance with No. 81 of the Convention,

invites Member States

to consider joining appropriate competent international and regional initiatives for enhancing national legislative frameworks relevant to the security of information and communication network,

invites Member States, Sector Members and Associates

1 to contribute on this subject to the relevant ITU study groups and to any other activities for which the Union is responsible;

2 to contribute to building confidence and security in the use of ICTs at the national, regional and international levels, by undertaking activities as outlined in the relevant provisions of the Geneva Plan of Action, the Tunis Agenda, the WSIS+10 Statement on the Implementation of WSIS Outcomes and the WSIS+10 Vision for WSIS Beyond 2015, and to contribute to the preparation and implementation of studies in these areas;

3 to promote the development of educational and training programmes to enhance user awareness of risks in cyberspace.

PART 10

**Revision of Resolution 137 (Rev. Guadalajara, 2010)**

Next-generation network deployment in developing countries

# I Introduction

One of the main challenges facing telecommunication operators is that of reducing operating costs relating to the operation and maintenance of network infrastructure. One of the most forward-looking solutions to this problem consists in the active introduction and implementation of software-defined networks.

# II Proposal

It is proposed to add the following provisions in Resolution 137.

MOD RCC/73A1/17

RESOLUTION 137 (Rev. busan, 2014)

Next-generation network deployment in developing countries[[9]](#footnote-11)1

The Plenipotentiary Conference of the International Telecommunication Union (Busan, 2014),

recalling

Resolution 137 (Rev. Guadalajara, 2010) of the Plenipotentiary Conference,

considering

*a)* that, as stated in § 22 of the Geneva Declaration of Principles adopted by the World Summit on the Information Society (WSIS), a well-developed information and communication network infrastructure and applications, adapted to regional, national and local conditions, easily accessible and affordable, and making greater use of broadband and other innovative technologies, where possible, can accelerate the social and economic progress of countries, and the well-being of all individuals, communities and peoples, and that this is covered by Action Line C2, expanded to include Action Line C6;

*b)* that the existence, at the national, regional, interregional and global levels, of coherent telecommunication networks and services for the development of national, regional and international economies is a very important element in the improvement of the social, economic and financial situation of Member States,

welcoming

the efforts made by ITU in paying attention to the interests of developing countries (cf. Resolution 17 (Rev. Dubai, 2014) of the World Telecommunication Development Conference (WTDC)),

noting

*a)* that developing countries are still being challenged by rapid change of technologies and service convergence trends;

*b)* ongoing shortages of resources, experience and capacity building within developing countries in planning and deploying networks, in particular next-generation networks (NGN),

recalling

*a)* the efforts and collaboration of the three Bureaux to continue enhancing work aimed at providing information and advice on subjects of importance to developing countries for the planning, organization, development and operation of their telecommunication systems;

*b)* that technical knowledge and experience of great value to the developing countries is also obtainable from the work of the ITU Radiocommunication (ITU-R), Telecommunication Standardization (ITU-T) and Telecommunication Development (ITU-D) Sectors;

*c)* that, in accordance with Resolution 143 (Rev. Guadalajara, 2010), the provisions in all ITU documents relating to developing countries shall be extended to apply adequately to the least developed countries, small island developing states, landlocked developing countries and countries with economies in transition,

recognizing

*a)* that the developing countries have limited human and financial resources to cope with the ever-increasing technology gap;

*b)* that one of the most important expected outcomes of the introduction of NGNs for developing countries is the reduction of operating costs relating to the operation and technical maintenance of network infrastructure;

*c)* that the existing digital divide is liable to be aggravated further with the emergence of new technologies, including post-NGNs, and if developing countries are not able to introduce NGNs fully and in a timely manner,

taking into account

*a)* that, for countries, especially developing countries and many developed countries, that have already invested heavily in the traditional public switched telephone network, it is a pressing task for them to conduct a smooth migration from existing networks to NGNs;

*b)* that NGNs are considered a potential tool to meet the new challenges facing the telecommunication industry, and NGN deployment and standards development activities are essential for developing countries, especially for their rural areas where the majority of the population live;

*c)* that countries can benefit from NGNs, which can facilitate the delivery of a wide range of advanced information and communication technology (ICT)-based services and applications for building the information society, resolving difficult issues such as the development and implementation of systems for public protection and disaster relief, especially telecommunications for early warning and the dissemination of emergency information;

*d)* the fact that software-defined networking (SDN) will profoundly change the telecommunication and ICT industry's landscape in the decades to come;

*e)* that the challenge, as perceived by WSIS, is to harness the potential of ICTs and ICT applications for promoting the development goals of the Millennium Declaration, namely the eradication of extreme poverty and hunger, achieving universal primary education, promoting gender equality and empowerment of women, reducing child mortality, improving maternal health and combating HIV/AIDS, malaria and other diseases, and so forth,

resolves to instruct the Directors of the three Bureaux

1 to continue and consolidate their efforts on NGN, software-defined networks and future networks[[10]](#footnote-12)2 deployment studies and standards-development activities, particularly those designed for rural areas and for bridging the digital divide and the development divide;

2 to coordinate studies and programmes under the Next-Generation Network Global Standards Initiative (NGN-GSI) of ITU-T and of the Global Network Planning initiatives (GNPi) of ITU-D; coordinate ongoing work being carried out by study groups and the relevant programmes as defined in Hyderabad Action Plan of WTDC-10, to assist the membership in deploying NGN effectively, particularly ITU-D Study Group 2 Question 26 and the activities of BDT Programme 1, especially in conducting a smooth migration from existing telecommunication infrastructures to NGNs; and seek appropriate solutions to expedite affordable NGN deployment in rural areas, taking into consideration the successes of several developing countries in migrating to these networks, and benefiting from the experience of these countries,

instructs the Secretary‑General and the Director of the Telecommunication Development Bureau

1 to take appropriate action in order to seek support and financial provision sufficient for the implementation of this resolution, within available financial resources, including financial support through partnership agreements;

2 to highlight the importance and benefits of NGN development and deployment to other United Nations specialized agencies and financial institutions,

instructs the Council

to consider the reports and proposals made by the Secretary-General and the three Bureaux relating to the implementation of this resolution, making the appropriate linkage with the operative paragraphs of Resolution 44 (Rev. Johannesburg, 2008) of WTSA, and to take appropriate action so that the Union continues to pay attention to addressing the needs of developing countries,

invites all Member States and Sector Members

1 to undertake concrete actions, to support ITU's actions and to develop their own initiatives in order to implement this resolution;

2 to strengthen cooperation between developed and developing countries, and among developing countries themselves, in improving national, regional and international capabilities in the implementation of NGNs, especially in regard to NGN planning, deployment, operation and maintenance, the long-term prospects offered by software-defined networks and the development of NGN-based applications, especially for rural areas, taking into consideration also development in the near future, in order to handle future networks.

PART 11

**Revision of Resolution 140 (Rev. Guadalajara, 2010)**

ITU’s role in implementing the outcomes of the
World Summit on the Information Society

# I Introduction

Resolution 140 (Guadalajara, 2010) of the Plenipotentiary Conference, on ITU’s role in implementing the outcomes of the World Summit on the Information Society (WSIS), establishes ITU’s objectives in regard to implementation of the WSIS outcomes.

Resolution 172 (Guadalajara, 2010) of the Plenipotentiary Conference, on overall review of implementation of the WSIS outcomes, instructed the ITU Secretary-General:

 *1 to initiate consideration, at the United Nations Chief Executives Board for Coordination (CEB), for the preparation of the overall review of implementation of WSIS outcomes in 2015, as requested by the Tunis Agenda (§ 111), including the possibility of holding a high-level event in 2014/15;*

Based on consultations carried out by the Secretary-General with other United Nations organizations involved in the WSIS process, and on the outcomes of the 2012 and 2013 WSIS Forums, the ITU Council took the decision in 2013 to hold an ITU coordinated WSIS+10 high-level event in 2014 as an extended version of the WSIS Forum to address the progress made in the implementation of the WSIS outcomes under ITU’s mandate, while providing a platform for multistakeholder coordination of the implementation of the WSIS outcomes, with involvement and participation of all WSIS action line facilitators, other UN agencies and all WSIS stakeholders. As part of preparations for WSIS+10, a multistakeholder preparatory platform (MPP-WSIS+10) was set up at ITU’s initiative, in which all UN agencies and all WSIS stakeholders participated. Within the framework of MPP-WSIS+10, drafts were prepared of the WSIS+10 Statement on Implementation of WSIS Outcomes and the WSIS+10 Vision for WSIS Beyond 2015, under the respective mandates of the participating agencies.

At the WSIS+10 High-Level Event held in Geneva in June 2014, coordinated by ITU, these documents were approved.

In this manner, the objectives set in Resolution 172 (Guadalajara, 2010) were implemented in full, and the aforementioned resolution can be deleted.

Unfortunately, thus far the United Nations General Assembly has not agreed on the modalities for conducting an overall review of implementation of the WSIS outcomes, and therefore any further work will have to be guided by the WSIS+10 outcome documents.

In line with the new objectives incumbent upon ITU to achieve in the coming years under its mandate in regard to development of the information society, including those set by the WSIS+10 High-Level Event, it is proposed that amendments be made to Resolution 140. The ITU Council should take into consideration the United Nations General Assembly’s decisions on conducting an overall review of implementation of the WSIS outcomes in 2015 and on the Post-2015 Development Agenda.

# II Proposal

SUP RCC/73A1/18

RESOLUTION 172 (Guadalajara, 2010)

Overall review of implementation of the outcomes of the
World Summit on the Information Society

The Plenipotentiary Conference of the International Telecommunication Union (Guadalajara, 2010),

MOD RCC/73A1/19

RESOLUTION 140 (Rev. busan, 2014)

ITU's role in implementing the outcomes of the
World Summit on the Information Society

The Plenipotentiary Conference of the International Telecommunication Union (Busan, 2014),

recalling

*a)* Resolution 73 (Minneapolis, 1998) of the Plenipotentiary Conference, which achieved its aims in regard to the holding of both phases of the World Summit on the Information Society (WSIS);

*b)* Resolution 113 (Marrakesh, 2002) of the Plenipotentiary Conference, on WSIS;

*c)* Decision 8 (Marrakesh, 2002) of the Plenipotentiary Conference, on ITU input to the WSIS Declaration of Principles and Plan of Action and the information document on ITU activities related to the Summit;

*d)* Resolution 172 (Guadalajara, 2010) of the Plenipotentiary Conference, on overall review of implementation of the WSIS outcomes,

recalling further

*a)* the Geneva Declaration of Principles and the Geneva Plan of Action, adopted in 2003, and the Tunis Commitment and the Tunis Agenda for the Information Society, adopted in 2005, all of which were endorsed by the United Nations General Assembly;

*b)* the outcomes of the 2012 United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development (Rio+20) referring to the role of ICTs for sustainable development;

*c)* the outcomes of the Ministerial Round Table held at the WSIS Forum 2013, where the ministers "encouraged the WSIS process to continue beyond 2015";

*d)* the Geneva WSIS+10 Statement on Implementation of WSIS Outcomes and the Geneva WSIS+10 Vision for WSIS Beyond 2015, which were approved at the WSIS+10 High-Level Event held in 2014,

considering

*a)* the role played by ITU in the successful organization of the two phases of WSIS and the WSIS+10 High-Level Event;

*b)* that the core competences of ITU in the fields of information and communication technologies (ICTs) – assistance in bridging the digital divide, international and regional cooperation, radio spectrum management, standards development and the dissemination of information – are of crucial importance for building the information society, as stated in § 64 of the Geneva Declaration of Principles;

*c)* that the Tunis Agenda stated that "*each UN agency should act according to its mandate and competencies, and pursuant to decisions of their respective governing bodies, and within existing approved resources*" (§ 102 (b));

*d)* the establishment of a United Nations Group on the Information Society (UNGIS) by the Secretary-General of the United Nations, at the request of the Summit, with the main objective of coordinating substantive and policy issues facing the United Nations' implementation of the WSIS outcomes, and that ITU is a permanent member of UNGIS, and shares a rotating chairmanship thereof;

*e)* that ITU, the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO), the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD) and the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) are playing lead facilitation roles in the multistakeholder implementation of the Geneva Plan of Action and Tunis Agenda, as called upon by WSIS;

*f)* that ITU is the moderator/facilitator for Action Lines C2 (Information and communication infrastructure) and C5 (Building confidence and security in the use of ICTs) of the Tunis Agenda, and a potential partner for a number of other action lines, as identified by WSIS;

*g)* that the parties involved in implementing the Summit outcomes agreed, in 2008, to designate ITU as the moderator/facilitator for Action Line C6 (Enabling environment), for which it had previously acted only as a co-facilitator;

*h)* that the ITU is given specific responsibility for maintaining the WSIS stocktaking database (§ 120 of the Tunis Agenda);

*i)* that ITU is capable of providing expertise relevant to the Internet Governance Forum as demonstrated during the WSIS process (§ 78a of the Tunis Agenda);

*j)* that ITU has, *inter alia*, specific responsibility to study and report on international Internet connectivity (§§ 27 and 50 of the Tunis Agenda);

*k)* that ITU has a specific responsibility to ensure rational, efficient and economic use of, and equitable access to, the radio-frequency spectrum by all countries, based on relevant international agreements (§ 96 of the Tunis Agenda);

*l)* that the United Nations General Assembly, in its Resolution 60/252, decided to conduct an overall review of the implementation of the Summit outcomes in 2015;

*m)* that "*building an inclusive development-oriented information society will require unremitting multistakeholder effort… Taking into account the multifaceted nature of building the Information Society, effective cooperation among governments, private sector, civil society and United Nations and other international organizations, according to their roles and responsibilities and leveraging on their expertise, is essential*" (§ 83 of the Tunis Agenda),

considering further

*a)* that ITU plays a fundamental role in providing global perspectives on the development of the information society;

*b)* the need for ITU to evolve constantly in response to changes in the telecommunication/ICT environment and, in particular, in respect of evolving technologies and new regulatory challenges;

*c)* the needs of developing countries, including in the areas of building telecommunication/ICT infrastructure, strengthening confidence and security in the use of telecommunications/ICT and implementation of the other WSIS goals;

*d)* the desirability of using ITU's resources and expertise in a way which takes account of the rapid changes in the telecommunication environment and of the WSIS outcomes;

*e)* the need to carefully deploy the Union's human and financial resources in a manner consistent with the priorities of the membership and cognizant of budgetary constraints, and the need to avoid duplication among the Bureaux and the General Secretariat;

*f)* that the full involvement of the membership, including Sector Members, as well as other stakeholders, is critical to successful ITU implementation of relevant WSIS outcomes;

*g)* that the strategic plan for the Union for 2016-2019 set out in Resolution 71 (Rev. Busan, 2014) of this conference contains a commitment to the implementation of the relevant WSIS outcomes, in response to the changing telecommunication/ICT environment and its effects on the Union;

*h)* that the Council Working Group on WSIS (WG-WSIS) constitutes an effective mechanism for facilitating Member State inputs on the role of ITU in implementing WSIS outcomes, as envisaged by the Plenipotentiary Conference (Antalya, 2006);

*i)* that the ITU Council has approved roadmaps for Action Lines C2, C5 and C6, which have been updated and made available on the web, and WSIS-related activities have been included in the ITU operational plans for 2015-2019;

*j)* that the international community is invited to make voluntary contributions to the special trust fund set up by ITU to support activities relating to the implementation of WSIS outcomes;

*k)* that ITU is capable of providing expertise in the field of statistical work by developing ICT indicators, using appropriate indicators and benchmarking to track global progress, and measuring the digital divide (§§ 113-118 of the Tunis Agenda),

noting

*a)* the holding of the WSIS Forum, organized annually by ITU in collaboration with UNCTAD, UNESCO and UNDP, the first WSIS+10 outcome review meeting, organized by UNESCO in Paris from 25 to 27 February 2013, and the WSIS+10 High-Level Event, coordinated by ITU, with the participation of other United Nations organizations and all interested stakeholders, held from 10 to 11 June 2014 in Geneva within the framework of an extended WSIS Forum;

*b)* the establishment of the Broadband Commission for Digital Development at the invitation of the Secretary-General of ITU and the Director-General of UNESCO, taking note of the "Broadband targets for 2015", which set targets for making broadband policy universal and for increasing affordability and uptake in support of internationally agreed development goals, including the Millennium Development Goals,

taking into account

*a)* that WSIS acknowledged that multistakeholder participation is essential to the successful building of a people-centred, inclusive and development-oriented information society;

*b)* the nexus between issues of telecommunication development and those of economic, social and cultural development, as well as its impact on social and economic structures in all Member States;

*c)* § 98 of the Tunis Agenda, which encourages strengthened and continuing cooperation between and among stakeholders and welcomes, in that respect, the ITU-led Connect the World initiative;

*d)* that, in recent decades, the ICT landscape has changed considerably: progress in natural science, mathematics, engineering and technology, speed of innovation, the dissemination and application of mobile technologies and improved access to the Internet have significantly enhanced the range of opportunities that ICTs offer for the promotion of inclusive development and are bringing the benefits of the information society to an increasing number of people around the world;

*e)* that UNGIS proposes that, in collaboration with other stakeholders, the United Nations system should strive to fully harness ICTs to address development challenges in the 21st century and recognize ICTs as key enablers of all three pillars of sustainable development and that the potential of ICTs as a key enabler of development, and as critical components of innovative development solutions, be fully recognized in the Post-2015 Development Agenda;

*f)* that the multistakeholder preparatory platform (MPP-WSIS+10) proposed by ITU, in which all UN agencies and all WSIS stakeholders participated, made it possible to endorse, on a consensus basis, the outcome documents from the WSIS+10 High-Level Event, namely the WSIS+10 Statement on Implementation of WSIS Outcomes and the WSIS+10 Vision for WSIS Beyond 2015;

*g)* that the ITU Secretary-General created the ITU WSIS Task Force, chaired by the Deputy Secretary-General, in order to fulfil, among others, the instructions handed down to the Secretary-General in Resolution 140 (Antalya, 2006) of the Plenipotentiary Conference;

*h)* the ITU report "WSIS+10" on ITU's WSIS implementation and follow-up activities for the ten years 2005-2014,

endorsing

*a)* Resolution 30 (Rev. Dubai, 2014) of the World Telecommunication Development Conference (WTDC) on the role of the ITU Telecommunication Development Sector in implementing the WSIS outcomes;

*b)* Resolution 139 (Rev. Busan, 2014) of this conference;

*c)* the relevant results of the 2013 and 2014 sessions of the ITU Council, including Resolution 1334 (Rev. 2013);

*d)* programmes, activities and regional activities established by WTDC‑14 with the objective of bridging the digital divide;

*e)* the relevant work already undertaken and/or to be carried out by ITU in implementing the WSIS outcomes, under the aegis of WG-WSIS;

*f)* Resolution 75 (Rev. Dubai, 2012) of the World Telecommunication Standardization Assembly (WTSA), on ITU-T's contribution in implementing the outcomes of WSIS,

bearing in mind

the relevant work already undertaken and/or to be carried out by ITU in implementing the WSIS outcomes, under the aegis of WG-WSIS and the WSIS Task Force,

recognizing

*a)* the importance of ITU's role and participation in UNGIS, as a permanent member, and sharing a rotating chairmanship;

*b)* ITU's commitment to the implementation of the goals and objectives of WSIS, as one of the most important goals for the Union;

*c)* that the United Nations General Assembly, in its Resolution 60/252, decided to conduct an overall review of the implementation of the Summit outcomes in 2015 and, in adopting Resolution 68/198, gave instructions to finalize the modalities for the overall review by the General Assembly of the implementation of the WSIS outcomes, in accordance with § 111 of the Tunis Agenda;

*d)* that the United Nations Chief Executives Board at its April 2012 meeting endorsed that the ITU should play a leading managerial role in the process of the overall review of the implementation of the WSIS outcomes (WSIS+10),

resolves

1 that ITU should play a leading facilitating role in the implementation process, along with UNESCO, UNCTAD and UNDP, as stated in § 109 of the Tunis Agenda;

2 that ITU should continue to play a lead facilitation role in the WSIS implementation process, as a moderator/facilitator for implementing Action Lines C2, C5 and C6;

3 that ITU should continue carrying out those activities that come within its mandate, and participate with other stakeholders, as appropriate, in the implementation of Action Lines C1, C3, C4, C7, C8, C9 and C11 and all other relevant action lines and other WSIS outcomes, within the financial limits set by the Plenipotentiary Conference;

4 that ITU should continue to adapt itself, taking into account technological developments and its potential to contribute significantly to building an inclusive information society;

5 to express its satisfaction with the successful outcomes of the Summit, in which the expertise and core competence of ITU were noted several times;

6 to express its thanks to the staff of the Union, the host countries and WG-WSIS for their efforts in the preparation of both phases of WSIS and WSIS+10, as well as all members of ITU actively involved in implementing the WSIS outcomes;

7 that there is a need to integrate the implementation of the Dubai Action Plan, and in particular Resolution 30 (Rev. Dubai, 2014), and relevant resolutions of plenipotentiary conferences, with the multistakeholder implementation of the WSIS and WSIS+10 outcomes;

8 that ITU should, within available resources, continue to maintain the current public WSIS stocktaking database, as one of the valuable tools for assisting with the follow-up of WSIS, as instructed in § 120 of the Tunis Agenda;

9 that the ITU Telecommunication Development Sector (ITU-D) shall give high priority to building information and communication infrastructure (WSIS Action Line C2), this being the physical backbone for all e‑applications, calling also upon Programme 1 and the ITU-D study groups to do the same;

10 that ITU should submit a mid-term report on the implementation of WSIS+10 outcomes concerning ITU in 2018,

instructs the Secretary-General and the Directors of the Bureaux

1 to take all necessary measures for ITU to fulfil its role, as outlined in *resolves*1, 2, and 3 above, in accordance with the appropriate roadmaps;

2 to continue to coordinate, with the Coordination Committee, the activities related to WSIS implementation for implementing *resolves* 1, 2, and 3 above, with the aim of avoiding duplication of work among the ITU Bureaux and the ITU General Secretariat;

3 to continue to raise public awareness of the Union's mandate, role and activities and provide broader access to the Union's resources for the general public and other actors involved in the emerging information society;

4 to formulate specific tasks and deadlines for implementing the action lines referred to above, and incorporate them in the operational plans of the General Secretariat and the Sectors;

5 to report annually to the Council on the activities undertaken on these subjects, including their financial implications;

6 to prepare and submit a mid-term report on the ITU activities for WSIS implementation to the next plenipotentiary conference in 2018,

instructs the Directors of the Bureaux

to ensure that concrete objectives and deadlines for WSIS+10 activities are developed and reflected in the operational plans of each Sector and that relevant roadmaps are updated,

instructs the Director of the Telecommunication Development Bureau

to follow, as soon as possible and in accordance with Resolution 30 (Rev. Dubai, 2014), a partnership approach in ITU‑D activities related to its roles in the implementation and follow-up of the WSIS and WSIS+10 outcomes, in accordance with the provisions of the ITU Constitution and ITU Convention, and to report annually, as appropriate, to the Council,

requests the Council

1 to oversee ITU's implementation of the WSIS outcomes, and, within the financial limits set by the Plenipotentiary Conference, to make resources available as appropriate;

2 to oversee ITU's adaptation to the information society, in line with *resolves* 4 above;

3 to maintain WG-WSIS, in order to facilitate membership input and guidance on the ITU implementation of relevant WSIS and WSIS+10 outcomes and to elaborate, in collaboration with other Council working groups, proposals to the Council that may be necessary for adapting ITU to its role in building the information society, with the assistance of the WSIS Task Force, these proposals possibly including amendments to the Constitution and the Convention;

4 to take into account the relevant decisions of the United Nations General Assembly with regard to the overall review of implementation of the WSIS outcomes;

5 to include the report of the Secretary-General in the documents sent to Member States in accordance with No. 81 of the Convention,

invites Member States, Sector Members and Associates

1 to participate actively in implementing WSIS and WSIS+10 outcomes, contribute to the WSIS stocktaking database maintained by ITU, and participate actively in the activities of WG-WSIS and in ITU's further adaptation to the information society;

2 to make voluntary contributions to the special trust fund set up by ITU to support activities relating to the implementation of WSIS outcomes,

resolves to express

its warmest thanks and deepest gratitude to the Governments of Switzerland and Tunisia for having hosted the two phases of the Summit and the WSIS+10 High-Level Event in close collaboration with ITU, UNESCO, UNCTAD and other relevant United Nations agencies.

PART 12

**Revision of the International Telecommunication Regulations**

# I Introduction

In its Resolution 4 (Dubai, 2012), the World Conference on International Telecommunications (WCIT) *resolves* “to invite the 2014 Plenipotentiary Conference to consider this resolution and to take necessary action, as appropriate, to convene periodically (for example every eight years) a world conference on international telecommunications to revise the ITRs, taking into account the financial implications for the Union”.

# II Discussion

The International Telecommunication Regulations (ITRs) are an international treaty establishing “general principles which relate to the provision and operation of international telecommunication services offered to the public as well as to the underlying international telecommunication transport means used to provide such services” (it being noted that the ITRs do not address the content-related aspects of telecommunications) (§ 1.1 *a)* of the ITRs).

The ITRs were established “with a view to facilitating global interconnection and interoperability of telecommunication facilities and to promoting the harmonious development and efficient operation of technical facilities, as well as the efficiency, usefulness and availability to the public of international telecommunication services” (§ 1.3 of the ITRs).

Following the entry into force of the 2012 version of the ITRs, i.e. as from 1 January 2015, there will be two sets of ITRs in force (the versions of 1988 and 2012). This presents a complex situation in terms of interaction between Member States, and between operators, that are party to the different treaties.

Furthermore, the ITRs require regular revision on account of the constantly-evolving technical, regulatory and political aspects of the international telecommunication environment, including such factors as:

– network convergence and the rapid development of next-generation networks; the emergence of new approaches to the sector’s regulation; and the appearance of new challenges (network security, protection of personal data, message confidentiality, and so on);

– the emergence of new telecommunication services;

– the development of new approaches to player interaction in the telecommunication/ICT market.

The arrangements for the holding of WCITs are currently set out in Article 3 “Other conferences and assemblies” of the ITU Convention:

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **48** | 8 1) World conferences on international telecommunications shall be held upon decision by the Plenipotentiary Conference. |
| **49** |  2) The provisions for the convening of, the adoption of the agenda of, and the participation in a world radiocommunication conference shall, as appropriate, equally apply to world conferences on international telecommunications. |

# III Proposals

1 The RCC administrations support revision of the ITRs on a regular basis, for example every eight years.

This time interval will allow for more flexible planning of the conference, having regard to the actual need for updating of the ITRs and to the financial implications for the Union. A regular WCIT could be held immediately after every second WTSA, as was the case in 2012.

2 Amend Resolution 146 (Antalya, 2006) of the Plenipotentiary Conference such as to provide:

– that a revision of the ITRs shall be carried out on a regular basis, at an interval of once every eight years;

– that a regular WCIT shall be held in 2020,

and to instruct the Council, the Sectors and the Secretary-General to organize the preparatory process.

3 Delete Resolution 171 (Guadalajara, 2010), which has been implemented.

MOD RCC/73A1/20

RESOLUTION 146 (rev. busan, 2014)

Regular review of the International Telecommunication Regulations

The Plenipotentiary Conference of the International Telecommunication Union (Busan, 2014),

considering

*a)* the outcomes of the World Conference on International Telecommunications (WCIT) (Dubai, 2012), which adopted amendments to the International Telecommunication Regulations (ITRs) which will enter into force on 1 January 2015;

*b)* that for a number of ITU Member States the 1988 version of the ITRs will continue to apply;

*c)* that the ITRs were established with a view to facilitating global interconnection and interoperability of telecommunication facilities and to promoting the harmonious development and efficient operation of technical facilities, as well as the efficiency, usefulness and availability to the public of international telecommunication services;

*d)* that treaty-level provisions are required with respect to international telecommunication networks and services;

*e)* Resolution 4 (Dubai, 2012) of WCIT, which recognizes that the ITRs consist of high-level guiding principles that should not require frequent amendment, but in the fast-moving sector of telecommunications/ICTs may need to be periodically reviewed,

taking into account

*a)* that the international telecommunication environment has significantly evolved, both from the technical and policy perspectives, and that it continues to evolve rapidly;

*b)* that advances in technology have resulted in an increased use of IP-enabled infrastructure and relevant applications, presenting both opportunities and challenges for ITU Member States and Sector Members;

*c)* that as technology evolves, Member States are evaluating their policy and regulatory approaches to ensure an enabling environment that fosters supportive, transparent, pro-competitive, and predictable policies, as well as legal and regulatory frameworks that provide appropriate incentives for investment in, and development of, the information society;

*d)* that ITU plays an important role in facilitating discussion of new and emerging issues, including those arising from the changing international telecommunication environment,

believing

*a)* that, in order for ITU to fulfil its pre-eminent role in global telecommunications, it must continue to demonstrate its capacity to respond in a timely and adequate manner to the rapidly changing telecommunication environment;

*b)* that it is important to ensure that the ITRs are regularly reviewed, and revised and updated in a timely manner, in order to facilitate cooperation and coordination among Member States and to reflect accurately the relations between Member States, Sector Members, administrations and operating agencies;

*c)* that the World Telecommunication Policy Forum (WTPF) has historically provided an appropriate venue for discussing global and cross-sectoral issues of high concern to the ITU membership,

noting

1 that WTPF, held pursuant to Resolution 2 (Rev. Guadalajara, 2010) of the Plenipotentiary Conference, provides an opportunity to study global and cross-sectoral issues of high concern to the ITU membership;

2 that further studies can take place in the Telecommunication Standardization Sector (ITU-T), and, as may be required, in liaison with the other Sectors, with ITU-T as the focal point,

resolves

1 that a revision of the ITRs shall be carried out on a regular basis, at an interval of once every eight years;

2 that ITU-T should undertake a review of the ITRs, engaging with the other Sectors as may be required, with ITU-T as the focal point;

3 that the next WTPF should consider emerging telecommunication policy and regulatory issues, with respect to international telecommunication networks and services, for the purpose of developing opinions and proposing a number of approaches for revision of the ITRs;

4 that WTPF should prepare reports and, where appropriate, opinions for consideration by Member States, Sector Members, relevant ITU meetings and the Council;

5 that a WCIT be convened in 2020, on the basis of the recommendations arising from the preparatory process,

instructs the Council

1 to set up a preparatory process for revision of the ITRs (along the lines of conference preparatory meetings);

2 to adopt the agenda and fix the dates of WCIT by 2018,

instructs the three ITU Sectors

each within its field of competence, to carry out necessary studies aimed at preparing for WCIT, and to participate in a series of regional meetings as required, in order to identify topics to be addressed by WCIT, within existing budgetary resources,

instructs the Secretary-General, following the above studies

to undertake the necessary preparatory arrangements for WCIT, in accordance with the applicable rules and procedures of ITU,

invites Member States and Sector Members

to contribute to the ITR revision process and to the preparatory process for the next WCIT.

SUP RCC/73A1/21

RESOLUTION 171 (Guadalajara, 2010)

Preparations for the 2012 world conference on
international telecommunications

The Plenipotentiary Conference of the International Telecommunication Union (Guadalajara, 2010),

**Reasons:** Resolution implemented.

PART 13

**Draft revised Resolution 154 (Rev. Guadalajara, 2010)**

Use of the six official languages of the Union on an equal footing

# I Introduction

The Plenipotentiary Conference (Guadalajara, 2010) adopted Resolution 154 (Rev. Guadalajara, 2010), on the use of the six official languages of the Union on an equal footing, and resolved “to continue the work of the Council Working Group on Languages, in order to monitor progress and report to the Council on the implementation of this resolution”. The Council Working Group on the use of the languages of the Union on an equal footing (CWG-LANG) submitted a detailed report for consideration by Council-14 on the implementation of this resolution along with specific recommendations on further work.

The debate at Council-14 focused to a considerable extent on matters relating to use of the six official languages on an equal footing on the ITU website.

It was pointed out that the ITU website does not satisfy the requirements of use of the languages on an equal footing and makes it difficult or impossible to use the pages of the website in any of the languages with the exception of English. Similar questions were also raised at meetings of the Sector advisory groups.

In Document C14/INF/10, CWG-LANG presented the proposals it had agreed to regarding revision of Resolution 154.

Council-14 approved the report of the Chairman of CWG-LANG, containing specific proposals on the further enhancement of work relating to the use of the six official languages of the Union on an equal footing, and agreed to propose that Members States make use of the draft revision of Resolution 154 set forth in Document C14/INF/10 in their preparations for PP-14.

# II Proposal

1 Endorse the proposals of CWG-LANG regarding the further enhancement of work relating to use of the six official languages of the Union on an equal footing.

2 Make the following amendments to Resolution 154 (Rev. Guadalajara, 2010).

MOD RCC/73A1/22

RESOLUTION 154 (Rev. Busan, 2014)

Use of the six official languages of the Union on an equal footing

The Plenipotentiary Conference of the International Telecommunication Union (Busan, 2014),

*recalling*

*a)* United Nations General Assembly Resolution 67/292, on multilingualism;

*b)* Resolution 154 (Rev. Guadalajara, 2010) of the Plenipotentiary Conference;

*c)* Resolution 115 (Marrakesh, 2002) of the Plenipotentiary Conference;

*d)* Resolution 104 (Minneapolis, 1998) of the Plenipotentiary Conference;

*e)* Resolution 66 (Rev. Guadalajara, 2010) of the Plenipotentiary Conference;

*f)* Resolution 165 (Rev. Guadalajara, 2010) of the Plenipotentiary Conference;

*g)* Resolution 168 (Rev. Guadalajara, 2010) of the Plenipotentiary Conference,

reaffirming

the fundamental principle of equal treatment of the six official languages, as enshrined in Resolutions 115 (Marrakesh, 2002) and 154 (Rev. Guadalajara, 2010), on the use of the six languages on an equal footing,

noting with satisfaction and appreciation

*a)* the steps taken so far to implement Resolution 115 (Marrakesh, 2002) as from 1 January 2005 and Resolution 154 (Rev. Guadalajara, 2010);

*b)* the progress made in the successful implementation of Resolution 104 (Minneapolis, 1998) and resulting efficiencies and economies;

*c)* the progress made in the implementation of Resolution 154 (Rev. Guadalajara, 2010) in regard to alignment of working methods and optimization of staffing levels in the six languages, linguistic unification of databases for definitions and terminology and centralizing editing functions;

*d)* ITU participation in the International Annual Meeting on Language Arrangements, Documentation and Publications (IAMLADP),recognizing

*a)* the importance of maintaining and improving the multilingual content of services required by the universal character of United Nations system organizations, as called for in the United Nations Joint Inspection Unit report on *Multilingualism in the United Nations System* (Document JIU/REP/2002/11);

*b)* that, notwithstanding the successful implementation of Resolution 115 (Marrakesh, 2002), for various reasons the switchover to six languages cannot be achieved overnight, and a "transition period" to full implementation is inevitable;

*c)* the work accomplished by the Council Working Group on Languages, as well as the work by the secretariat to implement the working group's recommendations as agreed by the Council at its 2009 session, in particular with regard to the unification of linguistic databases for definitions and terminology and the centralization of editing functions, the integration of the terminology database for Arabic, Chinese and Russian as well as harmonizing and unifying working procedures in the six language services,

recognizing further

the budget constraints facing the Union,

resolves

to continue to take all necessary measures to ensure use of the six official languages of the Union on an equal footing and to maximize interpretation and the translation of ITU documentation, although some work in ITU (for example working parties, regional conferences) might not require the use of all six languages,

instructs the Council

1 to monitor, including through the use of appropriate indicators, application of the updated measures and principles for interpretation and translation adopted by the Council at its 2014 session, taking into consideration the financial constraints, and bearing in mind the ultimate objective of full implementation of treatment of the six official languages on an equal footing;

2 to pursue and monitor appropriate operational measures, such as:

– to continue review of ITU documentation and publication services with a view to eliminating any duplication and creating synergies;

– to facilitate the timely and simultaneous delivery of high-quality and efficient language services (interpretation, documentation, publications and public-information materials) in the six languages, in support of the Union's strategic goals;

– to support optimum levels of staffing, including core staff, temporary assistance and outsourcing, while ensuring the required high quality of interpretation and translation;

– to continue implementation of judicious and efficient use of information and communication technologies in language and publications activities, taking into consideration experience gained by other international organizations and best practices;

– to continue to explore and implement all possible measures to reduce the size and volume of documents (page-limits, executive summaries, material in annexes or hyperlinks), and achieve greener meetings, when justified, without affecting the quality and content of the documents to be translated or to be published, and bearing clearly in mind the need to comply with the United Nations system objective of multilingualism;– to take, to the extent practicable, all necessary measures for equitable use of the six languages on the ITU website in terms of multilingual content and user-friendly use of the site;3 to monitor the work carried out by the ITU secretariat in regard to:

– merging all existing databases for definitions and terminology into a centralized system, with proper measures for its maintenance, expansion and updating;

– completion and maintenance of the ITU database for telecommunication/ICT terminology and definitions, with particular emphasis on any and all language(s), in particular Arabic, for which a terminology deficit persists;

– providing the six language service units with the necessary qualified staff and tools to meet their requirements in each language;

– enhancing ITU's image and the effectiveness of its public-information work, making use of all six languages of the Union, in, among other things, publishing ITU News, creating ITU websites, organizing Internet broadcasting and archiving of recordings, and issuing documents of a public-information nature, including announcements of ITU Telecom events, e-flashes and such like;

4 to maintain the Council Working Group on Languages, in order to monitor progress and report to the Council on the implementation of this resolution;

5 to review, in collaboration with the Sector advisory groups, the types of material to be included in output documents and translated;

6 to continue to consider measures to reduce the cost and volume of documentation as a standing item, in particular for conferences and assemblies;7 to report to the next plenipotentiary conference on the implementation of this resolution,

invites Member States and Sector Members

to ensure that the different language versions of documents and publications are utilized, downloaded and purchased by the corresponding language communities, for the sake of maximizing their benefit and cost-effectiveness.

PART 14

**Extending the activities of IMAC**

Draft revision of Resolution 162 (Guadalajara, 2010)

Summary

The purpose of this document is to briefly put forward arguments in support of continuing the activities of the Independent Management Advisory Committee (IMAC) as an expert advisory body assisting the Council and the Secretary-General, taking into account possible areas of improvement in IMAC’s work which should be reflected in Resolution 162.

Action required

Consider this document and the proposals contained therein and, should it be supported, instruct the Secretary-General to conduct a study of the issues raised, for use in the examination of amendments to Resolution 162 at the ITU Plenipotentiary Conference 2014.

References

1 Resolution 162 (Guadalajara, 2010), on the Independent Management Advisory Committee

2 Document C14/22: Third Annual Report of the Independent Management Advisory Committee

3 Document C12/64: Approach to evaluating the performance of IMAC

4 Document WG-RG-20/4 (Document TGHRM 9/4), on the necessity of the ITU value estimation

5 JIU/REP2006/2, on oversight lacunae in the United Nations System

# 1 Introduction

As stated in [1], “The Independent Management Advisory Committee (IMAC), as a subsidiary body of the ITU Council, serves in an expert advisory capacity and assists the Council and the Secretary-General in fulfilling their governance responsibilities, including ensuring the effectiveness of ITU's internal control systems, risk management and governance processes.” IMAC is required to assist in strengthening accountability and governance functions of the Council and the Secretary-General.

The decision to create IMAC on a trial basis for four years was taken in 2010. The process of selecting IMAC’s membership took place over the summer of 2011. In February 2012, the members of IMAC were presented to the Council Working Group on Financial and Human Resources. Under [1], IMAC is to present a progress report to the Plenipotentiary Conference in 2014, on its work in the areas covered by its terms of reference, including audit issues (internal and external), financial statements, risk management, accounting and evaluation.

During the period of its activities, IMAC held meetings and submitted three annual reports, which over the period 2013‑2014 addressed a range of issues and proposed the recommendations reproduced in Table 1 of Annex A to this document.

# 2 Analysis of IMAC’s activities

The following positive outcomes of IMAC’s activities should be noted:

1 Regular meetings and discussions are held.

2 All issues considered relate to some extent to IMAC’s terms of reference (see Table 1 of Annex A and [2]).

3 IMAC makes specific recommendations in its annual reports.

4 IMAC evaluates the implementation of its recommendations.

5 IMAC collaborates with the ITU Secretary-General, staff and Member States on issues of critical importance to the management and governance of ITU.

6 The Internal Audit Charter was revised in consultation with IMAC.

7 At Council-13, in addition to the financial statements, a Statement on Internal Control was also made available and will continue to be published in future.

On the other hand, IMAC’s activities in certain areas could be more effective. These areas are as follows.

1 As regards accounting and financial statements and in particular the *evaluation function*, IMAC made no recommendations, although this issue comes under its terms of reference, and hitherto there has been virtually no official evaluation function in ITU. The RCC Administrations consider that evaluation issues are also of importance inasmuch as they presuppose an independent review aimed at achieving the most systematic and objective possible determination of the relevance, effectiveness and impact of ongoing or completed programmes, projects or policies in light of their objectives and accomplishments. Evaluation encompasses all stages of these processes, including design, implementation and results, to provide credible and useful information, enabling the incorporation of lessons learned into both the executive and legislative decision-making process [5].

2 As regards the implementation of IMAC proposals (recommendations), proposals are needed on an institutional mechanism to this end. At the moment, although this does not depend entirely on IMAC, of eight IMAC recommendations adopted in 2013, some 62.5 per cent have been implemented to some degree or other (recommendation 8 has been fully implemented; recommendation 1 has been partially implemented; recommendations 2, 6 and 7 are in the process of being implemented; the others have not been implemented) [2].

3 Wherever possible and appropriate, IMAC should include in its reports the results of analytical calculations in connection with issues under discussion, which would enhance the information content of those reports. At the moment IMAC either does not calculate such data or does not present them in its reports.

4 In the view of the RCC Administrations, there is untapped potential for broadening the functions of IMAC, by, for example, including in IMAC’s terms of reference both the *evaluation* function and the *ITU value estimation* function described in [4].

5 Apart from self-evaluation, it would be desirable for Member States to carry out an objective evaluation of IMAC’s work (at the level of the ITU Council or the Plenipotentiary Conference), for example, using the indicators set out in Annex B to this document (see also [3]). The results of such an evaluation could help to identify areas for improvements in IMAC’s activities, taking account of the views of Member States.

6 An effort should be made, taking into account the required competencies of IMAC members, to achieve a more balanced composition in terms of geographical and gender criteria, in accordance with Resolution 162.

7 The final report to the Plenipotentiary Conference should evaluate the extent to which budget resources allocated by ITU for IMAC’s work are used. For example, a reduction in actual expenditure in comparison with the budget may look like a saving, but may also result in a lower effectiveness of IMAC’s work. In any case, it is important to analyse the reasons for any reduction or increase in appropriations.

# 3 Proposals

IMAC’s work overall is useful and can be continued in the future, and this can be appropriately reflected in Resolution 162 when it is discussed at PP-14 after the discussion on the IMAC progress report. Some specific proposed amendments to Resolution 162 are shown in Annex C to this document. In addition, provisions concerning procedural aspects of the work of both the selection panel and IMAC itself should be clarified, including the issue of ensuring equal participation in IMAC activities of representatives from all regions.

Annex A

Table 1 – Scope of IMAC recommendations for 2013‑2014

| Rec. No. | Description | Scope |
| --- | --- | --- |
| Rec. 1 (2013) | IMAC recommends that the Secretary-General approve the revised Internal Audit Charter to be consistent with the IIA standards, with some further revisions to ensure that: – IMAC review the proposed Internal Audit work plan before its approval by the Secretary-General;– that this annual work plan is reviewed and approved prior to the beginning of the year to which it applies;– and that a more comprehensive Annual Report by the Internal Auditor, to include an assurance on the overall internal control environment, be submitted and presented to Council for discussion each year. | Internal audit |
| Rec. 2 (2013) | IMAC recommends that the Internal Audit annual work plan focus resources more extensively on direct audit activities and less on audit support activities. | Internal audit |
| Rec. 3 (2013) | In addition, to ensure adequate internal audit coverage, IMAC recommends that ITU reconsider the adequacy of resources allocated to the Internal Audit Unit and the activities assigned to Internal Audit. | Internal audit |
| Rec. 4 (2013) | IMAC recommends that Internal Audit pursue the commissioning of a peer review to take place preferably by 2014. | Internal audit |
| Rec. 5 (2013 | IMAC recommends that an evaluation of the Internal Audit function be carried out by the External Auditor.  | External audit |
| Rec. 6 (2013) | IMAC recommends that ITU consider imposing and enforcing a clear and well understood timeframe for the negotiation and signature of Host Country Agreements (HCAs) for its regional and area offices, beyond which alternative measures should be considered. | Internal controls |
| Rec. 7 (2013) | IMAC recommends that ITU pursue development of systematic, enterprise-wide risk management arrangements as a matter of priority, supported by the allocation of necessary budgetary resources, so that risk management can be incorporated in the strategic planning process for the period 2016-2019. | Risk management |
| Rec. 8 (2013) | IMAC recommends that the Secretary-General approve an annual Statement on Internal Control to be issued together with the financial statements. | Internal controls |
| Rec. 1 (2014) | IMAC recommends that the Internal Auditor make further efforts towards providing more comprehensive annual reporting to the Council in future years. | Internal audit |
| Rec. 2 (2014) | IMAC recommends that the Secretary-General consider whether internal audit findings, taken as a whole, indicate a need for more rigorous management oversight of field activities. | Internal audit |
| Rec. 3 (2014) | IMAC recommends that ITU take advantage of the CWF-FHR review of access to ITU documents to seek ways of making internal audit reports more easily available to Member States and other stakeholders. | Internal audit |
| Rec. 4 (2014) | IMAC recommends that ITU appoint an ethics officer as a matter of key priority. | Internal controls |
| Rec. 5 (2014) | IMAC recommends that the Secretary-General obtain evidenced assurance on the effectiveness of the internal control framework by requiring senior managers to certify that they have discharged their responsibilities for internal control for the year. | Internal controls |
| Rec. 6 (2014) | IMAC recommends that the development of systematic risk management arrangements be further pursued and applied to the operational level as a continuous part of the business process, with a risk register, risk owners and regular top management review. | Risk management |
| Rec. 7 (2014) | IMAC recommends that ITU should consider whether it is appropriate to develop a comprehensive business case, with costed options, to support its decision on such a major long-term expenditure. | Financial management |
| Rec. 8 (2014) | IMAC commends the progress made on strategic planning and recommends that development be continued in this direction. | Strategic planning |
| Rec. 9 (2014) | IMAC recommends that, in pursuit of the principles of transparency and good governance, all documents relating to the Committee should be publicly available. Having regard to CWG-FHR’s review of document accessibility, IMAC urges that the Committee’s approach be applied by ITU to document accessibility at all possible levels. | IMAC webpage |

Annex b

Questionnaire for the overall assessment of IMAC’s work by Council members and the ITU Secretary-General

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| Statement | Is this being achieved? | Quality with which this is being done (where possible, give a mark; otherwise make a comment) |
| Yes | No | Don’t know | Bad Excellent |
| 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 |
| ***General status of IMAC*** |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| IMAC’s terms of reference were approved by the ITU Council and Plenipotentiary Conference |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| IMAC adheres to its terms of reference as provided for in [1] |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| IMAC conducts an annual review of its terms of reference and subsequently recommends appropriate amendments to the ITU Council |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| Other |
|  |  |
| ***Does IMAC do the following?***  |  |
| Review the adequacy of ITU’s internal audit processes |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| Review the adequacy of ITU’s external audit processes |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| Review the audit plans and suggest changes to them |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| Review the effectiveness of the audit function |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| Review coordination between the activities of the internal and external auditors |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| Review the compliance of internal practices with ITU’s regulations and rules |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| Review ITU’s risk framework |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |

|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Assess the effectiveness of ITU’s internal control structure |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| Periodically review IMAC’s charter |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| Exchange its information and views with ITU’s internal and external auditors |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| Assess the performance of the committee and of members of the committee |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| Evaluate the quality of ITU’s financial records and financial statements  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| Exchange information and views with ITU’s Secretary-General and Council  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| Promote coordination between ITU’s internal and external auditors |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| Oversee investigations |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| Review ITU’s organizational structure |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| Monitor implementation of IMAC recommendations  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| Other |
|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| ***Composition of IMAC***  |
| Is five the optimal number of members for IMAC? |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| Does IMAC have the requisite professional skills? |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| Does IMAC have adequate geographical and gender representation? |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| Are IMAC’s members independent? |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| Have all the members of IMAC been approved by the ITU Council? |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| Do IMAC members receive ongoing and timely training? |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| Other |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
|  |  |
| ***IMAC sessions*** |
| Are IMAC sessions held regularly? |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| Are IMAC sessions of adequate duration? |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| Do IMAC sessions receive 100% attendance from its members? |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| Do IMAC sessions allow enough time for discussion and questions? |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| Where necessary, does IMAC invite non-members of the committee to its sessions? |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| Are meetings organized with the external and internal auditors? |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| Does the IMAC Chairman maintain constant contact with the ITU Secretary-General and Council? |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| Is information regarding IMAC sessions published on the ITU website? Evaluate the quality of this information |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| Other |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| ***IMAC reporting*** |
| Are reports produced after every IMAC session? |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| Is a paragraph on the implementation of IMAC recommendations included in IMAC’s annual report to the Council[2, 3]? |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| Does the IMAC Chairman present reports directly to the ITU Secretary-General and Council? |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| Are IMAC reports published on the ITU website? |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| Other |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| ***Recommendations for enhancing the work of IMAC*** |
| Is the work of IMAC periodically assessed? |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| Could IMAC improve its performance? |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| Other  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |

Annex c

MOD RCC/73A1/23

RESOLUTION 162 (REV. BUSAN, 2014)

Independent management advisory committee

The Plenipotentiary Conference of the International Telecommunication Union (Busan, 2014),

considering

the recommendation of the Representatives of Internal Audit Services of the United Nations organizations and multilateral financial institutions on the establishment of effective and independent audit committees,

recalling

the report of the Joint Inspection Unit entitled *Oversight Lacunae in the United Nations System (JIU/REP/2006/2)* and in particular recommendation 1 thereof on the establishment of an independent external oversight board,

reaffirming

its commitment to efficient, accountable and transparent management of the Union,

recognizing

*a)* that the establishment of an independent management advisory committee contributes to effective oversight and governance of an organization;

*b)* that an independent management advisory committee is a governance tool and does not duplicate the financial audit functions of either the internal or the external auditor;

*c)* that the established practice among international institutions is that an independent management advisory committee serves in an expert advisory capacity and assists the governing body and the head of the agency in fulfilling their oversight and governance responsibilities,

noting

the reports by the Chairman of the Council Group on the Financial Regulations and other related financial management issues (Group FINREGS) (Documents C10/28 and WG-RG-18/2),

noting further

Annex D to the report by the Chairman of the Standing Committee on administration and management of the Council (Document C10/75), which contains draft terms of reference for the establishment of an independent management advisory committee with the title "Independent audit advisory committee of experts (IAACE)",

resolves

to approve the terms of reference for the ITU Independent Management Advisory Committee (IMAC) contained in the annex to this resolution,

instructs the Council

to ensure the activities of IMAC for a further four years, with IMAC to report to the 2018 plenipotentiary conference.

ANNEX TO RESOLUTION 162 (REV. BUSAN, 2014)

Terms of reference for the ITU
Independent Management Advisory Committee

### Purpose

1 The Independent Management Advisory Committee (IMAC), as a subsidiary body of the ITU Council, serves in an expert advisory capacity and assists the Council and the Secretary-General in effectively fulfilling their governance responsibilities, including ensuring the functioning of ITU's internal control systems, risk management and governance processes, including human resources management. IMAC must assist in enhancing transparency, strengthening accountability and governance functions of the Council and the Secretary-General.

2 IMAC will provide advice to the Council and ITU management, on:

a) ways of improving the quality and the level of financial reporting, governance, risk management, monitoring and internal controls in ITU, including the evaluation and ITU value estimation functions;

b) assistance in developing the actions taken by ITU management on recommendations concerning the responsibilities and processes referred to in § 1 above;

c) ensuring the independence, effectiveness and objectivity of the internal and external audit functions; and

d) how to strengthen the communication among all stakeholders, the external and internal auditors, the Council and ITU management.

### Responsibilities

3 The responsibilities of IMAC are:

a) Internal audit function: to advise the Council on the staffing, resources and performance of the internal audit function and the appropriateness of the independence of the internal audit function.

b) Risk management and internal controls: to advise the Council on the effectiveness of ITU's internal control systems, including ITU's risk management and governance practices.

c) Financial statements: to advise the Council on issues arising from the audited financial statements of ITU, and letters to management and other reports produced by the external auditor.

d) Accounting: to advise the Council on the appropriateness of accounting policies and disclosure practices and assess changes and risks in those policies.

e) External audit: to advise the Council on the scope and approach of the external auditor's work. IMAC may provide advice on the appointment of the external auditor, including the costs and scope of the services to be provided.

f) Evaluation: to review and advise the Council on the staffing, resources and performance of ITU's evaluation function.

### Authority

4 IMAC shall have all the necessary authority to fulfil its responsibilities, including free and unrestricted access to any information, records or staff (including the internal audit function) and the external auditor, or any business contracted by ITU.

5 The Head of the ITU internal audit function and the external auditor will have unrestricted and confidential access to IMAC, and vice versa.

6 These terms of reference (ToR) are to be reviewed periodically, as appropriate, by IMAC, and any proposed amendment submitted to the Council for approval.

7 IMAC, as an advisory body, has no management powers, executive authority or operational responsibilities.

### Composition

8 IMAC shall comprise five independent expert members serving in their personal capacity.

9 Professional competence and integrity shall be of paramount consideration in the selection of members.

10 No more than one member of IMAC shall be a national of the same ITU Member State.

11 To the greatest extent possible:

a) no more than one member of IMAC shall be from the same geographical region; and

b) membership of IMAC shall be balanced, with individuals from developed and developing countries, in terms of public- and private-sector experience, and in terms of gender.

12 At least one member shall be selected on the basis of his/her qualifications and experience as a senior oversight professional or senior financial manager, preferably in the United Nations system or in another international organization, to the greatest extent possible.

13 To undertake their role effectively, members of IMAC should collectively possess knowledge, skills and senior-level experience in the following areas:

a) finance and audit;

b) organization governance and accountability structure, including risk management;

c) law;

d) senior-level management;

e) the organization, structure and functioning of the United Nations and/or other intergovernmental organizations; and

f) a general understanding of the telecommunication/ICT industry.

14 Members should ideally have or acquire rapidly a good understanding of ITU's objectives, governance structure, the relevant regulations and rules, and its organizational culture and control environment.

### Independence

15 Since the role of IMAC is to provide objective advice, members shall remain independent of the ITU secretariat, the Council and the Plenipotentiary Conference, and shall be free of any real or perceived conflict of interest.

16 Members of IMAC shall:

a) not hold a position or engage in any activity that could impair their independence from ITU or from companies that maintain a business relationship with ITU;

b) not currently be, or have been within the three years prior to appointment on IMAC, employed or engaged in any capacity by ITU, a Sector Member, an Associate or a Member State delegation, or have an immediate family member (as defined by the ITU Staff Regulations and Staff Rules) working for or having a contractual relationship with ITU, a Sector Member, an Associate or a Member State delegation;

c) be independent of the United Nations Panel of External Auditors and the Joint Inspection Unit; and

d) not be eligible for any employment with ITU for at least three years immediately following the last day of their tenure on IMAC.

17 IMAC members shall serve in their personal capacity and shall not seek or accept instructions in regard to their performance on IMAC from any government or other authority internal or external to ITU.

18 Members of IMAC shall sign an annual declaration and statement of private, financial and other interests (Appendix A to these ToR). The Chairman of IMAC shall provide the completed and signed declaration and statement to the Chairman of the Council promptly after a member commences his/her term on IMAC, and thereafter on an annual basis.

### Selection, appointment and term

19 The process for selection of members of IMAC is set out in Appendix B to these ToR. The process shall involve a selection panel comprising representatives of the Council on the basis of equitable geographical distribution.

20 The selection panel shall relay its recommendations to the Council. Members of IMAC shall be appointed by the Council.

21 Members of IMAC are appointed to serve for a term of four years, renewable for a second and final term of four years, which need not be consecutive. To ensure continuity of membership, the initial appointment of two of its five members shall be for one term of four years only, decided by the drawing of lots at IMAC's first meeting. The Chairman shall be selected by IMAC members from amongst their number and shall serve in this capacity for a term of two years.

22 A member of IMAC may resign his/her membership by notice in writing to the Chairman of the Council. A special appointment for the remainder of that member's term shall be made by the Chairman of the Council in accordance with the provisions set out in Appendix B to these ToR to cater for such a vacancy.

23 An appointment to IMAC may only be revoked by the Council, under conditions to be established by the Council.

### Meetings

24 IMAC shall meet at least twice in an ITU financial year. The exact number of meetings per year will depend on the agreed workload for IMAC and the most appropriate timing for consideration of specific matters.

25 Subject to these ToR, the IMAC will establish its own rules of procedure to assist its members in executing their responsibilities. The IMAC rules of procedure shall be communicated to the Council for its information.

26 The quorum for the committee is three members. As members serve in a personal capacity, alternates are not allowed.

27 The Secretary-General, the External Auditor, the Chief of the Administration and Finance Department, the Head of the internal audit function and the Ethics Officer, or their representatives, shall attend meetings when invited by IMAC. Other ITU officials with functions relevant to the items on the agenda may likewise be invited.

28 If necessary, IMAC has the ability to obtain independent counsel or have recourse to other outside experts in order to advise the committee.

29 All confidential documents and information submitted to or obtained by IMAC remain confidential.

### Reporting

30 The Chairman of IMAC will submit its findings to the Chairman of the Council and the Secretary-General after each meeting, and will present an annual report, both in writing and in person, for consideration by the Council at its annual session.

31 The Chairman of IMAC may inform the Chairman of the Council, in between Council sessions, of a serious governance issue.

### Administrative arrangements

32 Members of IMAC will provide services pro bono. In accordance with the procedures applying to appointed staff of ITU, members of IMAC:

a) shall receive a daily subsistence allowance; and

b) those not resident in the Canton of Geneva or neighbouring France shall be entitled to reimbursement of travel expenses, to attend IMAC sessions,

33 The ITU secretariat will provide secretariat support to IMAC.

APPENDIX A

International Telecommunication Union (ITU)
Independent Management Advisory Committee (IMAC)
Declaration & Statement of Private, Financial
and Other Interests Form

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| --- |
| **1. Details** |
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| --- | --- |
|  |  |
| Name |  |

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| **2. Private, financial or other Interests (tick appropriate box)** |
| [ ]  I have **no personal, financial or other interests** that could or could be seen to influence the decisions or actions I am taking or the advice I am giving in the course of my duties as a member of IMAC.[ ]  I **have personal, financial or other interests** that could or could be seen to influence the decisions or actions I am taking or the advice I am giving in the course of my duties as a member of IMAC.[ ]  I have **no personal, financial or other interests** that could or could be seen to influence the decisions or actions I am taking or the advice I am giving in the course of my duties as a member of IMAC**. However, I have decided to provide my current personal, financial or other interests.** |
| **3. Private, financial or other Interests of family members\* (tick appropriate box)** |
| [ ]  To my knowledge, **no member of my immediate family has personal, financial or other interests** that could or could be seen to influence the decisions or actions I am taking or the advice I am giving in the course of my duties as a member of IMAC. [ ]  **A member of my immediate family has personal, financial or other interests** that could or could be seen to influence the decisions or actions I am taking or the advice I am giving in the course of my duties as a member of IMAC. [ ]  To my knowledge, **no member of my immediate family has personal, financial or other interests** that could or could be seen to influence the decisions or actions I am taking or the advice I am giving in the course of my duties as a member of IMAC. However, I have **decided to provide my immediate family's current financial or other interests.** (\* Note: for the purposes of this declaration, 'family member' has the same meaning as DEFINED IN the ITU STAFF REGULATIONS and staff Rules). |
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| Signature |  | Name |  | Date |

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Declaration & Statement of Private,
Financial and Other Interests Form
(Appendix A, page 2/4)

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| **4. Disclosure of relevant private, financial or other interests** |
| If you ticked the first box at Item 2 and the first box at Item 3, skip this step and go to Item 5.Please list your and/or your immediate family member's personal, financial or other interests that **could, or could be seen to, influence** the decisions or actions you take or the advice you provide in the course of your official duties. Please also state the reasons why you think these interests could or could be seen to influence the decisions or actions you take or the advice you provide in the course of your official duties.The types of interests you may need to disclose include real-estate investments, shareholdings, trusts or nominee companies, company directorships or partnerships, relationships with lobbyists, other significant sources of income, significant liabilities, gifts, private business, employment, voluntary, social or personal relationships.\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ |
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| Signature |  | Name |  | Date |

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Declaration & Statement of Private,
Financial and Other Interests Form
(Appendix A, page 3/4)

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| **5. Declaration** |
| **I declare that:** • As a member of the Independent Management Advisory Committee (IMAC), I am aware of my responsibilities under its Terms of Reference: – to disclose, and take reasonable steps to avoid, any conflict of interest (real or apparent) in connection with my membership of IMAC; and – not to make improper use of (a) inside information or (b) my duties, status, power or authority, in order to gain, or seek to gain, a benefit or advantage for myself or for any other person.**I declare that:** • I have read the IMAC Terms of Reference and understood the requirement for me to disclose any private, financial or other interests that could or could be seen to influence the decisions I am taking or the advice I am giving in the course of my duties as a member of IMAC.  • I undertake to immediately inform the Chairman of IMAC (who shall inform the Chairman of the Council) of any changes to my personal circumstances or work responsibilities that could affect the contents of this disclosure and to provide an amended disclosure/s using this pro forma. • I undertake to disclose any private, financial or other interests of my immediate family that I am aware of, should circumstances arise in which I consider that they could or could be seen to influence the decisions I am taking or the advice I am giving in the course of my official duties.  • I understand that this would require the consent of the family member to the collection by ITU of personal information and a declaration that he/she is aware of the purpose for which the personal information has been collected, the legislative requirements authorizing the collection and the third parties to whom the personal information may be disclosed, and consents. |
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|  |  |  |  |  |
| Signature |  | Name |  | Date |

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Declaration & Statement of Private,
Financial and Other Interests Form
(Appendix A, page 4/4)

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| **6. Declaration of consent by immediate family member to disclosure of their personal, financial and other interests** |
| If you ticked the first box at Item 3, skip this step and go to Step 7.This declaration is to be completed by the immediate family member/s of the IMAC member where the IMAC member considers that the personal, financial and other interests of the family member/s could or could be seen to influence the decisions or actions he/she is taking or the advice he/she is giving in the course of his/her membership of IMAC.Family member name \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_Relationship to IMAC member \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_IMAC member name \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ |
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| Signature |  | Name of immediate family member |  | Date |

 |
| **7. Submit his form** |
| **Once completed and signed, this form should be sent to the Chairman of the ITU Council.**  |

APPENDIX B

Proposed process for selection of members of the
Independent Management Advisory Committee (IMAC)

A vacancy on IMAC (including for its initial membership) shall be filled in accordance with the process set out below:

a) The Secretary-General shall:

i) invite ITU Member States to nominate individuals who are deemed to possess exceptional qualifications and experience;

ii) place in international, reputable magazines and/or newspapers, and on the Internet, a call for expressions of interest from suitably qualified and experienced individuals,

 to serve on IMAC.

 A Member State nominating an individual under subparagraph a)i) shall provide the same information that the Secretary-General requests of applicants responding to the expression of interest under subparagraph a)ii), and within the same time-frame.

b) A selection panel shall be formed comprising six Council members representing the Americas, Europe, CIS, Africa, Asia and Australasia and the Arab States.

c) The selection panel shall, taking into account the IMAC terms of reference (ToR) and the confidential nature of the selection process, review and consider the applications received and create a shortlist of candidates whom it may wish to interview. The selection panel will be assisted, as required, by the ITU secretariat.

d) The selection panel shall then propose to the Council a list of the best-qualified candidates, equal to the number of vacancies on IMAC. In the event a vote is taken by the selection panel on whether (a) candidate(s) shall be included in the list of candidates to be proposed to the Council and ends in an equal number of votes, the Chairman of the Council shall have the deciding vote.

 The information to be provided by the selection panel to the Council shall consist of each candidate's name, gender, nationality, qualifications and professional experience. The selection panel shall provide a report to the Council on the candidates recommended for appointment to IMAC.

e) The Council shall consider the recommendation to appoint the individuals to IMAC.

f) The selection panel will also create and retain a pool of suitably qualified candidates for consideration by the Council if required in order to fill a vacancy arising for any reason (e.g. resignation, incapacity) during a term of IMAC.

g) In order to observe the principle of rotation, and upon expiration of the trial period, the positions shall be re-advertised every four years, if considered appropriate by the Council, using the selection process set out in this appendix. The pool of suitably qualified candidates referred to in subparagraph f) shall also be refreshed using that same selection process.

PART 15

**Telecommunication/information and communication technology
 accessibility for persons with disabilities, including age-related
 disabilities (Resolution 175)**

# I Introduction

The question of access to ICTs, and of learning, for persons with disabilities has recently been the subject of increasing attention on the part of the administrations of ITU Member States, as can be seen, *inter alia*, from the discussions at the recent WTDC-14, and from a number of regional initiatives on the matter.

It is therefore proposed that PP Resolution 175, on ICT accessibility for persons with disabilities, be updated to take account of the newly-adopted ITRs, of the need to develop appropriate applications for devices, and of the need for the active creation in Member States of learning opportunities for people with disabilities with a view to their subsequent employment in the ICT sector.

# II Proposal

It is proposed to amend Resolution 175 accordingly.

MOD RCC/73A1/24

RESOLUTION 175 (REV. BUSAN, 2014)

Telecommunication/information and communication technology
 accessibility for persons with disabilities, including age-related
 disabilities

The Plenipotentiary Conference of the International Telecommunication Union (Busan, 2014),

recognizing

*a)* Resolution 70 (Rev. Dubai, 2012) of the World Telecommunication Standardization Assembly, on telecommunication/information and communication technology (ICT) accessibility for persons with disabilities, and the current studies, initiatives and events on this issue undertaken by the ITU Telecommunication Standardization Sector (ITU-T) and its study groups, in particular Study Group 2 and Study Group 16, in collaboration with the Joint Coordination Activity on Accessibility and Human Factors (JCA-AHF);

*b)* Resolution 58 (Rev. Dubai, 2014) of the World Telecommunication Development Conference, on access to ICT for persons with disabilities, including age-related disabilities, based on the ITU Telecommunication Development Sector (ITU-D) special initiative work carried out through studies conducted within the framework of Question 20/1 of ITU-D Study Group 1, commencing in September 2006 and proposing the wording of that resolution and, likewise, the ITU-D initiative on development of an e-accessibility toolkit for persons with disabilities, in collaboration and partnership with the Global Initiative for Inclusive ICTs (G3ict);

*c)* Article 12 of the International Telecommunication Regulations (ITR), adopted by the World Conference on International Telecommunications (Dubai, 2012), which states that Member States should promote access for persons with disabilities to international telecommunication services, taking into account the relevant ITU‑T Recommendations;

*d)* ongoing work in, the ITU Radiocommunication Sector (ITU-R), ITU-T and ITU-D to bridge the digital disability divide;

*e)* the outcomes of the World Summit on the Information Society (WSIS), calling for special attention to be given to persons with disabilities, including age-related disabilities;

*f)* the United Nations Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities, which entered into force on 3 May 2008 and which requires for States Parties to take appropriate measures for access for persons with disabilities on an equal basis with others to ICT, emergency services and Internet services;

*g)* various regional and national efforts to develop or revise guidelines and standards for telecommunication/ICT accessibility, compatibility and usability by persons with disabilities,

considering

*a)* that the World Health Organization estimates that more than one billion of the world's inhabitants are living with some form of disability, and that this number may increase due to factors such as the greater availability of medical treatment and longer life expectancy, and also because people may acquire disability through aging, accidents, wars and circumstances of poverty;

*b)* that over the past 60 years, the approach to disability adopted by United Nations agencies, and by many Member States (through a changed emphasis in their laws, regulations, policies and programmes), has moved from a health and welfare perspective to an approach based on human‑rights, which recognizes that persons with disabilities are people first, and that societal actions have, in certain instances, placed barriers upon them as opposed to their disabilities, and which includes the goal of full participation in society by persons with disabilities;

*c)* that the United Nations Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities, which entered into force on 3 May 2008, requires States Parties, under Article 9 on accessibility, to take appropriate measures including:

i) 9(2)(g) "*to promote access for persons with disabilities to new information and communications technologies and systems, including the Internet*";

ii) 9(2)(h) "*to promote the design, development, production and distribution of accessible information and communications technologies and systems at an early stage, so that these technologies and systems become accessible at minimum cost*";

*d)* the importance of cooperation between governments, the private sector and relevant organizations to provide possibilities for low-cost access,

recalling

*a)* § 18 of the Tunis Commitment, made at the second phase of WSIS (Tunis, 2005): "*We shall strive unremittingly, therefore, to promote universal, ubiquitous, equitable and affordable access to ICTs, including universal design and assistive technologies, for all people, especially those with disabilities, everywhere, to ensure that the benefits are more evenly distributed between and within societies, and to bridge the digital divide in order to create digital opportunities for all and benefit from the potential offered by ICTs for development*";

*b)* the Phuket Declaration on Tsunami Preparedness for Persons with Disabilities (Phuket, 2007), which emphasizes the need for inclusive emergency warning and disaster management systems using telecommunication/ICT facilities based on open, non-proprietary, global standards;

*c)* Resolution GSC-14/27 agreed at the 14th Global Standards Collaboration meeting (Geneva 2009), which encouraged greater collaboration among global regional and national standardization bodies as a basis for establishing and/or strengthening activities and initiatives concerning the use of telecommunication/ICT accessibility for persons with disabilities,

resolves

to take account of persons with disabilities in the work of ITU, and to collaborate in adopting a comprehensive action plan in order to extend access to telecommunications/ICTs to persons with disabilities, in collaboration with external entities and bodies concerned with this subject,

instructs the Secretary-General, in consultation with the Directors of the Bureaux

1 to coordinate accessibility-related activities between ITU-R, ITU-T and ITU-D, in collaboration with other relevant organizations and entities where appropriate, in order to avoid duplication and to ensure that the needs of persons with disabilities are taken into account;

2 to consider the financial implications for ITU of providing accessible information through ICTs and access to ITU facilities, services and programmes for participants with visual, hearing or physical disabilities, including captioning at meetings, access to print information and the ITU website, access to ITU buildings and meeting facilities, and the adoption of accessible ITU recruitment practices and employment;

3 to encourage and promote representation by persons with disabilities so as to ensure that their experiences, views and opinions are taken into account when developing and progressing ITU work;

4 to consider expanding the fellowship programme in order to enable delegates with disabilities, within existing budgetary constraints, to participate in the work of ITU;

5 to identify, document and disseminate examples of best practices for accessibility in the field of telecommunications/ICTs among ITU Member States and Sector Members;

6 to work collaboratively on accessibility-related activities with ITU-R, ITU-T and ITU-D, in particular concerning awareness and mainstreaming of telecommunication/ICT accessibility standards and in developing programmes that enable developing countries to introduce services that allow persons with disabilities to utilize telecommunication/ICT services effectively;

7 to work collaboratively and cooperatively with other relevant organizations and entities, in particular in the interest of ensuring that ongoing work in the field of accessibility is taken into account;

8 to work collaboratively and cooperatively with disability organizations in all regions to ensure that the needs of persons with disabilities are taken into account;

9 to review the current ITU services and facilities, including meetings and events, in order to make them available to persons with disabilities, and to endeavour to make the necessary changes to improve accessibility, where appropriate and economically feasible, pursuant to United Nations General Assembly Resolution 61/106;

10 to consider accessibility standards and guidelines whenever undertaking renovations or changing the use of space at a facility, so that accessibility features are maintained and additional barriers are not inadvertently implemented;

11 to prepare a report for submission to each annual session of the Council on implementation of this resolution having regard to the budget allocated for this purpose;

12 to submit a report to the next plenipotentiary conference on measures taken to implement this resolution,

invites Member States and Sector Members

1 to consider developing, within their national legal frameworks, guidelines or other mechanisms to enhance the accessibility, compatibility and usability of telecommunication/ICT services, products and terminals, and to offer support to regional initiatives related to this issue;

2 to consider introducing appropriate telecommunication/ICT services and to encourage the development of applications for telecommunication devices and products in order to enable persons with disabilities to utilize these services on an equal basis with others, and to promote international cooperation in this regard;

3 to promote the development of learning opportunities in order to train persons with disabilities to use ICTs for their social and economic development, including through train-the-trainer courses and distance learning;

4 to participate actively in accessibility-related activities/studies in ITU-R, ITU-T and ITU‑D, including participating actively in the work of the study groups concerned, and to encourage and promote representation by persons with disabilities so as to ensure that their experiences, views and opinions are taken into account;

5 to take into account *considering* *c)* ii) and *d)* above, and the benefits of cost affordability for equipment and services for persons with disabilities, including universal design;

6 to encourage the international community to make voluntary contributions to the special trust fund set up by ITU to support activities relating to the implementation of this resolution.

PART 16

**Revision of Resolution 177 (Guadalajara, 2010)**

Conformance and interoperability

# I Introduction

Resolution 177 (Guadalajara, 2010) of the Plenipotentiary Conference sets out objectives for the development of an ITU conformity and interoperability programme. It also provides for assistance to Member States in addressing their concerns with respect to counterfeit equipment.

The fight against counterfeit equipment, to which attention is already drawn in Resolution 177 (Guadalajara, 2010), is becoming a matter of great concern for the ICT market, as evidenced by the vigorous work being done in ITU-T and ITU-D.

Best practice shows that a number of countries have already implemented national databases for use in the identification of ICT products (for example, mobile phones), with the aim of preventing the distribution of counterfeit products at the national level. Countries that are taking that approach point to it as an effective tool in the fight against the counterfeit trade.

For the most part, the aforementioned databases are not synchronized and are thus less effective when it comes to concerted action; furthermore, setting them up is a costly process that all too often lies beyond the reach of developing countries.

This being the case, an effective means of combating counterfeit ICT products at the level of the ITU Member States would be the creation within ITU of a single register of ICT product codes. Manufacturers belonging to ITU (including Sector Members) would be invited to register their ICT products, and access to the full database would be made available to the administrations of ITU Member States for combating counterfeit ICT products at the national level.

ITU’s conformance and interoperability programme is thus relevant to the issue of the counterfeit trade and can serve as one of the effective tools being used to combat that phenomenon.

# II Proposal

Taking account of the foregoing, as well as of ITU’s report on the implementation of the conformance and interoperability programme (PP-14 Document 63), it is proposed that a number of amendments relating to that programme be made to Resolution 177 (Guadalajara, 2010).

MOD RCC/73A1/25

RESOLUTION 177 (rev. busan, 2014)

Conformance and interoperability

The Plenipotentiary Conference of the International Telecommunication Union (Busan, 2014),

recognizing

*a)* that the World Telecommunication Standardization Assembly adopted Resolution 76 (Rev. Dubai, 2014);

*b)* that the World Telecommunication Development Conference (WTDC) adopted Resolution 47 (Rev. Dubai, 2014);

*c)* that, at its 2009 session, the ITU Council endorsed the following recommendations to the Director of the Telecommunication Standardization Bureau (TSB) regarding implementation of a conformity and interoperability assessment programme (Document C09/28):

1) implementation of the proposed conformity and interoperability assessment programme;

2) implementation of the proposed interoperability events programme;

3) implementation of the proposed human resources capacity building;

4) implementation of the proposed recommendations to assist in the establishment of test facilities in developing countries;

5) that the Director of TSB should report to the Council at its annual session on the implementation of recommendations 1) and 2) above, and jointly with the Director of the Telecommunication Development Bureau (BDT) on recommendations 3) and 4) above, and on a proposed business plan for the long-term implementation of the programmes;

*d)* the progress reports by the Director of TSB made to the Council at its 2011, 2012, 2013 and 2014 sessions and to the 2014 plenipotentiary conference;

*e)* that WTDC adopted Resolution 79 (Dubai, 2014), on the role of telecommunications/information and communication technologies (ICTs) in combating and dealing with counterfeit[[11]](#footnote-13)1 telecommunication/information and communication devices;

*f)* that counterfeit ICT products have become a growing problem in the world (cf. Resolution 79 (Dubai, 2014));

*g)* that Study Group 11 of the ITU Telecommunication Development Sector (ITU-T) is engaged in a study of approaches for combating counterfeit ICT products;

*h)* that the use within public networks of certified ICT products with a unique identifying code assigned by the manufacturer is an effective means of combating the counterfeit trade,

resolves

1 to endorse the objectives of Resolution 76 (Rev. Dubai, 2012), Resolution 47 (Rev. Dubai, 2014) and Resolution 79 (Dubai, 2014), and the recommendations of the Director of TSB endorsed by the Council at its 2009-2014 sessions;

2 that the conformity and interoperability assessment programme be implemented in parallel without any delay, including the informative pilot conformity database and its development into a fully functioning database, in consultation with each region, taking into consideration a) the outcome and effect that the pilot conformity database may have on Member States, Sector Members and stakeholders (e.g. other standards development organizations (SDOs)), b) the impact the database will have on bridging the standardization gap as relevant to each region, c) the potential liability issues for ITU and for Member States, Sector Members and stakeholders; and taking into account the results of the regional ITU conformity and interoperability consultations;

3 to assist developing countries in establishing regional or subregional conformity and interoperability centres suitable to perform interoperability testing as appropriate;

4 to contribute to combating counterfeit products by creating within ITU a single register of ICT product codes, and by inviting manufacturers belonging to ITU (including Sector Members) to register their ICT products, and the administrations of ITU Member States to avail themselves of the full database for combating counterfeit ICT products at the national level,

instructs the Director of the Telecommunication Standardization Bureau,

1 to continue the consultation with all stakeholders in all regions, taking into consideration the needs of each region, on implementation of the recommendations endorsed by the Council, including, in collaboration with the Director of BDT, the recommendations on human capacity building and assistance in the establishment of test facilities in developing countries;

2 to continue to carry out the necessary studies with a view to introducing the use of ITU Mark for a possible future ITU Mark programme, as a voluntary programme permitting manufacturers and service providers to make a visible declaration that their equipment conforms to applicable recommendations of the ITU Telecommunication Standardization Sector (ITU-T) and increasing the probability of interoperability, and to consider its possible application as an indication of a degree of interoperability capability in the future;

3 to enhance and improve standards-setting processes in order to improve interoperability through conformity;

4 to continue to engage in studies for the development of standards for use in the creation of mechanisms for combating counterfeit ICT products;

5 to provide the Council with progress reports, including the results of studies, relating to the implementation of this resolution,

instructs the Director of the Telecommunication Development Bureau, in close collaboration with the Director of the Telecommunication Standardization Bureau and the Director of the Radiocommunication Bureau

1 to advance the implementation of Resolution 47 (Rev. Dubai, 2014) and Resolution 79 (Dubai, 2014) and to report to the Council;

2to assist Member States in addressing their concerns with respect to counterfeit equipment;

3 to continue working in cooperation with the World Trade Organization and World Intellectual Property Organization on coordinating activities to combat counterfeit products and implement an approach aimed at curbing the trafficking of counterfeit products at the international level,

invites the Council

1 to consider the reports of the Director of TSB and to take all necessary measures so as to contribute to the achievement of the objectives of this resolution;

2 to report to the next plenipotentiary conference on the progress made with respect to this resolution,

invites Sector Members

1 to populate the pilot conformity database with details of products tested to applicable ITU-T recommendations in accredited test laboratories (first, second or third party), or by accredited certification bodies, or according to procedures adopted by a standards development organization or forum qualified in accordance with Recommendation ITU-T A.5;

2 to register telecommunication/ICT equipment in the single register of ICT product codes;

3 to participate in ITU-facilitated interoperability events;

4 to take an active role in building developing countries' capacity in conformity and interoperability testing, including on-the-job training, particularly as part of any supply contract for telecommunication equipment, services and systems to these countries,

invites organizations qualified in accordance with Recommendation ITU-T A.5

1 to participate in the ITU pilot conformity database activities and, sharing links on a mutual basis, to enrich its extent by referring to more recommendations and standards within a product, and to allow for more exposure of vendors' products and widen the portfolio of selection to the users;

2 to participate in developing countries' capacity-building programmes and activities facilitated by TSB and BDT, in particular offering opportunities for developing-country experts – particularly from operators – to gain on-the-job experience,

invites Member States

1 to contribute to the implementation of this resolution;

2 to encourage national and regional testing entities to assist ITU in implementing this resolution;

3 to adopt conformity-assessment regimes and procedures based on applicable ITU-T recommendations, leading to better quality of service/quality of experience, and to higher probability of interoperability of equipment, services and systems;

4 to use the single register of ICT equipment codes in the fight against counterfeit equipment at the global and national levels,

further invites Member States and Sector Members

to bear in mind the legal and regulatory frameworks of other countries concerning equipment that negatively affects the quality of their telecommunication infrastructure, in particular recognizing the concerns of developing countries with respect to counterfeit equipment,

further invites Member States

to contribute to the next radiocommunication assembly in 2016 in order for it to consider and take appropriate actions as deemed necessary.

PART 17

**Revision of Resolution 179 (Guadalajara, 2010)**

ITU's role in child online protection

# I Introduction

In the WSIS outcome documents, ITU is moderator for Action Line C5 “Building confidence and security in the use of telecommunications/ICTs”, which calls for specific measures to limit the potential threats and vulnerabilities associated with the information society.

The need to provide children with special protection and take account of their best interests is enshrined in a number of binding international agreements. For example, the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child includes provisions that guarantee children special care and protection. Article 17 thereof encourages the development of appropriate guidelines for the protection of the child from information and material injurious to his or her well-being. Article 10of theOptional Protocol to the Convention on the Rights of the Child, on the sale of children, child prostitution and child pornography, requires States totake all necessary steps to strengthen international cooperation by multilateral, regional and bilateral arrangements for the prevention, detection, investigation, prosecution and punishment of those responsible for such crimes. In view of the weakness of legislation and the differing approaches taken by different countries to the issue of filtering harmful content, there is a growing need for international cooperation mechanisms under the aegis of ITU in the area of child online protection.

The recent adoption of Resolutions 45 and 67 (Rev. Dubai, 2014) by WTDC-14 serves to emphasize the significance of the problem of child online protection.

# II Proposals

2.1 In order to ensure effective child online protection, it is essential to develop common approaches to establishing databases of Internet resources that are recommended or prohibited for children.

2.2 Continue the work of the Council Working Group on Child online Protection (WG-COP).

2.3 Hold regional forums and seminars on issues of child protection in the Internet.

2.4 Amend Resolution 179 accordingly.

MOD RCC/73A1/26

RESOLUTION 179 (Rev. BUSAN, 2014)

ITU's role in child online protection

The Plenipotentiary Conference of the International Telecommunication Union (Busan, 2014),

considering

*a)* that the Internet is playing an increasingly important and valuable role in the provision of education for children, enriching the curriculum and helping to bridge language and other barriers between the children of all nations;

*b)* that the Internet has become a major platform for many different kinds of educational, cultural and entertainment activities for children;

*c)* that children are among the most active participants online;

*d)* that parents, guardians and educators are not always aware of children's activities on the Internet;

*e)* that there is an urgent need and global demand for the protection of children from exploitation and exposure to danger and deception when using the Internet or information and communication technology (ICT), given that these innocent children represent the future of humankind;

*f)* the growing development, diversification and spread of access to ICTs worldwide, in particular the Internet, and the increasingly widespread use thereof by children, at times with no control or guidance;

*g)* that, in order to address the issue of cybersecurity for children, it is critical that proactive measures be taken in order to protect children online at an international level;

*h)* the requirement for a multistakeholder approach in order to promote social responsibility in the ICT sector so as to effectively make use of the variety of tools available to build confidence in the use of ICT networks and services, reducing the risks identified for children;

*i)* that child online protection is a subject of valid international global interest and shall be listed in the priorities of the world community's global agenda;

*j)* that child online protection involves an international collaborative network, in conjunction with other United Nations agencies and partners, for action to promote the online protection of children worldwide by providing guidance on safe online behaviour;

*k)* that several governments and regional organizations are actively promoting and working towards creating a safe Internet environment for children,

recalling

*a)* the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child (1989), the Declaration of the Rights of the Child adopted by the United Nations General Assembly on 20 November 1989 and recognized in the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, and all relevant United Nations resolutions regarding child protection and child online protection;

*b)* that, within the framework of the Convention on the Rights of the Child, the States Parties undertook to protect the child from all forms of exploitation and sexual abuse, and for that purpose, in particular, to take all appropriate national, bilateral and multilateral measures to prevent a) the inducement or coercion of a child to engage in any unlawful sexual activity; b) the exploitative use of children in prostitution or other unlawful sexual practices; c) the exploitative use of children in pornographic performances and materials (Article 34);

*c)* Article 17 of the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child, which was approved by the United Nations General Assembly in 1989, on access to information by children and protection from information and material injurious to their well-being;

*d)* that, pursuant to Article 10 of the Optional Protocol to the Convention on the Rights of the Child (New York, 2000) on the sale of children, child prostitution and child pornography, the States Parties shall take all necessary steps to strengthen international cooperation by multilateral, regional and bilateral arrangements for the prevention, detection, investigation, prosecution and punishment of those responsible for acts involving the sale of children, child prostitution, child pornography and child sex tourism; and shall also promote international cooperation and coordination between their authorities, national and international non-governmental organizations and international organizations;

*e)* that the World Summit on the Information Society (WSIS), in the Tunis Commitment of 2005 (§ 24), recognized the role of ICTs in the protection of children and in enhancing the development of children, urging Member States to strengthen action to protect children from abuse and defend their rights in the context of ICTs, emphasizing that the best interests of the child are a primary consideration; accordingly, the Tunis Agenda for the Information Society (§ 90 q)) set forth the commitment to using ICTs as a tool to achieve the internationally agreed development goals and objectives, including the Millennium Development Goals, by, *inter alia*, incorporating regulatory, self-regulatory and other effective policies and frameworks to protect children and young people from abuse and exploitation through ICTs into national plans of action and e‑strategies;

*f)* the memorandum of understanding between the secretariat of the Union and Child Helpline International (CHI);

*g)* that Resolution 1305 adopted by the 2009 session of the Council, on the role of the Dedicated Group in identifying international Internet-related public policy issues, has in its Annex 1 identified protecting children and young people from abuse and exploitation as one of the public policy issues that fall within the scope of ITU's work on international Internet-related public policy matters;

*h)* Resolution 1306 adopted by the 2009 session of the Council, under which a child online protection working group was set up, with the participation of Member States and Sector Members, and its mandate was defined by the ITU members in close collaboration with the secretariat of the Union;

*i)* Resolution 67 (Rev. Dubai, 2014) of the World Telecommunication Development Conference (WTDC), on the role of the ITU Telecommunication Development Sector in child online protection;

*j)* Resolution 45 (Rev. Dubai, 2014) of WTDC, on mechanisms for enhancing cooperation on cybersecurity, including countering and combating spam, which encompasses child online protection;

*k)* the BYND 2015 Global Youth Summit Declaration (San José, Costa Rica, 2013),

recognizing

*a)* that ITU is the moderator/facilitator for Action Line C5 (Building confidence and security in the use of ICTs);

*b)* that the Child Online Protection (COP) initiative was presented to the High-Level Segment of the Council in 2008, where it was endorsed by the Heads of State, ministers and heads of international organizations globally;

*c)* that the year-long Call for Action launched by the ITU Secretary-General on 18 May 2009 to consider 2009-2010 to be child online safety year;

*d)* that ITU, in collaboration with its COP members, has created four sets of guidelines for the protection of children in cyberspace, namely: Guidelines for children, Guidelines for parents, guardians and educators, Guidelines for industry and Guidelines for policy-makers;

*e)* that, although it would have been desirable to have a global telephone number for child online protection, due to current technical difficulties, a single globally harmonized number is not possible, as provided in Recommendation ITU-T E.164/Suppl.5 (11/2009),

taking into account

*a)* the discussions and observations made at the meetings of the Council Working Group on Child Online Protection (WG-COP);

*b)* that the 2009 World Telecommunication Information Society Day (WTISD-09) was celebrated under the theme "Protecting children in cyberspace", and aimed to raise global awareness for ensuring that children can safely access the Internet;

*c)* the need to continue working at global and regional levels to find available technological solutions to protect children online, as well as innovative applications to make it easier for children to communicate with child online protection helplines;

*d)* the activities undertaken by ITU in the area of child online protection at the regional and international levels;

*e)* the activities undertaken by many countries in recent years;

*f)* the call of the world's youth (BYND 2015 Global Youth Summit, San José, Costa Rica, 2013) for Member States to develop policies and appropriate and effective frameworks that protect the use of private data and intellectual property, and deter online criminal activity,

resolves

1 that ITU should continue the COP initiative as a platform to raise awareness on child online safety issues;

2 that ITU should continue providing assistance and support to the Member States, especially developing countries, in developing and implementing roadmaps for the COP initiative;

3 that there should be coordination among all relevant ITU working organs on the issues related to child protection online,

requests the Council

to maintain WG-COP, in order to facilitate the membership's input and guidance on ITU's role in child online protection,

instructs the Secretary-General

1 to deploy greater efforts to ascertain the activities carried out by other United Nations organizations in this domain, and to coordinate with them appropriately, with the objective of establishing partnerships to maximize and synergize efforts in this important area;

2 to coordinate ITU efforts with other United Nations agencies and entities concerned with this issue, in order to develop a global repository with useful information, statistics and tools concerning child online protection;

3 to coordinate ITU activities also with other similar initiatives being undertaken at the national, regional and international levels, in order to eliminate possible overlaps;

4 to bring this resolution to the attention of other COP members and of the United Nations Secretary-General, with the aim of increasing the engagement of the United Nations system in child online protection;

5 to submit a progress report on the results of implementation of this resolution to the next plenipotentiary conference;

6 to encourage Member States and Sector Members to submit best practices on issues of child online protection,

instructs the Director of the Telecommunication Development Bureau

1 to carry out the activities for ensuring the implementation of Resolution 67 (Rev. Dubai, 2014), and to report annually, as appropriate, to the Council;

2 to collaborate closely with WG-COP, with the aim of avoiding duplication of efforts and maximizing outputs relevant to protecting children online;

3 to coordinate with other similar initiatives being undertaken at national, regional and international level, with the objective of establishing partnerships to maximize efforts in this important area;

4 to assist developing countries in drawing the greatest possible attention to the problem of child online protection;

5 to disseminate these guiding principles, in cooperation with the ITU regional offices and relevant entities,

instructs the Director of the Telecommunication Standardization Bureau

1 to encourage Study Group 2 of the ITU Telecommunication Standardization Sector (ITU-T) to continue exploring the option of introducing a single globally harmonized telephone number in the future, and Member States, for the time being, to allocate a telephone number on a regional basis for child online protection;

2 to promote work on standardization in the area of child online protection,

invites Member States

1 to join and participate actively in WG-COP and related ITU activities, for the purposes of a comprehensive discussion and exchange of information on legal, technical, organizational and procedural issues, as well as capacity building and international cooperation for protecting children online;

2 to develop information, to educate and to create consumer-awareness campaigns aimed at parents, teachers, industry and the population in general, in order to make children aware of the risks that may be encountered online;

3 to exchange information on the current state of legislative, organizational and technical measures in the area of child online protection;

4 to consider establishing national child online protection systems;

5 to exchange information on practical methods of identifying and introducing the most effective technologies,

invites Sector Members

to participate actively in WG-COP and in other ITU activities, with the aim of informing the ITU membership about technological solutions for protecting children online.

PART 18

**Revision of Resolution 180 (Guadalajara, 2010)**

Facilitating the transition from IPv4 to IPv6

# I Introduction

The issue of allocating IP addresses and facilitating the deployment of IPv6 remains one of the most topical areas of work for ITU’s Member States and Sector Members, and one of enhanced focus in the work of the Telecommunication Development and Telecommunication Standardization Sectors.

Over the past period, the issue was comprehensively discussed at the 2012 World Telecommunication Standardization Assembly, 2013 World Telecommunication/ICT Policy Forum (WTPF) and 2014 World Telecommunication Development Conference, which looked at various aspects and difficulties encountered, in particular by developing countries, in using IPv4 addresses and introducing IPv6 addresses. A number of decisions and recommendations were adopted in that regard.

# II Discussion

As was noted in the WSIS+10 Statement on the implementation of WSIS outcomes, more than half of the world’s population is still not connected to the Internet, and therefore the information and communication infrastructure will still need to be addressed.

The issue of transition from IPv4 to IPv6 addresses and introduction of the necessary equipment at all network levels remains one of the most important issues currently facing developing countries. That transition is essential in view of factors including the de facto shortage of IPv4 addresses and the fundamental importance of available IP addresses to telecommunication network development. However, the transition to IPv6 worldwide is rather slow.

On the other hand, in view of the de facto exhaustion of IPv4 addresses, many developing countries are already encountering difficulties in switching from IPv4 to IPv6 owing to the limited technical expertise and financial resources at their disposal for full transition to IPv6.

In addition, the current system for allocating IP addresses does not preclude the risk of losing IP address resources, which may lead to undesirable consequences in technical and economic terms, as well as in terms of sustainability and quality of service to the user, and therefore also in terms of the longer-term development of telecommunication/ICT networks. By way of a response to such potential problems, WTDC-14 in Resolution 63 (Rev. Dubai, 2014) invited Member States to coordinate and inventory, if necessary, the IP addresses in use within their respective territories for the purposes of evaluation, development and monitoring.

ITU must continue its efforts to assist Member States in developing their information and communication infrastructures, including in the area of allocating IP addresses and transition to IPv6.

# III Proposal

To make appropriate amendments to Resolution 180 (Guadalajara, 2010), on facilitating the transition from IPv4 to IPv6.

MOD RCC/73A1/27

RESOLUTION 180 (Rev. BUSAN, 2014)

Facilitating the transition from IPv4 to IPv6

The Plenipotentiary Conference of the International Telecommunication Union (Busan, 2014),

considering

*a)* Resolution 64 (Rev. Dubai, 2012) of the World Telecommunication Standardization Assembly, which encourages the deployment of IPv6;

*b)* Resolution 63 (Rev. Dubai, 2014) of the World Telecommunication Development Conference, on IP address allocation and encouraging the deployment of IPv6 in the developing countries;

*c)* Opinion 3 (Geneva, 2013) of the fifth World Telecommunication/Information and Communication Technology (ICT) Policy Forum (WTPF), on supporting capacity building for the deployment of IPv6;

*d)* Opinion 4 (Geneva, 2013) of WTPF, in support of IPv6 adoption and transition from IPv4;

*e)* the results of the ITU Council Working Group on the subject of the transition from IPv4 to IPv6,

considering further

*a)* that the Internet has become a leading factor in social and economic development and a vital tool for communication and technological innovation, creating a major paradigm shift in the telecommunication and information technology sector;

*b)* that in view of the *de facto* exhaustion of IPv4 addresses and in order to ensure the stability, growth and development of the Internet, specific actions must be defined for the transition to IPv6;

*c)* that many developing countries want the Telecommunication Standardization Sector (ITU‑T) to become a registry of IP addresses in order to give the developing countries the option of obtaining IP addresses direct from ITU, while other countries prefer to use the current system;

*d)* that many developing countries[[12]](#footnote-14)1 are experiencing challenges in the IPv4 to IPv6 transition process owing to insufficient technical skills in this area and a shortage of the financial resources needed for full transition to IPv6,

noting

*a)* the progress towards adoption of IPv6 that has been made over the last few years;

*b)* the ongoing collaboration and coordination between ITU and relevant organizations on IPv6 capacity building in order to respond to the needs of Member States and Sector Members,

recognizing

*a)* that IPv6 deployment gives an opportunity for the development of information and communication technologies (ICT), and that its early adoption is the best way to avoid the scarcity of addresses and the consequences that exhaustion of IPv4 addresses may entail, including high costs;

*b)* that governments play an important part as catalyst for the transition to IPv6;

*c)* that the fastest possible transition from IPv4 and migration to and deployment of IPv6 addresses available to all countries is necessary in order to respond to global appeals and needs in this regard;

*d)* that there are a number of developing countries that still need expert technical assistance, as well as a margin of time, for making this transition, despite the partial progress made in some other countries,

resolves

1 to explore ways and means for greater collaboration and coordination between ITU and relevant organizations[[13]](#footnote-16)2 involved in the development of IP-based networks and the future internet, through cooperation agreements, as appropriate, in order to increase the role of ITU in Internet governance so as to ensure maximum benefits to the global community;

2 to step up the exchange of experiences and information with all stakeholders regarding the adoption of IPv6, with the aim of creating opportunities for collaborative efforts, and to ensure that feedback exists to enrich efforts to support the transition to IPv6;

3 to collaborate closely with the relevant international recognized partners, including the Internet community (e.g. regional Internet registries (RIRs), the Internet Engineering Task Force (IETF) and others), in order to encourage the deployment of IPv6 by raising awareness and through capacity building;

4 to assist those Member States which, in accordance with the existing allocation policies, require support in the management and allocation of IPv6 resources, pursuant to relevant resolutions;

5 that the relevant ITU-T study groups undertake detailed studies of IP address allocation, both for IPv4 addresses and for IPv6 addresses;

6 to conduct a feasibility study, in consultation with the relevant bodies, and take the necessary action to enable ITU to become an Internet registry, in order to assist those Member States which require support in the management and allocation of IP addresses, especially developing countries,

instructs the Director of the Telecommunication Development Bureau and the Director of the Telecommunication Standardization Bureau, in collaboration and within the respective terms of reference of each

1 to undertake and facilitate activities under *resolves* above in order that the relevant study groups of ITU‑T and of the Telecommunication Development Sector can carry out the work;

2 while assisting those Member States that require support in the management and allocation of IPv6 resources, to monitor the current allocation mechanisms (including the equitable distribution of addresses) for ITU Member States or Sector Members, and to identify and point out any underlying flaws in the current allocation mechanisms;

3 to communicate proposals for changes to existing policies, if identified under the studies above, in accordance with the existing policy development process;

4 to develop statistics on progress made with the transition, based on information that may be compiled regionally through collaboration with regional organizations;

5 to elaborate guidelines that will facilitate the work of transition to IPv6,

invites Member States

1 through the knowledge gained in *resolves* 2, to promote specific initiatives at the national level, which foster interaction with governmental, private and academic entities and civil society for the purposes of the information exchange necessary for the deployment of IPv6 in their respective countries;

2 to encourage, with support from the ITU regional offices, the regional Internet registries (RIRs) and other regional organizations in coordinating research, dissemination and training actions with participation by governments, industry and the academic community in order to facilitate the deployment of IPv6 within the countries and in the region, and to coordinate initiatives between regions to promote its deployment worldwide;

3 to develop national policies to promote the technological update of systems in order to ensure that the public services provided utilizing the IP protocol and the communications infrastructure and relevant applications of the Member States are compatible with IPv6;

4 to coordinate and inventory, if necessary, the IP addresses in use within their respective territories for the purposes of evaluation, development and monitoring;

5 to encourage manufacturers to supply to the market customer premises equipment (CPE) that supports IPv6 in addition to IPv4;

6 to continue to stimulate and encourage the transition to IPv6, and particularly to encourage national initiatives and increase interaction with government and private‑sector entities, academia and civil-society organizations in order to exchange experiences, expertise and knowledge;

7 to encourage the training of technicians and administrators from governmental agencies and private-sector organizations in IPv6 network with theory and labs that show how to implement IPv6 on their networks;

8 to foster cooperation among ISPs, service providers and other relevant stakeholders to shorten the transition period,

instructs the Secretary-General

1 to submit an annual report to the ITU Council and to the 2018 plenipotentiary conference on progress made in implementing this resolution;

2 to disseminate, as appropriate, to the ITU membership and the Internet community, information on the progress achieved on the implementation of this resolution.

PART 19

**Revision of Resolution 182 (Guadalajara, 2010)**

The role of telecommunications/information and communication
 technologies in regard to climate change and
the protection of the environment

# I Introduction

The impact of human activities on the environment – and on climate change in particular – are issues of growing concern confronting life on Earth. Improving environmental performance, tackling global warming, enhancing resource management, building capacities, achieving sustainable development, and raising awareness are among the main global challenges that must be urgently addressed. Information and communication technologies (ICTs) have proven to have a key role in assisting society in mitigating and adapting to climate change.

Governments and business associations across the world have introduced a range of programmes and initiatives on ICT and the environment to address environmental challenges, particularly global warming, energy production, energy use and resource depletion. But it is still premature to claim that all countries, especially in the developing part of the world, have reached a clear level of understanding of these threats as well as how to exploit the positive potential of ICTs.

The use of ICTs in water supply opens up new possibilities for water resource management, treatment of industrial waste water and use of water resources. The introduction of ICTs allows real-time management of water resources, monitoring and measurement using sensor technologies, wireless data transmission, improvement of meteorological services, and so on. ICTs can help to encourage more sustainable water consumption patterns for individuals, as well as being used for relatively inexpensive monitoring of water losses.

ICTs have a key role to play in the urban context because they can be applied to solve a variety of cross-sectoral urban problems, and most of the time they do not require large, expensive capital infrastructure. Uses of ICTs include geospatial tools for spatial planning, simulation and visualization modelling, mobility tools, solutions for optimizing energy and water management, disaster monitoring and response, and social inclusion.

In addition, we consider it essential to strengthen the activities of ITU to elaborate and introduce energy-saving standards.

# II Proposal

In light of the above, the following amendments to Resolution 182 are proposed.

MOD RCC/73A1/28

RESOLUTION 182 (Rev. Busan, 2014)

The role of telecommunications/information and communication
 technologies in regard to climate change and
the protection of the environment

The Plenipotentiary Conference of the International Telecommunication Union (Busan, 2014)

recognizing

*a)* Resolution 136 (Rev. Guadalajara, 2010) of the Plenipotentiary Conference, on the use of telecommunications and information and communication technologies (ICTs) for monitoring and management in emergency and disaster situations for early warning, prevention, mitigation and relief;

*b)* relevant resolutions of world radiocommunication conferences and radiocommunication assemblies, such as Resolution 646 (Rev. WRC-12), on public protection and disaster relief; Resolution 644 (Rev. WRC-12), on radiocommunication resources for early warning, disaster mitigation and relief operation; Resolution 673 (Rev. WRC-12), on the importance of Earth observation radiocommunication applications; Resolution 750 (Rev. WRC‑12), on compatibility between the Earth exploration-satellite service (passive) and relevant active services; and Resolution ITU-R 60 (RA-12), on reduction of energy consumption for environmental protection and mitigating climate change by use of ICT/radiocommunication technologies and systems;

*c)* Resolution 73 (Rev. Dubai, 2012) of the World Telecommunication Standardization Assembly (WTSA), on ICTs and climate change, which resulted from the successful work of the focus group created in 2007 by the Telecommunication Standardization Advisory Group to identify the role of the ITU Telecommunication Standardization Sector (ITU‑T) in regard to this issue, and was adopted in response to the needs identified in the relevant contributions to WTSA-08 by the ITU regional groups;

*d)* Resolution 79 (Dubai, 2012) of WTSA, on the role of telecommunications/ICTs in handling and controlling e-waste from telecommunication and information technology equipment and methods of treating it;

*e)* Resolution 66 (Rev. Dubai, 2014) of the World Telecommunication Development Conference (WTDC), on ICT and climate change;

*f)* Resolution 54 (Rev. Dubai, 2014) of WTDC, on ICT applications;

*g)* Resolution 1307 adopted by the ITU Council at its 2009 session, on ICTs and climate change;

*h)* the content and principles of Resolution 35 (Kyoto, 1994) of the Plenipotentiary Conference, on telecommunication support for the protection of the environment,

recognizing further

*a)* § 20 of Action Line C7 (E-environment) of the Geneva Plan of Action of the World Summit on the Information Society (Geneva, 2003), calling for the establishment of monitoring systems using ICTs to forecast and monitor the impact of natural and man-made disasters, particularly in developing countries;

*b)* Opinion 3 of the 2009 World Telecommunication Policy Forum, on ICT and the environment, which recognizes that telecommunications/ICTs can make a substantial contribution to mitigating and adapting to the effects of climate change, and calls for formulating future inventions and efforts for effectively addressing climate change;

*c)* the outcomes of the United Nations Climate Change conferences held in Warsaw (Poland) in December 2013 and in Montevideo (Uruguay) in March 2014;

*d)* the Nairobi Declaration on the Environmentally Sound Management of Electrical and Electronic Waste, and the adoption by the Ninth Conference of the Parties to the Basel Convention of the Work Plan for the Environmentally Sound Management of E-waste, focusing on the needs of developing countries and countries with economies in transition,

considering

*a)* that the United Nations Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) estimated that global greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions had risen by more than 70 per cent since 1970, having an effect on global warming, changing weather patterns, rising sea-levels, desertification, shrinking ice cover and other long-term effects;

*b)* that climate change is acknowledged as a potential threat to all countries and needs a global response;

*c)* that the consequences of developing countries' lack of preparation in the past have recently come to light, and that these countries will be exposed to incalculable dangers and considerable losses, including the consequences of rising sea levels for many coastal areas in developing countries;

*d)* Programme 5 of the Hyderabad Action Plan for least developed countries, countries in special need (small island developing states, low-lying coastal countries and landlocked developing countries), emergency telecommunications and climate-change adaptation,

considering further

*a)* that telecommunications/ICTs play an important role in protecting the environment and in promoting innovative and sustainable development activities at low risk to the environment;

*b)* that the role of telecommunications/ICTs in tackling the challenge of climate change encompasses a wide array of activities, including, but not limited to: the promotion of telecommunications/ICTs as alternatives to other technologies that consume more energy; the development of energy-efficient devices, applications and networks; the development of energy-efficient working methods; the implementation of satellite and ground-based remote-sensing platforms for environmental observation, including weather monitoring; and the use of telecommunications/ICTs to warn the public of dangerous weather events and provide communication support for governmental and non-governmental organization aid providers to contribute to the reduction of GHG emissions;

*c)* that remote-sensing applications on board satellites and other radiocommunication systems are important tools for climate monitoring, environmental observation, disaster prediction, detection of illegal deforestation, and detection and mitigation of the negative effects of climate change;

*d)* the role ITU can play in promoting the use of ICTs to mitigate climate-change effects, and that the strategic plan for the Union for 2012-2015 gives clear priority to combating climate change using ICTs;

*e)* that the use of telecommunications/ICTs provides increased opportunities to reduce GHG emissions generated by non-ICT sectors through the utilization of telecommunications/ICTs in ways that replace services or increase efficiency of the sectors concerned;

*f)* that one of the major challenges for sustainable development is to ensure that all people have reliable access to water supply and sanitation services;

*g)* that ICTs are a strategic enabler in the process of developing innovative solutions to address the problems of water scarcities,

aware

*a)* that telecommunications/ICTs also contribute to emissions of GHG, a contribution which, although relatively small, will grow with the increased use of telecommunications/ICTs, and that the necessary priority must be given to reducing GHG emissions;

*b)* that developing countries face additional challenges in addressing the effects of climate change, including natural disasters related to climate change,

bearing in mind

*a)* that countries have ratified the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) Protocol and have committed to reduce their emission levels of GHG to targets that are mainly set below their 1990 levels;

*b)* that the countries that have submitted plans in response to the Copenhagen Accord have specified which steps they are prepared to take to reduce their carbon intensity in the current decade,

noting

*a)* that the current ITU-T Study Group 5 is the lead ITU-T study group responsible for studies on methodologies for evaluating telecommunication/ICT effects on climate change, for publishing guidelines for using ICTs in an eco-friendly way, for studying energy efficiency of the power feeding systems, for studying ICT environmental aspects of electromagnetic phenomena, and for studying, assessing and analysing safe, low-cost social recirculation of telecommunication/ICT equipment through recycling and reuse;

*b)* Question 24/2 of Study Group 2 of the ITU Telecommunication Development Sector (ITU-D), on ICTs and climate change, adopted by WTDC-14;

*c)* that ITU recommendations that focus on energy-saving systems and applications can play a critical role in the development of telecommunications/ICTs, by promoting the adoption of recommendations for enhancing the use of telecommunications/ICTs to serve as an effective cross-cutting tool to measure and reduce GHG emissions across economic and social activities;

*d)* the leadership of the ITU Radiocommunication Sector (ITU-R), in collaboration with the ITU membership, in continuing to support studies on the use of radiocommunication systems, including remote-sensing applications, to improve climate monitoring and disaster prediction, detection and relief;

*e)* that there are other international bodies that are working on climate-change issues, including UNFCCC, and that ITU should collaborate, within its mandate, with those entities;

*f)* that several countries have committed to a 20 per cent reduction in GHG emissions both in the ICT sector and in the use of ICTs in other sectors by 2020, against 1990 levels,

resolves

that ITU, within its mandate and in collaboration with other organizations, will demonstrate its leadership in applying telecommunications/ICTs to address the causes and effects of climate change through the following:

1 to continue and further develop ITU activities on telecommunications/ICTs and climate change in order to contribute to the wider global efforts being made by the United Nations;

2 to encourage energy efficiency of telecommunications/ICTs in order to reduce the GHG emissions produced by the telecommunication/ICT sector;

3 to encourage the telecommunication/ICT sector to contribute, through its own improvement of energy efficiency and in the use of ICTs in other parts of the economy, to an annual reduction in GHG emissions;

4 to report on the level that the ICT sector has contributed to the reduction of GHG emissions in other sectors through a reduction of their energy consumption by applying ICTs;

5 to promote awareness of the environmental issues associated with telecommunication/ICT equipment design and encourage energy efficiency and the use of materials in the design and fabrication of telecommunication/ICT equipment in order to promote a clean and safe environment;

6 to include, as a priority, assistance to developing countries so as to strengthen their human and institutional capacity in promoting the use of telecommunications/ICTs to tackle climate change, as well as in areas such as the need for communities to adapt to climate change, as a key element of disaster-management planning,

instructs the Secretary-General, in collaboration with the Directors of the three Bureaux

1 to formulate a plan of action for the role of ITU, taking into account all relevant ITU resolutions, in conjunction with other relevant expert bodies/groups, and taking into account the specific mandate of the three ITU Sectors;

2 to ensure that the relevant ITU study groups responsible for ICTs and climate change implement the plan of action referred to in *instructs the Secretary-General, in collaboration with the Directors of the three Bureaux*1 above;

3 to liaise with other relevant organizations in order to avoid duplication of work and optimize the use of resources;

4 to ensure that ITU organizes workshops, seminars and training courses in developing countries at the regional level for the purpose of raising awareness and identifying key issues in order to generate best-practice guidelines;

5 to continue taking appropriate measures within the Union to contribute to the reduction of the carbon footprint (e.g. paperless meetings, videoconferences, etc.);

6 to report annually to the Council and to the next plenipotentiary conference on the progress made by ITU on implementation of this resolution;

7 to submit this resolution and other appropriate outcomes of the ITU activities to meetings of relevant organizations, including UNFCCC, in order to reiterate the Union's commitment to sustainable global growth; and to ensure recognition of the importance of telecommunications/ICTs in mitigation and adaptation efforts as well as the critical role of ITU in this regard,

instructs the Directors of the three Bureaux, within the purview of their mandates

1 to continue the development of best practices and guidelines that will assist governments in the development of policy measures that could be used to support the ICT sector in reducing GHG emissions and promoting ICTs in other sectors;

2 to help in the promotion of research and development:

– to improve the energy efficiency of ICT equipment

– to measure climate change and the state of water resources

– to mitigate the effects of climate change

– to adapt to the effects of climate change,

instructs the Director of the Telecommunication Standardization Bureau

1 to assist the lead ITU-T study group on ICTs and climate change (currently ITU-T Study Group 5), in collaboration with other bodies, in the development of methodologies to assess:

i) the level of energy efficiency in the ICT sector and the application of telecommunications/ICTs in non-ICT sectors;

ii) the complete lifecycle GHG emissions of telecommunication/ICT equipment, in collaboration with other relevant bodies, in order to establish best practice in the sector against an agreed set of metrics to enable the benefits of reuse, refurbishment and recycling to be quantified in order to help achieve reductions in GHG emissions both in the telecommunication/ICT sector and in the use of ICTs in other sectors;

2 to promote the work of ITU and cooperate with United Nations entities and others in activities related to climate change, working towards a progressive and measurable reduction in energy consumption and GHG emissions throughout the lifecycle of telecommunication/ICT equipment;

3 to expedite work on elaborating ITU-T energy-saving standards;

4 to utilize the current Joint Coordination Activity on ICT and on climate change in specialist and specific discussions with other industries, drawing upon the expertise existing in other forums, industrial sectors (and their relevant forums) and academia in order to:

i) demonstrate ITU leadership in GHG reductions and energy savings in the ICT sector;

ii) ensure that ITU actively leads in the application of ICTs in other industries and contributes to the reduction in GHG emissions,

instructs the Director of the Telecommunication Development Bureau

1 to conduct work on implementing the outcomes of ITU's activities on the development of energy-saving standards;

2 to ensure that ITU organizes seminars and training courses in developing countries at the regional level for the purpose of raising awareness and identifying key issues in order to generate best-practice guidelines in the area of environmental protection,

invites Member States, Sector Members and Associates

1 to continue to work within the sphere of activities of ITU and the United Nations agencies, together with other bodies, and in all international, regional and national platforms on the topic of ICTs and climate change, and to exchange best practices with regard to law and regulation in the area of environmental protection and management of natural resources;

2 to continue or initiate public and private programmes that include ICTs and climate change, giving due consideration to relevant ITU initiatives;

3 to take necessary measures to reduce the effects of climate change by developing and using more energy-efficient ICT devices, applications and networks and through the application of ICTs in other fields;

4 to promote recycling and reuse of telecommunication/ICT equipment;

5 to conduct work on improving access to and expanding the use of alternative energy sources;

6 to continue to support the work of ITU-R in remote sensing (active and passive) for environmental observation and other radiocommunication systems that can be used to support climate and water resource monitoring, disaster prediction, alerting and response in accordance with relevant resolutions adopted by radiocommunication assemblies and world radiocommunication conferences;

7 to promote the introduction of ecological innovations.

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1. Or other treaty-level document containing the provisions in question. [↑](#footnote-ref-1)
2. 1 These include the least developed countries, small island developing states, landlocked developing countries and countries with economies in transition. [↑](#footnote-ref-2)
3. 2 These include the ITU-R Handbooks on national spectrum management, computer-aided techniques for spectrum management, and spectrum monitoring. [↑](#footnote-ref-3)
4. 3 The term "market price" is defined as the price determined by the Sales and Marketing Division, which is established to maximize revenues without being so high as to discourage sales. [↑](#footnote-ref-5)
5. 1 such as contractual policy, succession planning, human resources training and development, etc. [↑](#footnote-ref-6)
6. 2 No. 154 of the Constitution: "*2 The paramount consideration in the recruitment of staff and in the determination of the conditions of service shall be the necessity of securing for the Union the highest standards of efficiency, competence and integrity. Due regard shall be paid to the importance of recruiting the staff on as wide a geographical basis as possible.*" [↑](#footnote-ref-7)
7. 1 These include the least developed countries, small island developing states, landlocked developing countries and countries with economies in transition. [↑](#footnote-ref-8)
8. 2 including, but not limited, to the Internet Corporation for Assigned Names and Numbers (ICANN), the regional Internet registries (RIRs), the Internet Engineering Task Force (IETF), the Internet Society (ISOC) and the World Wide Web Consortium (W3C), on the basis of reciprocity. [↑](#footnote-ref-10)
9. 1 These include the least developed countries, small island developing states, landlocked developing countries and countries with economies in transition. [↑](#footnote-ref-11)
10. 2 See the work of the ITU-T Study Group 13 Focus Group on future networks. [↑](#footnote-ref-12)
11. 1 Counterfeit telecommunication/ICT devices include counterfeit and/or copied devices and equipment as well as accessories and components. [↑](#footnote-ref-13)
12. 1 These include the least developed countries, small island developing states, landlocked developing countries and countries with economies in transition. [↑](#footnote-ref-14)
13. 2 Including, but not limited to, the Internet Corporation for Assigned Names and Numbers (ICANN), the regional Internet registries (RIRs), the Internet Engineering Task Force (IETF), the Internet Society (ISOC) and the World Wide Web Consortium (W3C), on the basis of reciprocity. [↑](#footnote-ref-16)