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| Note by the Secretary-General | |
| CONTRIBUTION FROM THE RUSSIAN FEDERATION | |
| PROPOSALS FOR IMPROVING PLANs AND REPORTING ON CURRENT ITU ACTIVITIES | |

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

Houlin ZHAO  
 Secretary-General

Russian Federation

PROPOSALS FOR IMPROVING PLANs AND REPORTING ON CURRENT ITU ACTIVITIES

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| Summary  The document sets out proposals for improving ITU’s reporting on current activities of the Sectors and the General Secretariat.  Action required  The Council is requested to take these proposals into account when considering its plans and budget for the period 2018‑2019.  \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_  References  *Contributions from Member States for ITU Council sessions in 2015 and 2016; documents:* [*C16/35 (Rev.1)*](https://www.itu.int/md/S16-CL-C-0035/en)*;* [*С16/28*](https://www.itu.int/md/S16-CL-C-0028/en) *–* [*С16/31*](https://www.itu.int/md/S16-CL-C-0031/en)*;* [*С15/28*](https://www.itu.int/md/S15-CL-C-0028/en) *–* [*C15/31*](https://www.itu.int/md/S15-CL-C-0031/en)*;* [*С15/35*](https://www.itu.int/md/S15-CL-C-0035/en)*;* [*Resolution 71 (Rev. Busan, 2014)*](https://www.itu.int/pub/S-CONF-PLEN-2015)*;* [*Resolution 72 (Rev. Busan, 2014)*](https://www.itu.int/pub/S-CONF-PLEN-2015) |

# 1 Introduction

1.1 According to Article 7 of the ITU Constitution, the Plenipotentiary Conference (PP) is the supreme organ of the Union (§ 40 a)). The Plenipotentiary Conference, in addition to its other important tasks, determines ITU development policy for a period of four years, and this is expressed in PP resolutions and decisions. It considers the Council’s reports on the Union’s activities since the previous conference and establishes financial limits for funding of the Union’s activities (see Article 8 of the ITU Constitution). Thus, resolutions and decisions of plenipotentiary conferences lay down the objectives and activities that must be implemented to ensure that the expected outcomes of the Union’s activities, including those organized by its General Secretariat, Sector Bureaux and Council, are consistent with the decisions and instructions contained in the resolutions and decisions of plenipotentiary conferences. At the same time, it is also essential to ensure that the actual results of the activities set out in the current plans of the Sectors and General Secretariat are correlated not only with Resolutions 71 and 72 but also with all other PP resolutions and decisions, and above all with those that concern the interests of a majority of Member States.

1.2 Resolution 72 states:

“considering

that progress in achieving the goals and objectives of ITU can be measured and considerably enhanced through the process of linking strategic, financial and operational plans that set out the activities planned to be undertaken during the period of these plans,

recognizing

…

*b)* that the ongoing implementation of operational planning and its effective linkage to strategic and financial planning may make changes in the Financial Regulations necessary in order to elaborate the relationships between the corresponding documents and to harmonize presentation of the information they contain;

*c)* that effective and specific oversight mechanisms are required in order to enable the ITU Council adequately to audit progress in linking the strategic, operational and financial functions and to assess the implementation of operational plans;”

This suggests that it may be appropriate to include, in draft four-year current planning documents and the associated Sector reports on current activities, information on the progress and results achieved in terms of implementing the PP resolutions and decisions that relate to the specific goals and objectives listed.

The relationship between resources allocated in the ITU budget and Sector budgets to objectives arising from PP resolutions and decisions may provide the basis for a more effective allocation of resources than is currently the case, as implementing different PP resolutions requires different measures, as is shown by the results of the cursory analysis (below) of contributions from Member States for sessions of ITU Council after PP‑14.

# 2 Analysis

## 2.1 References by Member States to resolutions of plenipotentiary conferences

Member States drawing up their contributions refer to plenipotentiary conference resolutions but the range of resolutions actually cited is limited (see Table 1).

An analysis of data set out in Table 1 shows that references to plenipotentiary conference resolutions in Member States’ contributions to some extent reflect the way the resolutions in question and the issues raised therein touch upon the interests of the Member States. Of the 27 PP-14 resolutions and decisions cited in contributions for the Council sessions in 2015 and 2016, only four resolutions and one decision accounted for the most interest (7 and 6 citations, respectively). There were four citations for each of three resolutions during two Council sessions. On the other hand, Resolution 72 was cited only once.

This may be explained in a number of possible ways:

1) Member States refer to resolutions that are most important in terms of their own national interests.

2) Member States for some reason do not wish to evoke issues raised in other resolutions.

3) Member States do not attribute any importance to the issues dealt with in the resolutions that are not cited.

At any event information on progress in implementing PP resolutions and decisions needs to be included in reports on the operational activities of the Sectors and General Secretariat.

Table 1

PP-14 resolutions cited in Member States’ contributions to Council sessions in 2015 and 2016

|  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Council 2015 | | | Council 2016 | | |
| No. | PP Resolution | Number of references | No. | PP Resolution | Number of references |
| 1 | 70 (Rev. Busan, 2014) | - | 1 | 70 (Rev. Busan, 2014) | 1 |
| **2** | **71 (Rev. Busan, 2014)** | **4** | **2** | **71 (Rev. Busan, 2014)** | **2** |
| 3 | 72 (Rev. Busan, 2014) | 1 | 3 | 72 (Rev. Busan, 2014) | - |
| 4 | 73 (Minneapolis, 1998) | 1 | 4 | 73 (Minneapolis, 1998) | - |
| 5 | 77 (Rev. Busan, 2014) | 1 | 5 | 77 (Rev. Busan, 2014) | 1 |
| 6 | 101(Rev. Busan, 2014) | - | 6 | 101(Rev. Busan, 2014) | 1 |
| **7** | **102 (Rev. Busan, 2014)** | **4** | **7** | **102 (Rev. Busan, 2014)** | **3** |
| **8** | **140 (Rev. Busan, 2014)** | **3** | **8** | **140 (Rev. Busan, 2014)** | **3** |
| 9 | 146 (Rev. Busan, 2014), | - | 9 | 146 (Rev. Busan, 2014), | 2 |
| 10 | 151 (Rev. Busan, 2014) | 1 | 10 | 151 (Rev. Busan, 2014) | - |
| 11 | 154 (Rev. Busan, 2014) | 2 | 11 | 154 (Rev. Busan, 2014) | 2 |
| 12 | 158 (Rev. Busan, 2014 г.) | - | 12 | 158 (Rev. Busan, 2014) | 2 |
| 13 | 162 (Rev. Busan, 2014) | 1 | 13 | 162 (Rev. Busan, 2014) | - |
| 14 | 165 (Rev. Busan, 2014) | - | 14 | 165 (Rev. Busan, 2014) | 1 |
| 15 | 169 (Rev. Busan, 2014) | 1 | 15 | 169 (Rev. Busan, 2014) | - |
| 16 | 171(Rev. Busan, 2014) | 1 | 16 | 171(Rev. Busan, 2014) | - |
| 17 | 172 (Rev. Busan, 2014) | 2 | 17 | 172 (Rev. Busan, 2014) | - |
| 18 | 175 (Rev. Busan, 2014) | - | 18 | 175 (Rev. Busan, 2014) | 1 |
| 19 | 187 (Busan, 2014) | - | 19 | 187 (Busan, 2014) | 1 |
| 20 | 188 (Busan, 2014) | - | 20 | 188 (Busan, 2014) | 1 |
| 21 | 192 (Rev. Busan, 2014) | 2 | 21 | 192 (Rev. Busan, 2014) | 2 |
| 22 | 194 (Rev. Busan, 2014) | 1 | 22 | 194 (Rev. Busan, 2014) | - |
| 23 | 198 (Rev. Busan, 2014) | 2 | 23 | 198 (Rev. Busan, 2014) | - |
| 24 | 200 (Rev. Busan, 2014) | 3 | 24 | 200 (Rev. Busan, 2014) | 1 |
| **25** | **Decision 5 (Rev. Busan, 2014)** | **More than 4** | **25** | **Decision 5 (Rev. Busan, 2014)** | **1** |
| 26 | Decision 11 (Rev. Busan, 2014) | 1 | 26 | Decision 11 (Rev. Busan, 2014) | - |
|  | Number of PP-14 resolutions cited in Member States’ contributions to the Council | **18** |  | Number of PP-14 resolutions cited in Member States’ contributions to the Council | **16** |

## 2.2 Relationship between activity report indicators and resolutions and decisions of plenipotentiary conferences

Activity reports submitted to sessions of the Council in 2015 and 2016 were reviewed.

In Document C15/35 (*Report on the implementation of the Strategic Plan and activities of the Union*) there is naturally a general reference to Resolution 71 with no linkage between the objectives and activities and the resolutions and decisions of plenipotentiary conferences. In the general part of the report, which gives data for each Sector and the objectives attained by the Sectors, setting out what has been accomplished in relation to individual objectives, plenipotentiary conference resolutions are mentioned in passing but not as a starting point for the activities report. For example: Resolutions 130, 174, 179 and 184 (page 12 in the English version); Resolutions 101, 102, 133, and 180 (page 13); Resolutions 185 and 119 (page 17), and so on. In the account given of work accomplished on most of the objectives, there is no reference to plenipotentiary conference resolutions.

In Document C15/31, Report by the Secretary-General “Draft four-year operational plan for the General Secretariat for 2018-2021”, the text box on the cover page contains a reference to Resolution 72, but in the main part of the document itself in the description of activities there is no reference to a single resolution to which a given activity refers. On the other hand, objectives relating to the plenipotentiary conference (“Decisions, resolutions, recommendations and other results of the Plenipotentiary Conference”) (page 8) account for 6 per cent of resource allocations for the objective, which is only 0.8 per cent of the total. Documents C15/28 – C15/30 follow the same principle.

The Council’s “Report on the Implementation of the Strategic Plan and Activities of the Union (Document C16/35) contains data on what is expected in the world of infocommunication but the indicators in question are the result of work done by many thousands of enterprises and organizations, not just ITU. It should be noted that Section 5 of the report, concerning objectives and results achieved in the Telecommunication Development Sector, contains some references to a number of plenipotentiary conference resolutions that are linked to Sector objectives. Thus there is in ITU some understanding that plans and reports should indicate, in relation to goals and objectives, which resolutions correspond to particular goals and objectives and the extent to which instructions to ITU from the plenipotentiary conference have been carried out.

# 3 Conclusions

1 Our analysis shows that, given the great importance of ensuring rational use of the Union’s limited resources and the necessity of having, from one period to the next, the possibility of carrying out a comparative analysis of the results of its activities on the basis of resolutions implemented (since objectives and activities may change from one period to another, while resolutions are more stable), it is essential to ensure that the objectives and activities reflected in activity plans and reports submitted to the ITU Council (and to plenipotentiary conferences) are linked to the relevant plenipotentiary conference resolutions and decisions.

2 Such information will help to improve the quality of management decisions on the use and allocation of ITU’s financial and human resources, as well as promoting more efficient use of those resources and a more effective ITU response with regard to requests and the national interests of Member States.

# 4 Proposals for the Council

It is proposed:

1 In each section of the plans and reports on current (operational) activities of the Union, the Sectors and the General Secretariat, to indicate the decisions and resolutions of plenipotentiary conferences to which a given objective and the work accomplished refer. For example:

**T.3.2 Training activities** (Resolution 48 (PP-14, Busan); Resolution 44 (WTSA), and so on).

2 To instruct CWG FHR to draw up proposals for making appropriate amendments to the Financial Regulations for submission to the Council session in 2018, in order to provide a basis for the inclusion, in the operational plans of the Sectors and General Secretariat, of information on the relationship between the results of activities and relevant plenipotentiary conference resolutions in order to ensure concordance between them, with a view to assisting the Union in implementing strategic and financial plans in accordance with instructions set out in resolutions and decisions of plenipotentiary conferences, and enabling the Council to examine their implementation under conditions of comparability, taking into account the national interests of Member States.

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