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| **Council 2018Geneva, 17-27 April 2018** |  |
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|  | **Document C18/120-E** |
| **17 May 2018** |
| **Original: English** |
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| Summary record of the Eighth Plenary meeting |
| Thursday, 26 April 2018, from 1105 to 1235 hours |
| **Chairman**: Mr R. ISMAILOV (Russian Federation) |

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|  | Subjects discussed | Documents |
| 1 | Announcements by councillors | - |
| 2 | International Girls in ICT Day | - |
| 3 | Report by the Chairman of the Standing Committee on Administration and Management  | [C18/108](https://www.itu.int/md/S18-CL-C-0108/en) |

**1 Announcements by councillors**

1.1 The councillors from Australia and Bangladesh made statements regarding their countries’ commitment to the work of ITU and announced that they would be standing for re-election to the Council for the period 2019 to 2022. The observer from the United Kingdom announced that Deputy Secretary-General Malcolm Johnson would be standing for re-election.

**2 International Girls in ICT Day**

2.1 At the invitation of the Chairman, two of the participants in the International Girls in ICT Day activities, Lea Laurent and Catherine Hodges, shared their experiences with the Council.

2.2 In the ensuing discussion, councillors praised the girls for their brave and innovative spirit, and encouraged them to pursue their interest in ICTs. Their positive attitude could serve as an example to other young women the world over, and their continued engagement in ICTs would contribute to bridging the gender digital divide.

2.3 Ms Laurent and Ms Hodges thanked the councillors for their words of encouragement, and urged them to do their utmost to promote gender equality in the technology sector and to continue to provide valuable learning opportunities for girls and young women around the world.

2.4 The Director of BDT thanked all those who had made International Girls in ICT Day a success. He cited the example of Paraguay, where a project undertaken to provide computers and Internet connectivity to schools in very deprived areas had provided girls with the inspiration to aspire to high-achieving careers in law and politics.

**3 Report by the Chairman of the Standing Committee on Administration and Management (Document** [**C18/108**](https://www.itu.int/md/S18-CL-C-0108/en)**)**

3.1 The Chairman of the Standing Committee on Administration and Management introduced her report in Document C18/108, section by section. The Plenary was invited to consider and, as appropriate, approve the recommendations it contained, thereby also approving/adopting the texts contained in Annexes A to G to the report.

3.2 In the ensuing debate, the following main comments and amendments were made. The final texts of the recommendations and texts approved/adopted may be found in Annex A to the summary record of the ninth plenary meeting of Council-18 ([Document C18/121](https://www.itu.int/md/S18-CL-C-0121/en)).

3.3 Responding to a councillor who queried why certain key matters raised by the Staff Council had not been elaborated upon in §1.1 of the report, the Chairman of the Standing Committee said that the usual, standard approach had been taken to reporting the statement by the Chairman of the Staff Council.

3.4 At the suggestion of one councillor, the Council **agreed** to insert the specific four-year timeframe pertaining to the Human Resources Strategic Plan in the recommendation in §2.7.

3.5 On the issue of membership of the ITU Staff Pension Committee (§3), one councillor commented that it was unclear how Pension Committee meetings were convened. Although his country was a member of the committee, no meeting invitations had been received. Steps should be taken to ensure that all committee members were informed about meetings in good time.

3.6 Regarding § 11.8, the councillor from Canada wished to clarify that the Department of Innovation, Science and Economic Development of Canada had paid the arrears of the satellite company that was no longer in existence.

3.7 The Chairman of the Standing Committee pointed out that a new recommendation should be added, before the recommendation in §17.13, to the effect that the Committee recommended that the Council create an Expert Group on Decision 482.

3.8 It was so **agreed.**

3.9 In respect of the recommendation on conforming with Council Decision 588 on the sale of the ITU Tower, contained in §19.12, the councillor from the United Arab Emirates, supported by four others, pointed out that the Member States Advisory Group on the Union’s headquarters premises project (MSAG) had recommended that the possibility of leasing out the Tower should be investigated. That investigation, and a comparative analysis of the financial benefits of sale and potential leasing, should be conducted. The recommendation should therefore also refer to the feasibility study of the Tower being leased out rather than sold.

3.10 The Councillor from Switzerland pointed out that the renting out of the Tower, as opposed to its sale as agreed in Council Decision 588, would have implications for Switzerland as the host country and should therefore be discussed within the ITU-Host Country Liaison Committee.

3.11 Several councillors observed that if the Council wished to consider whether renting out was indeed a real possibility, it must be considered not only from a financial perspective, but also from a legal one. One councillor asked whether there was any precedent in which a United Nations agency had become a landlord. Another suggested that the recommendation be reworded to the effect that the Council should invite the secretariat to issue a comparative analysis of the potential sale and renting out of the Tower, in coordination with the host country, taking account of all legal and financial implications.

3.12 The Deputy Secretary-General said that the situation would be considered in close consultation with the host country, through the Liaison Committee. If a feasibility study was conducted and arrived at the conclusion that rental was preferable to sale, the Council would be informed and requested to reconsider Decision 588. He suggested the Council might wish to amend the recommendation to read simply: "The Committee recommends that the Council invites the secretariat to conform with Council Decision 588."

3.13 The Councillor from Switzerland said that his delegation would need time to consult before it could pronounce on such an amendment.

3.14 The Chairman said that the Plenary would return to the matter at its next meeting.

The Secretary-General: The Chairman:

H. ZHAO R. ISMAILOV

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