|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **Council 2017Geneva, 15-25 May 2017** |  |
|  |  |
|  |  |
|  | **Document C17/INF/6-E** |
| **12 April 2017** |
| **Original: English** |
| Report by the Secretary-General |
| Possible improvements of the roll-out of the Plenipotentiary Conference - Compilation of proposals received from Member States as a response to CL-16/48 and CL-17/07 |

|  |
| --- |
| SummaryAt its 2015 session, the Council requested the secretariat to prepare a document on possible improvements for the roll-out of the Plenipotentiary Conference (PP). Document [C16/4](http://www.itu.int/md/S16-CL-C-0004/en) was reviewed at the 2016 session of Council which instructed the Secretary-General to continue his consultation and report to C17. (document [C17/4](http://www.itu.int/md/S17-CL-C-0004/en)). This document contains a compilation of proposals received from Member States as a response to Circular letters [CL-16/48](http://www.itu.int/md/S16-SG-CIR-0048/en) and [CL-17/07](https://www.itu.int/md/S17-SG-CIR-0007/en).Action requiredThis document is transmitted to the Council **for information**. |

| Issue/action | Submitter | Proposed improvements for PP-18 |
| --- | --- | --- |
| Strengthening regional and inter-regional preparations | Proposal in secretariat document C16/4 | * Ensure more efficient participation of ITU secretariat in regional preparatory meetings organized by the RTOs.
* Strengthen the inter-regional coordination meetings with the objective of reaching possible convergence of interregional views on major issues. Two formal inter-regional meetings could be scheduled well in advance and in conjunction with other ITU events so that RTOs may plan their meetings around these meetings.
* Include MS which are not part of established Regional Telecommunication Organizations (RTOs) in this process.
* In line with Resolution 167, provide the possibility of remote participation for these inter-regional meetings.
* Improve communication and involvement of ITU membership in preparation for the meeting of the supreme organ of the Union (membership could be consulted on possible high-level speakers and themes of round-tables as proposed below).
* Organize in cooperation with RTOs training for new delegates on preparing for ITU Plenipotentiary Conference
 |
|  | Russian Federation | * As part of implementation of Resolution 58 (Rev. Busan, 2014), in the concluding stage of preparations for the PP (12 months before the start of the conference), hold preparatory meetings of regional telecommunication organizations on preparations for the PP and inter regional coordination meetings with a view to reaching possible agreement on regional positions on fundamental PP issues.
 |
|  | Russian Federation | * Three or four months before the start of the PP, hold an inter-regional practical information seminar to allow an exchange of information on the preliminary position of the regional organizations.
 |
|  | Russian Federation | * Ensure the possibility of remote participation in the meetings and information seminars referred to above.
 |
|  | UAE | * The regional preparations provide the opportunity for Member States from each region to gather and discuss regional priorities and concerns identified in the course of the national consultations. While each region will tailor its meeting to fit the regional context, the consultations should be structured to address common objectives of the PP Conference. For this reason, as is the case with RPM's for the WTDC and other ITU Conferences, the PP Conferences shall have similar meetings with an higher involvement of ITU staff and one day of such meetings be dedicated to consultations between regional groups with ITU representative acting as the moderator.
 |
|  | UAE | * Member States, which are not part of any regional groups, should be especially facilitated in this aspect and shall be accommodated in these meetings.
 |
|  | UAE | * Least developing countries in each regions shall be ensured that they attend such meetings and in this regard ITU, host country of the meeting and the regional member states should make every effort to ensure their participation in the meeting by offering fellowships.
 |
|  | UAE | * In addition to the above, inter regional workshops for PP-18 shall be planned, one meeting in the last quarter of 2017 and two meetings in 2018. These inter regional workshops have worked very well in other sectors of the Union and it is envisaged that they will benefit the PP-18 preparatory process. Remote participation/ intervention shall be ensured at such meetings.
 |
|  | UAE | * In order to gain wider community perspectives and to follow the multi stakeholder approach, a series of questionnaire and surveys on the emerging topics of PP-18 be conducted on the ITU website to ensure that the viewpoints of all stakeholders is heard.
 |
|  | Canada | * In the case of the Americas Region there is an effective and efficient preparatory process in place. This process is undertaken by the Inter-American Telecommunication Commission (CITEL) in coordination with the ITU Regional Office in Brasilia. As the prime regional telecommunication organization in the Americas, and in preparation for Plenipotentiary Conferences, CITEL meets several times the year/months prior to the PP to discuss, approve an submit Inter-American Proposals (IAPs)to the conference. CITEL also participates in several preparatory meetings of other ITU regional organizations such as CEPT, APT, CIS, ATU and the Arab Group, and in the same token hosts representatives of such organizations. It is important to note that not all countries in the Americas region are members of CITEL. That said, Canada has consistently reiterated that any preparatory meeting for the Americas region, under the auspices of the ITU needs to be inclusive of all Member States of the Americas region. The preparatory processes are led regionally based on a common desire of its members. There is a desirable informality to them and we would not wish to make them compulsory in any way. We would however count on the ITU regional offices to remain available to support the preparatory processes as required by each region according to their needs.
 |
|  | Switzerland | * In so far as the provisions of the basic texts of the Union (Article 8 of the Constitution) make the agendas of PPs very open (unlike, for example, those of world radiocommunication conferences), more intense preparatory work at regional and interregional level will not necessarily produce substantial gains in efficiency (even though it might produce other benefits).
 |
|  | USA | * Regional preparatory meetings can be strengthened by adding the element of remote access to expand participation. We also support the idea of making online new delegate training available early in the preparatory process to provide context to newcomers. These measures would result in better informed participation, but we question whether they would reduce the duration of the plenipotentiary conference as suggested in document CL16/4. We support more efficient participation of the ITU secretariat in regional preparatory meetings, but this should neither enhance the role of the ITU Secretariat at the expense of the budget, nor impede preferred “bottom-up”, as opposed to “top-down”, decision making. To assist in understanding how best to strengthen the regional presence, the United States suggests Council assemble and distribute quarterly an accounting showing expenditures by the ITU, and each of its Sectors, related to each of the previous quarter’s regional preparatory meetings. We note inter-regional coordination is occurring organically as regional representatives attend other region’s meetings and present their region’s views. We recommend, so long as budget-neutral, an inter-regional meeting be held immediately before or after Council 2018 and be open to all member states.
 |
|  | Cameroon | * Regarding the item on strengthening regional and interregional preparations, Resolution 58 (Rev. Busan, 2014) should be implemented effectively, as strengthened preparation for the PP would make it possible to improve the efficiency of the conference’s work.
 |
|  | Burkina Faso | * The Administration of Burkina Faso supports strengthening regional preparations with a view to better dealing with the regional concerns of Member States belonging to different regions. Moreover, interregional preparation is important to ensuring the efficiency of the work of the plenipotentiary conference.
 |
|  | Kuwait | * First of all, I would like to note that the regional offices function as embassies of the ITU in their respective regions and that, previously, the director of the regional office was known as the Union's regional representative. This being the case, and given that personal experience shows that the regional offices have an important role to play in achieving ITU goals, we call for the role of the regional offices in the Plenipotentiary Conference to be promoted and strengthened by convening regional preparatory meetings prior to the Plenipotentiary Conference, along the lines of the ITU-D regional preparatory meetings. Meetings should be designed to bring about a convergence of views between regions on the proposals to be put before the Conference, thereby helping to reduce the time spent on discussing and debating topics during the Conference.
* To achieve the above goals, the Union needs to increase the financial and human resources of the regional offices to enable them to carry out their duties as effectively as possible. The General Secretariat could instruct regional offices to implement the strategic plan for all sectors of the Union in their regions by:
	+ preparing and submitting a draft implementation of the Union's strategic plan for each region in the form of an operational plan containing an action plan for the region to achieve the goals of the Union;
	+ creating the financial and human resources to implement the plan in cooperation with the Member States in the region; and
	+ having the six regional offices prepare an annual report to the Council on the extent to which these plans have been implemented at regional level.
 |
| Reaffirming the role of PP as the Union’s highest policy-making body | Proposal in secretariat document C16/4 | * A first-ever “Ministerial week” could include high-level, thematic round-tables in Plenary during which ministers will have the opportunity to discuss their administrations' goals, objectives, and commitments, with a view to replacing traditional policy statements. Member States could also choose to submit videos of each Minister delivering his/her statement which could be posted online rather than being delivered during PP.
* A number of services which are already provided could be better coordinated and packaged to make the event more attractive for ministers: rooms for bilaterals, media opportunities, announcements of projects, meeting with young policy leaders, speaking opportunities in selected side events, etc.
* Invite Ministers to sign the Final Acts in advance in a VIP signing room with official photo coverage.
* In view of the above, discontinue the formal signing ceremony. A time-frame for all other delegates to sign the Final Acts in the Committee 2 office could be established (as is done with declarations/reservations), and delegates could join the Elected Officials for a final group photo.
* The outcomes of the "Ministerial week" should be communicated to the Plenary and mainstreamed into the official work of conference.
 |
|  | Russian Federation | * The role of the PP as the Union's highest policy-making body is enshrined in the ITU Constitution and Convention. However, at a number of PPs it has not been possible in practical terms to meet the conditions of No. 51 c) of Article 8 ("Plenipotentiary Conference"): "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". Those requirements could not be fully met as the budget was drawn up only after the strategic plan for the Union was established. In order to implement No. 51 of the Constitution in practice, it is proposed that the PP should adopt the following sequence of measures:
	+ set a definitive upper limit for scale of the contributory unit on the second day of the PP;
	+ specify the third day of the PP as the day on which ITU Member States announce their definitive choice of class of contribution;
	+ publish ITU Member States' definitive choices of class of contribution by midnight on the third day of the PP.
* The proposed measures are entirely consistent with No. 161E of the Constitution with some adjustment of the dates. This approach will also make it possible to adopt a balanced and rational strategic and financial plan for the Union.
 |
|  | Russian Federation | * In order to refine the strategic goals and the objectives of the Union and also to reflect the interests of Member States in the strategic plan of the Union, invite leaders representing ITU Member States to indicate in their policy statements their views regarding the main goals and objectives of ITU.
 |
|  | UAE | * ITU and the host country of PP conference should jointly set up a fund for facilitating the participation of least developed countries at the PP conference in order to ensure the maximum Member States participation in the PP proceedings.
 |
|  | UAE | * The Secretariat to provide administrative guidance to the Host Country on post-event assessment of ITU Conferences. This could include introducing a simple on-line mechanism for participants to provide feedback on the effectiveness of Conference proceedings both from technical and logistical point of view, together with suggestions for improvement from the participants' perspective.
 |
|  | Saudi Arabia | * Possible improvements to conference business should take into account the nature of the conference as the Union’s highest policy-making authority and focus in general on providing the environment and proper time to enable Member States to discuss essential issues relating to information and communication technology. General Secretariat Document C16/4 indicates that a number of improvements were made at the last plenipotentiary conference and these will become clearer at future conferences.
 |
|  | Canada | * Canada believes there is no need to reaffirm that the Plenipotentiary Conference of the ITU is the Union's highest decision making body, and that Council assumes that role in the interval between PP.
 |
|  | Czech Republic | * In our view it is very important to use any measure to strengthen the effectivity of the conferences even more. We are therefore grateful first for the previous achievements in this regard and second for the possibility to suggest further measures. To meet especially the points 1) and 2) of your letter, we would like to suggest to shorten the Policy Statements and Speeches to one per country and in terms of time to one minute only. There is a space dedicated to these statements and speeches at the ITU web site in case of longer contributions. Moreover, there is the possibility for a country to put the contribution directly at the ITU web without taking the time at the Plenary, and this way to shorten the overall time even more. This enables the delegations to concentrate more deeply to the decision making process. On top of sparing the time this would also spare the financial means of the countries as well as ITU by shortening the overall time of the Plenipotentiary Conference at least by 2 days.
 |
|  | Switzerland | * Lastly, the Swiss Administration wishes to express its views on the objective of reaffirming the role of the PP as the Union’s highest policy-making body. We consider that a plenipotentiary conference is more than a policy-making body (even if that description is indeed correct under the precise terms of the basic texts of the Union). It is our opinion that a PP should also be regarded as a learned assembly unique to the world, that aspires to maximize the benefits that ICTs offer the whole of humanity, inter alia by seeking to identify ways to bridge the numerous divides of the digital era. We thus consider that PPs express themselves in ways other than simply the decisions they take, and what they express often has universal impact transcending the membership of the Union per se.
 |
|  | USA | * Ministerial events, roundtables and high level speakers should not distract from the business of the plenipotentiary conference. Should such events be held prior to PP-18, they should neither communicate “outcomes” to the plenipotentiary conference nor be cited in the work of the conference.
 |
|  | USA | * In order to keep the focus on the important work of the Plenipotentiary, the United States suggests shortening the time spent on policy statements by adhering strictly to a time limit—no more than two to four minutes.
 |
|  | USA | * Streamlining, or eliminating, the signing ceremony for the Final Acts as suggested in CL-16/4 would be very useful. We do not support signing the Final Acts in advance of their completion, but we do support the concept of providing a location and time range for officials to sign the document with appropriate photo opportunities.
 |
|  | Japan | * We believe that it is essential to strengthen the efficiency of the conference for the fruitful discussion and savings the conference expenditures.
* Taking policy statements from member states as an example, in the last plenipotentiary conference (PP-14) in Busan, maximum minutes of statement was informed by ITU Secretariat in advance and remaining time for each speakers was shown on the screen. However, unfortunately some speakers exceeded the time limit and the planned time schedule could not be kept, this would lead to the increase of conference expenditures such as for interpreters, and the growing the burden on not only delegations of each country but all the people involved.
* For further strengthening the efficiency of the conference, Japan would like to suggest that ITU Secretariat strictly manage the time spent on policy statements from each speaker, for example, by limiting the number of characters of each statement and receiving the written statements in advance, taking appropriate measures to make the speakers be aware of their consumed time in a polite but assertive manner such as ringing a bell.
* We believe this will contribute to the fruitful discussion and outcomes followed by the success of the conference by securing precious time.
 |
|  | Burkina Faso | * Our Administration reaffirms the role of the plenipotentiary conference as the supreme body of the Union. For this purpose, PP must remain the instance which:
* adopts the basic instruments and strategic and financial plans of the Union;
* elects the Secretary-General, Deputy Secretary-General, directors of the three Bureaux, Member States of the Council and members of RRB.
 |
|  | Ukraine | * We support the following proposals :
	+ Invite Ministers to sign the Final Acts in advance in a VIP signing room with official photo coverage.
	+ In view of the above, discontinue the formal signing ceremony. A time-frame for all other delegates to sign the Final Acts in the Committee 2 office could be established (as is done with declarations/reservations), and delegates could join the Elected Officials for a final group photo.
 |
|  | Kuwait | * The Plenipotentiary Conference is the world's largest assembly for the formulation of ICT policy and the highest body of the Union. We at CITRA affirm and emphasize the vital role of the Plenipotentiary Conference and welcome the proposal in Council document C16/4 to organize a "Ministerial week" on the fringe of the conference to give ministers and heads of telecommunication authorities an opportunity to discuss their administrations' goals, objectives, and commitments. We also support the replacement of traditional policy statements in order to make better use of conference time for discussing the goals of the Union. The outcomes of the Ministerial week should be communicated to the Plenary and mainstreamed into the official work of the conference.
 |
| Improving electoral processes | Proposals in secretariat document C16/4 | * Regarding the electoral process:

• Council is invited to initiate studies to improve the election process for the Elected Officials as suggested in Rec. 8 above: presentations, interactive sessions, live sessions, interviews, submission of questions, round-tables, etc.• It is proposed to create well in advance an online space for PDFs/videos of campaign brochures so that MS may post their candidates’ information electronically and eliminate paper copies. Touch screens could be set up around the coffee break area containing candidates’ information.* Regarding the voting, it is proposed to consider, after due review by the secretariat of existing solutions and their technical, legal, and practical requirements, switching to complete electronic voting as stated in the GR 175 which provides that “Elections should preferably be held using an electronic system when a suitable system is available and if the conference does not decide otherwise”. The outcome of the review and a trial of a preferred solution could be presented to Council 2017.
 |
|  | Russian Federation | * Where possible use electronic voting in elections of the Secretary-General, Deputy Secretary-General, the Directors of the Bureaux, members of the Radio Regulations Board, and Member States for seats on the Council.
 |
|  | Russian Federation | * If there is only one candidate each for the posts of Secretary-General and Deputy Secretary-General, begin elections of the Directors of the Bureaux after completion of the election of the Deputy Secretary-General, on the same day if possible;
 |
|  | UAE | * The electronic voting procedures as proposed in Council 2016 by the UAE Administration is to be considered. This will not only reduce time but will also be an innovative mechanism, which is being followed across other UN Agencies. UAE Administration is aware that there technical and legal challenges of electronic voting and wishes to resolve these with the ITU and the Member States to make available a system for such process.
 |
|  | UAE | * Each nominated candidate for the elected officials post at the PP conference in addition to submitting their candidacy file, should submit a standard form which lists key data such as but not limited to key personal and professional details, key contributions made at the ITU, positions held and vision statement. This will assist Member States in their preference of choosing the candidate.
 |
|  | UAE | * In addition to the above for the five elected officials position, a live forum will be held, at which candidates will present their vision, priorities and objectives to ITU Member States and will also be able to answer questions on their candidacy. The timing of this forum and proceedings can be agreed at the Council 2017.
 |
|  | Saudi Arabia | * At the 2014 plenipotentiary conference, Member States agreed that the electoral process needs improvement. Recommendation 8 of Committee 5 states as follows:

It is desirable to improve the electoral process of the elected officials in the Union. In this regard, Council should study the issue and recommend to Member States options for implementing new procedures to improve the electoral process of Secretary-General, Deputy Secretary-General and Directors of the Bureaux. Due consideration should be given to several options such as presentations, interactive sessions, live sessions, interviews, submission of questions, through webcasting and remote participation, as well as further enhancing the election portal in the ITU website. Council is invited to initiate these studies in its 2015 session in order to implement these possible improvements.* Accordingly, this recommendation must form the basis for the process of improvement, while taking into account the use of innovative solutions at the pre-voting stages.
* As regards improving the electoral process for leadership positions, General Secretariat Document C16/4 shows that the electoral process followed at the last conference went smoothly and did not take long (30-45 minutes for each round), as participants agreed to reduce the interval between certain rounds. If it is absolutely essential to make additional improvements to the electoral process, consideration must be given to the possible financial impact and to ensuring the security and secrecy of elections, while adhering to the relevant paragraphs of the General Rules of Conferences, Assemblies and Meetings of the Union, particularly those in Chapter III on electoral procedures which include, for instance, the stipulation that elections be conducted by secret ballot.
 |
|  | Canada | * Canada believes that the process leading to the election of the 5 senior officials of the Union requires a more dynamic and responsive interaction between the candidates and Member States. Canada suggests that a process and appropriate formats be set in place by which the candidates can make presentations on their vision and strategy for the future of the ITU, and participate in open sessions to respond to Member States' questions. The ITU should take a close look at similar processes that have been set in place by other Geneva based organizations such as ILO and WHO. Canada believes that the current processes for the election of members of Council and of members of the RRB do not need any modification. In addition Canada would support the ITU Secretariat undertaking further analysis on the items listed in PP-14 Committee 5 Recommendation 8, relevant recommendations of the JIU (2009) with respect to electoral processes of Executive Heads and recent experiences of electoral process reform within the wider UN system. The ITU Secretariat should submit its analysis and proposals to the 2017 session of Council.
 |
|  | Switzerland | * The Swiss Administration is in favour of the use of digital media to make the roll-out of the election procedures more efficient. Regarding the proposal to use electronic-assisted voting, the Swiss Administration would support its use solely for elections. From what we understand, however, this is precisely the scenario in which implementation of a digital system poses the greatest challenges in terms of the technical characteristics it will have to satisfy.
 |
|  | USA | * The United States supports the work Council 2016 initiated to explore electronic voting (C16/100, C16/120);
 |
|  | USA | * We further support paperless campaigning including moving toward electronic campaign materials in place of costly printed brochures.
 |
|  | USA | * To reduce the number of receptions, Council 2017 should consider a “candidates forum” where candidates can present their programs, vision, priorities and qualifications in an interactive session held prior to the opening of the Plenipotentiary Conference, as recommended by Brazil prior to PP-14.
 |
|  | Australia, Mexico, USA, Japan | * The Governments of Australia, Mexico, the United States of America and Japan value transparency and accountability in the appointment and selection of Executive Heads and elected officials within United Nations organizations. These processes are fundamental to the credibility of these appointments.
* At the International Telecommunication Union’s 2014 Plenipotentiary, Member States approved Recommendation 8 of Committee 5 which stated:

*It is desirable to improve the electoral process of the elected officials in the Union. In this regard, Council should study the issue and recommend to Member States options for implementing new procedures to improve the electoral process of Secretary-General, Deputy Secretary-General and Directors of the Bureaux. Due considerations should be given to several options such as presentations, interactive sessions, live sessions, interviews, submission of questions, through webcasting and remote participation, as well as further enhancing the election portal in the ITU website. Council is invited to initiate these studies in its 2015 session in order to implement these possible improvements.** In 2009 the United Nations Joint Inspection Unit finalized an evaluation of Selection and Conditions of Service of Executive Heads in the United Nations System Organizations and made specific recommendations with respect to the electoral processes for Executive Heads.
* We also note that there have been recent efforts within the UN system to enhance the transparency and credibility of elected officials, including through the most recent appointment of the United Nations Secretary General and the Director General of the International Labour Organization. Australia is also supporting current reform efforts are underway within the World Health Organization for the selection of the Director General.
* The Governments of Australia, Mexico, the United States of America and Japan would support the ITU Secretariat undertaking further analysis on the items listed in PP-14 Committee 5 Recommendation 8, relevant recommendations of the JIU (2009) with respect to electoral processes of Executive Heads and recent experiences of electoral process reform within the wider UN system. The ITU Secretariat could submit its analysis and proposals to the 2017 session of Council.
 |
|  | Cameroon | * Regarding the item on improving electoral processes, Cameroon supports the contribution by the United Arab Emirates, proposing that ITU use a modern and effective electronic voting system at the PP.
 |
|  | Burkina Faso | * Our Administration supports improving the electoral processes in principle without prejudice to:
* compliance with the principle of "one State, one vote";
* the freedom for each State to put forward candidates or not do so.
* Our Administration is in favour of retaining the appointment of the five officials (Secretary-General, Deputy Secretary-General, Directors of the three Bureaux, Member States of the Council and members of RRB) by election by the plenipotentiary conference.
* Burkina Faso supports the view that participation in the various ballots at plenipotentiary conferences should be reserved to the States present at the conference.
 |
|  | Egypt | * The Egyptian Administration proposes that the necessary measures and amendments to the core resolutions and instruments of the Union be undertaken in order to enable candidates for the five senior positions in the Union to present their electoral programmes and plans during the last Council session prior to the plenipotentiary conference, as well as during the regional preparatory meetings for the conference. This should include time set aside for questions. The aim of this proposal is to afford more space for candidates to present their electoral programmes and plans clearly and at length so as to ensure that Member States are aware of them. It will also give Member States an opportunity to study candidates’ electoral programmes in full and ask questions.
 |
|  | Ukraine | * We support the following proposals:
	+ to create well in advance an online space for PDFs/videos of campaign brochures so that MS may post their candidates’ information electronically and eliminate paper copies. Touch screens could be set up around the coffee break area containing candidates’ information.
	+ where possible use electronic voting in elections of the Secretary-General, Deputy Secretary-General, the Directors of the Bureaux, Members of the RRB and Council.
 |
|  | Kuwait | * We support the proposal submitted by the United Arab Emirates to adopt electronic voting at the Plenipotentiary Conference in order to save time, effort and paper costs and enable the conference to make better use of time. While electronic voting permits rapid announcement of results and is less prone to human and mechanical error, the Secretariat will need to clarify for Member States the secrecy of the process.
* We suggest that the Plenipotentiary Conference should be in a position to conduct elections by paper ballot in emergencies, such as computer system failure, with due regard to No. 176 of Chapter III of the General Rules of conferences, assemblies and meetings of the Union, concerning electoral processes.
 |
| Utilizing up-to-date and integrated conference management tools to increase efficiency and improve the paper-smart practices of the conference | Proposal in secretariat document C16/4 | * Follow Annex 2 of Dec. 5, as it is already applied to conferences and meetings of the Union such as the Council and WRC, by eliminating paper copies of documents to MS.
* Likewise, the Final Acts should only be made available in PDF form.
* Invitations to social events should only be distributed electronically.
* The reduction and elimination of paper copies of campaign brochures should also be encouraged (see Elections and voting procedures above).
 |
|  | Russian Federation | * For document publication and distribution, use the specialist software package "Meeting Document Sync Applications" for personal computers, tablets and smart phones.
 |
|  | Russian Federation | * Publish working documents of drafting groups in electronic form on SharePoint.
 |
|  | Russian Federation | * Make extensive use of electronic editing tools in preparing drafts in the drafting groups, showing edited text on screen.
 |
|  | Russian Federation | * Extend the use in meetings of webcasts and captioning (including audio transcription), with publication and storage of the relevant archives.
 |
|  | UAE | * The traditional Pigeon Holes provided to each delegation, which are used, for the distribution of documentation and invitations in paper format to be stopped at the PP-18 and all communication to the delegations will be through emails, which are mandatory to be given at the time of registration.
 |
|  | UAE | * In order to continue promoting the protection of the environment by reducing the amount of paper usage, the PP Conferences should be completely paperless.
 |
|  | UAE | * As a convenience to delegations in knowing about the dates of social events planned by Member States and in order to avoid the multiple distribution channels and means circulating the Conference, the Secretary General shall publish a list of event as soon as the Protocol office finalizes it and preferably before the first day of the Conference.
 |
|  | UAE | * Integrated Mobile application to be developed for all event related services of PP conference and including documents and proposal interface so that the delegates have a seamless information access
 |
|  | UAE | * The remote participation/ intervention and live webcasting facilities to be enhanced and upgraded to offer advanced connectivity options.
 |
|  | UAE | * Every Resolution or Decision (modified or new) at the PP Conference to have a one page standard form to indicate the financial and administrative implications including but not limited to highlighting the linkage to operational and strategic plan of the Union, cost implication on Union Budget, Time duration and Resources used.
 |
|  | Saudi Arabia | * ICT provides innovative smart tools and applications. Despite the fact that ITU keeps abreast of developments in this area, the existing tools which Member States have could be further improved to make it easier for them to access conference services and documents and meet the growing reliance on the use of smart systems. Accordingly, it is desirable that the General Secretariat conduct a study on possible improvements in this area, according particular importance to secure and reliable software that is compatible with a range of smart systems.
 |
|  | Canada | * Canada supports all efforts and measures to increase efficiencies in the ITU, including through conference management tools. In addition to improving paper-smart practices, serious consideration should be given to the reduction of the number of resolutions, either by abrogation, streamlining or merging. Equally important is the need to reduce the length of contributions particularly taking into consideration the high costs of translation and interpretation.
 |
|  | Canada | * It is also important to consider that almost two full days of a PP are allocated to speeches. Canada considers that with very few exceptions, this is not an efficient use of time. The text of speeches should be sent electronically and posted to the ITU website. This would allow the PP to immediately begin its important work.
 |
|  | Switzerland | * The efforts made by the organization to further develop paper-smart practices by making increased use of digital media at PPs should be pursued.
 |
|  | USA | * The United States supports the recommendations for using conference management tools as suggested in C16/4, including using electronic tools to aid in contribution submission and document management. We support using online tools to the greatest extent practicable, and in that regard, effective WiFi Internet access in the conference venue will be essential.
 |
|  | Kazakhstan | * With respect to item 4, it is recommended that deadlines be set for updating of the agenda and of other materials for the PP, to ensure that participants (Member States) have sufficient time in which to prepare themselves.
 |
|  | Burkina Faso | * Our Administration supports the use of the above-mentioned tools in order to increase work efficiency and make savings.
 |
|  | Ukraine | * We support the following proposals:
	+ Follow Annex 2 of Dec. 5 by eliminating paper copies of documents to MS
	+ The Final Acts should only be made available in PDF form for each MS at the end of PP (but after PP each MS should receive from ITU a certified true paper copy of Final Acts)
	+ Invitations to social events should only be distributed electronically
* We support paperless campaigning including moving toward electronic campaign materials in place of costly printed brochures.
 |
|  | Kuwait | * CITRA proposes the creation of an application for smart devices, along the lines of the one available for smart phones at ITU Telecom, which would include the agenda, times and venue of daily meetings, Member States' proposals and all documents submitted to the conference, as well as nominations and even invitations to receptions.
 |
|  | Kuwait | * Given the great importance of the Plenipotentiary Conference in adopting resolutions that contribute to achieving the goals of the ITU as stated in Article 1 of its Constitution, and in carrying out the functions stated in Article 8 of the Constitution, and in view of the extraordinary development in the world of telecommunications, prompting countries to make optimum use of conference time for adopting appropriate resolutions, we propose that six months before the start of the conference, the Council should create a working group consisting of members from the five regions and tasked with planning conference events and implementing them in a practical and effective manner. The group will study the positive and negative aspects of the conduct of conference business and, at the end of the conference, will prepare a questionnaire to enable participating States to makes comments and suggestions for submission to Council. The duties of the working group will end upon conclusion of the conference.
 |
| Eliminating underutilized interpretation services | Proposal in secretariat document C16/4 | * It was noted at PP-14 that the interpretation services were often overstaffed and underutilized. Although interpretation was available, Committee 2 (Credentials) and its Working Group worked solely in English. Committee 3 (Budget control) met twice with interpretation, but the interpretation services were severely underutilized. On the contrary, Committee 1 (Steering Committee) successfully concluded six meetings without using interpretation.
* It is therefore proposed, in line with Annex 2 of Dec. 5 and taking into consideration the sparse participation in these meetings during PP-14, particularly in Committee 3, to eliminate interpretation services for Committees 2 and 3. An approval of this proposal by the Council would allow for significant savings in the Union’s 2018-2019 draft Budget which will be approved at Council 2017.
 |
|  | UAE | * Interpretation is an essential element of the ITU conferences. It has been observed during the past hosted events that the interpretation on some instances was under-utilized and on some instances, additional hours were required. In order to address this, we propose that the ITU head of interpretation services in consultation with the ITU Elected officials prepare a questionnaire to seek Member States feedback on eliminating the requirement of interpretation at the Committee 1 (Steering committee), Committee 2 (Credentials) and Committee 3 (Budget Control). Based on Member States feedback, Council 2017 to issue a decision in such regard. Nevertheless, the principle of multilingualism must not be compromised by attempts to achieve this efficiency.
 |
|  | Saudi Arabia | * Translation is an essential element of the work of United Nations organizations, enabling a common understanding among the entire ITU membership on the important issues under discussion. The United Nations Joint Inspection Unit affirmed the importance of maintaining a plurality of languages and improving services, given the international character of the organizations belonging to the United Nations system. Because interpretation is so important, the plenipotentiary conference revised Resolution 154, on the use of the six official languages of the Union on an equal footing, resolving to continue to take the measures necessary to ensure that the six official languages of the Union are used on an equal footing and to provide interpretation and translation. Accordingly, interpretation services must continue to be provided regardless of the anticipated savings in the Union’s budget.
 |
|  | Canada | * Canada as an officially bilingual country understands the pressures of interpretation and translations. However, in order to ensure the equal participation of all our citizens, even if the many of them are bilingual, it is our duty to ensure that federal services are available in both official languages. Similarly and even more so at the ITU - an organization whose mandate is to connect the world- we cannot allow the exclusion of participants to the Conferences for financial considerations linked to the cost of interpretation and translation. If only one person in the room needs interpretation in one of the six UN languages, then the ITU must be in a position to offer unreservedly this service. It is a question of equality among members, of inclusivity and of obligation as the UN has six official languages. On this point, Canada firmly calls for the maintenance of full interpretation services.
 |
|  | Switzerland | * Regarding the proposal to eliminate underutilized interpretation services - i.e. interpretation services in Committee 2 (Credentials) and Committee 3 (Budget Control) at PPs, the Swiss Administration deems it premature to decide to irrevocably eliminate interpretation services based on the sole criterion that they are ‘underutilized’. Before taking such a decision, other less definitive alternatives should be assessed.
 |
|  | Kazakhstan | * With respect to item 5, on eliminating underutilized interpretation services, the Ministry recommends, in the interests of equitable access to ITU resources, that participants (Member States) be provided with six official ITU languages interpretation at the PP.
 |
|  | Cameroon | * Regarding the elimination of underutilized interpretation services, the underutilized interpretation services should be maintained, as to do so will allow all members to participate effectively and satisfactorily in the work.
 |
|  | France | * We attach particular importance to the implementation of multilingualism, which appears in the Charter of the United Nations, and will be attentive to seeing that it is implemented in practice, not least in the translation and interpretation functions and the regular updating of the content of the websites in all the languages of the United Nations.
* Multilingualism must not be perceived, by the United Nations system and its specialized agencies, as a constraint or cost, but as a guarantee of efficiency that allows everyone to participate fully in discussions.
* France recognizes the actions taken on this matter by ITU, including in the form of pilot projects regarding interpretation and translation, with a view to fostering multilingualism.
* We encourage ITU to pursue its efforts, within the assigned budget, in order to promote the use of the six official languages of the Union on an equal footing, including at the plenipotentiary conference.
 |
|  | Burkina Faso | * Burkina Faso is in favour of eliminating under-utilized interpretation services.
 |
|  | Ukraine | * We support eliminating interpretation services for Credentials Committee 2.
 |
|  | Kuwait | * We do not agree with this proposal. Simultaneous interpretation should be retained at all conference committees.
 |
| Other | USA | * The United States suggests limiting working hours to 12 hours in any 24-hour period, to include all plenaries, committees, working groups, drafting groups, etc., to allow for adequate rest and time for informal discussions and internal coordination.
 |
|  | USA | * We recommend the Council move up the deadline to submit proposals to four weeks before the conference. Experience has shown that the 14-day deadline in Resolution 165 does not result in sufficient time to review proposals and conduct consultations before the conference as processing and translation often consume much of this time.
 |
|  | Switzerland | * The Administration of Switzerland accords high priority to the Union's identification, selection and implementation of measures to improve the efficiency of the work of PPs. The interest of such improvements lies in the savings they will generate for ITU, the host country, and all members attending the conferences (especially when the improvements lead to a reduction in the duration of PPs).
* Prior to the ordinary session of the Council, we studied very closely Document C16/4 prepared by the General Secretariat and the suggestions it contains. In our view, most of the suggestions are extremely interesting and deserve to be implemented.
 |