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| **Council Working Group for Strategic and Financial Plans 2020-2023**  **Third meeting – Geneva, 15-16 January 2018** |  |
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| Russian Federation | |
| contribution from the russian federation  proposals towards measures to improve efficiency of the itu activity | |
| (draft revised annex 2 to decision 5 (rev. busan, 2014)) | |

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| Summary  The document proposes measures to improve efficiency of the ITU activity to be reflected in Annex 2 to Decision 5 (Rev. Busan, 2014) “Revenue and expenses for the Union for the period 2016-2019” for consideration at the third meeting of CWG-SFP to be further used in preparation of draft revised Decision 5 (Rev. Busan, 2014).  Action required  CWG-SFP is invited to consider the proposals below to take into account results of discussions when drafting revision of Decision 5 (Rev. Busan, 2014) to be presented at Council-18.  \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_  References  Documents: Decision 563 (Rev. 2014); Resolution 1384 of Council-17; Resolution 71 (Rev. Busan, 2014); Resolution 72 (Rev. Busan, 2014); Resolution 91 (Rev. Guadalajara, 2010); Resolution 151 (Rev. Busan, 2014); Resolution 48 (Rev. Busan, 2014); Resolution 191 (Busan, 2014); Resolution 200 (Busan, 2014); Doc.C17/45; Doc.C17/82 Rev.2; Doc. C17/123; Doc. CWG-SFP-2/4; Doc. CWG-SFP-2/6 Rev.2; Financial Regulations and Financial rules of the ITU |

# Introduction

Pursuant to the Council Doc. C17/123 (section 6.2) the structure and content of the ITU Strategic Plan (Resolution 71 (Rev. Busan, 2014)) shall be revised. Taking into account efforts and results of cost reduction and improvement of ITU efficiency (Doc. С17/45), as well as considering the content of the draft Financial Plan 2020-2023 (Doc. CWG-SFP-2/4) and the draft ITU Strategic Plan 2020-2023, new trends in the field of telecommunication/ICT and the need of ITU active participation in achieving UN 2030 Sustainable Development Goals[[1]](#footnote-1), the text of Decision 5 (Rev. Busan, 2014) including its Annexes needs to be aligned with new circumstances, goals and objectives of the ITU.

As Doc. С17/45 states, it is increasingly difficult to identify further additional measures that would not impact on the Union’s core functions, therefore the ITU Management will continue its efforts in finding *innovative* solutions, in particular through the use of new technologies, in its preparation for the draft Financial Plan 2020-2023.

The Russian Federation believes that it is critical for ITU focus not only on reduction of expenses but rather on improving in a broader manner the usage of all resources available, optimization of work performance in each Union scope of activities, bearing in mind linking all types of plans, practices and recent experience of applying principles and methods of RBM and RBB.

# Proposals

Annex А to this document mainly focuses on possible measures for improving efficiency of the ITU activity and optimizing expenses. It is proposed to consider the proposals below to take into account results of the discussions when drafting the revision of Annex 2 to Decision 5 (Rev. Busan, 2014).

Annex А

**Measures for improving efficiency and reducing expenses of the ITU**

(ANNEX 2 TO DECISION 5 (REV. DUBAI , 2018)

1) Following Resolution 191 (Rev. ХХХХ, ХХХХ) for coordination and tighter cooperation between all stakeholders in the ICT ecosystem to achieve SDGs, identify and eliminate all forms and instances of duplication of functions and activities between all ITU structural bodies, optimizing, inter alia, management methods, logistics, coordination and support by the Secretariat.

2) To implement the concept "One ITU", increasing the role of regional offices/regional presence in implementation of goals and objectives of the ITU and Sectors, as well as in order to gain from the utilization of local experts and local contacts and resources networks, as well as maximum coordination with regional organizations, to continue striving for rational utilization of financial and human resources available, including saving on travel costs and costs related to planning and organization of events outside Geneva (Resolution 25 (Rev. ХХХХ, ХХХХ)).

3) Promoting new trends in the field of ICTs and encouraging them to facilitate the achievement of SDGs and strengthening the role of ITU as the leading UN organization in the sphere of telecommunication/ICT development, to continue activities related to improving staff utilization/hiring, which is the critical strategic resource, without lowering the quality and amount of planned work in the interests of all ITU Members and its key partners (identification and maintenance of the optimal staff number, increase in the skill level and performance, application of progressive forms of the pay system according to methods approved in the UN system, increase in motivation, improvement of the performance appraisal system, observation of gender balance and geographical distribution), based on the transparency of the relevant legal framework stipulated in the ITU Staff Regulations (see Resolution 48 (Rev. ХХХХ, ХХХХ), JIU Recommendation 9, Doc. С17/49).

4) The use of consultants/experts should only occur when the relevant skills or experience cannot be found among existing staff and after confirmation of this requirement in writing by senior management.

5) The General Secretariat and the three Sectors of the Union should continue reducing the cost of documentation, by conducting paperless conferences/meetings of all levels and forms, where appropriate, implementing initiatives towards making the ITU a completely paperless organization, fostering the adoption of ICT innovations as viable and most sustainable substitutes for paper, without degrading the quality of information provided to event participants.

6) Reducing to the absolute minimum necessary the printing and distribution of ITU promotional/non-revenue generating publications.

7) Taking all necessary measures for efficient use of the six official languages of the Union on an equal footing both when providing interpretation/translation of ITU documents and reflecting the same information on the ITU website, to optimize resource utilizationin languages (translation, interpretation) for events of different levels and forms, when preparing publications, without prejudice to the goals of Resolution 154 (Rev. XXXX XXXX) and quality of translation/accuracy of telecommunication/ICT terminology.

8) Increasing efficiency of WSIS programme activities and ensuring activities towards achieving SDGs within PP-18 allocated resources and, as appropriate, through cost recovery and voluntary contributions.

9) Optimizing the duration of Council working group meetings, ITU study groups, regional groups established by ITU study groups, advisory groups and others, using the ICT opportunities to carry them out, reducing the number of groups to the absolute minimum necessary by combining them into a smaller number of groups and/or terminating their activities if no further development occurred on their scope of activities, eliminating duplication and overlap of their activities to utilize ITU resources efficiently without the risks, in particular, of failure to fulfill strategic and operational goals and objectives of the Union.10) Appeal to the Member States to reduce the number of issues and time for their consideration by all conferences, assemblies and other meetings to the minimum necessary.

11) According to Resolution 71 (Rev. Dubai, 2018) the Council (with the involvement of the General Secretariat) should perform regular assessment of the level of achievement of the strategic goals, implementation of objectives and outputs with a view to monitor and increase efficiency of resource usage by their reallocation and adjusting ITU budget, when or if necessary (taking into consideration ITU Financial Regulations and Financial Rules).

12) For new activities or those having additional financial resource implications, a "value-added" assessment shall be made in order to justify how the proposed activities differ from current and/or similar activities and to eliminate overlap and duplication.

13) The General Secretariat should continue carrying out comprehensive plan to improve the stability and predictability of the financial base of the Union, mobilizing resources, in accordance with the principles outlined in the Doc. C17/67 “Improving the stability and predictability of the financial base of the Union”, as well as improving, inter alia, management of corporate projects requiring significant long-term investments; and report to the Council (annually) and to PP.

14) Member States, Sector Members and other ITU members to take all possible measures on settling/eliminating arrears to the Union according to Resolution 41 (Rev. ХХХХ, ХХХХ) and Resolution 152 (Rev. ХХХХ, ХХХХ), as well as relevant provisions of the ITU Constitution and Convention.

15) Sound consideration of the size, location and resources allocated to regional initiatives, outputs and assistance to members, to the regional presence both in the regions and at headquarters, as well as those resulting from the outcome of WTDC and the 2014 Dubai Declaration , and financed directly as activities from the Telecommunication Development Sector budget.

16) To optimize expenses related to maintenance, routing repair and renovation/reconstruction of the ITU facilities, provision of safety according to standards applicable in the UN system.

17) Any additional measures adopted by the Council and the ITU Management, including measures to increase efficiency of the internal audit, institutionalize functions of evaluation, assess and minimize risk of fraud and other risks, timely implement recommendations from external auditor, IMAC and JIU, implement Information Technology and Information Management Strategy for the Secretariat (see Doc. C17/20).

1. Resolution of the UNGA “The 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development”  
   (https://documents-dds-ny.un.org/doc/UNDOC/GEN/N15/291/89/PDF/N1529189.pdf?) [↑](#footnote-ref-1)