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| **Council 2019 Geneva, 10-20 June 2019** |  |
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| **Agenda item: ADM 18** | **Document C19/76-E** |
| **27 May 2019** |
| **Original: Russian** |
| Note by the Secretary-General | |
| contribution from the russian federation | |
| ensuring THE PRESERVATION OF CONTRIBUTIONS/Donations[[1]](#footnote-1) FROM ITU PARTICIPANTS IN THE EXISTING BUILDINGS OF THE UNION WHEN IMPLEMENTING THE PROJECT FOR THE CONSTRUCTION OF THE UNION'S NEW HEADQUARTERS PREMISES | |

I have the honour to transmit to the Member States of the Council the attached contribution submitted by the **Russian Federation.**

Houlin ZHAO  
 Secretary-General

Contribution from the Russian Federation

ENSURING THE PRESERVATION OF CONTRIBUTIONS/DONATIONS[[2]](#footnote-2) FROM ITU PARTICIPANTS IN THE EXISTING BUILDINGS OF THE UNION WHEN IMPLEMENTING THE PROJECT FOR THE CONSTRUCTION OF THE UNION'S NEW HEADQUARTERS PREMISES

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| Summary  In view of the implementation of the project to demolish the existing Varembé building and to construct the new ITU headquarters building in its place, the temporary conversion of the Montbrillant and Tower buildings during the construction of the new Varembé building and the subsequent sale of the Tower building after the completion of the construction, it is essential to take appropriate measures to ensure the preservation of the contributions/donations made to the Union by ITU Member States and Sector Members prior to the start of the project.  Action required  The Council is invited to **take a decision.**  \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_  References  *[Resolution 194 (Busan, 2014)](http://www.itu.int/pub/S-CONF-PLEN-2015),* [*Council Decision 588*](https://www.itu.int/md/S16-CL-C-0124/en)*, Documents* [*C16/7*](https://www.itu.int/md/S16-CL-C-0007/en)*,* [*C18/7*](https://www.itu.int/md/S18-CL-C-0007/en)*,* [*C18/INF/19*](https://www.itu.int/md/S18-CL-INF-0019/en) |

# 1 Background

1.1 In 2016, through [Decision 588](https://www.itu.int/md/S16-CL-C-0124/en), the Council decided to replace the Varembé building by a new building that would also house the offices and other facilities of the Tower building.

1.2 The financial model for the new building is a 50-year interest-free loan from the host country. The first repayment of the loan will be made at the end of the year of the successful commissioning of the new ITU building.

1.3 At its ordinary session in 2017, the Council approved Document [C17/67](http://www.itu.int/md/S17-CL-C-0067/en) "Improving the stability and predictability of the financial base of the Union", including Annex 1 on principles for resource mobilization, in accordance with which the Secretary-General initiated consultations with Member States, Sector Members and academia on the possibility of sponsoring the project.

1.4 A sponsorship agreement was signed between the ITU Secretary-General and Saudi Arabia in Riyadh on 27 September 2018. Saudi Arabia will provide sponsorship of CHF 10 million for the main conference room. The full amount will be transferred to ITU before the start of construction.

1.5 A letter was received on 17 October 2018 from the United Arab Emirates with a sponsorship offer for the second main conference room.

1.6 The Czech Republic has made a generous donation of USD 100 000 for the construction or purchase of technical and other equipment for the new building. This was added to the temporary new building fund created by the Council at its first session in 2018.

1.7 Such sponsorships and donations are considered as supplementary to the budget authorized in Decision 588. Member States have agreed to find a suitable location in the new building to mark their appreciation for the generosity of donors.

1.8 During the demolition/construction period, temporary accommodation will be provided for staff, including through the introduction of flexible working arrangements and by increasing the capacity of the Montbrillant and Tower buildings.

1.9 Following the completion of the project, it is planned to sell the Tower building, which currently houses a large number of contributions/donations received by ITU from Member States and Sector Members.

1.10 All ITU's existing headquarters buildings contain many contributions/donations made to the Union by Member States and Sector Members prior to the start of the project.

1.11 To date, the secretariat has not made sufficient efforts to review and assess the importance of these contributions/donations, to draft proposals on their safekeeping during the implementation of the project, and to ensure their preservation on the ITU’s new premises after the completion of the project.

1.12 In its negotiations with potential project sponsors, the secretariat has not considered the need to ensure the preservation of contributions/donations made in the past by Member States and Sector Members; this may be detrimental to ensuring the legacy and protecting the history of the Union.

# 2 Proposal

In the light of the foregoing, in particular paragraphs 1.10-1.12 above, the Administration of the Russian Federation and … proposes that the Council:

2.1 Take urgent measures to ensure the preservation of contributions/donations made by Member States and Sector Members prior to the start of the ITU’s new headquarters building project.

2.2 Instruct the secretariat of the 2020 Session of the Council to review the contributions/donations made and to draft proposals on their safekeeping during the implementation of the project and their preservation on the ITU’s new premises after the completion of the project.

2.3 Instruct the Secretary-General to take into account the contributions/donations made in the past by Member States and Sector Members when conducting his negotiations with potential project sponsors, with a view to ensuring the preservation of such contributions/donations and their importance for the history of the Union.

The draft decision of the 2019 Session of the Council is attached.

ANNEX

decision xxx

(adopted at the XXX Plenary Meeting)

Ensuring the preservation of contributions/donations[[3]](#footnote-3) from Member States and Sector Members in the Union's new headquarters premises

The Council,

recognizing

Resolution 194 (Busan, 2014) on options for the Union's headquarters premises over the long term;

Resolution 212 (Dubai, 2018) on the Union's future headquarters premises;

Decision 588 (Council, 2016) on headquarters premises,

recalling its decisions on

the Council Working Group on headquarters premises (CWG-HQP);

the Member States Advisory Group,

having considered

the Final Report of CWG-HQP and endorsed its final conclusions and recommendations, ([Document C16/7](http://www.itu.int/md/S16-CL-C-0007/en));

the reports to the Council by the Secretary-General on the progress of work on the project for the ITU’s new headquarters building, contained in Documents C17/99, C17/67, С18/47, С18/48, C18/123 and C18/123(Add.1),

welcoming

the offer of an interest-free loan of CHF 150 million from the host country for the construction of a new Varembé building and its connection to the Montbrillant building;

the sponsorship of Saudi Arabia, the United Arab Emirates and the Czech Republic, which have provided CHF 10 million, CHF 5 million and USD 100 000 respectively,

noting

the significant contribution made by some Member States and Sector Members in previous years to support the ITU’s activities in the existing buildings of the Union, including through sponsorship to enhance the functionality and equipment of the Union's premises and halls;

the large number of commemorative gifts made to the Union (such as monuments, memorial plaques, busts of historical figures that have made a significant contribution to the development of telecommunications, objects of cultural value, etc.) by Member States and Sector Members,

decides

1 to reaffirm the need to preserve the contributions/donations received from Member States and Sector Members in previous years and to identify an appropriate place to keep them during the works to replace the Varembé building with the new building, the extension and refurbishment of the Montbrillant building and the subsequent sale of the Tower building;

2 to consider the need to preserve the contributions/donations made in the past by Member States and Sector Members and the value of such contributions/donations during consultations held with members of the Union that are potential sponsors for the various elements of the new building, such as conference rooms, meeting rooms, equipment and other facilities,

instructs the Secretary-General

1 to review all the donations and contributions from Member States and Sector Members contained in ITU’s existing buildings;

2 to hold consultations with Member States and Sector Members concerning their contributions/donations located in ITU’s existing buildings, and to identify the appropriate place for such contributions/donations in the Union’s new buildings;

3 to provide detailed information on the contributions and donations received from Member States and Sector Members contained in ITU’s buildings and on the results of the consultations held with the Member States and Sector Members concerned on the fate of such contributions/donations following the completion and commissioning of ITU’s new headquarters building, for a report to the Council in 2020;

4 to take into account the existing contributions from Member States and Sector Members and the need to preserve them or identify an appropriate place for them when canvassing Member States, Sector Members and Associates to sponsor aspects of this project (such as rooms, items of furniture, ICT Discovery or decor).

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1. Donations – commemorative gifts; financial and technical support through sponsorship; objects of cultural and historical value, including monuments, busts of eminent telecommunication scientists, plaques, examples of telecommunication equipment on display (i.e. for ICT Discovery); hall names etc. [↑](#footnote-ref-1)
2. Donations – commemorative gifts; financial and technical support through sponsorship; objects of cultural and historical value, including monuments, busts of eminent telecommunication scientists, plaques, examples of telecommunication equipment on display (i.e. for ICT Discovery); hall names, etc. [↑](#footnote-ref-2)
3. Donations – commemorative gifts; financial and technical support through sponsorship; objects of cultural and historical value, including monuments, busts of eminent telecommunication scientists, plaques, examples of telecommunication equipment on display (i.e. for ICT Discovery). [↑](#footnote-ref-3)