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| **Plenipotentiary Conference (PP-18)Dubai, 29 October – 16 November 2018** |  |
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| PLENARY MEETING | **Document 94-E** |
|  | **5 November 2018** |
|  | **Original: English** |
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| minutesOF THEFIRST PLENARY MEETING |
| Monday, 29 October 2018, at 1440 hours |
| **Chairman:** Mr Majed ALMESMAR (United Arab Emirates) |

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|  | Subjects discussed | Documents |
| 1 | Opening of the meeting | – |
| 2 | Address by the Prime Minister of Vanuatu | – |
| 3 | Address by the Chief Executive of Afghanistan | – |
| 4 | Election of the chairman of the conference | – |
| 5 | Address by the Chairman of the conference | – |
| 6 | Election of the vice-chairmen of the conference | – |
| 7 | Address by the Secretary-General | – |
| 8 | Structure of the conference | [DT/2](https://www.itu.int/md/S18-PP-181029-TD-0002/en) |
| 9 | Election of the chairmen and vice-chairmen of the committees and of the Working Group of the Plenary | – |
| 10 | Composition of the conference secretariat | – |
| 11 | Allocation of documents  | [DT/3(Rev.1)](https://www.itu.int/md/S18-PP-181029-TD-0003/en) |
| 12 | Date of submission of the report of the Credentials Committee | – |
| 13 | Definitive amount of the contributory unit | [18(Add.2)](https://www.itu.int/md/S18-PP-C-0018/en), [62(Add.1)](https://www.itu.int/md/S18-PP-C-0062/en) |
| 14 | Deadline for notifying the definitive choice of class of contribution |
| 15 | Council report on the implementation of the strategic plan and the activities of the Union | [20](https://www.itu.int/md/S18-PP-C-0020/en) |
| 16 | Working hours of the meetings of the conference | – |
| 17 | Presentation of ISO 20121:2012 certification for sustainable event management | – |
| 18 | General policy statements | – |

# 1 Opening of the meeting

1.1 The **Secretary-General**, speaking on behalf of the entire conference, expressed condolences to the delegation and Government of Indonesia for the recent crash of an Indonesian passenger aircraft and consequent loss of life.

**1.2 Participants observed a minute of silence in memory of those of who had lost their lives.**

1.3 The **Secretary-General** welcomed Mr Tariq Al Awadhi, Executive Director of Spectrum Affairs of the Telecommunications Regulatory Authority of the United Arab Emirates, who had been appointed by the host government to open the conference proceedings.

1.4 **Mr Tariq Al Awadhi, Executive Director of Spectrum Affairs of the Telecommunications Regulatory Authority**, opening the meeting, welcomed all participants and wished the conference every success. He delivered the address available at <https://www.itu.int/web/pp-18/en/speech/195>.

# 2 Address by the Prime Minister of Vanuatu

2.1 The **Secretary-General** invited the Prime Minister of Vanuatu, Mr Charlot Salwai Tabimasmas, to address the conference.

2.2 The **Prime Minister of Vanuatu** delivered the address available at <https://www.itu.int/web/pp-18/en/speech/184>.

# 3 Address by the Chief Executive of Afghanistan

3.1 The **Secretary-General** invited the Chief Executive of Afghanistan, Mr Abdullah Abdullah, to address the conference.

3.2 The **Chief Executive of Afghanistan** delivered the address available at <https://www.itu.int/web/pp-18/en/speech/186>.

# 4 Election of the chairman of the conference

4.1 The **Secretary-General** proposed that Mr Majed Almesmar, Deputy Director General of the Telecommunications Sector, Telecommunications Regulatory Authority, and Chairman of the Board of Trustees of the ICT Fund (United Arab Emirates), should be appointed to serve as chairman of the conference.

4.2 Mr Majed Almesmar was **elected** chairman of the conference by acclamation.

4.3 **Mr Majed Almesmar took the chair.**

# 5 Address by the Chairman of the conference

5.1 The **Chairman** delivered the address available at <https://www.itu.int/web/pp-18/en/speech/179>.

# 6 Election of the vice-chairmen of the conference

6.1 The **Secretary-General** proposed, on the basis of the recommendation of the meeting of heads of delegation, that the conference should elect six vice-chairmen as follows:

− Mr Majed M. AL-MAZYED (Saudi Arabia);

− Ms Cristiana FLUTUR (Romania);

− Mr Konstantin NOSKOV (Russian Federation);

− Mr Ahmad Reza SHARAFAT (Islamic Republic of Iran);

− Mr Robert L. STRAYER (United States);

− Mr Francis Wamukota WANGUSI (Kenya).

6.2 The vice-chairmen whose names had been proposed were **elected** by acclamation.

# 7 Address by the Secretary-General

7.1 The **Secretary-General** delivered the address available at <https://www.itu.int/web/pp-18/en/speech/185>, during which he invited participants to observe a minute of silence in memory of former delegates and colleagues who had passed away since PP-14.

**7.2 Participants observed a minute of silence.**

# 8 Structure of the conference (Document [DT/2](https://www.itu.int/md/S18-PP-181029-TD-0002/en))

8.1 The **Secretary-General** introduced Document DT/2 setting out the terms of reference of the six committees and the Working Group of the Plenary.

8.2 Document DT/2 was **approved**.

# 9 Election of the chairmen and vice-chairmen of the committees and of the Working Group of the Plenary

9.1 The **Secretary-General** said that the heads of delegation meeting had agreed on the following names for the posts of chairmen and vice-chairmen of Committees 1 to 6 and the Working Group of the Plenary:

**Committee 1** (Steering Committee) was composed of the chairman and vice-chairmen of the conference and the chairmen and vice-chairmen of the other committees and the Working Group of the Plenary.

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|  **Committee 2**(Credentials) | **Chairman**: **Vice-Chairmen**: | Ms Sameera BELAL MOMEN (Kuwait)Mr Al-Ansari Mohammad ALMASHAKBEH (Jordan)Mr António Pedro BENGE (Angola)Ms Annelies KAVI (Czech Republic)Ms Umida MUSAYEVA (Uzbekistan)Mr Elmer PALMA (El Salvador) |
| **Committee 3**(Budget Control) | **Chairman**:**Vice-Chairmen**: | Ms Seynabou SECK CISSE (Senegal)Mr Mohamed AL MAZROUI (United Arab Emirates)Mr Paul CHARLTON (Canada)Ms Helena FERNANDES (Mozambique)Ms Blanca GONZÁLEZ (Spain)Mr Nazim JAFAROV (Azerbaijan)Mr Ziping LIU (China) |
| **Committee 4**(Editorial) | **Chairman**:**Vice-Chairmen**: | Ms Rim BELHAJ (Tunisia)Ms Reham ALMAYET (Egypt)Mr Guolei CAI (China)Mr Hector CARRILLO (Mexico)Mr Dmitry CHERKESOV (Russian Federation)Mr Ross MORRISON (United Kingdom) |
| **Committee 5**(Policy and Legal Matters)  | **Chairman**:**Vice-Chairmen**: | Mr Stephen BEREAUX (Bahamas)Mr Mohammad ABDELKADHEM (Iraq)Mr Wojciech BEREZOWSKI (Poland)Mr Guy-Michel KOUAKOU (Côte d’Ivoire)Mr Yoshiaki NAGAYA (Japan)Mr Albert NALBANDIAN (Armenia)Mr Raúl A. PEREIRA SÁNCHEZ (Paraguay) |
| **Committee 6**(Administration and Management) | **Chairman**:**Vice-Chairmen**: | Mr Dietmar PLESSE (Germany)Ms Rozalin AL-BALUSHI (Oman)Mr Mario Rodrigo CANAZZA (Brazil)Mr Mohamed M. K. ELHAJ (Sudan)Mr Timofey KIM (Kazakhstan)Ms Minjung PARK (Republic of Korea)Mr Dirk-Olivier VON DER EMDEN (Switzerland) |
| **Working Group of the Plenary** | **Chairman**:**Vice-Chairmen**: | Ms Nur Sulyna ABDULLAH (Malaysia)Mr Kwame BAAH-ACHEAMFOUR (Ghana)Mr Fabio BIGI (Italy)Mr Adel Mohamed DARWISH (Bahrain)Mr Joseph MCCARROLL (Australia)Mr Jeferson FUED NACIF (Brazil)Mr Andrey ZHIVOV (Russian Federation) |

9.2 The chairmen and vice-chairmen whose names had been proposed were **elected** by acclamation.

# 10 Composition of the conference secretariat

10.1 The **Secretary-General** informed participants that the duties of the conference secretariat would be performed by the following persons:

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| **Secretary of the conference** | Mr Houlin Zhao, Secretary-General |
| **Executive Secretary** | Ms B. Pluchon |
| **Administrative Secretary** | Mr X. Liu |
| **Legal Affairs** | Mr A. Guillot |
| **Plenary meeting and Committee 1** (Steering) | Ms B. Pluchon |
| **Committee 2** (Credentials) | Mr N. Volanis |
| **Committee 3** (Budget Control) | Mr J.-P. Lovato |
| **Committee 4** (Editorial) | Mr E. Dalhen |
| **Committee 5** (Policy and Legal Matters) | Mr A. Dore |
| **Committee 6** (Administration and Management) | Mr A. Ba and Mr E. Dalhen |
| **Working Group of the Plenary** | Mr C. Marinescu |

10.2 The composition of the conference secretariat was **noted**.

# 11 Allocation of documents (Document [DT/3(Rev.1)](https://www.itu.int/md/S18-PP-181029-TD-0003/en))

11.1 The **Secretary-General** introduced Document DT/3(Rev.1) on the allocation of documents to the committees.

11.2 Document DT/3(Rev.1) was **approved**.

11.3 The **delegate of Brazil**, supported by **the delegate of Canada**, requested that a schedule of work be made available for each committee before the committee first met, to facilitate consideration and coordination.

11.4 The **Secretary-Genera**l said that the secretariat and the committee chairmen would work to produce such documents as soon as possible.

# 12 Date of submission of the report of the Credentials Committee

12.1 The **Secretary-General** proposed that the Credentials Committee meet on the second day of the conference, i.e. Tuesday, 30 October 2018 (afternoon), and submit its report on Thursday, 8 November.

12.2 It was so **agreed**.

# 13 Definitive amount of the contributory unit (Documents [18(Add.2)](https://www.itu.int/md/S18-PP-C-0018/en) and [62(Add.1)](https://www.itu.int/md/S18-PP-C-0062/en))

13.1 The **Secretary-General** invited the conference to approve the Council’s recommendation that the definitive upper limit of the contributory unit should remain unchanged at CHF 318 000 (as called for by proposals USA/18A2/1 and RCC/62A1/29).

13.2 It was so **agreed**.

# 14 Deadline for notifying the definitive choice of class of contribution (Documents [18(Add.2)](https://www.itu.int/md/S18-PP-C-0018/en) and [62(Add.1)](https://www.itu.int/md/S18-PP-C-0062/en))

14.1 The **Secretary-General** proposed that the deadline for notifying the definitive choice of class of contribution be set at 0259 hours local time on Thursday, 1 November 2018 (2359 hours Geneva time on Wednesday, 31 October 2018). That proposal was in line with proposals USA/18A2/1 and RCC/62A1/29. If any countries failed to notify their choice of class of contribution by that deadline, it would be assumed that they were maintaining their present choice. While cognizant of existing financial pressures, he nevertheless hoped for some nominal growth and urged Member States to increase their financial support. He expressed gratitude to China, Kuwait and Pakistan for having increased their contributions by 6, 2 and 1 units, respectively, and to other countries which had increased their contributions by lesser increments.

14.2 In reply to a query from the **delegate of the Russian Federation**, speaking on behalf of the Regional Commonwealth in the field of Communications and referring to §c of proposal RCC/62A1/29, the **Chairman** confirmed that the list of classes of contribution definitively chosen by ITU Member States would be published on the morning of Thursday, 1 November 2018. He invited the conference to approve the Secretary-General’s proposal.

14.3 It was so **agreed**.

# 15 Council report on the implementation of the strategic plan and the activities of the Union (Document [20](https://www.itu.int/md/S18-PP-C-0020/en))

15.1 The **Chairman of the Council**, introducing Document 20, said that the report helped quantitatively to assess progress in the implementation of the strategic plan and activities of the Union since PP-14 and highlighted the importance of the Union to global development, particularly in the context of the Connect 2020 Agenda. It also demonstrated that the General Secretariat and the three Bureaux provided assistance to the whole Union. Since the main part of the Council’s session in April 2018, the report had been updated to reflect the most recent work and outcomes. In closing, he invited the conference to watch a video presentation outlining the activities of the Union.

15.2 The **Secretary-General** expressed appreciation, on behalf of the elected officials, for the work and leadership of the outgoing Chairman of the Council, Mr Rashid Ismailov, and wished him every success in the future.

15.3 The **delegates of the United Arab Emirates** and **Azerbaijan** expressed their countries’ appreciation for the work and leadership of the outgoing Chairman of the Council.

15.4 The **Chairman** also expressed admiration for the work of the Chairman of the Council and invited the conference to approve the document.

15.5 Document 20 was **approved**.

# 16 Working hours of the meetings of the conference

16.1 The **Secretary-General** suggested that, in line with past practice, meetings should be held from 0930 to 1230 hours and from 1430 to 1730 hours, except on Friday mornings when meetings would begin at 0900 hours and finish at 1200 hours.

16.2 It was so **agreed**.

# 17 Presentation of ISO 20121:2012 certification for sustainable event management

17.1 The Secretary-General,the Deputy Director General of the Telecommunications Regulatory Authority of the United Arab Emirates and the Director of DXB Live, Dubai World Trade Centre, were presented with a certificate of compliance with the ISO 20121:2012 standard for sustainable event management by the certification company SGS, in recognition of the sustainable design, organization and delivery of the conference.

# 18 General policy statements

18.1 The following speakers made general policy statements:[[1]](#footnote-1)1

* Mr Walid BIN FALAH AL MANSOORI, Board Member, Telecommunications Regulatory Authority (United Arab Emirates) (see <https://www.itu.int/web/pp-18/en/speech/163>);
* Mr Robert L. STRAYER, Ambassador (United States), who said that the United States would maintain its financial contribution at the same level as in the past (see <https://www.itu.int/web/pp-18/en/speech/15>);
* Mr Abdullah ALSWAHA, Minister, Ministry of Communications and Information Technology (Saudi Arabia), who said that Saudi Arabia would be setting its financial contribution to the Union’s budget at 13 units, and pledged an additional contribution of CHF 420 000 to stimulate participation by developing countries in the work of ITU and support their digital transformation efforts (see <https://www.itu.int/web/pp-18/en/speech/27>);
* Mr Arouna Modibo TOURÉ, Minister, Ministry of the Digital Economy and Communication (Mali) (see <https://www.itu.int/web/pp-18/en/speech/31>);
* Ms Yukari SATO, State Minister, Ministry of Internal Affairs and Communications (Japan), who pledged that Japan would maintain its financial contribution at 30 units (see <https://www.itu.int/web/pp-18/en/speech/33>);
* Mr Joseph MUCHERU, Cabinet Secretary, Ministry of Information, Communications and Technology (Kenya) (see <https://www.itu.int/web/pp-18/en/speech/57>);
* Mr. Mitch FIFIELD, Minister for Communications, Minister for the Arts, Department of Communications and the Arts (Australia) (see <https://www.itu.int/web/pp-18/en/speech/62>).

**The meeting rose at 1850 hours.**

The Secretary-General: The Chairman:

H. ZHAO M. ALMESMAR

1. 1 The texts of general policy statements submitted to the secretariat may be consulted at: <https://www.itu.int/web/pp-18/en/policy-statement>. [↑](#footnote-ref-1)