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| **Virtual consultation of councillors starting 9 June 2020** |  |
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|  | **Document VC\4-E****28 May 2020****Original English** |

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| **Name of the submitting Member State(s):** | **United Arab Emirates**  |
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| **Document title:** | **Comments on the progress of the Expert Group on the International Telecommunication Regulations (EG-ITRs)** |
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| **Ref. to draft agenda of the virtual consultation:** | [**Document C20/26**](https://www.itu.int/md/S20-CL-C-0026/en) |
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| Comments relating to Document C20/26BackgroundCouncil 2019 revised Council Resolution 1379 reconvening the Expert Group on the International Telecommunication Regulations (EG-ITRs), open to all Member States and Sector Members, to conduct a comprehensive review of the ITRs with a view to achieving consensus on the way forward in respect of the ITRs, in accordance with Resolution 146 of the ITU Plenipotentiary Conference (Rev. Dubai, 2018). The progress report of the first and second meetings of the EG-ITRs, held on 16-17 September 2019 and 12-13 February 2020 respectively, can be found in Document C20/26.The United Arab Emirates participated in both meetings, examined the progress report by the Chairman of the EG-ITRs as well as the text of Resolution 1379, and express our views on the work of EG-ITRs in the interest of taking the work forward.DiscussionUnited Arab Emirates express their concerns about the progress of the work of the EG-ITRs. There were a complete opposite views showed in the meetings regarding the two examination criteria described in the Terms of Reference (ToR) of work of the group; namely the applicability of the provisions of the ITRs in fostering the provision and development of international telecommunication/ICT services and networks, and the flexibility of, or lack thereof, the provisions of the ITRs to accommodate new trends in telecommunications/ICT and emerging issues in international telecommunications/ICT environment. The United Arab Emirates expected such differences of opinions when it comes to the general positions on ITRs. Nevertheless, the ToR of the EG-ITR stated that the group shall undertake a provision-by-provision examination of the ITRs. The United Arab Emirates believes that the provision-by-provision examination exercise will narrow the gap between the general differences on the opinions of the ITRs. However, the United Arab Emirates are concerned about the lack of consensus on the provision-by-provision examination so far stated in the Examination Table annexed to the report of the 2nd meeting of the EG-ITRs. Also, the United Arab Emirates worried that if the aforementioned issues continue then the outcome of the reconvened EG‑ITRs will not be as optimistic as what we hope for.**Proposed way forward** The United Arab Emirates urges all Member States and Sector Members to approach the discussions in the EG-ITRs with a view to achieve consensus on the way forward in respect of the ITRs. |