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| **Council 2018 Geneva, 17-27 April 2018** |  |
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|  | **Document C18/103-E** |
| **8 May 2018** |
| **Original: English** |
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| SUMMARY RECORD  OF THE  INAUGURAL PLENARY MEETING | |
| Tuesday, 17 April 2018, from 0930 to 1235 hours | |
| **Chairman:**  Dr E. SPINA (Italy)  **Later:** Mr R. ISMAILOV (Russian Federation) | |

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|  | Subjects discussed | Documents |
| 1 | Opening of the 2018 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 | Statements by ministers and councillors | - |
| 7 | Adoption of the draft agenda of the 2018 session of the Council | [C18/1](https://www.itu.int/md/S18-CL-C-0001/en) |
| 8 | Allocation of documents | [C18/DT/1](https://www.itu.int/md/S18-CL-180417-TD-GEN-0001/en) |
| 9 | Draft time management plan | [C18/DT/2](https://www.itu.int/md/S18-CL-180417-TD-GEN-0002/en) |
| 10 | Organizational matters | - |
| 11 | Report on the implementation of the strategic plan and the activities of the Union for 2014-2017 | [C18/35](https://www.itu.int/md/S18-CL-C-0035/en) |
| 12 | Preparations for the 2018 Plenipotentiary Conference | [C18/4](https://www.itu.int/md/S18-CL-C-0004/en), [C18/81](https://www.itu.int/md/S18-CL-C-0081/en), [C18/84](https://www.itu.int/md/S18-CL-C-0084/en) |

**1 Opening of the 2018 session of the Council**

1.1 The outgoing Chairman declared the 2018 session of the Council open and delivered the address available at: <https://www.itu.int/en/council/2018/Pages/speech-spina.aspx>.

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

2.1 The Secretary-General proposed that Mr Rashid Ismailov (Russian Federation), who had served as Vice-Chairman of the Council at its 2017 session, be elected Chairman of the Council for its 2018 session.

2.2 Mr Ismailov (Russian Federation) 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 D, and proposed that Dr Elsayed Azzouz (Egypt) be elected Vice-Chairman of the Council.

2.4 Dr Azzouz (Egypt) was **elected** Vice-Chairman of the Council by acclamation.

# 3 Address by the Chairman of the Council

3.1 The Chairman of the Council expressed gratitude for the trust placed in him as the representative of the Russian Federation and thanked the outgoing Chairman of the Council, from whom he had learned a great deal. He trusted that the present Council session would be marked by the traditional spirit of consensus, friendship and mutual respect.

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

4.1 The Secretary-General proposed that, as agreed at Council-17, Ms Vernita Harris (United States) continue to serve as Chairman of the Standing Committee on Administration and Management for the 2018 session of the Council. He further proposed that Mr Abdourahmane Touré (Mali) and Mr Dirk-Olivier von der Emden (Switzerland) continue to serve as Vice-Chairmen of the Standing Committee.

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 available at: <https://www.itu.int/en/osg/speeches/Pages/2018-04-17.aspx>.

# 6 Statements by ministers and councillors

6.1 Statements were delivered by Mr Yong-Soo Kim (Vice-Minister, Ministry of Science and ICT, Republic of Korea), Mr Vasileios Maglaras (Secretary-General of Telecommunications, Ministry of Digital Policy, Telecommunications and Media, Greece), Ms Ursula Owusu-Ekuful (Minister of Communications, Ghana) and Mr Abdulaziz Al Ruwais (Governor, Communications and Information Technology Commission, Saudi Arabia), in which they reaffirmed their commitment to ITU and its work, and announced that their respective countries would be standing for re-election to the Council at PP-18. Mr Abdulaziz Al Ruwais (Governor, Communications and Information Technology Commission, Saudi Arabia) also confirmed that Saudi Arabia would maintain its financial commitment to ITU at 13 contributory units, in order to support ITU’s work on behalf of least developed and developing countries in particular.

6.2 Mr Yong-Soo Kim (Vice-Minister, Ministry of Science and ICT, Republic of Korea) also announced that his country would be submitting the candidature of Mr Chaesub Lee for re-election as Director of ITU-T at PP-18.

6.3 Mr Abdulaziz Al Ruwais (Governor, Communications and Information Technology Commission, Saudi Arabia) and Mr Sani Maigochi (Minister of Posts, Telecommunications and the Digital Economy, Niger) announced that their countries would be submitting the candidatures of Mr Tariq M. Alamri and Mr Ahmed Jean Boraud, respectively, for membership of the Radio Regulations Board at PP-18.

6.4 Mr Sorin Mihai Grindeanu (President of the Romanian National Regulatory Authority) and Amb. Andrew Kihurani (Deputy Ambassador/Permanent Representative of the Kenyan Permanent Mission to the United Nations in Geneva) have also reaffirmed their countries’ commitments to the Union and its work throughout all layers of activities. They took this opportunity to announce the candidacies of Romania and Kenya for Council at PP-18.

# 7 Adoption of the draft agenda of the 2018 session of the Council (Document [C18/1](https://www.itu.int/md/S18-CL-C-0001/en))

7.1 The Secretary of the Plenary, introducing Document C18/1, said that the structure of the agenda was similar to that of previous years. A total of 25 contributions had thus far been received from Member States, of which 24 were proposals and one was an information document.

7.2 The councillor from Brazil said that his delegation wished to discuss the ITU-T regional groups, and specifically which entity was authorized to approve their establishment, in the Standing Committee, but had not submitted a formal contribution in that regard.

7.3 The draft agenda of the 2018 session of the Council (Document C18/1) was **adopted with the above-mentioned addition**.

# 8 Allocation of documents (Document [C18/DT/1](https://www.itu.int/md/S18-CL-180417-TD-GEN-0001/en))

8.1 The Secretary of the Plenary introduced Document C18/DT/1, which was **approved**.

# 9 Draft time-management plan (Document [C18/DT/2](https://www.itu.int/md/S18-CL-180417-TD-GEN-0002/en))

9.1 The Secretary of the Plenary introduced Document C18/DT/2. The Councillor from the Russian Federation proposed discussing document C18/81 with the documents on PP preparation. The Council **approved** DT/2 with this modification.

# 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. 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. All documents would be made available on the Council webpage and via the C18 Sync application.

10.2 The Head of the Safety and Security Division, speaking on behalf of the Deputy Secretary-General who was responsible for the ITU security modernization and global identity project, briefed the Council on developments in the new ITU access control system, noting *inter alia* that the new CRM registration system, which would greatly facilitate the establishment of quorums for voting procedures, was also being trialed at Council-18, in preparation for PP-18.

10.3 The information on the organization of work for the 2018 session was **noted**.

**11 Report on the implementation of the strategic plan and the activities of the Union for 2014-2017** **(Document** [**C18/35**](https://www.itu.int/md/S18-CL-C-0035/en)**)**

11.1 The Deputy Secretary-General introduced Document C18/35, which outlined progress made towards the achievement of ITU-wide strategic goals and targets and the Sector and inter-sectoral objectives from PP-14 to 2018, and would form the basis for the report by the Council to PP-18 on the implementation of the strategic plan. The information was presented in a results-oriented, evidence-based manner, and analytical figures were used to show overall progress towards the Connect 2020 Agenda and key performance indicators endorsed by the membership in the operational plans of the three Sectors and the General Secretariat. The report was complemented by an online reporting and dashboard tool, which presented the work of the Union in a dynamic and transparent manner ([www.itu.int/annual-report-2017](http://www.itu.int/annual-report-2017)).

11.2 One councillor said that the use of graphs and analytical tables greatly enhanced ease of reference. He praised the work of ITU-R in support of 5G technologies and spectrum studies, and welcomed the new ITU-T focus group on machine learning for future networks, including 5G, and the successful holding of WTDC-17 in Argentina. It was suggested that SMEs should continue to be invited to participate in ITU’s working groups.

11.3 The Deputy Secretary-General explained that the report would be updated by the Chairman with the assistance of the secretariat, for example to include reference to GSR and WTISD, and submitted to PP-18 as document 20.

11.4 On that understanding, Document C18/35 was **approved**.

**12 Preparations for the 2018 Plenipotentiary Conference (Documents** [**C18/4**](https://www.itu.int/md/S18-CL-C-0004/en)**,** [**C18/81**](https://www.itu.int/md/S18-CL-C-0081/en) **and** [**C18/84**](https://www.itu.int/md/S18-CL-C-0084/en)**)**

12.1 The representative of the secretariat introduced Document C18/4, which provided an update on the status of preparations for PP-18.

12.2 Document C18/4 was **noted**.

12.3 Mr Hamad Al Mansoori (Director General of the Telecommunications Regulatory Authority, United Arab Emirates), said that his country was pleased to be hosting PP-18, which would provide an opportunity to address current challenges and enhance the role of ICTs in promoting prosperity for all. Having recalled his country’s commitment to ICTs and its active participation in the work of the Union, he said that it hoped to continue to play an active role in the Council by being re-elected for the period 2019–2022.

12.4 A short video showcasing a number of tourist attractions in the United Arab Emirates was shown. The councillor from the United Arab Emirates gave a short presentation on logistical arrangements for PP-18, drawing particular attention to the PP-18 website, which provided additional practical information for delegates.

12.5 The councillor from the Russian Federation introduced Documents C18/84 and C18/81. Document C18/84 set out proposals for streamlining resolutions of Sector conferences and assemblies and plenipotentiary conference resolutions, which often overlapped, that could, initially, be taken into account in preparing for PP-18. Document C18/81 contained a draft new PP-18 resolution on appointment and maximum term of office for chairmen and vice-chairmen of Sector study groups, advisory groups and coordination committees for vocabulary, which was based on the new approach and obviated the need for analogous Sector resolutions.

12.6 Councillors underscored the importance of coordination between the Sectors in order to avoid duplication of work, while bearing in mind the specific mandates of each Sector. Support was expressed for the Russian proposal, but further consideration on modalities for implementation was required. It was suggested that the secretariat should identify the procedure to be followed to ensure that any summary of plenipotentiary conference resolutions was appropriately captured in Sector resolutions. One councillor suggested that, after PP-18, the task of coordinating and simplifying the resolutions should be entrusted to the intersectoral coordination team.

12.7 The councillors from Senegal, Poland, Tunisia and Argentina, having expressed their appreciation to the United Arab Emirates for hosting PP-18, announced that their countries would be standing for re-election to the Council for the period 2019–2022. The councillor from Argentina added that his country was submitting the candidature of Mr Oscar Martín González for election to the RRB.

12.8 The observer from Portugal, speaking on behalf of CEPT, thanked the United Arab Emirates for its work to host PP-18.

12.9 Documents C18/81 and C18/84 were **noted**.

The Secretary-General: The Chairman:  
H. ZHAO R. ISMAILOV

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