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| **Council Working Group on  Financial and Human Resources**  **Tenth meeting – Geneva, 18 September 2019** |  |
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**Contribution by the Republic of El Salvador**

Proposal for eligibility criteria, award and selection of fellowships for activities financed from the regular budget of the International Telecommunication Union (ITU)

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| **Summary**  Resolution 152 (Rev. Busan, 2014) of the Plenipotentiary Conference recognizes that the flexibility granted by the Council to the Secretary-General regarding the application of Resolution 152 (Rev. Guadalajara, 2010), especially in matters of recovery of arrears, negotiation of payment conditions and special acquisition conditions, has resulted in a better collection rate and a considerable reduction in the debt of Sector Members and Associates.  Resolution 41 (Rev. Dubai, 2018) of the Plenipotentiary Conference instructs the Council to take additional measures with respect to non-compliance with the agreed settlement conditions and / or delays in the payment of annual tax contributions not included in the plans depreciation, in particular the suspension of the participation of ITU Members in the work of the Union.  Resolution 213 (Dubai, 2018) of the Plenipotentiary Conference instructs the Council to examine the current criteria for granting fellowships and make recommendations to the Secretary-General, with a view to improving, promoting and strengthening ITU fellowships.  This document provides, a proposal for eligibility, selection and awarding criteria for fellowships for funded activities charged to the regular budget of the International Telecommunication Union (ITU).  **Action required**  The Group is invited to **review** this proposal and **endorse** the criteria for awarding fellowships.  \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_  **Reference**  [Resolution 152 (Rev. Busan, 2014)](https://www.itu.int/en/council/Documents/basic-texts/RES-152-E.pdf), [Resolution 41 (Rev. Dubai, 2018)](https://www.itu.int/en/council/Documents/basic-texts/RES-041-E.pdf), [Resolution 213 (Dubai, 2018)](https://www.itu.int/en/council/Documents/basic-texts/RES-213-E.pdf) |

**CRITERIA FOR ADMISSIBILITY, AWARD AND SELECTION OF FELLOWSHIPS**

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) Members wishing[[1]](#footnote-2) to apply for a ITU fellowship, must not have any type of debt related to the contributions derived from their Contribution Unit, excluding those members who have agreed to a repayment plan and are in compliance with their obligations. To qualify for these fellowships, countries classified as low, medium-low and medium-high income countries will have priority.

2) Member States that qualify for ITU fellowships must be classified by the United Nations as developing countries, including least developed countries, small island developing states, landlocked developing countries and countries with economies in transition, as listed in the United Nations Report related to the World economic situation and prospects, this list shall be updated annually.

3) 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. In particular, the fellowship program 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.

4) 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.

5) 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.

6) 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.

7) 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 panelists) 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.

8) A fellowship application shall be considered valid only if submitted and duly signed by a National Designated Focal Point, a delegate in charge and/or maximum authority of the administration of the Member State 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

9) The highest-ranking officials of the Member States (Head of State, Head of Government, Minister, Vice Minister, Secretary of State or equivalent, High-ranking Diplomats), Sector Members, Academic Institutions, as well as regional organizations and/or agency representatives may not qualify for fellowships.

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

The Secretary-General shall submit for Council approval a procedure or methodology that guarantees compliance and application of the criteria set forth above.

1. Member States, Sector Members of ITU and Academic Institutions. [↑](#footnote-ref-2)