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| **Expert Group on the International Telecommunication Regulations (EG-ITRs)** |  |
| **First meeting – Geneva, 9-10 February 2017**  |  |
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| **Canada** |
| REVIEW OF THE 2012 INTERNATIONAL TELECOMMUNICATION REGULATIONS |

Canada welcomes the opportunity to contribute to the discussion on the review of the International Telecommunication Regulations (ITRs) to be undertaken by the Expert Group (EG-ITRs) established by Council’s Resolution 1379.

As per Council’s Resolution 1379, and based on contributions from Member States, Sector Members, and the Directors of the Bureaux, if necessary, the EG-ITRs will produce and submit a draft preliminary report to Council 2017, and a final report to Council 2018. Canada understands that those reports will accurately and factually reflect all the contributions, views and interventions submitted and or expressed by Member States and Sector Members to or during the meetings of the EG-ITRs. Canada also understands that contributions to the EG-ITRs that could be submitted by the Directors of the Bureaux – if necessary - will be the result of a thorough review by the respective sector advisory groups, whether TSAG, TDAG or RAG, and that there will be no contributions of Study Groups submitted directly to the EG-ITRs.

Canada had substantial concerns that supported its decision not to sign the Final Acts of the 2012 World Conference on International Telecommunications (WCIT-12) and will remain bound only by the 1988 ITRs.

Canada strongly believed then, and continues to believe now, that the successful deployment and use of telecommunication services and applications worldwide, as reflected and evidenced in several international telecommunication reports and publications, including those of the ITU, has not been the result of the ITRs. What has been and will continue to be a successful path for the deployment, adoption and use of telecommunications and ICTs in a rapidly evolving telecommunications sector, is the creation and enhancement of regulatory environments that promote competition, investment, transparency, entrepreneurship and innovation. Canada also believes that public-private partnerships (PPPs) have proven to be very effective in the design and successful implementation of national and regional telecommunication and ICT development strategies.

Canada looks forward to continue working with all ITU Membership and stakeholders, particularly with developing and least developed countries, to ensure that the focus of our collective work in the Union remains on infrastructure and connectivity, and on capacity building and skills development to close the digital divides that still exit among and within nations.