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| **Council Working Group on the Use of the  six official languages of the Union Ninth meeting, Geneva, 28 January 2019**  **Council Working Group on Financial and Human Resources Ninth meeting - Geneva, 29-30 January 2019** |  |
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|  | **Document CWG-LANG/9/4-E**  **Document CWG-FHR/9/8-E** |
| **17 January 2019** |
| **English only** |
| Contribution by Brazil (Federative Republic of) | |
| TRANSLATION PROCEDURES IN THE ITU | |

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| **Summary**  The 2018 ITU Plenipotentiary Conference reaffirmed the importance of continuing improvements in the translation procedures in the ITU, including the use of innovative technologies and the adoption of alternative translation procedures.  **Action required**  The ITU Secretariat should present detailed information on the measures the ITU has been adopting and will adopt in the coming future (i.e., a plan) to ensure the evolution and increase of efficiency of translation procedures in the ITU, to support decision-making by the ITU Council on the issue.  **References**  *Plenipotentiary Decision 5 (Rev. Busan, 2014); Plenipotentiary Decision 5 (Rev. Dubai, 2018); Plenipotentiary Resolution 154 (Rev. Busan, 2014), Plenipotentiary Resolution 154 (Rev. Dubai, 2018);*  *Council Resolution 1372 (C15, last amended C16);*  *Document C14/69-E, Document C15/86-E, Document C15/12-E, Document C15/45-E, Document CWG-Lang-8/5-E, Document C17/108-E, Document C17/114-E, Document CWG-LANG/9/2-E* |

# 1 Background

1.1 The 2018 Plenipotentiary Conference (PP-18) approved Decision 5, which reinforced in Annex 2 the importance of optimizing translation services in the ITU with regards to costs and quality of translation.

1.2 Additionally, PP-18 also approved several amendments to Resolution 154 on the use of the six official languages on an equal footing, particularly instructing the Council to “***continue*** *to analyse the adoption by ITU of alternative translation procedures, taking into account their financial implications and leveraging the benefits of innovative technologies in order to reduce translation and typing expenses in the budget of the Union.”*

1.3 Since PP-14 approved amendments to Decision 5 and Resolution 154 related to alternative translation procedures, this issue has been of particular interest for the Membership. Many Member States have presented contributions on the issue emphasizing the cost burden of current translation services (i.e., CHF 191 per page), that translation-related costs have continued/increased over the last years, and proposing the increased use of technology (e.g., artificial Intelligence, machine translation) in ITU’s translation services.

1.4 Council 2017 agreed to request the Deputy Secretary-General to preside over an internal committee, reporting to Council through the CWG-LANG. In the group’s report to the 9th meeting of CWG-LANG (document CWG-LANG/9/2-E), the Secretariat informs that outsourcing and machine translation has been increasingly used to optimize translation services. Other solutions such as remote translation will still be put to trial in the future, starting in 2019.

1.5 Cost savings and increased efficiency in translation procedures are crucial elements for the improvement and inclusiveness of the work of the ITU, and they are directly correlated with the achievement of the goals of Resolution 154. With improved and more costly effective procedures for translation, the ITU will have more financial resources to translate its work and outputs to all of the six official languages of the Union.

**2 Proposal**

2.1 Brazil kindly asks the Secretariat to present to the 2019 Session of the ITU Council a detailed plan for the full achievement of the provisions in Decision 5 (Rev. Dubai, 2018) and Resolution 154 (Rev. Dubai, 2018) concerning the adoption of alternative translation procedures, taking into account all the measures recommended by the Membership in the last four years (e.g., outsourcing, remote translation, machine translation).

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