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| **Agenda item: PL 2.1** | **Document C19/19-E**  **1 April 2019**  **Original: English** |
| Report by the Secretary-General | |
| REPORT ON ITU TELECOM WORLD EVENTS | |

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| Summary  This report outlines highlights of ITU Telecom World 2018, plans for 2019 and details of actions which have been taken as a result of revisions to Resolution 11 (Rev. Dubai, 2018).  Action required  The Council is invited **to note** the report.  \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_  References  [*Resolution 11 (Rev. Dubai 2018)*](https://www.itu.int/en/council/Documents/basic-texts/RES-011-E.pdf)*; Document* [*C18/19(Rev.1)*](https://www.itu.int/md/S18-CL-C-0019/en) |

1. ITU Telecom World 2018 Highlights
   1. ITU Telecom World 2018 took place from 10 to 13 September in Durban, South Africa, on the theme of “Innovation for smarter digital development.” It brought together nations, leading players, and SMEs from across Africa and around the world, from public and private sectors.
   2. The event was hosted by the Government of South Africa, represented by its Department of Telecommunication and Postal services (DTPS). ITU is extremely appreciative of the support and commitment of the government of South Africa in hosting the event, as well as ensuring its smooth running and providing dynamic setting for discussion. It was the first time that an ITU Telecom World event had been hosted in the African region and ITU worked in close cooperation with DTPS to enable South Africa to meet its financial commitments within the context of the Host Country Agreement.
   3. Major South African ICT players took an active part in the Exhibition as well as in the Forum. The Host Country brought many diverse and innovative South African SMEs, along with the financial investors to support them. The Host Country also utilized the strategic international platform the event offered to highlight the country’s ICT sector and its African Digital Transformation Centre ‑ which will support entrepreneurs and lead work on the Fourth Industrial Revolution across the region - and will be a lasting legacy of the event itself.
   4. ITU was honoured that the event was attended by the highest level participants from the Host Country including President Matamela Cyril Ramaphosa who opened the event and also visited and lauded the companies participating in the exhibition. As well as top-level representatives from the Government of South Africa and South Africa’s ICT industry, participating leaders at the event spanned ministers and regulators, C-level executives from major ICT players, heads of international organizations, ambassadors, academics, and SMEs.
   5. Over 94 countries were present at the event, and representatives from public/private sectors took advantage of the many opportunities to meet, network and engage in meaningful conversation. It also provided the opportunity for exhibitors, sponsors and partners from 32 countries, including 125 SME exhibitors, to showcase their innovations, and for 157 speakers from 47 countries to share their visions and viewpoints in the Forum debates.
   6. The **Exhibition** featured national pavilions, thematic pavilions, leading ICT names and SMEs from around the world. Countries represented included Azerbaijan, Bangladesh, Burundi, Cameroon, China, Egypt, Ghana, Kenya, Republic of Korea, Malawi, Mozambique, Nigeria, Rwanda, Senegal, South Africa, Sudan, and Zimbabwe. Botswana, Eswatini. and Mali joined ITU Telecom World with pavilions for the first time. Pavilions showcased their country’s ICT industry, key national projects, ICT SMEs, investment and partnership opportunities. Exhibitors and sponsors spanned major corporate players to cutting-edge SMEs, from across the globe.
   7. **The Forum:** Debates were launched at the Forum Summit on “Digital everyone”, moderated by Euronews. The Forum then explored key topics such as the challenges and opportunities of the digital age, including technological developments and impacts in 5G, IoT, and AI; expanding rural connectivity; spectrum challenges; smart cities; digital literacy and supporting tech SME growth. Forum highlights included Ministerial roundtables, Host Country sessions on African investment and on promoting ICT opportunities for the empowerment of women, and a full day workshop on “The rise of the MVNOs: leveraging MVNOs in an ‘everything connected’ world.” Partner and co-hosted sessions took place in conjunction with key names such as CSAIA, GTI, China Mobile, TDIA, GSMA, Huawei and SITA.
   8. **SME Programme & ITU Telecom World Awards**: The SME programme provided valuable networking, business matchmaking, debate, and pitching opportunities to SMEs. A key part of the programme was the ITU Telecom World Awards, which celebrated creativity and innovation in digital solutions meeting real-world social needs and rewarded winners and finalists in several categories, including ‘Global SME’ and ‘Corporate’.  Winners and finalists were presented with trophies and certificates in a high-profile ceremony at the close of the event. ICT provider Pulego Communications of South Africa was the highest category winner of the Global SME Excellence Award.
   9. **A showcase for ITU:** ITU-T, ITU-D and ITU-R, as well as the General Secretariat benefited from the platform, showcasing their expertise and knowledge throughout the Forum programme. ITU Bureaux also utilized the visibility opportunities provided. [ITU-D](https://www.itu.int/en/ITU-D/Pages/default.aspx) organized a session focused on digital innovation ecosystems and enabling smart digital development and skills development in the digital era, including the launch of a number of key reports such as “Setting the Scene for 5G: Opportunities & Challenges” or the “m-Powering Development Report 2018” . ITU-T hosted a number of initiatives centred on emerging technologies and innovation, including a workshop on mobile virtual network operators (MVNOs). The Smart ABC Programme hosted discussions sharing on advances in AI, banking and cities, with particular reference to their importance to digital inclusion and sustainable development. Also, the tenth annual Chief Technology Officer (CTO) meeting brought CTOs together to discuss industry needs and associated standardization priorities.
   10. **Event well received**: Feedback from the Event was overwhelmingly positive, not just in terms of interviews and comments received onsite during the Event, but also from the post-event survey carried out by ITU, where participants highly rated their event experience, with many noting that it stood out amongst other ICT events. More than 85% of respondents agreed that the event attracted the right audience, and was an important platform for ICT innovations, economic development and social good.
2. Financial results

Please refer to document [C19/41](https://www.itu.int/md/S19-CL-C-0041/en) for further information.

1. **Planning for ITU Telecom World 2019**
   1. ITU Telecom World 2019 will take place from 9 to 12 September in Budapest. The Event will be hosted by the Government of Hungary, represented by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Trade, with content support from the Ministry of Innovation and Technology. ITU was honoured to be invited again to Budapest, Hungary, where the event had been held in 2015 and saw the introduction of the SME focus.
   2. Under the central theme of “Innovating together: connectivity that matters,“ the Event will include the **Exhibition**, enabling member states, sector members, and other industry players including SMEs to showcase innovative services, applications and solutions and highlight growth and investment opportunities. The **Forum** will explore the importance of a “meaningful connectivity,” one which is affordable, interoperable, driven by local content, digital literacy and skills as well as being inclusive of the digitally disenfranchised. Discussions will look at how to best ensure that digital society is beneficial, sustainable and open to all. The **ITU Telecom World Awards and SME Programme** will again support and recognize innovative ICT-based solutions with social impact, with Next Generation Day on the last day of the Event encouraging youth and young professionals in ICT from Hungary and the region with a specially designed programme of activities.
2. **PP18 and moving forward**
   1. At the Plenipotentiary conference (Dubai, 2018), Resolution 11 was revised. Key revisions to the Resolution covered the bidding to host future events, the hiring of a management consultant to perform a comprehensive strategic and financial assessment and review of ITU Telecom events, the vital role of SMEs, and affordability for developing countries.
   2. **SMEs and affordability:** followingrequests from Member States, ITU Telecom World 2019 will continue to offer services and activities to support SMEs including new entry-level participation options such as the SME digital showcase, as well as lowering Forum entrance fees for LDCs , LLDCs and SIDS
   3. In terms of **future host countries**, a [circular letter](https://www.itu.int/md/S18-SG-CIR-0054/en) was issued in December 2018, inviting Member States interested in hosting ITU Telecom World 2020 to submit their proposal by no later than 1 May 2019. Member States were also invited to inform ITU of their potential interest in hosting ITU Telecom World 2021 and/or 2022 by no later than 31 December 2019.
   4. Regarding steps taken to **the management consultancy,** the CWG FHR held in January 2019 reviewed, revised and approved, the terms of reference for the hiring of the consultancy. The [Request for Proposal](https://www.ungm.org/Public/Notice/83665) was subsequently published on the United Nations Global Marketplace, with a deadline for bid submission of 29 March 2019. Bids are currently being evaluated in accordance with ITU’s procurement procedures.

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