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| **Council 2019 Geneva, 10-20 June 2019** |  |
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| **Agenda item: PL 2.3** | **Document C19/4-E** |
| **13 February 2019** |
| **Original: English** |
| Report by the Secretary-General | |
| REPORT ON THE TWENTIETH PLENIPOTENTIARY CONFERENCE (PP-18) | |

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| Summary  Further to Resolution 77 as revised at PP-14 in Busan, Republic of Korea, and the consultation with Member States (CL-16/58 and CL-17/06), the 20th Plenipotentiary Conference was held in Dubai, United Arab Emirates, from 29 October to 16 November 2018.  Action required  The Council is invited to **take note** of this report.  \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_  References  [*Resolution 77 (Rev. Busan, 2014)*](https://www.itu.int/pub/S-CONF-ACTF-2018) |

1. At the invitation of the Government of the United Arab Emirates, the 20th Plenipotentiary Conference was held in Dubai from 29 October to 16 November 2018, in the Dubai World Trade Centre (DWTC).

2. After PP-14, a report was submitted to C15 ([C15/4](https://www.itu.int/md/S15-CL-C-0004/en)) and, upon request of Member States, a report on possible improvements to the roll-out of the PP was submitted to C16 ([C16/4](https://www.itu.int/md/S16-CL-C-0004/en)). This document focused on five areas of improvement: strengthening regional and inter-regional preparations; improving high-level involvement; improving electoral processes; utilizing IT tools; and eliminating underutilized interpretation services. At this same session, the UAE submitted a proposal for electronic voting ([C16/100](https://www.itu.int/md/S16-CL-C-0100/en)). After discussion, C16 then instructed the Secretary-General to continue consultations, and in [CL-16/48](https://www.itu.int/md/S16-SG-CIR-0048/en), Member States were invited to submit their proposals as well. Document [CWG-FHR 7/10](https://www.itu.int/md/S17-CLCWGFHRM7-C-0010/en) was presented to CWG-FHR in Jan-Feb 2017. Following this meeting, an extension was given for this consultation via [CL-17/7](https://www.itu.int/md/S17-SG-CIR-0007/en). The compilation of the results of these consultations and the resulting recommendations were submitted to C17 in documents [C17/INF/6](https://www.itu.int/md/S17-CL-INF-0006/en), [C17/70](https://www.itu.int/md/S17-CL-C-0070/en), and [C17/4(Rev.1)](https://www.itu.int/md/S17-CL-C-0004/en). Member States also contributed the following proposals: [C17/76(Rev.1)](https://www.itu.int/md/S17-CL-C-0076/en), [C17/78(Rev.2)](https://www.itu.int/md/S17-CL-C-0078/en), and [C17/96](https://www.itu.int/md/S17-CL-C-0096/en). Discussions during C17 led to the approval by the Plenary (summary record of the eighth Plenary meeting, [C17/130](https://www.itu.int/md/S17-CL-C-0130/en)) of the proposals contained in [C17/DL/8](https://www.itu.int/md/S17-CL-170515-DL-0008/en). This document reports on the implementation of the decisions of this DL.

3. The regional preparatory process, under the leadership of the Regional Telecommunication Orgnaizations, continued to be well organized, and was stronger than for previous PPs. The [calendar of regional meetings](https://www.itu.int/web/pp-18/en/page/210-regional-preparatory-meetings) was made available on the website and updated regularly. To facilitate discussion between regional groups, the secretariat hosted three informal inter-regional meetings in Geneva: one “informal” informal one during the Council in May, an informal one in July in Geneva, and another informal one in Riyadh, Saudi Arabia, in September. Remote participation was proposed and utilized at all meetings, which were led by H.E. Mr Majed Almesmar, Chair-designate, of the United Arab Emirates. Additionally, almost all regional groups invited the other regional groups to participate in their meetings, facilitating discussion of proposals. The secretariat was asked to support the chair-designate for the inter-regional meetings and prepare a list of proposals, a draft allocation of proposals, and facilitate the exchange of views per topic.

4. At the request of the Council, information in the form of PowerPoints explaining the roll-out of the conference, the election process, the document process, and the rules of procedures were developed by GBS and made available on the [website](https://www.itu.int/web/pp-18/en/page/209-pp-process). An information session was also been organized on Sunday prior to the Conference for new delegates.

5. Regarding the PP-18 website, a new mobile-first design and layout was created to replace the one-time-use “Apps” previously developed for each conference, and to streamline the user experience.

6. A total of 2,363 participants (27.59% female and 72.41% male) representing 180 Member States and 75 observer organizations attended PP-18, including 3 VVIPs, 83 Ministers, 42 Deputy Ministers, and 57 Ambassadors. A total of 4,622 persons were badged using the new CRM system, including delegates, ITU staff, local staff, and host country security, as well as anyone who needed to have access to DWTC (police, fire department, entourages of VIP, etc.). The final list of participants is published in [PP-18/177](https://www.itu.int/md/S18-PP-C-0177/en).

7. H.E. Sheikh Mohammed bin Rashid AL MAKTOUM, Prime Minister of the United Arab Emirates and Ruler of Dubai, participated in the opening ceremony, during which H.E. Mr Talal AL FALASI, Chairman of the Telecommunications Regulatory Authority (TRA), addressed the conference at the opening ceremony, as well as H.E. Mr António GUTERRES, Secretary-General of the United Nations, via a video message. H.E. Mr Charlot SALWAI TABIMASMAS, Prime Minister of Vanuatu, and H.E. Mr Abdullah ABDULLAH, Chief Executive of Afghanistan, both addressed the Conference during the first Plenary.

8. At the first Plenary Meeting, Mr Majed AL MESMAR (United Arab Emirates) was elected as Chair of the Conference. Six Vice-Chairs were elected as follows:

Mr Majed AL MAZYED (Saudi Arabia)

Ms Cristiana FLUTUR (Romania)

H.E. Mr Konstantin NOSKOV (Russian Federation)

Dr Ahmad Reza SHARAFAT (Islamic Republic of Iran)

H.E. Mr Robert STRAYER (United States)

Mr Francis WANGUSI (Kenya).

9. The following committees were established and started their work on the second day of the Conference (see also PP-18 structure in document [PP-18/80](http://www.itu.int/md/S18-PP-C-0080/en) and the complete list including vice-chairs in document [PP-18/76](http://www.itu.int/md/S18-PP-C-0076/en)):

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| Committee 1  (Steering) | (composed of the Chair and Vice-Chairs of the Conference and of the Chairs and Vice-Chairs of the other committees) |
| Committee 2 (Credentials) | **Chair**: Ms Sameera BELAL MOMEN (Kuwait) |
| Committee 3 (Budget Control) | **Chair**: Ms Seynabou SECK CISSE (Senegal) |
| Committee 4 (Editorial) | **Chair**: Ms Rim BELHAJ (Tunisia) |
| Committee 5 (Policy and Legal) | **Chair**: Mr Stephen BEREAUX (Bahamas) |
| Committee 6  (Administration and Management) | **Chair**: Mr Dietmar PLESSE (Germany) |
| Working Group of the Plenary (WG-PL) | **Chair**: Ms Nur Sulyna ABDULLAH (Malaysia) |

10. PP-18 elected a new management team to take or continue in office as of 1 January 2019 as follows:

Secretary-General: Mr Houlin ZHAO (China)  
Deputy Secretary-General: Mr Malcolm JOHNSON (United Kingdom)  
Director, BR: Mr Mario MANIEWICZ (Uruguay)  
Director, TSB: Mr Chaesub LEE (Republic of Korea)  
Director, BDT: Ms Doreen BOGDAN-MARTIN (United States)

The Conference also elected the Member States of the Council and the members of the Radio Regulations Board. Full details, including candidates’ biographies, interviews, and information on each round, can be found here: [https://www.itu.int/web/pp-18/en/home/electionResult. As requested by Council-17](https://www.itu.int/web/pp-18/en/home/electionResult.%20As%20requested%20by%20Council-17), each candidate submitted a vision statement with her/his CV, and promotional brochures were published on the website in a bid to reduce paper waste. Additionally, the approved ethical guidelines were also published on the PP-18 website.

11. A total of 98 [policy statements](https://www.itu.int/web/pp-18/en/policy-statement) were delivered at PP-18. Member States were invited to focus their policy statements on the goals of the proposed strategic plan. For the first time, speakers were invited to deliver their speeches from the lectern. Although the Council had agreed to limit policy statements to three minutes, most speeches lasted five. The committees met in parallel

12. Member States were encouraged to use the [Conference Proposals Interface (CPI)](https://www.itu.int/net4/proposals/CPI/PP18/) to create and submit their proposals for the work of the Conference. Thanks to this tool, PP-18 proposals were noticeably better prepared than those submitted to PP-14, saving valuable time for docs control and translation.

The now-known [proposals management system](https://www.itu.int/net4/proposals/PP18) was used and much appreciated by both the secretariat and participants. This web-based interface facilitated not only the consolidation of proposals and distribution across substantive committees, but also provided tracking facilities for proposals, their allocation to committees, and their lifecycle through to the final texts.

274 proposals were submitted to PP-18 (253 at PP-14) and some 15,000 pages processed throughout the conference, i.e. over 5,100 translated and 7,600 typed. For the first time, PP-18 was paperless, including the Final Acts, which were published on the website at noon on the last day of the Conference.

13. PP-18 adopted ten new Resolutions; revised two Decisions and 51 Resolutions; and suppressed one Decision and ten Resolutions. Neither the Constitution nor the Convention was modified. The Final Acts of PP-18 are available on the ITU website at: <https://www.itu.int/web/pp-18/en/page/192-Documents>. Certified paper copies of the Final Acts are available upon request only.

14. [Webcast and captioning files](https://www.itu.int/web/pp-18/en/page/202-webcast-and-captioning) for the substantive meetings (Plenary, Committees 5 and 6, and WG-PL) were made available to the public, without password restrictions. In line with the ITU document and information access policy, input and output documents of the Conference were available online without TIES restrictions.

15. In order to focus on the substantive content, it was decided that no side events be held during PP-18. The secretariat received positive feedback from delegates regarding this decision.

16 For the first time ever, in consultation with the UN Greening the Blue team, ITU strove to make PP-18 as "green" as possible. In cooperation with the Host Country, a [number of measures](https://www.itu.int/web/pp-18/en/page/154-greening-the-pp) were taken in this regard concerning travel, accommodation, paper use, energy, the construction of the venue, etc. TRA, ITU, and DWTC received an award by the certification body SGS for compliance with ISO 20121:2012 for Sustainable Events.

17. Full information on PP-18, including all documents, policy statements, elections results, photos, videos, and Highlights can be found here: <https://www.itu.int/web/pp-18/en/>.

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