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| **Council Working Group forStrategic and Financial Plans 2020-2023****Second meeting – Geneva, 11-12 September 2017** |  |
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|  | **Document CWG-SFP-2/9-E** |
| **25 August 2017** |
| **Original: English/Russian** |

**Contribution from the Russian Federation**

preliminary conclusions on the responses received during the first phase of the open consultations on the development of the draft itu strategic plan for the period 2020-2023

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| SummaryThe document preliminary assessed the proposals received during the first phase of open consultations on the development of the draft ITU Strategic Plan for the period 2020-2023 in order to use it, where appropriate, in preparation for the second phase of open consultations, as well as in the further work of the Council Working Group for Strategic and Financial Plans (CWG-SFP). Actions requiredCWG-SFP is invited to consider the following summarized results of the first phase of open consultations.References*Documents*: Resolution 71 (Rev. Busan 2014); *C17/123; Council-17 Resolution 1384; UNGA Resolution "The 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development" (*[*https://documents-dds-ny.un.org/doc/UNDOC/GEN/N15/291/89/PDF/N1529189.pdf*](https://documents-dds-ny.un.org/doc/UNDOC/GEN/N15/291/89/PDF/N1529189.pdf) *), materials from the ITU website (CWG-SFP):* [*https://www.itu.int/en/council/CWG-SFP-2020-2023/Pages/FPC-contributions.aspx*](https://www.itu.int/en/council/CWG-SFP-2020-2023/Pages/FPC-contributions.aspx) *.* |

# **Introduction**

According to results of the first phase of open consultations on the development of the 2020-2023 Strategic Plan, all proposals were analyzed which had been received not only from Member States (both developed and developing countries, approximately fifty-fifty) and Sector Members, but also from individuals and companies that are not Sector Members. It should be recognized, that the extent of participation in the open consultations on the Strategic Plan is low relative to the number of Member States, Sector Members and Academia. Nevertheless, the Russian Federation expresses its gratitude to all participants for their valuable information, which helped to prepare the contribution.

The analysis is based on a pairwise comparison of all proposals in each question of the Questionnaire. More than 320 views are pairwise compared. Taking into account that all questions were open which created some difficulties for analysis, we believe that the material presented below will be of certain value for the future work of the CWG-SFP.

# **Proposals**

Preliminary conclusions on the responses to the first phase of open consultations are as follows:

1. Practically all proposals could be divided into several groups:
	1. Proposals of a general social nature regarding the use of telecommunications/ICT in accordance with the sustainable development goals of the UNGA Resolution "The 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development" (as a rule, proposals from the developing countries). They were expressed in a spirit of cooperation and reflect the needs in the fight against poverty, addressing climate and energy challenges, assistance to developing countries in the ICT development, etc.
	2. Proposals of a political nature concerning changes in the structure and functions of the ITU and its Sectors and requiring revision of the Constitution and the Convention.
	3. Technical/technological proposals, sometimes politically and/or economically motivated, often representing antipodal views on the same questions, for example, there are proposals to develop 5G standards *within the ITU*; but, on the other hand, there are strong opponents to the *ITU's participation in the 5G standardization (in particular, some participants see the role of the ITU in 5G solely as a regulatory one).*
	4. There were some concerns that the digital divide could grow without the strong role of the ITU in developing standards and regulations for emerging technologies, including 5G.
	5. A similar situation exists in the participation of the ITU in the development of technologies, services and the Internet (there are some pros and cons to the ITU participation in the development of standards to address existing and emerging issues), while some say that the ITU should not act as *a regulator*.
2. There was a great interest in the matters of the ITU-R activity (spectrum as a global resource and satellite networks as global systems, requiring international coordination almost in all cases), postulating spectrum and orbit coordination as the main purpose of the ITU. At the same time, spectrum allocation issues are not mentioned among eight main purposes of the ITU set forth in the Constitution (see Article 1, The purposes of the Union, "*1 The purposes of the Union are*: ..."), they refer to the implementation (enablers) of the purposes (see "2 *To this end, the Union shall in particular: … 11a, 12b* ..."). The issues raised are undoubtedly important, but they cannot cover all issues which the ITU shall reflect in its 2020-2023 Strategic Plan, taking into account "The 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development". For example, some other participants of the first phase of consultations quite fairly think about the future of all kinds and types of wired networks.
3. Some participants say that the development of telecommunication/ICT standards should be given up to professionals and businesses: "...some of the ITU’s other important tasks (e.g., developing and adopting ICT standards) could be achieved through cooperation with other SDO’s, avoiding duplication and overlap to the extent possible"; "We need an ITU which is fully engaged with industry and the technical community, which listens to the private sector and the technical community, and which builds understanding of future trends by attracting industry and technical experts to the secretariat." We believe that the ITU Constitution and the ITU Convention meet their expectations which could be implemented through the active work of Sector Members. We do not think efficient the idea to leave the ITU a role of a spectator/observer of the world processes which have a positive impact from the ITU until now. Hence, when speaking about avoiding duplication, first of all, it is necessary to bear in mind the working processes inside the ITU.
4. Most of the proposals in the responses could be considered as background information for the formulation of strategic goals and objectives for the Sectors. The responses have no proposals on the content and structure of the future Resolution 71. They have many general purpose reasoning such as that the Strategic Plan should take into account the interests of all ITU members and solve urgent problems. The proposals of the participants do not practically contain *generalized wordings* *concerning development trends*, which (wordings) could be used as strategic goals to be reflected in Resolution 71, and which would reflect the interests of all countries and organizations in the field of telecommunications/ICT.
5. In some responses, the financial pressure on the ITU activity is fairly noted. Some proposals suggest drastic narrowing the ITU mandate, for example: "... it is essential that its work and resource allocations be closely aligned with the two most important aspects of its mandate: i. the adoption of treaty agreements and the management of the shared worldwide asset consisting of the radio-frequency spectrum and the space/orbit resource for all of humanity; and, ii. the help provide access to ICT’s by all the world’s citizens, namely *through support for the developing countries*." Recognizing the importance of these two aspects, we believe that they in no way reflect the entire ITU mandate contained in the Constitution and the Convention.
6. The responses do not set the task of increasing the membership responsibility before the ITU. There is an impression that all participants of the survey considered the ITU exclusively as an executive body, and not as a Union of participants who joined in on conditions of free will and who bear responsibility along with the General Secretariat for the implementation of decisions taken, including financial one including debts. For optimal allocation of resources between Sectors, it is necessary to solve the issues of developing the objective indicators to assess the ITU activity outcomes that are valuable to its members.
7. Some proposals concerning support for developing countries through capacity-building, encouraging public-private partnerships and facilitating an enabling environment for investment based on the best regulatory practices, open markets and competition require further discussion to formulate specific mechanisms and measures so as not to be limited by general declarations.
8. We consider it reasonable to shift the discussion of many issues from the field of rhetoric into practical activity, in particular, of such complicated issues as partnership with the private sector and civil society, regulation of markets. At the same time, it is true, that in order to exclude or reduce rhetoric in the development of the Strategic Plan, it is necessary to start discussing all the issues, solving the following three challenges: "... Variance in demands due to huge difference among countries in the level of economy and information technology development; guarantee for information security and balance of interests among countries".

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