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| **Council 2017 Geneva, 15-25 May 2017** |  |
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| **Agenda item PL 2.7** | **Document C17/78-E** |
| **28 April 2017** |
| **Original: Russian** |
| Note by the Secretary-General | |
| CONTRIBUTION FROM THE rUSSIAN FEDERATION | |
| proposals for improving the roll-out of the plenipotentiary conference | |

I have the honour to transmit to the Member States of the Council a contribution submitted by the **Russian Federation**.

Houlin ZHAO  
 Secretary-General

RUSSIAN FEDERATION

PROPOSALS FOR IMPROVING THE ROLL-OUT OF THE PLENIPOTENTIARY CONFERENCE

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| Summary  The present document presents proposals for improving the effectiveness of the roll‑out of the 2018 plenipotentiary conference (PP-18).  Action required  The Council is invited to **review the proposals and draw up recommendations to improve the roll-out of PP-18.**  \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_  References  *Documents*[*С16/4*](https://www.itu.int/md/meetingdoc.asp?lang=en&parent=S16-CL-C-0004)*,* [*CWG-FHR 7/10*](http://www.itu.int/md/S17-CLCWGFHRM7-C-0010/en) *, Circular Letter CL-16/48 from the ITU Secretary-General dated 27 September 2016* |

# 1 Introduction

In accordance with the instructions issued by the ITU Council at its 2015 session, the secretariat of the International Telecommunication Union developed and presented to the ITU Council for consideration at its 2016 session Document [С16/4](https://www.itu.int/md/meetingdoc.asp?lang=en&parent=S16-CL-C-0004) on possible improvements in the roll-out of the plenipotentiary conference (PP).

Document [С16/4](https://www.itu.int/md/meetingdoc.asp?lang=en&parent=S16-CL-C-0004) proposed that consideration be given to the following main courses of action:

1) strengthening regional and inter-regional preparations;

2) reaffirming the role of PP as the Union’s highest policy-making body;

3) improving electoral processes;

4) utilizing up-to-date and integrated conference management tools to increase efficiency and improve the paper-smart practices of the conference; and

5) eliminating underutilized interpretation services.

In Circular-Letter CL-16/48 of 27 September 2016, the ITU Secretary-General invited the ITU Member States, by 30 November 2016, to submit their contributions and views on measures to increase the effectiveness of the work of the PP.

The ITU secretariat consolidated the views submitted in Document [CWG-FHR 7/10](http://www.itu.int/md/S17-CLCWGFHRM7-C-0010/en), and submitted the document for consideration to the meeting of the Council Working Group on Financial and Human Resources (CWG-FHR), held in the period 30 January-1 February 2017.

# 2 Proposals

Having examined the material consolidated in Document [CWG-FHR 7/10](http://www.itu.int/md/S17-CLCWGFHRM7-C-0010/en), and considering the views expressed at the meeting of CWG-FHR, we consider it appropriate to propose the following practical actions in regard to each of the five main courses of action:

## 1) Strengthening regional and inter-regional preparations

a) Within the framework of implementation of Resolution 58 (Rev. Busan, 2014), in the final phase of preparing for the PP (12 months prior to the start of the conference), preparatory meetings of the regional telecommunication organizations should be held on preparation for the PP, as should inter-regional coordination meetings, with the aim of reaching possible convergence of regional views on major PP issues;

b) Three to four months prior to the start of the PP, inter-regional practical information seminars should be held to exchange information on the initial positions of the regional organizations;

c) Remote participation in the above-mentioned meetings/information seminars should be provided for;

d) The ITU secretariat as well as the regional and area offices should be more extensively involved in preparation for the PP and in providing the necessary support to administrations of a given region for preparation at regional level.

## 2) Reaffirming the role of PP as the Union’s highest policy-making body

a) On one hand, the role of PP as the Union’s highest policy-making body is established in the ITU Constitution and Convention. At the same time, at some recent PPs it proved practically impossible to comply with CS51 of Article 8 - Plenipotentiary Conference, which reads: “*c)* in the light of its decisions taken on the reports referred to in No. 50 above, establish the strategic plan for the Union and the basis for the budget of the Union, and determine related financial limits, until the next plenipotentiary conference, after considering all relevant aspects of the work of the Union in that period”. At various plenipotentiary conferences it was not possible to comply fully with these provisions of the Constitution, as the budget was established once the strategic plan of the Union had already been developed. In order to ensure that the requirements of No. 51 of the Constitution are effectively complied with, it is proposed that the following course of action should be adopted by the PP:

1) Approve the definitive upper limit of the amount of the contributory unit on the first day of PP-18 (as was done at PP-14);

2) Establish the third day of the PP as the day on which the ITU Member States announce their definitive choice of class of contribution;

3) Publish the classes of contribution definitively chosen by the ITU Member States before 2400 hours on the third day of PP-18, i.e. before the start of elections.

These proposed actions are in full compliance with No. 161E of the Constitution, while clarifying the dates slightly. At the same time, this approach makes it possible to ensure the adoption of mutually balanced and reasonable strategic and financial plans for the Union;

b) in order to clarify the strategic goals and objectives of the Union and also reflect the interests of the ITU Member States in the strategic plan of the Union, the leaders representing the ITU Member States should be invited to outline in their policy statements what they regard as the main goals and objectives for ITU;

c) in order to reduce expenses and ensure the efficient use of the time of the plenipotentiary conference, the possibility should be given for only one policy statement to be made by an ITU Member State, lasting not longer than five minutes, and the time limits established should be adhered to strictly.

## 3) Improving electoral procedures

a) If there is only one candidate for the post of Secretary-General or for the post of Deputy Secretary-General, the elections for the Directors of the Bureaux of the Sectors should commence upon completion of the election of the Deputy Secretary-General, if possible on the same day.

## 4) Utilizing up-to-date and integrated conference management tools to increase efficiency and improve the paper-smart practices of the conference

a) For the publication and distribution of documents, use should be made of the special Meeting Document Sync Applications software for personal computers, tablets and mobile smartphones;

b) Working documents of drafting groups should be published electronically on SharePoint;

c) In the preparation of draft documents in drafting groups, extensive use should be made of electronic editing tools with on-screen projection of the text being edited;

d) When holding meetings, increased use should be made of webcasting and captioning (including transcripts of the captioning) with publication and storage of the corresponding archives;

e) Efforts should be made to reduce the number of resolutions, combine resolutions dealing with identical topics and reduce the volume of texts, focusing on the operative section when drafting texts;

f) It should be recommended that deadlines be set for publishing the agendas of meetings of the Committees and other groups of the PP (no later than six hours prior to the start of the meeting, not counting nighttime hours), to allow delegations to prepare for the meetings.

## 5) Eliminating underutilized interpretation services

Issues relating to the elimination of underutilized interpretation services require further development. The secretariat’s proposal to eliminate interpretation at Committees 2 and 3 of the PP may lead to fewer representatives of non-English-speaking ITU Member States participating in the work, to the detriment of the quality and results of the work of these important committees. It might also create difficulties for those delegates using the webcast of the meetings of these Committees.

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