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| **Plenipotentiary Conference (PP-18) Dubai, 29 October – 16 November 2018** |  |
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| PLENARY MEETING | **Document 173-E** |
|  | **7 December 2018** |
|  | **Original: English** |
| minutes  OF THE  sixteenth PLENARY MEETING | |
| Thursday, 15 November 2018, at 0945 hours | |
| **Chairman:** Mr Majed ALMESMAR (United Arab Emirates) | |

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|  | Subjects discussed | Documents |
| 1 | Report by the Chairman of Committee 5 | [155](https://www.itu.int/md/S18-PP-C-0155/en) |
| 2 | Report by the Chairman of Committee 6 | [100](https://www.itu.int/md/S18-PP-C-0100/en) |
| 3 | Report by the Chairman of the Working Group of the Plenary | [143](https://www.itu.int/md/S18-PP-C-0143/en) |
| 4 | Fourteenth series of texts submitted by the Editorial Committee for first reading (B14) | [140](https://www.itu.int/md/S18-PP-C-0140/en) |
| 5 | Fourteenth series of texts submitted by the Editorial Committee - second reading |
| 6 | Seventeenth series of texts submitted by the Editorial Committee for first reading (B17) | [150](https://www.itu.int/md/S18-PP-C-0150/en) |
| 7 | Seventeenth series of texts submitted by the Editorial Committee - second reading |
| 8 | Eighteenth series of texts submitted by the Editorial Committee for first reading (B18) | [159](https://www.itu.int/md/S18-PP-C-0159/en) |
| 9 | Twenty-first series of texts submitted by the Editorial Committee for first reading (B21) | [162](https://www.itu.int/md/S18-PP-C-0162/en) |

# 1 Report by the Chairman of Committee 5 ([Document 155](https://www.itu.int/md/S18-PP-C-0155/en))

1.1 The **Chairman of Committee 5**, introducing Document 155, reported that the Committee had held ten meetings, guided by the terms of reference for its work set out in Document DT/8, and had agreed to the suppression of five resolutions, the revision of ten resolutions and the approval of four draft new resolutions, and to forward two resolutions to the Plenary with text in square brackets for further consideration. It had also agreed to make eight recommendations for the Plenary to consider, including one relating to Resolution 119 (Rev. Antalya, 2006) - Methods to improve the efficiency and effectiveness of the Radio Regulations Board, which it had agreed not to modify. He drew particular attention to recommendation 7, which concerned gender mainstreaming in the election of ITU officials. The Committee had also agreed unanimously not to introduce any amendments to the ITU Constitution or Convention at PP-18. The Plenary was invited to approve his report and the eight recommendations contained therein as a package.

1.2 The **Chairman** congratulated the Chairman of Committee 5 on his excellent work and expressed appreciation for his support.

1.3 The report by the Chairman of Committee 5 (Document 155) and the eight recommendations contained therein were **approved**.

# 2 Report by the Chairman of Committee 6 ([Document 100](https://www.itu.int/md/S18-PP-C-0100/en))

2.1 The **Chairman of Committee 6**, introducing Document 100, reported that the Committee, which had held 13 meetings, had reached consensus on all but one of the items it had discussed. In particular, it had succeeded in agreeing on strategic and financial plans for the Union for the coming years. It had agreed to the suppression of four resolutions, the revision of 22 resolutions and the approval of three draft new resolutions, and to leave four resolutions unchanged.

2.2 The Committee had agreed to forward the text of one draft new Decision - Creation of Council Working Group on Administration and Management - to the Plenary entirely in square brackets, as disagreement remained concerning the underlying principle of the proposal to merge two existing Council working groups. Once the Plenary had decided how to proceed, the related editorial issues outstanding in Resolutions 11, 48 and 154 would be resolved automatically. With regard to Decision 12, the Committee had agreed to leave the decision itself unchanged but to recommend that ITU should undertake a study to identify which documents and publications it was really necessary to publish in the six languages of the Union. Having examined proposals to merge Resolutions 72 and 151 into a revised Resolution 151, thereby allowing the conference to suppress Resolution 72, the Committee had agreed on that course of action.

2.3 With regard to the Union’s future headquarters premises, the Committee had taken note that not all costs could be covered by the loan provided by the host country, as per the terms and conditions thereof. Accordingly, a specific fund would be established to cover such expenses, using surplus and savings from budget implementation. Draft new Resolution COM6/2 covered the matter.

2.4 The Committee had agreed to include a text in the report of the Chairman of Committee 6, which, if endorsed by the Plenary and included in the minutes thereof, would make it possible to suppress Resolution 192 (Busan, 2014) - ITU participation in memoranda of understanding with financial and/or strategic implications.

2.5 He expressed appreciation to all those involved in the work of the Committee for their cooperation and support, which had led to positive outcomes.

2.6 The **delegate of the Russian Federation**, speaking on behalf of RCC, proposed that §24 of the report in Document 100 should be amended to instruct the Council to review the guidelines for repayment schedules for the settlement of arrears and special arrears accounts (Document C99/27) and update them as necessary.

2.7 The **Chairman of Committee 6**, questioning whether it fell to the Plenary to redraft the report of a committee chairman, said that the proposed amendment was in any case unnecessary: the reference in §24 of his report was intended to be general, and full instructions to the Council were set out in revised Resolution 41.

2.8 The **delegate of Saudi Arabia**, referring to the draft new Decision on the creation of a Council Working Group on Administration and Management, expressed the view that the two existing working groups that would be merged under the proposal had important mandates that they fulfilled effectively. He did not support the proposal to create a new working group and therefore could not support the draft new Decision.

2.9 The **Chairman of Committee 6**, recalling that the lack of consensus on that issue within the Committee was clearly described in his report, said that the matter would be discussed when the draft new Decision in question was taken up by the Plenary as part of the eighteenth series of texts (Document 159).

2.10 The **Chairman** took it that the conference agreed to approve the report of the Chairman of Committee 6 (Document 100), to endorse the text relating to Resolution 192 for inclusion in the minutes of its meeting, and to suppress Resolution 192 accordingly.

2.11 The **delegate of the Islamic Republic of Iran** said that he could agree to the inclusion of the text relating to Resolution 192 in the minutes of the Plenary, as had been done previously in similar situations, provided that it would thus acquire the same status as if it had been included in the text of a Decision or resolution.

2.12 It was so **agreed**.

2.13 Thus, the following text was **approved** as a decision of the conference:

“This Plenipotentiary Conference (Dubai, 2018) believes that MoUs in which ITU is a participant that have, in the view of the Secretary-General, substantial financial and/or strategic implications should only be entered into subject to Council’s prior approval.

Therefore, the Secretary-General shall submit to the ordinary session of the Council for prior approval the MoUs that have substantial financial and/or strategic implications.

Furthermore, a report on the other MoUs entered into by ITU during the relevant period will continue to be submitted.

The Council when considering ITU’s participation in MoUs that have substantial financial and/or strategic implications shall apply the following principles:

i) that any involvement of the Secretary-General in this capacity should contribute to and be within the purposes of the Union as set forth in Article 1 of the Constitution, and within the strategic and financial plans of the Union;

ii) that Member States and Sector Members will be kept informed of the activities of ITU when it participates in MoUs that have substantial financial and/or strategic implications;

iii) that the sovereignty and rights of ITU Member States are fully respected and preserved;

The activity above shall be covered within the Council’s report to the Plenipotentiary Conference on the implementation of the Strategic Plan and the activities of the Union.”

# 3 Report by the Chairman of the Working Group of the Plenary ([Document 143](https://www.itu.int/md/S18-PP-C-0143/en))

3.1 The **Chairman of the Working Group of the Plenary**,introducing her report in Document 143, said that the working group had held 10 meetings and examined 90 proposals by Member States. Eight ad hoc groups had been set up to expedite work, while the revision of eight resolutions and proposals for three new resolutions had been addressed through informal consolidation work. The working group had agreed to three new resolutions, revised 14 resolutions and endorsed a proposal not to change one resolution. It had also approved one new Recommendation. An additional eight revised resolutions and one new resolution were being submitted to the Plenary with a number of provisions in square brackets for further consideration. Annex 3 to her report contained statements which had been submitted for inclusion in the report: one by Mr Vladimir Minkin (Russian Federation), who had chaired ad hoc discussions on WSIS, concerning the approval of revised Resolution 140; one by the delegation of the United States on the proposal for a new resolution on studies relating to big data; one by the delegation of the Russian Federation on the same issue; and one by CEPT on the approval of the new resolution on OTT.

3.2 The challenging nature of the subjects discussed by the Working Group of the Plenary, many of which related to new technologies and issues, had made for sometimes difficult debates, but the commitment shown by all involved and their willingness to compromise in the interests of the greater good had borne fruit. The Plenary was urged to be mindful of the work already done when it came to discuss those topics again.

3.3 The **Chairman** thanked the Chairman and members of the Working Group of the Plenary for their excellent work.

3.4 The **delegate of the United Kingdom**, speaking on behalf of CEPT and supported by the **delegate of Canada**, said that CEPT endorsed the statement by the United States on studies relating to big data and wished that endorsement to be noted in the document.

3.5 The **Chairman of the Working Group of the Plenary** said that Document 143 would be amended accordingly.

3.6 The report by the Chairman of the Working Group of the Plenary (Document 143), as amended, was **approved**.

# 4 Fourteenth series of texts submitted by the Editorial Committee for first reading (B14) ([Document 140](https://www.itu.int/md/S18-PP-C-0140/en))

**Draft Resolution 150 (Rev. Dubai, 2018) - Approval of the accounts of the Union for the years 2014-2017**

4.1 **Adopted**.

4.2 The fourteenth series of texts submitted by the Editorial Committee for first reading (B14) (Document 140) was **approved.**

# 5 Fourteenth series of texts submitted by the Editorial Committee - second reading (Document 140)

5.1 The fourteenth series of texts submitted by the Editorial Committee (Document 140) was **approved** on second reading.

# 6 Seventeenth series of texts submitted by the Editorial Committee for first reading (B17) ([Document 150](https://www.itu.int/md/S18-PP-C-0150/en))

**Draft Resolution 2 (Rev. Dubai, 2018) - World telecommunication/information and communication technology policy forum**

**Draft Resolution 135 (Rev. Dubai, 2018) - ITU's role in the durable and sustainable development of telecommunications/information and communication technologies, in providing technical assistance and advice to developing countries and in implementing relevant national, regional and interregional projects**

6.1 **Adopted**.

6.2 The seventeenth series of texts submitted by the Editorial Committee for first reading (B17) (Document 150) was **approved.**

# 7 Seventeenth series of texts submitted by the Editorial Committee - second reading (Document 150)

7.1 The seventeenth series of texts submitted by the Editorial Committee (Document 150) was **approved** on second reading.

# 8 Eighteenth series of texts submitted by the Editorial Committee for first reading (B18) ([Document 159](https://www.itu.int/md/S18-PP-C-0159/en))

**Draft Decision COM6/1 (Dubai, 2018) - Council Working Group on financial and human resources and the strategic and financial plans**

8.1 The **Chairman of the Editorial Committee** drew attention to the fact that the entire draft Decision was in square brackets. She noted that the outcome of the Plenary’s deliberations on the matter would have editorial consequences for a number of other texts, which remained on hold pending a decision.

8.2 As it became clear from the initial comments made by a number of delegates that there was no consensus on the substance of the proposal to create a Council working group on financial and human resources and the strategic and financial plans by merging two existing working groups, and following the suggestion of the **delegate of the Islamic Republic of Iran** that it would be unproductive to repeat the discussions that had taken place within Committee 6, the **Chairman** requested interested parties to hold informal consultations with a view to reaching agreement on how to proceed.

8.3 The **Chairman of Committee 6** pointed out that, under Decision 11 (Rev. Dubai, 2018) - Creation and management of Council working groups, the Council could deal with the substance of the matter directly, without specific instructions from the plenipotentiary conference.

8.4 Following informal discussions, the **delegate of the Russian Federation**, summarizing the outcome, said that agreement had been reached that the matter could and should be dealt with by the Council and that administrations were free to submit contributions on it in the usual way.

8.5 The **Chairman of Committee 6** reiterated that, under Decision 11, there was no need for the plenipotentiary conference to give specific instructions to the Council.

8.6 As a result, it was **agreed** that no decision of the plenipotentiary conference was required on the matter.

# 9 Twenty-first series of texts submitted by the Editorial Committee for first reading (B21) ([Document 162](https://www.itu.int/md/S18-PP-C-0162/en))

9.1 At the suggestion of the **Chairman**, it was **agreed** that draft Resolution 102 (Rev. Dubai, 2018) should be taken up first.

**Draft Resolution 102 (Rev. Dubai, 2018) - ITU's role with regard to international public policy issues pertaining to the Internet and the management of Internet resources, including domain names and addresses**

9.2 The **Chairman of the Working Group of the Plenary** said that, while much of the draft resolution – including proposed changes and significant portions of new text – had been approved within the working group, two main issues remained outstanding: regarding the Council Working Group on international Internet-related public policy issues (CWG-Internet), expanding participation to include entities other than Member States and the nature of its output; and whether the Union could agree to add more entities to the list of relevant organizations referenced in footnote 1 to the draft resolution and elsewhere.

9.3 The **delegate of Saudi Arabia** said that the proposed *considering n)* should be accepted as the memorandum of understanding with the Digital Object Numbering Authority (DONA) was still active. In the interests of inclusivity, the list of relevant organizations in footnote 1 should be revised to include new organizations, as it had not been updated for some time. As for the text relating to CWG-Internet, the square brackets could be removed provided that mention was made in *recognizing* of the fact that, under Rule 14 of the Rules of Procedure of the Council, CWG-Internet could draft resolutions and Decisions for submission to the Council.

9.4 The **delegate of South Africa**, speaking on behalf of the African group and supported by the **delegates of Uganda and Kenya**, expressed support for the text of *resolves* 1 and for the inclusion of DONA in footnote 1 to that paragraph. It was important for all Member States, especially developing countries, to be included in work on the issues covered by *resolves* 1, and the involvement of DONA, which was a non-profit body enjoying ITU support by virtue of the memorandum of understanding between the two organizations, would help to ensure that Internet resources were used to the fullest and yielded maximum benefits for all. The text of *instructs the Council* 1 should be approved, so as to maintain the current composition of CWG-Internet, and so should *instructs the Council* 2 and 4.

9.5 The **delegate of the United Kingdom**, speaking on behalf of CEPT and supported by the **delegate of Norway**, said that, in the interests of maintaining technological neutrality, no reference should be made in Internet-related resolutions of the plenipotentiary conference to DONA or digital object architecture (DOA). DOA was a proprietary technology held by a private group and played no significant role in Internet management. Footnote 1, which had appeared in Resolution 102 for some years, should remain unchanged. While strongly supporting the expansion of CWG-Internet participation to include all stakeholders, CEPT recognized that others were not yet persuaded of the need to do so. It would therefore agree to maintain the current composition of the group and reflect that in *instructs the Council* 1.

9.6 The **delegates of Bahrain, Jordan** and **Kuwait** expressed support for the proposal made by Saudi Arabia to mention Rule 14 of the Rules of Procedure of the Council in *recognizing*. Moreover, as the memorandum of understanding between ITU and DONA was still in place, DONA should be included in the list of organizations in footnote 1.

9.7 The **delegate of Mali**, fully supporting the delegate of South Africa, suggested that informal consultations be held with a view to achieving consensus.

9.8 The **delegate of Australia** said that, unlike the organizations already listed in footnote 1, DONA was not responsible for dealing with the standards and core technical operation of the Internet but for operating an application running on top of the Internet. It was therefore inappropriate to include it in the list. With regard to the composition of CWG-Internet, she echoed the comments made by the delegate of the United Kingdom on behalf of CEPT.

9.9 The **delegate of Sweden**, expressing support for the position of CEPT and Australia, emphasized that the intention of Resolution 102, as evidenced by the texts and titles of earlier versions thereof, adopted by previous plenipotentiary conferences, was to deal with the management of Internet domain names and addresses. She could not accept any mention of DONA in the text, as it was simply one of many Internet directory services.

9.10 The **delegate of the Islamic Republic of Iran** suggested that the various issues under discussion should be considered separately, beginning with *resolves*1 and the related *considering n*).

9.11 The **delegate of the United States**, speaking on behalf of CITEL and expressing support for the comments made on behalf of CEPT and by Sweden and Australia, said that the text of *instructs the Council* 1 should be left unchanged with respect to that adopted by PP-14. She did not support the inclusion of the text in square brackets in footnote 1.

9.12 The **delegate of Cuba** said that DOA was relevant to the management of Internet resources and would become even more pertinent as the Internet of Things (IoT) continued to develop. It was compatible with existing technologies but could also serve as an alternative. ITU had to be technologically neutral, and thus should not exclude DOA technology. It was therefore entirely justified to refer to the institution – DONA – responsible for its development. He expressed support for the proposal made by Saudi Arabia to add a reference to Rule 14 of the Rules of Procedure of the Council under *recognizing*.

9.13 The **delegate of Mexico** said that, in the interests of maintaining the Union’s technological neutrality, references to DOA, over which DONA had intellectual property rights, were inappropriate. There appeared to be some inconsistency in the position of those who wished to see DONA included in the list of organizations in footnote 1 but did not support opening participation in CWG-Internet to Sector Members. As there was no realistic prospect of consensus on amending the text of *instructs the Council* 1, he suggested that it should be retained in its 2014 form, leaving the composition of CWG-Internet unchanged. In summary, given the lack of consensus, the text in square brackets should be deleted.

9.14 The **delegate of New Zealand**, expressing support for the comments made on behalf of CEPT and CITEL, emphasized that Resolution 102 had functioned effectively without any mention of DONA for a number of years; moreover, the list in footnote 1 explicitly left open the possibility of collaborating and coordinating with other relevant organizations not listed, which could include DONA. The text of the resolution as adopted by PP-14 appeared to offer the best chance of consensus, including with regard to the composition of CWG-Internet, despite his preference for including Sector Members in the work of the group.

9.15 The **delegate of Japan** said that she did not support the inclusion of the text in square brackets in footnote 1. *Considering n*) should be deleted, as resolutions of the plenipotentiary conference should be technology-neutral. With regard to the composition of CWG-Internet, she agreed that the text should remain in its 2014 form, as there was no prospect of consensus to amend it.

9.16 The **delegate of the Netherlands** expressed support for the comments made by the delegates of the United Kingdom on behalf of CEPT, Sweden and Australia.

**The meeting rose at 1300 hours.**

The Secretary-General: The Chairman:

H. ZHAO M. ALMESMAR

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