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| **Plenipotentiary Conference (PP-18) Dubai, 29 October – 16 November 2018** |  |
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| PLENARY MEETING | **Addendum 4 to Document 18-E** |
|  | **15 October 2018** |
|  | **Original: English** |
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| United States of America | |
| Proposals for the work of the conference  ITU Telecom events | |

The United States recognizes the efforts of the ITU Secretariat in seeking to reform and re-focus ITU Telecom as an event in support of SME’s. The changes proposed to the nature of the event and the trade show format to finance ITU Telecom have not been paired with a corresponding report on financial or operational implications, however, so it is not possible to clarify the budgetary pressures on the ITU staff and whether those costs could be recovered consistent with Resolution 11. It also is not clear whether dedicated ITU Secretariat Staff are still envisioned in any future business model or whether or how those staff would be absorbed into the ITU’s annual budget.

The United States also recognizes that in the changing telecom environment there are a number of events and trade shows that put pressure on ITU Members for their participation. ITU, consistent with the Strategic and Financial Plan, as well as the regional initiatives outlined in the 2017 Buenos Aires Action Plan, also organizes a wide range of events and activities throughout the year focused on the entire ITU Membership and not singly on SME’s. Pressures on the ITU’s budget to meet the needs of the Membership may further require more flexibility annually than to hold a global event each year focused only on SMEs.

Because of this, the United States proposes a moratorium on future ITU TELECOM events starting in 2020 until the Council can fully review and consider an updated financial and operational report that includes advantages and disadvantages of maintaining the ITU Telecom and take account of any financial impact on the Union. We believe that this approach will allow the Council to be more informed about ITU Telecom’s financial impact before confirming or endorsing ITU’s proposed reforms via Resolution 11 at PP-18. The United States proposes that the moratorium on ITU Telecom continue pending a decision by PP-2022.

MOD USA/18A4/1

RESOLUTION 11 (Rev.DUBAI, 2018)

ITU Telecom events

The Plenipotentiary Conference of the International Telecommunication Union (Dubai, 2018),

considering

*a)* that the purposes of the Union, as reflected in Article 1 of the ITU Constitution, include to promote the extension of the benefits of the new telecommunication technologies to all the world's inhabitants and to harmonize the actions of Member States and Sector Members in the attainment of those ends;

*b)* that the telecommunication environment is undergoing considerable changes under the combined influence of advances in technology, the globalization of markets and growing user demand for integrated cross‑border services adapted to their needs;

*c)* that annually, in addition to a wide range of national, regional and global exhibitions and conferences on telecommunications/ICTs hosted by numerous organizations, ITU also hosts a number of global and regional events consistent with the aims of the Strategic and Financial plans of the Union to promote the development and advancement of telecommunications/ICTs;

*d)* the high number of institutionalized events taking place every year is not conducive to ITU's efficiency measures aimed at saving human, financial and other resources;

*e)* that the mandate of ITU Telecom events has been to keep Member States and Sector Members informed of, and offer a universal opportunity for the display of, state-of-the-art technology concerning all aspects of telecommunications/ICT and related fields of activity, and provide a forum for the exchange of views between Member States and industry;

*f)* that given this mandate, the ITU Membership must consider whether ITU Telecom should continue;

emphasizing

*a)* that it is necessary for the Union, as an international organization playing a leading role in the field of telecommunications/ICT, to continue to facilitate the exchange of information by high-level participants on telecommunication policies;

*b)* that the organization of exhibitions is not the main objective of ITU,noting

*a)* that in response to PP-14, the ITU Secretariat has sought to refresh the focus of ITU Telecom World events away from the original mandate and towards providing an international platform to foster the development, and highlight solutions, of ICT SMEs;

*b)* that ITU Telecom events are continuing to face challenges, such as the increasing costs of exhibits and the trend towards reducing their size, the specialization of their scope and the need to provide value to industry;

*c)* that ITU Telecom events need to provide value and opportunities for participants to earn a reasonable return on their investments;

noting further

that there is a need to ensure the financial viability of ITU Telecom events including consideration of the impact of ITU TELECOM on the limited resources of the ITU Secretariat staff,

resolves

1 that the Union should, in collaboration with its Member States and its Sector Members, organize the 2019 ITU Telecom event in Hungary related to issues of major importance in the current telecommunication/ICT environment and addressing market trends, technological development and regulatory issues, among others;

2 to establish a moratorium on ITU Telecom events as of 2020, until after a decision on the future of ITU Telecom Events by the 2022 Plenipotentiary, following a review by Council of an ITU Secretariat report on financial and operational impact on the ITU including a full accounting of staff resources and advantages and disadvantages of maintaining ITU Telecom;

3 that the Secretary-General is fully accountable for ITU Telecom activities (including planning, organization and finance);4 that each ITU Telecom event shall be financially viable and shall have no negative impact on the ITU budget on the basis of the existing cost-allocation system as determined by the Council;

5 that the audit of ITU Telecom accounts shall be carried out by the External Auditor of the Union;

6 that, once all expenses have been recovered, a significant part of any generated positive revenues over expenses derived from ITU Telecom activities shall be transferred to the ICT Development Fund under the ITU Telecommunication Development Bureau, for specific telecommunication development projects, primarily in the least developed countries, small island developing states, landlocked developing countries and countries with economies in transition,

instructs the Secretary-General

1 to ensure the appropriate management of the 2019 ITU Telecom event and resources, in line with the regulations of the Union;

2 to develop a business plan for the 2019 ITU Telecom event;

3 to develop a report for review and consideration by Council in 2019 a review of financial and operational risks, advantages and disadvantages for continuing ITU Telecom World events, taking into account other high-level events

4 to ensure the transparency of the 2019 ITU Telecom event and report on them in a separate annual report to the Council, including:

– all ITU Telecom business activities;

– all activities of the ITU Telecom Board, including the proposals on the themes and venues for the event;

– the reasons for the selection of venuefor the 2019 ITU Telecom event;

– – action taken with respect to the use of any positive revenues generated from the 2019 ITU Telecom Event;

5 to ensure that there is internal control and that internal and external audits of the accounts for the 2019 ITU Telecom event is carried out in a timely manner;

6 to report annually to the Council on the implementation of this resolution, and to the next plenipotentiary conference on the future evolution of the ITU Telecom events,

instructs the Secretary-General, in cooperation with the Directors of the Bureaux

1 to give due consideration, in planning the 2019 ITU Telecom event, to the possible synergies with the major ITU conferences and meetings, and vice versa, where justified;

2 to encourage the participation of ITU in national, regional and global telecommunication/ICT events, within the available financial resources,

*instructs the Council*

1 review the annual report on the 2019 ITU Telecom event and the financial risk analysis and report prepared by the Secretariat in *instructs the Secretary-General 3* above, and provide a report to the ITU Plenipotentiary in 2022 for a decision on the future of ITU Telecom World events;

2 to report on the future of these events to the next plenipotentiary conference.