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| **Council 2017 Geneva, 15-25 May 2017** |  |
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|  | **Document C17/114-E** |
| **3 July 2017** |
| **Original: French** |
| SUMMARY RECORD  OF THE  inaugural plenary meeting | |
| Monday, 15 May 2017, from 0940 to 1235 hours | |
| **Chairman**: Ms J. ZOLLER (United States) | |
| **Later**: Dr E. SPINA (Italy) | |

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|  | Subjects discussed | Documents |
| 1 | Opening of the 2017 session of the Council | - |
| 2 | Election of the Chairman and Vice-Chairman of the Council | - |
| 3 | Address by the Chairman of the Council | - |
| 4 | Election of the Chairman and Vice-Chairmen of the Standing Committee on Administration and Management | - |
| 5 | Address by the Secretary-General on the state of the Union | - |
| 6 | Statement by the Minister for Development of the Digital Economy and Posts of Burkina Faso | - |
| 7 | Adoption of the draft agenda of the 2017 session of the Council | [C17/1](https://www.itu.int/md/S17-CL-C-0001/en) |
| 8 | Allocation of documents | [C17/DT/1](https://www.itu.int/md/S17-CL-170515-TD-GEN-0001/en) |
| 9 | Draft time-management plan | [C17/DT/2(Rev.4)](https://www.itu.int/md/S17-CL-170515-TD-GEN-0002/en) |
| 10 | Organizational matters | - |
| 11 | Report on the implementation of the strategic plan and activities of the Union for the period 2016-2017; Progress and roadmap for the implementation of the Connect 2020 Agenda | [C17/35](https://www.itu.int/md/S17-CL-C-0035/en), [C17/39](https://www.itu.int/md/S17-CL-C-0039/en) |
| 12 | 110th anniversary of the ITU Radio Regulations (1906-2016) | [C17/13](https://www.itu.int/md/S17-CL-C-0013/en) |
| 13 | Report on the Global Standards Symposium (GSS-16) and the World Telecommunication Standardization Assembly (WTSA-16) | [C17/52](https://www.itu.int/md/S17-CL-C-0052/en) |
| 14 | Report of the Council Working Group on Languages (CWG-LANG) | [C17/12](https://www.itu.int/md/S17-CL-C-0012/en),  [C17/77(Rev.1)](https://www.itu.int/md/S17-CL-C-0077/en), [C17/84(Rev.1)](https://www.itu.int/md/S17-CL-C-0084/en), [C17/108](https://www.itu.int/md/S17-CL-C-0108/en) |
| 15 | Sales of, and free online access to, ITU publications | [C17/21](https://www.itu.int/md/S17-CL-C-0021/en), [C17/85](https://www.itu.int/md/S17-CL-C-0085/en), [C17/111](https://www.itu.int/md/S17-CL-C-0111/en) |

# 1 Opening of the 2017 session of the Council

1.1 The outgoing Chairman declared the 2017 session of the Council open, and delivered the address available at: <http://www.itu.int/en/council/2017/Pages/speech-zoller.aspx>.

# 2 Election of the Chairman and Vice-Chairman of the Council

2.1 The Secretary-General proposed that Dr Eva Spina (Italy), who had been Vice-Chairman of the Council at its 2016 session, be elected Chairman of the Council for its 2017 session.

2.2 Dr Spina (Italy) was **elected** Chairman of the Council by acclamation.

2.3 The Secretary-General said that, in keeping with the principles of rotation and equitable geographical distribution, the Vice-Chairman of the Council would be from Region C, and proposed that Mr Rashid Ismailov (Russian Federation) be elected Vice-Chairman of the Council.

2.4 Mr Ismailov (Russian Federation) was **elected** Vice-Chairman of the Council by acclamation.

# 3 Address by the Chairman of the Council

3.1 The Chairman of the Council delivered the address reproduced at: <http://www.itu.int/en/council/2017/Pages/speech-spina.aspx>.

# 4 Election of the Chairman and Vice-Chairmen of the Standing Committee on Administration and Management

4.1 The Secretary-General proposed that Ms Vernita Harris (United States), outgoing Vice-Chairman of the Standing Committee on Administration and Management, be appointed Chairman of the Standing Committee for the 2017 and 2018 sessions of the Council. He further proposed that Mr Abdourahmane Touré (Mali) continue to serve as Vice-Chairman of the Standing Committee, and that Mr Dirk-Olivier von der Emden (Switzerland) be appointed second Vice-Chairman.

4.2 It was so **agreed** by acclamation.

# 5 Address by the Secretary-General on the state of the Union

5.1 The Secretary-General delivered the address on the state of the Union reproduced at: <http://www.itu.int/en/osg/speeches/Pages/2017-05-15.aspx>.

# 6 Statement by the Minister for Development of the Digital Economy and Posts of Burkina Faso

6.1 Ms Hadja Fatimata Ouattara Sanon (Burkina Faso) made the statement reproduced at <http://www.itu.int/en/council/2017/Documents/SR/Burkina-Faso.docx>, and, on behalf of the President of Burkina Faso, announced her Government's decision to present the candidature of Mr Brahima Sanou for the post of Deputy Secretary-General of ITU at the elections to be held at the next plenipotentiary conference.

# 7 Adoption of the draft agenda of the 2017 session of the Council (Document [C17/1](https://www.itu.int/md/S17-CL-C-0001/en))

7.1 The Secretary of the Plenary, introducing Document C17/1, said that the structure of the agenda was similar to that of previous years. A total of 37 contributions had thus far been received from Member States, of which 35 were proposals and two were information documents.

7.2 The councillor from Saudi Arabia, noting that his country had submitted six contributions, took the opportunity to pay tribute to Mr H.K. Al-Shankiti, who had retired after contributing his skills and dedication for many years to ITU's work as a member, and then as head, of the Saudi delegation.

7.3The councillor from the United States requested that Information Document C17/INF/6 be added under agenda item 2.7.

7.4 The draft agenda of the 2017 session of the Council (Document C17/1), as amended, was **adopted**.

# 8 Allocation of documents (Document [C17/DT/1](https://www.itu.int/md/S17-CL-170515-TD-GEN-0001/en))

8.1 The Secretary of the Plenary introduced Document C17/DT/1 and the document was **approved**.

# 9 Draft time-management plan (Document [C17/DT/2(Rev.4)](https://www.itu.int/md/S17-CL-170515-TD-GEN-0002/en))

9.1 The Secretary of the Plenary introduced Document C17/DT/2(Rev.4) and the document was **approved**.

# 10 Organizational matters

10.1 The Secretary of the Plenary announced that the meeting hours of the Council would as usual be from 0930 to 1230 hours and from 1430 to 1730 hours every day, except for the Friday morning meetings, which would be held from 0900 to 1200 hours. She also noted that to accommodate the WTISD celebration this Wednesday, 17 May, the afternoon session will start at 15.00 exceptionally. As was customary, interpretation and documentation would be provided in the Union's six official languages. Captioning in English of the plenary and standing committee discussions would be provided within the meeting room and on the web. In view of the many information supports now available, it had been decided to cease publication of the Highlights.

10.2 The information on the organization of work for the 2017 session was **noted**.

# 11 Report on the implementation of the strategic plan and activities of the Union for the period 2016-2017 (Document [C17/35](https://www.itu.int/md/S17-CL-C-0035/en)); Progress and roadmap for the implementation of the Connect 2020 Agenda (Document [C17/39](https://www.itu.int/md/S17-CL-C-0039/en))

11.1 The Deputy Secretary-General, introducing Document C17/35, highlighted the progress made between March 2016 and February 2017 in implementing the strategic goals and objectives of the Union. He also introduced Document C17/39. Significant efforts had been made to provide a quantitative assessment of the results on the basis of indicators, and a tool designed to display the results visually had been placed on the Council web page (a brief video description of the tool was provided).

11.2 One councillor, stressing the importance of gender equality, said that reflection was needed on how to finance activities other than by recourse to voluntary contributions. Another councillor insisted on the need for making all ICT players more aware of the Connect 2020 Agenda. Another called for the means and the timetable for implementing the targets to be specified. Another councillor pointed out that there are indices for many other targets and on similar lines it may be explored to have a measure, perhaps ICT Accessibility Index towards measuring and bridging accessibility divide. The Deputy Secretary-General said that any helpful suggestions on how to improve these documents to better reflect the real situation was welcome.

11.3 Document C17/35 was **approved**. Document C17/39 was **noted**.

# 12 110th anniversary of the ITU Radio Regulations (1906-2016) (Document [C17/13](https://www.itu.int/md/S17-CL-C-0013/en))

12.1 The Deputy Director of BR recalled that the ceremony to mark the 110th anniversary of the Radio Regulations had been held on 12 December in Geneva. He introduced Document C17/13, which provided information on the celebrations organized on that occasion, as well as on the communication campaign carried out around the celebrations.

12.2 Document C17/13 was **noted**.

# 13 Report on the Global Standards Symposium (GSS-16) and the World Telecommunication Standardization Assembly (WTSA-16) (Document [C17/52](https://www.itu.int/md/S17-CL-C-0052/en))

13.1 The Deputy Director of TSB, introducing Document C17/52, said that the GSS-16 participants had emphasized the importance of security, particularly in regard to the sharing of information concerning cyberthreats; of privacy, which must be taken into account right from the system design stage; and of trust. Regarding WTSA-16, he pointed out that a number of the decisions taken within that framework had budget implications that were not taken into account in TSB's draft budget for 2018-2019 and which would therefore have to be studied when the time came to examine the draft budget.

13.2 One councillor considered it necessary to establish priorities among the decisions taken by WTSA-16 in the interests of staying within the budget framework. One councillor recalled that the ITU Convention required Member States to study the financial implications of decisions before adopting them. Another councillor felt that no standardization activities were more important than others and that it would be more appropriate to seek additional resources to cover all the activities.

13.3 Document C17/52 was **noted**, on the understanding that §§ 2.5 and 2.13 would be examined in the context of consideration of the budget.

# 14 Report of the Council Working Group on Languages (CWG-LANG) (Documents [C17/12](https://www.itu.int/md/S17-CL-C-0012/en), [C17/77](https://www.itu.int/md/S17-CL-C-0077/en)(Rev.1), [C17/84](https://www.itu.int/md/S17-CL-C-0084/en)(Rev.1) and [C17/108](https://www.itu.int/md/S17-CL-C-0108/en))

14.1 The Chairman of CWG-LANG, introducing Document C17/12, emphasized the need to adhere to the number of pages of translation agreed upon for AAP Recommendations and highlighted the possibility of establishing a coordination committee for vocabulary which would be common to the three Sectors and presided over by a person other than the Chairman of CWG-LANG. One councillor having expressed concern at the imbalance between the languages into which the content of the ITU portal was translated, he said that the matter had been discussed by the working group and that the secretariat would be taking steps to remedy that situation.

14.2 Document C17/12 was **approved**.

14.3 The councillor from the Russian Federation, introducing the contribution submitted by his country and by Armenia and Belarus in Document C17/77(Rev.1), observed that the rate of translation into Russian of AAP Recommendations was no more than 55 per cent, while the secretariat was reporting considerable savings made on translation. Those savings could be put towards meeting the translation requirements of the Standardization Sector.

14.4 The Deputy Director of TSB said that where the translation deficit referred to by the councillor from the Russian Federation was concerned, some 900 pages remained to be translated for the 2016-2017 biennium, which, by extrapolating the previous figures, should be achievable by the beginning of the next period at the latest.

14.5 The explanations provided by the Deputy Director of TSB, together with Document C17/77(Rev.1), were **noted**.

14.6 The councillor from the Russian Federation introduced the contribution submitted by his country and by Armenia and Belarus in Document C17/84(Rev.1), which contained a draft resolution on the creation of a single coordination committee for vocabulary covering the whole of ITU − an initiative that was supported by the advisory groups of the three Sectors.

14.7 One councillor wondered whether the Council had the authority to decide upon the grouping of bodies that were internal to the Sectors. The Director of BR pointed out that the coordination committee for vocabulary within BR had normative authority associated with the application of its definitions in different Recommendations and in the Radio Regulations. Fearing that the proposed merger might dilute that authority, he suggested that consideration of the proposal be continued at the next meeting to allow time in the interim for further discussion with the authors.

14.8 It was so **agreed**.

14.9 The councillor from the United Arab Emirates introduced Document C17/108 containing his country's contribution on study and evaluation of the translation procedures used by the Union and proposing the establishment of an internal committee, chaired by the Deputy Secretary-General, to study the most effective and economic solutions for the provision of translation services without loss of quality.

14.10 One councillor drew attention to the difficulty of reconciling cost reductions and continued high quality. Another councillor questioned the need to establish an additional layer for a task that lay within the mandate of CWG-LANG. The majority of the councillors who took the floor felt that, should such a committee be established, it should report to CWG-LANG.

14.11 The Deputy Secretary-General said that the question of translation methods was the subject of ongoing internal discussion and that the proposal under consideration would effectively consist in formalizing those discussions through a committee reporting to Council through the CWG-LANG.

14.12 The Council **agreed** to request the Deputy Secretary-General to preside over an internal committee, reporting to Council through the CWG-LANG, on alternative translation arrangements.

# 15 Sales of, and free online access to, ITU publications (Documents [C17/21](https://www.itu.int/md/S17-CL-C-0021/en), [C17/85](https://www.itu.int/md/S17-CL-C-0085/en) and [C17/111](https://www.itu.int/md/S17-CL-C-0111/en))

15.1 The Head of the Sales and Marketing Division of the Conferences and Publications Department introduced Document C17/21, which contained global, disaggregated and comparative data on sales and free downloads. One councillor having drawn attention to the large imbalance (80 per cent as against 20 per cent) in the figures concerning, respectively, English, French and Spanish on the one hand, and the other languages on the other, the Chief of the Conferences and Publications Department explained that those figures reflected sales and not the availability of the publications.

15.2 Document C17/21 was **noted**.

15.3 The Deputy Director of BR drew the attention of councillors to section 5 of the conclusions of the RAG meeting (Document C17/111), which dealt with the matter under consideration.

15.4 Section 5 of Document C17/111 was **noted**.

15.5 The councillor from Poland introduced Document C17/85 containing his country's proposal to the effect that all publications developed by ITU on the basis of data provided by Member States should be freely accessible to the States having thus contributed. All councillors taking the floor, as well as the Secretary-General, supported the principle underlying the proposal. For some, it would help to improve the overall telecommunication environment while reducing the digital divide. One councillor said that his country had always supported the principle of free access to ITU publications. Others felt that application of the principle should not ignore the fact that the Union needed additional resources.

15.6 The Chairman proposed that discussion of the proposal be resumed following its examination by the standing committee.

15.7 It was so **agreed**.

The Secretary-General: The Chairman:  
H. ZHAO E. SPINA

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