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| **Council 2017 Geneva, 15-25 May 2017** |  |
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| **Agenda item: PL 4.1** | **Document C17/85-E** |
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Note by the Secretary-General

CONTRIBUTION FROM THE REPUBLIC OF POLAND

FREE ONLINE Access to ITU REPORTS, STATISTICS and INDicators   
for member states

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

Houlin ZHAO  
 Secretary-General

Poland

FREE ONLINE Access to ITU REPORTS, STATISTICS and INDicators   
for member states

**1 Introduction**

This contribution addresses the issue of free online access to ITU publications, includingbut not limited to reports, statistics, indicators databases and all other types of documents developed by the Union on the basis of the data provided by the Member States. Poland believes that every Member State of the Union that contributes to ITU’s publications by providing relevant data, especially regarding domestic telecommunications markets through surveys and questionnaires, should be guaranteed a free online access to this particular publication.

**2 Background**

Recognizing that:

1. Council Decision 563 requested the Council Working Group on Financial and Human Resources (CWG-FHR) to review the ITU document access policy to determine the extent to which documents should be made publicly accessible.
2. The 2014 Plenipotentiary Conference instructs the Council Working Group on Financial and Human Resources (CWG-FHR), through the Council, to:
3. continue to review document access policy in ITU to determine the extent to which documentation should be made publicly accessible and to prepare a draft document access policy for submission to the Council;
4. consider the necessity to establish a dedicated group for that purpose,

Recognizing also that the Plenipotentiary Conference 2014:

1. instructs the CWG-FHR, through the Council, to transmit the proposed access policy to the Council for its consideration and provisional approval and its implementation, as appropriate;
2. instructs and authorizes the Council to consider the report of the CWG-FHR and, as appropriate, approve and implement the policy on an interim basis;
3. instructs the Council to submit the policy to the 2018 Plenipotentiary Conference for final decision.
4. At its 2016 session ITU Council adopted the first ITU Information/document access policy. On 1st January 2017, the policy entered into force on a provisional basis pending final approval by the Plenipotentiary Conference 2018.
5. The exceptions from free publications are ITU-D’s Indicators Database, Yearbook of Statistics, Trends in Telecommunications, SMS4DC software and some ITU-R Handbooks.

In this regard, Poland submits a proposal to extend current access policy to ITU publications that include telecommunications data provided by the Member States, that are now excluded from free access. This contribution applies only to free online access granted to the Member States that contributed to particular publication.

The recitals of the proposal for this type of access is that process of providing good quality information by the Member State often requires significant amount of time and work from the Member State administration. Labour costs are on side of the Member State that in order to receive publications such as ‘ITU-D’s Indicators Database’ or ‘Yearbook of Statistics’ needs to pay a fee for an access to this document. That situation may discourage States from providing the data of high quality during completing requested surveys and questionnaires. When a Member State is aware that it would receive a final result of the publication based on data provided, it may have a positive influence on diligence of the material. In result, it would be an added value for all Member States that make every effort to prepare information and in consequence receive publication that bases on this data from the Union.

**3 Proposal**

Poland therefore proposes that the Council decides that all publications developed by the ITU on the basis of telecommunications data provided by the Member States should be free of charge for contributing states. This contribution only refers to publications that are currently subjected to a fee by the Union but developed on the basis of data provided by the Member States.