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| **Virtual consultation of councillors  starting 9 June 2020** |  |
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|  | **Document VC\16-E**  **16 June 2020**  **Original English** |

SUMMARY RECORD

OF THE

SECOND MEETING

Wednesday, 10 June 2020, from 1200 to 1510 hours

**Chairman:** Mr S. BIN GHELAITA (United Arab Emirates)

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|  | Subjects discussed | Documents |
| 1 | Outcomes of discussions held on 9 June 2020 | [VC/DT/1](https://www.itu.int/md/S20-CLVC-200609-TD-0001/en) |
| 2 | Cost recovery for the processing of satellite network filings | [C20/16](https://www.itu.int/md/S20-CL-C-0016/en) |
| 3 | Report on RA-19 and WRC-19 | [C20/27](https://www.itu.int/md/S20-CL-C-0027/en), [VC/9](https://www.itu.int/md/S20-CLVC-C-0009/en), [VC/11](https://www.itu.int/md/S20-CLVC-C-0011/en) |
| 4 | Outcomes of WRC-19 with financial implications | [C20/56](https://www.itu.int/md/S20-CL-C-0056/en) |
| 5 | World Radiocommunication Conference 2023 (WRC-23) | [C20/55](https://www.itu.int/md/S20-CL-C-0055/en) |
| 6 | Support for TSB | [C20/14](https://www.itu.int/md/S20-CL-C-0014/en) |
| 7 | External Auditor’s report: Union’s accounts on ITU TELECOM World 2019 | [C20/41](https://www.itu.int/md/S20-CL-C-0041/en) |

**1 Outcomes of discussions held on 9 June 2020 (Document** [**VC/DT/1**](https://www.itu.int/md/S20-CLVC-200609-TD-0001/en)**)**

1.1 The Chairman drew attention to Document VC/DT/1, which contained the outcomes of the previous day’s discussions. The document would be updated for review on a daily basis.

1.2 Two councillors welcomed both the document and the procedure for reviewing the outcomes of the virtual consultation.

1.3 Document VC/DT/1 was noted.

**2 Cost recovery for the processing of satellite network filings (Document** [**C20/16**](https://www.itu.int/md/S20-CL-C-0016/en)**)**

2.1 The representative of BR introduced Document C20/16, which presented a status report on the implementation of cost recovery for satellite network filings pursuant to Decision 482 (modified 2019) and contained proposals for modifying that Decision that were either consequential to decisions taken by WRC-19 or required to address a specific case of satellite network filings not covered by the Decision. As the Council had been unable to hold its scheduled session in June 2020, the proposed date of entry into force of the Decision as modified would need to be updated. Unless Decision 482 were modified to cover the specific filings in question, the Union would be unable to recover the costs of processing them.

2.2 One councillor asked whether the intention was to postpone the entry into force of the modified Decision until a physical meeting of the Council could be held or to apply it retroactively.

2.3 The representative of BR replied that, as Council Decisions could not be backdated and there was uncertainty about when physical meetings might resume, it would be preferable for Council to take a decision by correspondence, especially given the financial implications for the Union.

2.4 General support was expressed for the suggestion that a decision should be taken by correspondence, in view of the urgency of the matter, and the secretariat was requested to provide an updated version of the draft modified Decision incorporating various further editorial amendments required and a new proposed date of entry into force.

2.5 In reply to a request for clarification, the representative of BR confirmed that no duplication of cost recovery would result from the proposed modifications to the N4 category descriptor as presented in the document as no other services were involved.

2.6 The Chairman said that a revised draft of modified Decision 482 showing all proposed modifications would be produced (see Document [VC/DT/2](https://www.itu.int/md/S20-CLVC-200609-TD-0002/en)). He took it that the virtual consultation wished to propose to the next physical meeting of the Council that it note the report contained in Document C20/16; and, keeping in mind the fact that the item was urgent, that a consultation by correspondence of Council Member States on the approval of draft modified Decision 482 as contained in Document VC/DT/2 should be organized .

2.7 It was so **concluded**.

**3 Report on RA-19 and WRC-19 (Documents** [**C20/27**](https://www.itu.int/md/S20-CL-C-0027/en)**,** [**VC/9**](https://www.itu.int/md/S20-CLVC-C-0009/en) **and** [**VC/11**](https://www.itu.int/md/S20-CLVC-C-0011/en)**)**

3.1 The Deputy Director of BR introduced Document C20/27, which outlined the main results of RA-19 and WRC-19, held in Sharm el-Sheikh, Egypt, as a fully paperless conference in late 2019. The Final Acts of WRC-19 had been published on schedule, despite the challenges posed by the COVID-19 pandemic, and work was progressing well on finalizing the updated Radio Regulations. She particularly highlighted the adoption of Resolution 559 (WRC-19), which provided for a special procedure giving certain administrations in Regions 1 and 3 the possibility of submitting new assignments to replace their national assignments appearing in the BSS Plans, pursuant to §4.1.27 of Article 4 of Appendices 30 and 30A. The Bureau had offered support to assist the 55 eligible administrations to submit such assignments; 15 of them had formally requested the Bureau’s assistance in finding appropriate slots. Ultimately, 42 administrations had made submissions before the deadline set in the resolution. The Bureau would continue to support a few administrations that would need additional measures and assistance, as analysis had not identified suitable technical options to improve their access to spectrum and orbital resources.

3.2 Councillors expressed appreciation to the Administration and people of Egypt for their warm hospitality in hosting RA-19 and WRC-19.

3.3 The councillor from Egypt thanked all those who had helped to make RA-19 and WRC-19 a success.

3.4 The Chairman took it that the virtual consultation wished to propose to the next physical meeting of the Council to take note of the report contained in Document C20/27.

3.5 It was so **concluded**.

3.6 The councillor from Tunisia introduced Document VC/9, which contained a contribution from her Administration welcoming the efforts made by BR to assist administrations in Region 1 to make submissions pursuant to Resolution 559 and seeking exemption from cost recovery fees for the submission of a new assignment to the TUN27200 beam under the procedure set out in Article 4 of Appendices 30 and 30A.

3.7 The councillor from South Africa, introducing Document VC/11 on behalf of the four administrations submitting it, welcomed the support provided by BR to assist in giving effect to Resolution 559. Document VC/11 raised a number of technical issues related to that process. In particular, it requested that, as submissions pursuant to Resolution 559 were intended to replace degraded BSS Plan assignments and thereby restore rights and ensure equitable access to spectrum and orbital resources for the 55 eligible administrations, cost-recovery charges should not be applied.

3.8 During the ensuing discussion, councillors reiterated that the intent of WRC-19 in adopting Resolution 559 had been to restore rights affected by the BSS Plans and to enable administrations in Regions 1 and 3 to enjoy equitable access to orbit and spectrum resources. Implementing the resolution would help to bridge the digital divide. General support was expressed for the points raised and requests made in Documents VC/9 and VC/11, including the waiver of cost-recovery charges. Several councillors welcomed the assistance already provided by BR to enable the submission of assignments in accordance with the resolution. One councillor suggested that a decision could be taken on the matter by correspondence. Another pointed out that, under decides 4 of Decision 482 (modified 2019), administrations were already entitled to the publication of special sections or parts of the BR IFIC (Space services) for one satellite network filing each year without cost-recovery charges being levied.

3.9 The councillor from Algeria said that his Administration would address the issues raised in Document VC/9 bilaterally with the Administration of Tunisia for the purpose of coordination. Secondly, he urged that restrictions should not be placed on satellite networks recorded under § 4.1.12 of Article 4 of Appendices 30 and 30A, as Algeria had satellite networks recorded under that provision in operation since 2017. The councillor from Morocco, noting that the submission referred to in Document VC/9 had been made with a view to harmonizing national and subregional satellite network coverage and would be subject to the usual procedures under Article 4 of Appendices 30 and 30A to the Radio Regulations, said that his Administration would provide comments in due course as part of the coordination process.

3.10 One councillor noted that no time limit was suggested in Document VC/11 for BR to provide assistance to the remaining administrations eligible to make submissions under Resolution 559. She said that the matter could not be left open indefinitely, though it would be preferable for the countries of Regions 1 and 3, rather than the Council, to put forward a suitable cut-off point.

3.11 The councillor from Rwanda emphasized that, although Resolution 559 dealt with the submissions it covered in the same way as Article 4 submissions to extend network coverage beyond national territories, its basic intent was to restore administrations’ rights to use spectrum and orbital resources for national coverage. The concern expressed regarding a suitable cut-off point could be addressed by setting a deadline for administrations to request technical assistance from BR, while maintaining 21 May 2020 as the effective date of receipt for any submissions made under Resolution 559. He expressed appreciation to the Administration of the Russian Federation for its support throughout the process of drafting, adopting and implementing the resolution.

3.12 The Director of BR said that the Bureau was committed to the swift implementation of Resolution 559. He also noted that §3 of the proposed instructions to the Bureau in Document VC/11 covered the situation of Mauritius, Seychelles and Madagascar, as in their cases it had not proved possible to identify a technical solution under Resolution 559. The request by the Administration of Tunisia concerning its TUN27200 beam had been submitted to the Council because it could not be dealt with automatically under Resolution 559 as it related to subregional network coverage. The Bureau continued to work with eligible administrations that had not made a submission under Resolution 559 by the deadline specified therein. Some possible orbital positions and frequency resources had been identified for their use, and the views of the administrations concerned were being sought. With regard to the need for a suitable cut-off point, he suggested that the Bureau might contact each eligible administration that had yet to make a submission and request an explicit reply indicating whether or not it wished to do so, with a view to completing the procedure by the end of 2020.

3.13 The Chairman took it that the virtual consultation wished to propose to the next physical meeting of the Council to support the requests made in Documents VC/9 and VC/11; and to encourage BR to continue to assist the Member States in the implementation of Resolution 559, and in particular those that had not yet filed to do so by the end of 2020.

3.14 It was so **concluded**.

**4 Outcomes of WRC-19 with financial implications (Document** [**C20/56**](https://www.itu.int/md/S20-CL-C-0056/en)**)**

4.1 The Deputy Director of BR introduced Document C20/56, which outlined the estimated costs associated with implementing the decisions of WRC-19, as discussed by the conference’s Budget Control Committee and approved at its plenary meetings. It was estimated that BR would require an additional CHF 1 721 000, largely to update software and cover operational costs associated with preparations for specific items on the agenda of WRC-23. As the projects involved would take more than one year to complete, they could not be financed from the Bureau’s annual budget, regardless of whether the necessary funds were available. The Council was therefore requested to earmark savings made as a consequence of the COVID-19 pandemic to fund the implementation of WRC-19 decisions.

4.2 During the ensuing discussion, support was expressed for allocating funds from annual savings generated during budget implementation in 2020 or calling for voluntary contributions, but not for withdrawing funds from the Reserve Account. It was noted that Document C20/9 indicated that CHF 3 million in potential savings had been identified within ITU-R, which might facilitate future budget economy One councillor requested more detailed information on the estimated costs involved. Another, while not objecting to the overall approach in principle, said that he would express reservations on certain specific items when the time came to discuss the cost estimates in detail. A third asked when savings from budget implementation in 2020 could be released and whether a decision would need to be taken before the next physical meeting of the Council to ensure their availability.

4.3 The Director of BR said that the figures given, which had been estimated by the Budget Control Committee of WRC-19 based on the information available to it, were considered ceilings and would not be exceeded. Using savings already generated from 2020 budget implementation, complemented by voluntary contributions, would enable the Bureau to make significant progress in implementing the outcomes of WRC-19.

4.4 The Chief of the Financial Resources Management Department, drawing attention to the more detailed information contained in WRC-19 Document 337(Rev.2), explained that there was no need for an urgent Council decision to enable savings to be released because the Secretary-General was authorized, under Article 12 of the Financial Regulations and Rules, to take certain financial decisions within the available resources. Such decisions would be included in the financial reports to be submitted to the Council at its next physical meeting.

4.5 The Chairman took it that the virtual consultation wished to propose to the next physical meeting of the Council to authorize the Secretary-General to take relevant measures as a matter of priority to allocate funds from annual savings generated during budget implementation in 2020, or to call for voluntary contributions, but not to withdraw from the Reserve Account.

4.6 It was so **concluded**.

4.7 The councillor from the United States said that he wished to place on record the fact that during the most recent meeting of RAG his Administration had expressed a reservation concerning the estimated financial implications of Resolution 245 (WRC-19).

**5 World Radiocommunication Conference 2023 (WRC-23) (Document** [**C20/55**](https://www.itu.int/md/S20-CL-C-0055/en)**)**

5.1 The Director of BR introduced Document C20/55 on the proposed agenda for WRC-23 and drew attention to an offer to host the conference received from the United Arab Emirates. The resolution contained in Annex C to the document, presenting the provisional agenda for WRC-23, would require amendment once a date and venue had been confirmed. Given the urgent need to adopt the resolution, a consultation by correspondence might be organized to enable Council Member States to do so.

5.2 Councillors concurred that the WRC was a major event that required considerable preparation and coordination. They welcomed the offer from the United Arab Emirates to host WRC-23 and underscored the importance of establishing a precise date and venue as quickly as possible, to allow preparations to begin in earnest. The councillor from Egypt, which had hosted WRC-19, expressed his Administration’s willingness to provide guidance, should the United Arab Emirates so desire. The councillor from the United Arab Emirates thanked all councillors for their expressions of support for entrusting his Administration with hosting WRC-23.

5.3 Responding to a question, the Director of BR clarified that it would not be necessary to add any details to the resolution with regard to the CPM-23 decision to add an agenda point, under item 9.1, on the protection of EESS (passive) in the frequency band 36–37 GHz from non-geostationary FSS space stations.

5.4 The Chairman took it that the virtual consultation wished to propose to the next physical meeting of the Council to take note of the expression of interest by the Administration of the United Arab Emirates to host WRC-23; and that it considered, keeping in mind the fact that the item was urgent, that a consultation by correspondence of Council Member States should be organized to establish the agenda for WRC-23 by adopting the resolution in Annex C to Document C20/55.

5.5 It was so **concluded**.

**6 Support for TSB (Document** [**C20/14**](https://www.itu.int/md/S20-CL-C-0014/en)**)**

6.1 The Deputy Director of TSB introduced Document C20/14 and drew councillors’ attention to Information Document [C20/INF/7](https://www.itu.int/md/S20-CL-INF-0007/en), which detailed the Standardization Sector’s new members, communities, activities and tools. TSB was requesting additional staff resources to execute the increased workload resulting from the numerous instructions it had received in resolutions emanating from PP-18 and WTSA-16 as well as the increase in requests for services and support, and in the light of the increasingly critical role played by ICTs in all aspects of life, particularly in the context of the COVID-19 pandemic, and the spectacular increase in ITU-T membership over the last three years.

6.2 In the ensuing discussion, while acknowledging the need for additional human resources owing to increasing demands on TSB and mounting pressure on current staff members, councillors asked what additional costs would be incurred and how they would be met. Councillors wondered whether the proposed posts would remain sufficient in years to come, or if further staffing needs were likely to arise. Would the new posts be fixed-term contracts of long duration, or would they be renewable on an annual or biennial basis? Care must be taken to ensure that new recruitments and the duration of contracts were optimized to avoid future staffing shortages. One councillor asked why the budgeted revenue from ITU-T Sector Members had reduced over the past two years, particularly given the increase in membership.

6.3 One councillor suggested that some of the additional funds required could have been anticipated sooner and considered by Council-19, for inclusion in the budget for the 2020–2021 biennium. He also asked whether external sources of funding might be sought for the specialist posts to support digital financial inclusion. Councillors requested clarification regarding the restructuring of ITU-T, and in particular the reduction in the number of study groups. Some observed that restructuring of ITU-T study groups and the introduction of new operations must be approved by WTSA. The proposals contained in Document C20/14 should therefore be taken up first by the WTSA, with a view to their subsequent discussion by the Council.

6.4 On the continuation of existing staff posts, the Deputy Director of TSB explained that two posts, a P2 and a P4, were currently financed by the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation; that funding was due to expire imminently. Given the current situation with the COVID-19 pandemic, it was likely that requests for ICT services would skyrocket, but it had not been possible, in 2019, to foresee where additional services would be required. Restructuring of ITU-T, which would need to be approved by the WTSA, would mean that any additional posts approved would be unlikely to be filled before 2022. In the interim, staff trained on short-term contracts would be lost owing to the lack of fixed-term posts available for them. The reduction in the number of study groups did not reflect a reduction in workload, but rather a need to restructure to meet the demand for new activities. Given the time constraints on the virtual consultation, further discussion at the next physical session of the Council would be useful.

6.5 The Director of TSB thanked councillors for their expressions of support for TSB and emphasized that the organizational restructuring did not equate to a reduced scope of work. ICTs and telecommunications were becoming increasingly important social infrastructures. The optimization of TSB’s human and financial resources must be considered very carefully, as should all measures taken to improve ITU-T, through WTSA, making the Sector as productive as possible by enhancing data extraction and analysis to improve internal capabilities and processes. Consultants and short-term appointments were currently being recruited against vacant fixed-term posts.

6.6 The Chairman took it that the virtual consultation wished to encourage TSB to provide additional information and clarification in support of its request for additional staff in order to continue the discussion on Document C20/14 at the next physical meeting of the Council.

6.7 It was so **concluded**.

**7 External Auditor’s report: Union’s accounts on ITU TELECOM World 2019   
(Document** [**C20/41**](https://www.itu.int/md/S20-CL-C-0041/en)**)**

7.1 The External Auditor introduced his report, as contained in Document C20/41, on the audit of ITU TELECOM World 2019, which had been conducted in line with Resolution 11 (Rev. Dubai, 2018). Several recommendations and suggestions had been made as a result of the external audit, most of which had already been taken up by the Union in an excellent spirit of cooperation with the secretariat. Main issues included the fact that the revenue from the event had been significantly less than budgeted, there were problems monitoring rented space owing to a lack of clarity in the wording of contracts, and barter partner agreements also needed to be reviewed. Greater transparency was also required in the selection and roles of promotion partners.

7.2 Councillors welcomed the report by the External Auditor and the recommendations contained therein. While the reduction in expenses incurred by the TELECOM World 2019 event showed an efficiency in the use of resources, the reduction in revenue from the event had resulted from diminishing rates of participation, which could be construed as a decrease in its global relevance. One councillor asked whether the clause in exhibitor contracts that enabled ITU to invoice spaces occupied beyond the rented space had ever been implemented, and if not why not, since that would allow the ITU to increase revenue from the event and optimize the use of physical resources.

7.3 The Chairman said he took it that the virtual consultation wished to propose to the next physical meeting of the Council to approve the accounts of ITU Telecom World 2019 as contained in Document C20/41.

7.4 It was so **concluded**.

The Secretary-General: The Chairman:

H. ZHAO S. BIN GHELAITA

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