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| **Council 2019 Geneva, 10-20 June 2019** |  |
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| **Agenda item: ADM 28** | **Document C19/90-E** |
| **27 May 2019** |
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| Note by the Secretary-General | |
| contribution from the republic of côte d'ivoire | |
| IMPLEMENTING THE NEW PP-18 RESOLUTION ON SME PARTICIPATION IN ITU | |

I have the honour to transmit to the Member States of the Council the attached contribution submitted by the **Republic of Côte d'Ivoire**.

Houlin ZHAO  
 Secretary-General

Contribution by the Republic of Côte d'Ivoire

IMPLEMENTING THE NEW PP-18 RESOLUTION ON SME PARTICIPATION IN ITU

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| Summary  The present document presents Côte d'Ivoire's comments on implementing the new PP-18 resolution on SME participation in ITU.  These comments relate primarily to §§ **3.2**, **3.5**, **4.5**, **4.6** and **5.3** of the draft report submitted for consideration.  Action required  Côte d’Ivoire approves the recommendations made to the Council, with the exception of § 5.3, for which an alternative proposal is submitted.  \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_  References  [*Resolution 209*](https://www.itu.int/en/council/Documents/basic-texts/RES-209-E.pdf)*; Document* [*C19/56*](https://www.itu.int/md/S19-CL-C-0056/en) |

# 1 Discussion

Côte d'Ivoire takes note of the report on the implementation of Resolution 209 on SME participation in ITU.

Côte d'Ivoire particularly notes the difficulty in determining the maximum revenue with which all countries could align themselves.

One of the main challenges of this resolution is that of promoting the participation of SMEs from developing countries. SMEs have a key role to play in bridging the digital divide between developed and developing countries, and are the main driver when it comes to achieving the sustainable development goals.

With the foregoing in mind, we approve all the recommendations made to the Council, with the exception of § 5.3, for which we submit an alternative proposal.

## 1.1 Recommendation 5.3

In § 5.3 of the report, it is recommended that "the Council adopt a maximum annual revenue level of **CHF 15 million** to fulfil the instruction in*resolves* 3 of the new resolution on SMEs".

This recommendation is founded on an analysis of the revenue at risk for ITU based on two thresholds: CHF 15 million and **CHF 50 million.**

The analysis should be based on the principle of adopting different, reduced fees for SMEs from developing countries and those from developed countries.

Indeed, the fees were set at CHF 3 975 in the case of SMEs from developed countries, and CHF 1 987.50 in the case of SMEs from developing countries, subject to ongoing review by the Council.

As the SMEs have already been classified in terms of the fees to be paid, we are of the view that the thresholds to be set in order for SMEs to qualify should take this factor into account.

Consequently, two thresholds should be set:

• A high threshold for the SMEs of developing countries, to encourage their participation.

• A low threshold for the SMEs of developed countries, making it possible to avoid loss of revenue for the Union in so far as the majority of Sector Member SMEs are from developed countries.

# 2 Proposals

In order to enhance the integration of SME Associates from the five ITU Regions, and based on the two thresholds presented in the report, Côte d'Ivoire proposes:

– A threshold of CHF 50 million for SMEs from developing countries;

– A threshold of CHF 15 million for SMEs from developed countries.

Côte d'Ivoire invites CWG-FHR to analyse the impact of this proposal, which we deem more equitable while complying with the spirit of Resolution 209.

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