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| **Plenipotentiary Conference (PP-18)Dubai, 29 October – 16 November 2018** |  |
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| PLENARY MEETING | **Addendum 2 toDocument 55-E** |
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| African Telecommunication Union Administrations |
| AFRICAN COMMON Proposals for the work of the conference |
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| AFCP No | Contributions |
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| **AFCP/55A2/1** | Revision of Decision 12: Free online access to ITU publications |
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MOD AFCP/55A2/1

DECISION 12 (Rev. Dubai, 2018)

Free online access to ITU publications

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

considering

*a)* that Article 4 of the ITU Constitution defines the Administrative Regulations (i.e. the International Telecommunication Regulations and the Radio Regulations) as instruments of the Union, and that Member States are bound to abide by the provisions of those texts;

*b)* Resolution 123 (Rev. Busan, 2014) of this conference, on bridging the standardization gap between developing[[1]](#footnote-1)1 and developed countries, which recognizes that the implementation of recommendations of the ITU Radiocommunication Sector (ITU-R) and the ITU Telecommunication Standardization Sector (ITU-T) is a basic step towards bridging the standardization gap between developed and developing countries;

*c)* Resolution 64 (Rev. Busan, 2014) of this conference, as well as Resolution 20 (Rev. Hyderabad, 2010) of the World Telecommunication Development Conference (WTDC), on non‑discriminatory access to modern telecommunication/information and communication technology (ICT) facilities and services, which notes that:

– modern telecommunication/ICT facilities and services are established, in the main, on the basis of ITU-R and ITU-T recommendations;

– ITU-R and ITU-T recommendations are the result of the collective efforts of all those taking part in the standardization process within ITU and are adopted by consensus by the members of the Union;

– limitations on the access to telecommunication/ICT facilities and services on which national telecommunication/ICT development depends and which are established on the basis of ITU‑R and ITU-T recommendations constitute an obstacle to the harmonious development and compatibility of telecommunications/ICTs worldwide;

*d)* Resolution 9 (Rev. Dubai, 2014) of WTDC, on the participation of countries, particularly developing countries, in spectrum management, which recognizes the importance of facilitating access to radiocommunication-related documentation in order to facilitate the task of radio-frequency spectrum managers;

*e)* Resolution 34 (Rev. Dubai, 2014) of WTDC, on the role of telecommunications/ICTs in disaster preparedness, early warning, rescue, mitigation, relief and response, which notes the importance for humankind of ITU publications relating to this area of activity;

*f)* Resolution 47 (Rev. Dubai, 2014) of WTDC, on enhancement of knowledge and effective application of ITU recommendations in developing countries, which resolved to invite Member States and Sector Members to engage in activities to enhance knowledge and effective application of ITU-T and ITU-R recommendations in developing countries;

*g)* Council Decision 571 (2014), on free online access to the Administrative Regulations, Council resolutions and decisions and other publications of the Union;

*h)* Council Decision 574 (2013), on free online access to the final reports of WTDCs;

*i)* Council Decision 542 (2006), which approved free online access to ITU-T recommendations for the general public on a trial basis, later confirmed on a permanent basis by Decision 12 (Guadalajara, 2010) of the Plenipotentiary Conference;

*j)* that, according to Council Document C13/81, during the open free online access trial period, income from sales of the Radio Regulations in paper and DVD format in 2012 increased by more than 60 per cent compared with sales in all formats (including online purchases) during the same time interval in 2008 – the year when the previous edition of the Radio Regulations was published;

*k)* that free online access to the Radio Regulations for the general public, as indicated in Council Documents C13/21, C13/81 and C14/21, had no negative financial impact in 2012 and 2013;

*l)* the provisions of the WSIS+10 Statement on the implementation of WSIS outcomes and the WSIS+10 Vision for WSIS beyond 2015, adopted at the WSIS+10 High-Level Event, relating to the importance of free access to international standards, which enhance the efficiency of use of telecommunications/ICTs in various areas of human activity, including further development of the information society;

*m)* that free access to the basic texts of the Union helps to fulfil the core purposes of the Union, as defined in Article 1 of the Constitution,

recognizing

*a)* the difficulty faced by many countries, particularly developing countries, in participating in the activities of ITU-R, ITU-T and ITU Telecommunication Development Sector (ITU-D) study groups;

*b)* the various actions taken by the Council since 2000 to allow free online access to ITU recommendations and to the basic texts of the Union;

*c)* numerous requests made by Member States and Sector Members with respect to free online access to ITU-R and ITU-T recommendations, various ITU handbooks, the basic texts of the Union and the rules of procedure;

*d)* that, following the approval of ITU Council Decisions 542, 571 and 574, there was a considerable increase in downloads of all the publications made available free online under those decisions, as reported annually to the Council, thereby raising public interest in the areas and outcomes of ITU's work and facilitating more active participation of different organizations in the work of ITU;

*e)* that the financial implications of providing free online access to these publications have been reported as minimal, and have been compensated by the increase in the awareness of the work carried out by the Union in all three Sectors;

*f)* that, as a result of the introduction of free online access to ITU-R recommendations approved by Council-09, the number of downloads of these recommendations increased almost threefold between 2008 and 2010, thus improving radiocommunication experts' awareness of and participation in the work carried out in ITU‑R,

recognizing further

*a)* that there is a general trend towards free online access to ICT-related standards;

*b)* the strategic need to increase the visibility and availability of ITU outputs;

*c)* that both of the objectives sought by the trial periods and the policies of free online access to ITU publications have been met, namely: ITU has achieved a great improvement in outreach, and the financial implications for ITU revenues were less than initially forecast;

*d)* that providing free online access to ITU publications facilitates awareness and participation of developing countries in the work of the Union;

*e)* that, regarding the instruments of ITU that are intended to be incorporated in national law, Member States have *de facto* freedom to reproduce, translate and publish such texts on official government department websites as well as in official journals or equivalent publications, in accordance with their respective national law,

noting

*a)* that increased involvement in ITU activities is a fundamental step towards enhanced capacity building and ICT development potential in developing countries, which will lead to a reduction of the digital divide;

*b)* that, in order to increase, improve and facilitate the participation of Member States and Sector Members from developing countries in ITU activities, these members need to be capable of interpreting and implementing ITU technical publications, the basic texts of the Union and the instruments of the Union;

*c)* that an efficient way to ensure that developing countries have access to ITU publications is to provide them free of charge online,

noting further

that providing free online access to ITU publications will reduce the demand for paper copies of these documents, which converges with the current ITU trend of soft format and of organizing paperless meetings, and with the overall goal of the United Nations to reduce paper usage and greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions,

decides

1 to provide free online access for the general public, on a permanent basis, in the six official languages of the Union, to ITU-R, ITU-T and ITU-D recommendations and reports; ITU-R handbooks on radio-frequency spectrum management[[2]](#footnote-2)2; ITU publications concerning the use of telecommunications/ICTs for ensuring disaster preparedness, early warning, rescue, mitigation, relief and response; the International Telecommunication Regulations; the Radio Regulations; the Rules of Procedure; the basic texts of the Union (Constitution, Convention, General Rules of conferences, assemblies and meetings of the Union, decisions, resolutions and recommendations); the final acts of plenipotentiary conferences; the final reports of WTDCs; the ITU Council resolutions and decisions; the final acts of world and regional radiocommunication conferences; and the final acts of world conferences on international telecommunications;

2 that paper copies of all ITU publications listed under *decides* 1 above will continue to be charged for on the basis of a two-tier pricing policy, whereby Member States, Sector Members and Associates pay a price based on cost recovery, whereas for all others, i.e. non-members, a "market price"[[3]](#footnote-3)3 shall be set,

instructs the Secretary-General

to prepare a report on an ongoing basis on sales and free downloads of ITU publications, software and databases, and to present this report annually to the Council, detailing the following aspects:

– total sales and free downloads per year, covering last five years, beginning in 2009;

– comparison between sales of paper copies and free downloads of electronic copies, per year;

– sales and free downloads by country and by member category,

instructs the Council

to examine the report of the Secretary-General and to decide on policies for further improving access to ITU publications, software and databases.

**Reasons:** To insist on the need to provide access to documents in the six official languages of the Union.

MOD AFCP/55A2/2

RESOLUTION 135 (Rev. Dubai, 2018)

ITU's role in the lasting and sustainable development of telecommunications/information and communication technologies, in providing technical assistance and advice to developing countries[[4]](#footnote-4)1 and in implementing relevant national, regional and interregional projects

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

recalling

*a)* Resolution 135 (Rev. Busan, 2014) of the Plenipotentiary Conference;

*b)* Resolution 34 (Rev. Busan, 2014), on assistance and support to countries in special need for rebuilding their telecommunication sector;

*c)* relevant resolutions of the World Telecommunication Development Conference (WTDC) – especially Resolution 17 (Rev. Dubai, 2014); the Dubai Action Plan on implementation of initiatives at the national, regional, interregional and global levels approved by the six[[5]](#footnote-5)2 regions; Resolution 32 (Rev. Hyderabad, 2010), on international and regional cooperation on regional initiatives; and Resolution 34 (Rev. Dubai, 2014), on the role of telecommunications/information and communication technology (ICT) in disaster preparedness, early warning, rescue, mitigation, relief and response – as well as the provisions of the outputs adopted by WTDC-14 and their linkage with those resolutions,

recalling further

*a)* the decisions taken during the two phases of the World Summit on the Information Society (WSIS) concerning non-discriminatory access, in particular §§ 15, 18 and 19 of the Tunis Commitment and §§ 90 and 107 of the Tunis Agenda for the Information Society;

*b)* United Nations General Assembly (UNGA) Resolution A/RES/70/1, on transforming our world: the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development,

considering

*a)* the development goals which require that telecommunications/ICTs be accessible to humanity as a whole, especially the peoples of developing countries;

*b)* the importance of telecommunications/ICTs, and the sustainability of their infrastructure, to political, economic, social and cultural progress, in particular for developing countries;

*c)* the accumulated and advanced experience of ITU in implementing the above-mentioned resolutions;

*d)* the tasks assigned to ITU as regards Action Lines C2, C5 and C6 in the Tunis Agenda for the Information Society, and required participation by ITU in implementing other action lines that depend on the availability of telecommunications/ICTs, in agreement with the United Nations agencies that collaborate in implementing these action lines;

*e)* the continued success achieved by the ITU Telecommunication Development Sector in its partnerships to implement many development actions, including developing telecommunication/ICT networks in several developing countries;

*f)* the Dubai Action Plan and the necessary optimization of resources to achieve the proposed goals;

*g)* the actions undertaken to implement Resolution 157 (Rev. Busan, 2014) of this conference, on strengthening of the project execution function in ITU;

*h)* Resolution 59 (Rev. Dubai, 2014) of WTDC, on strengthening coordination and cooperation among the three ITU Sectors on matters of mutual interest;

*i)* that technological advances in telecommunication systems are enabling sustainable and affordable access to information and knowledge through the provision of highly connected communications services (broadband) of broad coverage (regional or global scope), so that countries can be connected directly, rapidly and reliably;

*j)* that broadband satellite and radiocommunication services are in turn providing highly connected, rapid, reliable and cost-efficient communications solutions both in metropolitan and in rural and remote areas, efficiently complementing fibre-optic and other technologies and serving as a fundamental driver of economic and social growth of countries and regions;

*k)* that it is deemed relevant to deepen collaboration and interrelated work among the different ITU Sectors with a view to carrying out studies and activities, including capacity building, for the provision of better advice and technical assistance to developing countries for optimal use of resources and the execution of national, regional and interregional projects;

*l)* the alignment of the guidelines of the World Summit on the Information Society (WSIS) with the Sustainable Development Goals,

recognizing

*a)* that the technical progress of telecommunication systems has an impact on the development plans of countries, and must take their incremental technological development into consideration, in particular in terms of backward compatibility, in order to mitigate the effects of premature obsolescence, in particular in developing countries;

*b)* that new telecommunication technologies must be able to coexist with technology already installed in current infrastructure in order to ensure their durability and sustainability,

resolves

1 that ITU should:

i) continue to coordinate efforts for the harmonization, development and enhancement of telecommunications/ICTs throughout the world towards building the information society, and to take appropriate measures to adapt itself to the trends in the telecommunication/ICT infrastructure development environment;

ii) maintain contacts with the United Nations Educational, Social and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) to revise the International Programme for the Development of Communication (IPDC), with a view to the continued implementation of Action Line C7 in the Tunis Agenda relating to education and cooperation with the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP);

iii) contribute, in its areas of competence, to the evolution of the integrating information society, through, among other things, the creation of knowledge societies worldwide based on principles such as freedom of expression, equality and quality education for all, with the aim of ensuring equitable access to telecommunications/ICTs and to information and knowledge, and respect for linguistic and cultural diversity and cultural heritage;

iv) facilitate the sustainable and harmonious technological development of telecommunication/information technology-based facilities, services and related applications established on the basis of ITU-T and ITU-R Recommendations, in order to meet the expectations of Member States, with the objective of mitigating the effects of premature technological obsolescence and disuse;

v) assist countries in need, in particular developing countries, with their infrastructure development plans, taking account of their migration plans in the light of the country-specific realities and conditions governing evolution;

vi) encourage cooperation on migration to new technologies with minimum impact on the environment;

2 that the Telecommunication Development Bureau (BDT) shall:

i) continue to provide highly qualified technical experts to offer advice in subjects of importance to developing countries, on an individual and collective basis, and to ensure adequate expertise through recruitment or short-term contracts, as appropriate;

ii) continue cooperating with financing sources, whether under the United Nations system, UNDP or other financing arrangements, and multiplying partnerships with Member States, Sector Members, financial institutions and international and regional organizations, to finance the activities related to the implementation of this resolution;

iii) continue its Special Voluntary Programme for Technical Cooperation, based on financial contributions, expert services or any other form of assistance, to help better meet the requests of developing countries in the telecommunication/ICT field as far as possible;

iv) take into account, when establishing the above-mentioned actions, previous national or regional connectivity plans, so that the actions carried out give effect to the priority aspects of these plans and the impact of the action undertaken in essential aspects serves the achievement of national, regional and ITU goals; if the administrations do not have these plans, the projects may also consider developing them;

v) promote and facilitate collaborative actions with the different Sectors of the Union in order to carry out studies and interrelated activities to complement the use of telecommunication technologies and systems so as to achieve optimal use of resources, including orbital resources and associated spectrum resources, and improve access to and the connectivity of telecommunication/ICT networks and systems to address the telecommunication needs of developing countries;

vi) promote collaborative activities in coordination with the different Sectors of the Union to create and build capacities so as to provide and deepen universal access to knowledge on optimal use of telecommunication resources, including orbital resources and associated spectrum resources, and to increase access to and the connectivity of telecommunication/ICT systems and networks included in national and regional telecommunication projects and plans;

vii) work to raise the awareness of all stakeholders, in their development plans, in regard to environmental protection for public wellbeing, with the objective of ensuring the prosperity of States' economies;

viii) promote dialogue at several levels making it possible to satisfy the expectations of the most underprivileged segments of society in regard to access to new technologies, as well as to enable the emergence of national economies capable of ensuring concrete realization of the SDGs,

invites regional and international financial organizations and agencies, equipment providers, operators, and all potential partners

to consider the possibility of ensuring complete or partial financing to implement cooperation programmes for developing telecommunications/ICTs, including the regionally approved initiatives under the Dubai Action Plan and Resolution 17 (Rev. Dubai, 2014) of WTDC,

instructs the Secretary-General, in close collaboration with the Directors of the three Bureaux

1 to submit an annual detailed report to the ITU Council on the results of the implementation of this resolution, including any recommendations which the Secretary-General may deem necessary, to enhance the impact of this resolution;

2 to work to disseminate information and best practices in order to ensure that digital migration benefits citizens, governments, in particular in developing countries, and environmental protection,

invites the Council

to review the results achieved and to take all necessary steps to expedite the implementation of this resolution in the best possible way.

**Reasons:**

1 To promote sustainable and harmonious technological developments in order to meet the expectations of Member States, in particular developing countries, in order to mitigate the effects of premature technological obsolescence and disuse, including on the environment;

2 to assist countries which have expressed the need, in particular developing countries, in their infrastructure development plans, taking into account their migration plans in the light of the country-specific realities and conditions governing evolution;

3 to encourage migration to new technologies with lesser impact on the environment.

MOD AFCP/55A2/3

RESOLUTION 154 (Rev. dubai, 2018)

Use of the six official languages of the Union on an equal footing

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

recalling

*a)* United Nations General Assembly Resolution 67/292, on multilingualism;

*b)* Resolution 154 (Rev. Guadalajara, 2010) of the Plenipotentiary Conference;

*c)* Resolution 115 (Marrakesh, 2002) of the Plenipotentiary Conference;

*d)* Resolution 104 (Minneapolis, 1998) of the Plenipotentiary Conference;

*e)* Resolution 66 (Rev. Guadalajara, 2010) of the Plenipotentiary Conference;

*f)* Resolution 165 (Rev. Guadalajara, 2010) of the Plenipotentiary Conference;

*g)* Resolution 168 (Rev. Guadalajara, 2010) of the Plenipotentiary Conference,

reaffirming

the fundamental principle of equal treatment of the six official languages, as enshrined in Resolutions 115 (Marrakesh, 2002) and 154 (Rev. Guadalajara, 2010), on the use of the six languages on an equal footing,

noting with satisfaction and appreciation

*a)* the steps taken so far to implement Resolution 115 (Marrakesh, 2002) as from 1 January 2005 and Resolution 154 (Rev. Guadalajara, 2010);

*b)* the progress made in the successful implementation of Resolution 104 (Minneapolis, 1998) and resulting efficiencies and economies;

*c)* the progress made in the implementation of Resolution 154 (Rev. Guadalajara, 2010) in regard to alignment of working methods and optimization of staffing levels in the six languages, linguistic unification of databases for definitions and terminology and centralizing editing functions;

*d)* ITU participation in the International Annual Meeting on Language Arrangements, Documentation and Publications (IAMLADP);

*e)* the development of the ITU database for telecommunication/ICT terminology and definitions in Arabic, Russian and Chinese, in accordance with § 3.6 of the CWG‑LANG 2016 report,

recognizing

*a)* that translation is an essential element of the work of the Union that enables a common understanding among the entire ITU membership on the important issues under discussion;

*b)* the importance of maintaining and improving the multilingual content of services required by the universal character of United Nations system organizations, as called for in the United Nations Joint Inspection Unit report on *Multilingualism in the United Nations System* (Document JIU/REP/2002/11);

*c)* that, notwithstanding the successful implementation of Resolution 115 (Marrakesh, 2002), for various reasons the switchover to six languages cannot be achieved overnight, and a "transition period" to full implementation is inevitable;

*d)* the work accomplished by the ITU Council Working Group on Languages (CWG-LANG), as well as the work by the secretariat to implement the working group's recommendations as agreed by the Council at its 2009 session, in particular with regard to the unification of linguistic databases for definitions and terminology and the centralization of editing functions, the integration of the terminology database for Arabic, Chinese and Russian as well as harmonizing and unifying working procedures in the six language services,

recognizing further

the budget constraints facing the Union,

resolves

to continue to take all necessary measures to ensure use of the six official languages of the Union on an equal footing and to provide interpretation and the translation of ITU documentation, although some work in ITU (for example working parties, regional conferences) might not require the use of all six languages,

instructs the Secretary-General, in close collaboration with the Directors of the Bureaux

to present annually to the Council and to CWG-LANG, beginning in 2015, a report containing:

– evolution of the budget for translation of documents to the six official languages of the Union since 2010, taking into consideration variations in the volumes of translation services provided in each year;

– procedures adopted by other international organizations inside and outside the United Nations system and benchmark studies on their costs of translation;

– initiatives undertaken by the General Secretariat and the three Bureaux to increase efficiencies and cost savings in the implementation of this resolution and comparison with the evolution of the budget since 2010;

– alternative translation procedures feasible to be adopted by ITU and their advantages and disadvantages;

– progress made on the implementation of measures and principles for translation and interpretation adopted by the Council in its 2014 session,

instructs the Council

1 to analyse the adoption by ITU of alternative translation procedures, in order to reduce translation and typing expenses in the budget of the Union, while maintaining or improving the current quality of translation and the correct use of technical telecommunication terminology;

2 to analyse, including through the use of appropriate indicators, application of the updated measures and principles for interpretation and translation adopted by the Council at its 2014 session, taking into consideration the financial constraints, and bearing in mind the ultimate objective of full implementation of treatment of the six official languages on an equal footing;

3 to pursue and monitor appropriate operational measures, such as:

– to continue review of ITU documentation and publication services with a view to eliminating any duplication and to creating synergies;

– to facilitate the timely and simultaneous delivery of high-quality and efficient language services (interpretation, documentation, publications and public-information materials) in the six languages, in support of the Union's strategic goals;

– to support optimum levels of staffing, including core staff, temporary assistance and outsourcing, while ensuring the required high quality of interpretation and translation;

– to continue implementation of judicious and efficient use of information and communication technologies (ICT) in language and publications activities, taking into consideration experience gained by other international organizations and best practices;

– to continue to explore and implement all possible measures to reduce the size and volume of documents (page-limits, executive summaries, material in annexes or hyperlinks), and achieve greener meetings, when justified, without affecting the quality and content of the documents to be translated or to be published, and bearing clearly in mind the need to comply with the United Nations system objective of multilingualism;

– as a matter of priority, to take, to the extent practicable, all necessary measures for equitable use of the six languages on the ITU website in terms of multilingual content and user-friendliness;

4 to monitor the work carried out by the ITU secretariat in regard to:

– completion of the Arabic language terminology projects approved by the Council, using the funds already allocated for this purpose;

– merging all existing databases for definitions and terminology into a centralized system, with proper measures for its maintenance, expansion and updating;

– providing the six language service units with the necessary qualified staff and tools to meet their requirements in each language;

– enhancing ITU's image and the effectiveness of its public-information work, making use of all six languages of the Union, in, among other things, publishing ITU News, creating ITU websites, organizing Internet broadcasting and archiving of recordings, and issuing documents of a public-information nature, including announcements of ITU Telecom events, e-flashes and such like;

5 to maintain CWG-LANG, in order to monitor progress and report to the Council on the implementation of this resolution;

6 to review, in collaboration with the Sector advisory groups, the types of material to be included in output documents and translated;

7 to continue to consider measures to reduce, without sacrificing quality, the cost and volume of documentation as a standing item, in particular for conferences and assemblies;

8 to report to the next plenipotentiary conference on the implementation of this resolution,

invites Member States and Sector Members

1 to ensure that the different language versions of documents and publications are utilized, downloaded and purchased by the corresponding language communities, for the sake of maximizing their benefit and cost-effectiveness;

2 to submit their contributions and inputs sufficiently early before the beginning of conferences and assemblies and to contain their size and volume to the greatest extent possible.

**Reasons:** To update the resolution in relation to the work undertaken by CWG-LANG of the Council to complete the terminology database in the six languages used at ITU.

MOD AFCP/55A2/4

RESOLUTION 167 (Rev. dubai, 2018)

Strengthening and developing ITU capabilities for electronic meetings and means to advance the work of the Union

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

considering

*a)* Objective 4 of the ITU Strategic Plan for 2020-2023, on an inclusive digital society, seeking to foster the development and use of telecommunications/ICTs and applications to empower people and societies for economic development and environmental protection for sustainable development;

*b)* the rapid technological change in the field of telecommunications and the associated policy, regulatory and infrastructure adaptations required at national, regional and global levels;

*c)* the consequent need for the widest possible engagement of the ITU membership from around the world to address these matters in the work of the Union;

*d)* that developments in technologies and facilities for the holding of electronic, i.e. paperless, meetings and the further development of electronic working methods (EWM) will enable more open, faster and easier collaboration between participants in the activities of ITU, which may be paperless;

*e)* that some activities and procedures associated with certain ITU meetings still require direct face‑to-face participation by the Union's membership,

recalling

*a)* Resolution 66 (Rev. Guadalajara, 2010) of the Plenipotentiary Conference, on documents and publications of the Union, regarding the electronic availability of documents;

*b)* Resolution 58 (Rev. Busan, 2014) of the Plenipotentiary Conference, on strengthening of relations between ITU and regional telecommunication organizations and regional preparations for the Plenipotentiary Conference, which resolves that the Union, in strengthening its relations with the regional telecommunication organizations and by means of ITU regional preparations for plenipotentiary conferences, radiocommunication conferences and assemblies, world telecommunication development conferences (WTDC) and world telecommunication standardization assemblies (WTSA) shall, with the assistance of its regional offices when necessary, cover all Member States without exception, even if they do not belong to any of the six regional telecommunication organizations;

*c)* Resolution 175 (Rev. Busan, 2014) of this conference, on telecommunication/information and communication technology (ICT) accessibility for persons with disabilities, including age‑related disabilities, which resolves to take account of persons with disabilities and specific needs;

*d)* Resolution 32 (Rev. Dubai, 2012) of WTSA, on strengthening electronic working methods in the work of the ITU Telecommunication Standardization Sector (ITU‑T) and the implementation of EWM capabilities and associated arrangements in the work of ITU‑T;

*e)* Resolution 73 (Rev. Dubai, 2012) of WTSA, on ICTs and climate change and, in particular, *recognizing* *g)* thereof concerning energy-efficient working methods;

*f)* Resolution 5 (Rev. Buenos Aires, 2017) of WTDC, on enhancing participation by developing countries[[6]](#footnote-6)1 in the activities of the Union, in particular, *further instructs the Director of the Telecommunication Development Bureau* 5 thereof to continue promoting remote participation and meetings and EWM so as to encourage and facilitate participation in the work of the ITU Telecommunication Development Sector (ITU‑D);

*g)* Resolution 66 (Rev. Buenos Aires, 2017) of WTDC, on ICT and climate change, in particular, *instructs the Telecommunication Development Advisory Group* thereof to consider possible changes in working methods, such as extending the use of electronic means, virtual conferencing, teleworking, etc., to meet the objectives of the EWM initiatives;

*h)* Resolution 81 (Dubai, 2014) of WTDC, on further development of EWM for the work of ITU‑D, which identifies the role of the Telecommunication Development Bureau in providing support to EWM and the benefits to the ITU membership;

*i)* Resolution ITU‑R 7‑2 (Rev. Geneva, 2012) of the Radiocommunication Assembly (RA), on the development of telecommunications, including coordination and collaboration with ITU‑D,

recognizing

*a)* that electronic participation has been producing significant benefits for the Union's membership, by reducing travel costs, and has facilitated wider participation in both the work of the Union and in meetings that require attendance;

*b)* that numerous ITU meetings are already available as audio and video webcasts and that use of videoconferencing, audio conference calls, real-time captioning and web-based collaboration tools for electronic participation in certain types of meetings have been advanced in meetings of the Sectors and the General Secretariat;

*c)* the budgetary difficulty that delegates from many countries, and in particular developing countries, have in travelling to participate in face‑to-face ITU meetings;

*d)* that the current status of interactive remote participation (IRP) allows "remote intervention" rather than "remote participation", insofar as a remote participant cannot take part in decision-making;

*e)* that the regional offices are an extension of ITU as a whole and, therefore, EWM will serve to build up the effectiveness of the Union's activities, including project implementation, as set forth in Resolution 157 (Rev. Busan, 2014) of this conference;

*f)* that the expected role of the regional offices is essential in order to fully comply with the basic mandates of the Union and, to this end, it is necessary that these offices be able to rely on affordable means of communication (videoconferencing), such as those that can be accessed over the web, to hold electronic meetings with the Member States, as stated in Resolution 25 (Rev. Busan, 2014) of this conference,

recognizing further

*a)* the annual reports by the Secretary-General to the ITU Council on the implementation of this resolution;

*b)* the report from the 2014 session of the Council to this conference;

*c)* the financial, legal, procedural and technical difficulties of providing remote participation to all, particularly with respect to:

– the difference in time zones among regions and in relation to Geneva, and particularly with the Americas and Asia-Pacific regions;

– the costs of infrastructure, broadband, equipment, applications, meeting-room renovations and staff, especially in developing countries;

– the rights and legal status of remote participants and chairmen;

– the limitation in terms of formal procedures available to remote participants in comparison with physically present participants;

– the telecommunication infrastructure limitations in some countries due to unstable or inadequate connections;

– increased accessibility for people with disabilities and specific needs,

noting

*a)* that the existence of electronic meetings, with well-documented rules and procedures, will help ITU in widening the involvement of potential stakeholders, both member and non-member experts, particularly from developing countries, who are unable to participate in face‑to-face meetings;

*b)* that EWM has made important contributions to the work of Sector groups, such as rapporteur groups, and of Council working groups, and that work, such as the development of texts, has been progressed in various parts of the Union through electronic communications;

*c)* that different modes of participation are suitable for different types of meetings;

*d)* that managing electronic meetings from the regional offices can facilitate regional coordination, in order to promote greater participation by Member States in the work of the study groups of the three Sectors;

*e)* that there needs to be a coordinated and harmonized approach to the technology used,

emphasizing

*a)* that there is a need for procedures to ensure fair and equitable participation by all;

*b)* that electronic meetings can contribute to bridging the digital divide;

*c)* that the implementation of electronic meetings is beneficial to ITU's role in leading the coordination on ICTs and climate change, and on accessibility,

resolves

1 that ITU should continue to develop its facilities and capabilities for remote participation by electronic means in appropriate meetings of the Union, including working groups created by the Council;

2 that ITU should continue to develop its EWM in relation to the elaboration, distribution and approval of documents and the promotion of paperless meetings;

3 that the Union continue to develop EWM, within budget availability, for the participation of persons with disabilities and persons with specific needs, which may include, *inter alia*, captioning for the hearing-impaired, audioconferencing for the visually impaired, and webconferencing for persons with restricted mobility, as well as solutions and facilities to address other similar challenges;

4 that the Union further study the impact of remote participation on existing rules of procedure;

5 that ITU should provide facilities and capabilities for EWM at ITU meetings, workshops and training courses, particularly to assist developing countries that have bandwidth limitations and other constraints;

6 to encourage e‑participation of developing countries in meetings, workshops and training by providing simplified facilities and guidelines, and by waiving, within the appropriations that the Council is empowered to authorize, any expenses for those participants, other than the local call or Internet connectivity charges,

instructs the Secretary-General, in consultation and collaboration with the Directors of the three Bureaux

1 to take action regarding the EWM measures in Annex 1 to this resolution, addressing the legal, technical, security and financial implications of increasing the EWM capability of ITU;

2 to build upon trials for electronic meetings, in collaboration with the Directors of the Bureaux, such that their subsequent implementation is technologically neutral, to the greatest extent possible, and cost effective, in order to allow as broad participation as possible, satisfying the necessary security requirements;

3 to identify and review the costs and benefits of the items of the Action Plan on a regular basis;

4 to involve the advisory groups in the evaluation of the use of electronic meetings and to develop further procedures and rules associated with electronic meetings, including the legal aspects;

5 to report to the Council on an ongoing basis on the developments made with regard to electronic meetings, in order to assess progress in their use within ITU;

6 to report to the Council on the feasibility of extending the use of languages in electronic meetings,

instructs the Secretary-General

to share information about developments and progress made with regard to electronic meetings with the United Nations and other specialized agencies, for their consideration,

instructs the Directors of the Bureaux

to continue taking action, in consultation with the Sector advisory groups, in order to provide appropriate electronic participation or observation facilities in Sector meetings for delegates unable to attend face‑to-face meetings,

instructs the Director of the Telecommunication Development Bureau

to take all necessary measures to implement, in the shortest possible time‑frame and according to budgetary availability, a suitable technological platform that makes it possible for all the regional offices to host electronic meetings with their respective ITU Member States, in accordance with Resolution 25 (Rev. Busan, 2014) of this conference,

instructs the Council

to consider the financial requirements to implement this resolution and allocate the necessary financial resources, within the limits of the resources available and consistent with the financial and strategic plans.

ANNEX 1 TO RESOLUTION 167 (Rev. dubai, 2018)

Action to be taken on the EWM measures

– Submit a detailed plan of action to the Council

– Upgrade infrastructure at headquarters and regional offices to support the use of e‑participation

– Implement technical solutions to extend ITU interpretation services to e‑participants

– Implement technical solutions to implement self-service provisioning and running of e‑meetings

– Establish guidelines for e‑participation in ITU meetings

– Provide training, as appropriate, to ITU meeting organizers, regional office staff, chairmen, rapporteurs, editors and delegates

– Review current applicable policies and practices

– Review legal issues related to amendments that would be required to legal instruments of the Union

– Implement the collection of statistics across all Sectors so as to track trends in e‑participation

– Report annually to the Council on the results of the EWM and remote participation policies, including statistical evaluation of those results, perspectives and forecasts for the coming year and on procedural, financial, technical and legal matters

– Discuss the improvement of ITU capabilities in terms of EWM and remote participation and propose the necessary amendments to the rules of procedure to the Council and the 2018 plenipotentiary conference.

**Reasons:** To encourage and promote further EWM implementation at ITU.

MOD AFCP/55A2/5

RESOLUTION 189 (rev. dubai, 2018)

Assisting Member States to combat and deter mobile device theft

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

considering

*a)* that the positive impact of mobile telecommunications, technological progress and the great coverage and development generated by all related services have made the increasing penetration of mobile devices, including smartphones, possible because of the multiple benefits provided;

*b)* that the widespread use of mobile telecommunications in the world has also been accompanied by a rise in the problem of mobile device theft;

*c)* that the act of mobile device theft can sometimes have a negative impact on the health, personal data protection and safety of citizens and on their sense of security and confidence in the use of ICTs;

*d)* that problems that occur around the crimes related to mobile device theft have become a worldwide issue, since these stolen devices are often very easily resold on the international markets;

*e)* that the illicit trading of stolen mobile devices constitutes a risk to consumers and causes loss of revenue for the industry;

*f)* that some governments as well as industry have implemented regulations, law-enforcement actions, policies and technological mechanisms to prevent and combat mobile device theft;

*g)* that ITU can assist all members in the use of relevant ITU recommendations and play a positive role by offering all interested parties a platform for encouraging discussions, the exchange of best practices, industry cooperation to define technical guidelines and the dissemination of information on combating mobile device theft;

*h)* that some manufacturers of mobile devices, as well as operators, offer solutions for consumers, such as free anti-theft applications, with the aim of reducing the rate of mobile device theft,

concerned

that the rate of mobile device theft in various regions of the world remains high, despite efforts made in recent years,

aware

that manufacturers, operators and industry associations have been developing different technological solutions and governments have been developing policies to address this global problem,

resolves

to explore and encourage the development of ways and means to combat and deter mobile device theft, while ensuring respect for consumers’ privacy,

instructs the Director of the Telecommunication Development Bureau, in coordination with the Director of the Radiocommunication Bureau and the Director of the Telecommunication Standardization Bureau

1 to compile information on best practices developed by industry or governments in combating mobile device theft;

2 to consult with the relevant ITU Radiocommunication Sector and ITU Telecommunication Standardization Sector study groups, manufacturers of mobile devices, manufacturers of telecommunication network components, operators and other telecommunication standards-development organizations related to these matters, such as GSMA and 3GPP, in order to identify existing and future technological measures, both software and hardware, to mitigate the use of stolen mobile devices;

3 to provide assistance, within the Union's expertise and within available resources, as appropriate, in cooperation with relevant organizations, to Member States, if so requested, in order to reduce mobile device theft and the use of stolen mobile devices in their countries,

instructs the Secretary-General

to report annually to the ITU Council on progress of the work,

invites Member States and Sector Members

to contribute to the studies in this area.

**Reasons:** To encourage the identification and implementation of solutions to combat the theft of mobile devices and terminals effectively.

SUP AFCP/55A2/6

RESOLUTION 194 (Busan, 2014)

Options for the Union's headquarters premises over the long term

The Plenipotentiary Conference of the International Telecommunication Union (Busan, 2014),

**Reasons:** Resolution already implemented.

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1. 1 These include the least developed countries, small island developing states, landlocked developing countries and countries with economies in transition. [↑](#footnote-ref-1)
2. 2 These include the ITU-R Handbooks on National Spectrum Management, Computer Aided Techniques for Spectrum Management, and Spectrum Monitoring. [↑](#footnote-ref-2)
3. 3 The term "market price" is defined as the price determined by the Sales and Marketing Division, which is established to maximize revenues without being so high as to discourage sales. [↑](#footnote-ref-3)
4. 1 These include the least developed countries, small island developing states, landlocked developing countries and countries with economies in transition. [↑](#footnote-ref-4)
5. 2 Africa, Americas, Arab States, Asia and the Pacific, Commonwealth of Independent States, Europe. [↑](#footnote-ref-5)
6. 1 These include the least developed countries, small island developing states, landlocked developing countries and countries with economies in transition. [↑](#footnote-ref-6)