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| **Council 2017Geneva, 15-25 May 2017** |  |
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|  | **Document C17/116-E** |
| **7 June 2017** |
| **Original: French** |
| SUMMARY RECORD OF THE second plenary meeting |
| Tuesday, 16 May 2017, from 0935 to 1210 hours |
| **Chairman**: Dr E. SPINA (Italy) |

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|  | Subjects discussed | Documents |
| 1 | Follow-up to the review of ITU management and administration by the Joint Inspection Unit | [C17/49](https://www.itu.int/md/S17-CL-C-0049/en) |
| 2 | Elaboration of the strategic and financial plans for the Union for 2020-2023 | [C17/75](https://www.itu.int/md/S17-CL-C-0075/en), [C17/111](https://www.itu.int/md/S17-CL-C-0111/en) |
| 3 | Report on the outcomes of CWG-WSIS activities since the 2016 session of the Council | [C17/8](https://www.itu.int/md/S17-CL-C-0008/en) |
| 4 | Statement by the Vice-Minister of Industry and Information Technology of China | – |
| 5 | ICTs for SDGs: Comprehensive report on the implementation of the WSIS outcomes and of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development | [C17/47](https://www.itu.int/md/S17-CL-C-0047/en) |
| 6 | Presentation of the draft budget of the Union for 2018-2019 | [C17/10](https://www.itu.int/md/S17-CL-C-0010/en) |
| 7 | Statement by the Minister for Media, Information and Broadcasting of Zimbabwe | - |

# 1 Follow-up to the review of ITU management and administration by the Joint Inspection Unit (Document [C17/49](https://www.itu.int/md/S17-CL-C-0049/en))

1.1 The Deputy Secretary-General, welcoming the presence of Mr Tarasov and Mr Achamkulangare, inspectors from the Joint Inspection Unit (JIU), introduced Document C17/49, which presented the status and the plan for the implementation of the recommendations − formal and informal − formulated by JIU in the report entitled “Review of management and administration in ITU”.

1.2 One councillor requested clarification regarding the implementation of recommendation 161, relating to the mediation function, and expressed support for recommendation 176, which called for the Internal Audit Charter to be presented to the Council for approval. The Deputy Secretary-General responded that steps had been taken to make appointments in order to strengthen the mediation function, and that the recommendation for the Internal Audit Charter to be examined by the Council was accepted and this would apply to the next update of the Charter.

1.3 Document C17/49 was **noted**.

# 2 Elaboration of the strategic and financial plans for the Union for 2020-2023 (Documents [C17/75](https://www.itu.int/md/S17-CL-C-0075/en) and [C17/111](https://www.itu.int/md/S17-CL-C-0111/en))

2.1 The Chief of the Strategic Planning and Membership Department (SPM), introducing Document C17/75, made reference to No. 62A of the ITU Convention. Having regard to the procedure followed for the elaboration of the current strategic and financial plans (for the period 2016-2019), the Council might wish to consider the establishment of a Council working group responsible for preparing the draft strategic and draft financial plans (CWG-SFP) for the period 2020-2023. A draft resolution on the establishment of such a group was reproduced in the annex to the document.

2.2 The Director of BR said that he would comment on Document C17/111, containing the conclusions of the RAG meeting, during the discussion of the strategic and financial plans.

2.3 Most councillors were in favour of establishing a CWG to prepare the strategic plan and financial plan for the period 2020-2023. Responding to a comment, the Chief of the SPM Department said that, in the draft resolution, *resolves* c) would be redrafted since it was not the task of the CWG to post on the PP-18 website a coordinated draft new strategic plan four months before the conference, but a task for the Secretary-General.

2.4 Some councillors were reluctant to establish another CWG, fearing a dispersion of resources and duplication of efforts; the mandate envisaged for CWG-SFP could be assigned to CWG‑FHR. The majority of councillors considered it important to set up a separate and independent CWG reporting directly to the Council, it being understood that it would require interpretation services in six languages.

2.5 The draft resolution reproduced in the annex to Document C17/75, as amended, was **adopted**.

2.6 The Secretary-General invited delegations to submit to him without delay the names of candidates for the posts of chairman and vice-chairman of CWG-SFP. The Chairman said that the group would hold its first meeting on 23 May.

# 3 Report on the outcomes of CWG-WSIS activities since the 2016 session of the Council (Document [C17/8](https://www.itu.int/md/S17-CL-C-0008/en))

3.1 The Chairman of CWG-WSIS introduced Document C17/8, which summarized the main results of the group’s 29th and 30th meetings.

3.2 Councillors taking the floor expressed thanks to CWG-WSIS and its chairman, emphasizing the extent to which the group had contributed to the successful accomplishment by ITU of its mission within the United Nations framework, and how important it was to make progress towards implementation of the SDGs. Some councillors, referring to Resolution 111 (Rev. Busan, 2014) of the Plenipotentiary Conference, requested that the WSIS Forum 2018 not be held during the period of Ramadan. The Chairman said the secretariat would take that request into consideration.

3.3 The report of CWG-WSIS and the recommendations contained therein (Document C17/8) were **approved**.

# 4 Statement by the Vice-Minister of Industry and Information Technology of China

4.1 Mr Liu Lihua, Vice-Minister of Industry and Information Technology of China, made the statement reproduced at the following address: <http://www.itu.int/en/council/2017/Documents/SR/China.pdf>. He announced that China would be increasing its contribution to ITU by six contributory units, bringing it up to 20 contributory units. The Chinese Government had, moreover, decided to put forward the candidature of Mr Zhao for a second term of office in the post of ITU Secretary-General.

4.2 The Secretary-General warmly welcomed the decision by the Chinese Government to increase significantly the amount of its contribution. He paid tribute to Mr Liu, who for many years had followed and supported the work of ITU. He thanked the Chinese Government for offering him the possibility to be once again a candidate for the post of Secretary-General.

# 5 ICTs for SDGs: Comprehensive report on the implementation of the WSIS outcomes and of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development (Document [C17/47](https://www.itu.int/md/S17-CL-C-0047/en))

5.1 The Chief of the Strategic Planning and Membership Department (SPM) introduced Document C17/47, which detailed all of the actions undertaken by the Union within the framework of implementation of the WSIS outcomes and of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.

5.2 Councillors taking the floor addressed the following subjects: collaboration with UNESCO in the area of science, with UNCTAD in regard to e-commerce, and with UNDP; the updating of the terms of reference of the WSIS Task Force in relation to intersectoral coordination; exchange of information concerning activities carried out at country level; difficulties encountered by developing countries, particularly those in Africa, and the need for multilateral financing and international cooperation in order to overcome those difficulties; and the need to favour specific, achievable and adequately funded projects.

5.3 Responding to the councillors’ comments, the Chief of the SPM Department confirmed that ITU was collaborating with the above-mentioned specialized agencies. Intersectoral coordination had been entrusted to a task force headed by the Deputy Secretary-General, and a separate task force was specifically responsible for SDGs and WSIS. At its 2016 session, the Council had requested that the activities related to SDGs and WSIS be merged in one task force, under the direction of the Deputy Secretary-General. Funding and multilateral support were indeed important, and the Secretary-General was sparing no effort in promoting the partnerships advocated under SDG 17, as had already been achieved with UNIDO. Finally, where regional and national initiatives were concerned, in 2015, during the elaboration of the SDGs, ITU had called on Member States to inform it of their initiatives, experiences and lessons learned, for inclusion in the SDG Mapping Tool.

5.4 The Secretary-General emphasized the extent to which activities flowing from WSIS facilitated the contribution of ICTs to economic and social development, and how ITU was playing its full part in that regard. Noting that he would make every possible effort to avoid the WSIS Forum coinciding with the period of Ramadan, he added that that could be difficult to achieve on account of the large number of meetings and of the logistical problems involved.

5.5 Document C17/47 was **noted**, taking into account the clarifications provided during the discussion.

# 6 Presentation of the draft budget of the Union for 2018-2019 (Document [C17/10](https://www.itu.int/md/S17-CL-C-0010/en))

6.1 The Chief of the Financial Resources Management Department presented the draft budget of the Union for 2018-2019 with the aid of slides. He noted that the draft budget was balanced, with total revenue being equivalent to total expenses, and with nothing ultimately being withdrawn from the Reserve Account. The total amount of the draft budget, for a biennium that would include a plenipotentiary conference and a world radiocommunication conference, stood at CHF 320.1 million, that being CHF 1.2 million lower than the budget for the previous biennium. The contributory unit, at zero nominal growth, was thus being maintained at its level from previous budgets, i.e. CHF 318 000. The amount to be withdrawn from the Reserve Account for the organization of WTDC-17 would be offset by the savings generated from the Voluntary Separation Programme, so the Reserve Account would remain unchanged over the four-year period 2016-2019. The draft resolution for approval of the biennial budget for 2018-2019 was contained in Annex A to Document C17/10.

6.2 Numerous councillors welcomed the clarity and level of detail in the presentation of the draft budget, as well as the efforts made by the secretariat to achieve a balanced budget. One councillor observed that the fate of several decisions relating to the operational plans and WTSA depended on the outcomes of the budget discussions. One councillor praised the Union’s efforts to apply results-based budgeting and management. Another councillor referred to the recommendations of the Joint Inspection Unit and to the work remaining to be done in respect of the ASHI Fund. Another observed that examination of the budget could be carried out on a clearer basis were the secretariat to draw up a summary of all decisions liable to entail additional expenses or revenue.

6.3 The Chief of the Financial Resources Management Department said that the secretariat could prepare a temporary document summarizing the additional resource requirements stemming from decisions that had not been taken into account in the draft budget for 2018-2019 as they had not appeared in the financial plan for 2016-2019 adopted by the Plenipotentiary Conference in 2014.

6.4 The Chairman proposed that discussion of the draft budget be continued in the Standing Committee and that the secretariat prepare to that end the temporary document requested.

6.5 It was so **agreed**.

# 7 Statement by the Minister for Media, Information and Broadcasting of Zimbabwe

7.1 Dr C. Mushohwe, Minister for Media, Information and Broadcasting of Zimbabwe, delivered the address available at <http://www.itu.int/en/council/2017/Documents/SR/Zimbabwe.doc>, at the same time announcing that his country would be hosting, in July 2017, the African preparatory meetings for WTDC-17 and PP-18.

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