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| Report by the Secretary-General | |
| Improving, promoting, and strengthening ITU fellowships | |

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| Summary  Resolution 213 (Dubai, 2018) of the Plenipotentiary Conference instructed the Council to review the existing criteria for awarding fellowship and make recommendations to the Secretary-General, with a view to improving, promoting and strengthening ITU fellowships.  This document provides an overview on fellowships, their objective, eligibility, selection criteria, and their importance as a potentially effective tool for enhancing capacity building in the light of rapid technological innovation and increased convergence of services. It also provides an annex with a list of Member States eligible for fellowships.  Action required  The Council is invited to **consider** this report and **endorse** the criteria for awarding fellowships.  \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_  References  [*Resolution 213 (Dubai, 2018)*](https://www.itu.int/en/council/Documents/basic-texts/RES-213-E.pdf) |

**1. Background**

Fellowships are intended to promote inclusiveness and participation by Member States[[1]](#footnote-1) in ITU events and activities, the primary objective being to enhance expertise in telecommunications and information and communication technologies, particularly in developing countries.

Until 31 December 2018, fellowships were governed by Service Order No. 07/05 of 30 March 2007 on “policy for awarding fellowships for activities funded through the ITU regular budget.” According to this Service Order, Member States eligible to receive fellowships funded by the ITU regular budget were those recognized as least developed countries (LDCs), as well as low-income countries having a per capita gross domestic product not exceeding USD 2 000. Priority was given to requests from LDCs. When funding was not sufficient for all valid applications, fellowships were granted with a view to fostering equitable distribution, including gender balance and geographic distribution.

Resolution 213 (Dubai, 2018) of the Plenipotentiary Conference on measures to improve, promote, and strengthen ITU fellowships instructed the Council to review the existing criteria for awarding fellowship and make recommendations to the Secretary-General, with a view to improving, promoting, and strengthening ITU fellowships. Taking into consideration of the recommendation by the Council, the Secretary-General will revise the Service Order.

**2. Proposed revised policy for awarding fellowships for activities funded through the ITU regular budget**

The following policy is proposed to fellowships awarded to delegates from eligible Member States requesting financial support from the Union to attend ITU events and activities funded through the ITU regular budget. Such events and activities, which may be organized by the General Secretariat or by any of the three Bureaux may offer fellowships if a specific budget is allocated for this purpose.

**2.1 Eligibility, awarding and selection criteria**

Within the approved budget for the event or activity in question, and within the stipulated deadline for the receipt of requests, the following criteria shall apply:

1) Member States eligible to receive ITU fellowships are those listed by the United Nations as developing countries, which also include the least developed countries, small island developing states, landlocked developing countries (**Table 1 in Annex**) and countries with economies in transition (**Table 2 in Annex**).

2) Consideration to grant fellowships to high-income developing countries on the list shall only be made subject to available resources and after first fulfilling requests from other eligible Member States listed as low-income, lower-middle-income, and upper-middle-income developing countries.

3) Depending on the nature of the event or activity, fellowships may also be granted to representatives of ITU Sector Members (with the exception of profit-making entities) and Academia. A database shall be created showing profit-making and non-profit-making Sector Members. Consideration to grant fellowships to Sector Members/Academia as described above shall only be made subject to available resources and after first fulfilling requests from eligible Member States.

4) One full fellowship, or one or two partial fellowships can be granted per eligible Member State/entity.

A full fellowship includes one return economy class air ticket by the most direct/economical route from the country of origin to the venue of the event/activity as well as a daily allowance to cover accommodation, meals and incidental expenses.

A partial fellowship covers either a return economy class air ticket or a daily allowance. In the case of partial fellowships, ITU will bear the cost of air tickets or daily subsistence allowances; the Member State/entity concerned shall cover the remainder of the fellowship. Partial fellowships are to be encouraged to the extent possible to ensure efficient use of the available funds.

5) In awarding a fellowship, account shall be taken of:

* the candidates’ professional background; current position, and the practical use they intend to make of the knowledge and experience to be gained;
* candidates that make a significant contribution to the work of the event or activity including written contributions;
* candidates that have a specific role (for example, speakers and panellists) in the event or activity for which they are seeking a fellowship;
* candidates from eligible Member States/entities that have not recently benefited from a fellowship.

6) Fellowships shall be awarded in a fair and transparent manner with a view to maintaining equitable geographical distribution, gender balance and the inclusion of delegates with disabilities and with specific needs[[2]](#footnote-2). In particular, the fellowship programme should be expanded in order to enable delegates with disabilities and delegates with specific needs, within existing budgetary constraints, to participate in the work of ITU.

7) A fellowship application shall be considered valid only if submitted and duly signed by a National Designated Focal Point and/or a senior official from an administration of a Member State or, as the case may be, from a Sector Member (with the exception of profit-making entities) or from Academia.

8) The highest-ranking officials (Head of State, Head of Government, Minister, Vice-Minister, Secretary of State or equivalent, high-ranking diplomats) shall not be considered for fellowships.

9) Fellowships shall not be granted for treaty-making conferences (Plenipotentiary Conferences, World and Regional Radiocommunication Conferences, and World Conferences on International Telecommunications) and for the ITU Council.

**2.2 Measures to further promote fellowships**

Criteria for awarding fellowships, including eligibility, shall be clearly indicated in the invitation letters for events and activities offering fellowship opportunities. Such criteria shall be updated regularly, as necessary, on the basis of recommendations from the ITU Council in line with Resolution 213 (Dubai, 2018) of the Plenipotentiary Conference on measures to improve, promote and strengthen ITU fellowships.

In the invitation letters for events and activities offering fellowship opportunities, Member States/ entities shall be encouraged to consider gender balance and the inclusion of delegates with disabilities and with specific needs when proposing delegates eligible for fellowships.

A dedicated website for fellowships shall be created to serve as a repository for all information on ITU fellowships, including an annual list of events and activities offering fellowship opportunities, as well as guidelines for fellowship beneficiaries.

**2.3 Reporting on fellowships**

In line with the relevant provisions of Resolution 213 (Dubai, 2018) of the Plenipotentiary Conference, an annual report on fellowships shall be prepared to the ITU Council covering, *inter alia*, information and analysis on ITU Sectors and the General Secretariat; number of fellowships awarded per region and country; gender/disabilities and specific needs; and expenses.

**2.4 Ensuring adequate control over the use of fellowships**

The Secretary-General will establish rules and procedures to ensure internal oversight and good governance in the use of fellowships. These rules and procedures will specify*, inter alia,* the number of fellowships any one individual may receive in a financial year, and also limit the amount of financial support a person can receive during a financial year.

**ANNEX 1: Member States eligible for fellowships funded through the ITU regular budget**

Member States eligible for fellowships are those listed by the United Nations[[3]](#footnote-3) as developing countries. These include the least developed countries, Small Island developing states, landlocked developing countries (Table 1) and countries with economies in transition ([Table 2](#Table2)).

**Table 1**

|  |  |  |  |  |
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|  | **Developing countries** | | | |
|  | **Country** | **Least developed countries** | **Small island developing States** | **Landlocked developing countries** |
| **Africa** | **Low-income (USD 995 or less)** | | | |
| Benin | **✓** |  |  |
| Burkina Faso | **✓** |  | **✓** |
| Burundi | **✓** |  | **✓** |
| Central African Rep. | **✓** |  | **✓** |
| Chad | **✓** |  | **✓** |
| Dem. Rep. of the Congo | **✓** |  |  |
| Eritrea | **✓** |  |  |
| Ethiopia | **✓** |  | **✓** |
| Gambia | **✓** |  |  |
| Guinea | **✓** |  |  |
| Guinea-Bissau | **✓** | **✓** |  |
| Liberia | **✓** |  |  |
| Madagascar | **✓** |  |  |
| Malawi | **✓** |  | **✓** |
| Mali | **✓** |  | **✓** |
| Mozambique | **✓** |  |  |
| Niger | **✓** |  | **✓** |
| Rwanda | **✓** |  | **✓** |
| Senegal | **✓** |  |  |
| Sierra Leone | **✓** |  |  |
| South Sudan | **✓** |  | **✓** |
| Tanzania | **✓** |  |  |
| Togo | **✓** |  |  |
| Uganda | **✓** |  | **✓** |
| Zimbabwe |  |  | **✓** |
| **Lower-middle-income (USD 996 - USD 3895)** | | | |
| Angola | **✓** |  |  |
| Cabo Verde |  | **✓** |  |
| Cameroon |  |  |  |
| Congo (Rep. of the) |  |  |  |
| Côte d’Ivoire |  |  |  |
| Eswatini |  |  | **✓** |
| Ghana |  |  |  |
| Kenya |  |  |  |
| Lesotho | **✓** |  | **✓** |
| Nigeria |  |  |  |
| Sao Tome and Principe | **✓** | **✓** |  |
| Zambia | **✓** |  | **✓** |

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|  | **Developing countries** | | | |
| **Country** | **Least developed countries** | **Small island developing States** | **Landlocked developing countries** |
|  | | | | |
| **Africa** | **Upper-middle-income (USD 3896 - USD 12 055)** | | | |
| Botswana |  |  | **✓** |
| Equatorial Guinea |  |  |  |
| Gabon |  |  |  |
| Mauritius |  | **✓** |  |
| Namibia |  |  |  |
| South Africa |  |  |  |
| **High-income (USD 12 056 and above)** | | | |
| Seychelles |  | **✓** |  |
|  | | | | |
| **Americas** | **Low-income (USD 995 or less)** | | | |
| Haiti | **✓** | **✓** |  |
| **Lower-middle-income (USD 996 - USD 3895)** | | | |
| Bolivia (Plurinational State of) |  |  | **✓** |
| El Salvador |  |  |  |
| Honduras |  |  |  |
| Nicaragua |  |  |  |
| **Upper-middle-income (USD 3896 - USD 12 055)** | | | |
| Belize |  | **✓** |  |
| Brazil |  |  |  |
| Colombia |  |  |  |
| Costa Rica |  |  |  |
| Cuba |  | **✓** |  |
| Dominica |  | **✓** |  |
| Dominican Rep. |  | **✓** |  |
| Ecuador |  |  |  |
| Grenada |  | **✓** |  |
| Guatemala |  |  |  |
| Guyana |  | **✓** |  |
| Jamaica |  | **✓** |  |
| Mexico |  |  |  |
| Paraguay |  |  | **✓** |
| Peru |  |  |  |
| Saint Lucia |  | **✓** |  |
| Saint Vincent and the Grenadines |  | **✓** |  |
| Suriname |  | **✓** |  |
| Venezuela |  |  |  |
| **High-income (USD 12 056 and above)** | | | |  |  |
| Antigua and Barbuda |  | **✓** |  |
| Argentina |  |  |  |
| Bahamas |  | **✓** |  |
| Barbados |  | **✓** |  |
| Chile |  |  |  |
| Panama |  |  |  |
| Saint Kitts and Nevis |  | **✓** |  |
| Trinidad and Tobago |  | **✓** |  |
| Uruguay |  |  |  |

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|  | **Developing countries** | | | |
| **Country** | **Least developed countries** | **Small island developing States** | **Landlocked developing countries** |
| **Arab States[[4]](#footnote-4)** | **Low-income (USD 995 or less)** | | | |
| Comoros | **✓** | **✓** |  |
| Somalia | **✓** |  |  |
| Syrian Arab Republic |  |  |  |
| Yemen | **✓** |  |  |
| **Lower-middle-income (USD 996 - USD 3895)** | | | |
| Djibouti | **✓** |  |  |
| Egypt |  |  |  |
| Mauritania | **✓** |  |  |
| Morocco |  |  |  |
| Sudan | **✓** |  |  |
| Tunisia |  |  |  |
| **Upper-middle-income (USD 3896 - USD 12 055)** | | | |
| Algeria |  |  |  |
| Iraq |  |  |  |
| Jordan |  |  |  |
| Lebanon |  |  |  |
| Libya |  |  |  |
| **High-income (USD 12 056 and above)** | | | |
| Bahrain |  | **✓** |  |
| Kuwait |  |  |  |
| Oman |  |  |  |
| Qatar |  |  |  |
| Saudi Arabia |  |  |  |
| United Arab Emirates |  |  |  |
|  | | | | |
| **Asia-Pacific** | **Low-income (USD 995 or less)** | | | |
| Afghanistan | **✓** |  | **✓** |
| Dem. People’s Rep. of Korea |  |  |  |
| Nepal (Republic of) | **✓** |  | **✓** |
| **Lower-middle-income (USD 996 - USD 3895)** | | | |
| Bangladesh | **✓** |  |  |
| Bhutan | **✓** |  | **✓** |
| Cambodia | **✓** |  |  |
| India |  |  |  |
| Indonesia |  |  |  |
| Kiribati | **✓** | **✓** |  |
| Lao P.D.R. | **✓** |  | **✓** |
| Micronesia |  | **✓** |  |
| Mongolia |  |  | **✓** |
| Myanmar | **✓** |  |  |
| Pakistan |  |  |  |
| Papua New Guinea |  | **✓** |  |
| Philippines |  |  |  |
| Solomon Islands | **✓** | **✓** |  |
| Sri Lanka |  |  |  |
| Timor-Leste | **✓** | **✓** |  |
| Vanuatu | **✓** | **✓** |  |
| Viet Nam |  |  |  |
|  | | | | |
|  | **Developing countries** | | | |
| **Country** | **Least developed countries** | **Small island developing States** | **Landlocked developing countries** |
| **Asia-Pacific** | **Upper-middle-income (USD 3896 - USD 12 055)** | | | |
| China |  |  |  |
| Fiji |  | **✓** |  |
| Iran (Islamic Republic of) |  |  |  |
| Malaysia |  |  |  |
| Maldives |  | **✓** |  |
| Marshall Islands |  | **✓** |  |
| Nauru |  | **✓** |  |
| Samoa |  | **✓** |  |
| Thailand |  |  |  |
| Tonga |  | **✓** |  |
| Tuvalu | **✓** | **✓** |  |
| **High-income (USD 12 056 and above)** | | | |
| Brunei Darussalam |  |  |  |
| Korea (Rep. of) |  |  |  |
| Singapore |  | **✓** |  |
|  | | | | |
| **Europe** | **Upper-middle-income (USD 3896 - USD 12 055)** | | | |
| Turkey |  |  |  |

Source: United Nations report *World Economic Situation and Prospects 2019*.

**Table 2**

| *C* | **Countries with economies in transition** | | | |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
|  | **Country** | **Least developed countries** | **Small island developing States** | **Landlocked developing countries** |
| **CIS** | **Low-income (USD 995 or less)** | | | |
| Tajikistan |  |  | **✓** |
| **Lower-middle-income (USD 996 - USD 3895)** | | | |
| Kyrgyzstan |  |  | **✓** |
| Uzbekistan |  |  | **✓** |
| **Upper-middle-income (USD 3896 - USD 12 055)** | | | |
| Armenia |  |  | **✓** |
| Azerbaijan |  |  | **✓** |
| Belarus |  |  |  |
| Kazakhstan |  |  | **✓** |
| Russian Federation |  |  |  |
| Turkmenistan |  |  | **✓** |
| **Europe** | **Lower-middle-income (USD 996 - USD 3895)** | | | |
| Georgia |  |  |  |
| Moldova |  |  | **✓** |
| Ukraine |  |  |  |
| **Upper-middle-income (USD 3896 - USD 12 055)** | | | |
| Albania |  |  |  |
| Bosnia and Herzegovina |  |  |  |
| Montenegro |  |  |  |
| North Macedonia |  |  | **✓** |
| Serbia |  |  |  |

Source: United Nations report *World Economic Situation and Prospects 2019*.

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1. This policy shall apply, *mutatis mutandis*, to fellowships awarded to the State of Palestine, Resolution 99 (Rev. Dubai, 2018). [↑](#footnote-ref-1)
2. Within the context of the policy for awarding fellowships, the expression “delegates with specific needs” shall be understood to include indigenous people. [↑](#footnote-ref-2)
3. United Nations report World Economic Situation and Prospects 2019, published in January 2019. In the report, countries with a gross national income (GNI) per capita of USD 995 or less are classified as low-income countries; those with a GNI per capita between USD 996 and USD 3895 as lower-middle-income countries and between USD 3896 and USD 12 055 as upper-middle-income countries; and those with a GNI per capita of USD 12 056 and above as high-income countries. [↑](#footnote-ref-3)
4. This list shall apply mutatis mutandis to the State of Palestine, Resolution 99 (Rev. Dubai, 2018), a lower-middle-income economy. [↑](#footnote-ref-4)