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| **Council 2021 Virtual consultation of councillors, 8-18 June 2021** |  |
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| **Agenda item: PL 1.7** | **Document C21/26-E** |
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| PROGRESS REPORT BY THE CHAIRMAN OF THE EXPERT GROUP ON THE INTERNATIONAL TELECOMMUNICATION REGULATIONS (EG-ITRS) | |

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| Summary  This report summarizes the main results of the third and fourth meetings of the EG-ITRs, held on 17-18 September 2020 and 3-4 February 2021, in line with the ITU Plenipotentiary Conference Resolution 146 (Rev. Dubai, 2018) and Council Resolutions 1379 (Mod. 2019).  Action required  The Council is invited to note the report.  \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_  References  [[*Resolution 146 (Rev. Dubai, 2018)*](https://www.itu.int/en/council/Documents/basic-texts/RES-146-E.pdf)](https://www.itu.int/en/council/Documents/basic-texts/RES-102-E.pdf)[*Council Resolution 1379 (Modified 2019)*](https://www.itu.int/md/S19-CL-C-0139/en) |

**1.** **Introduction**

1.1 The [Expert Group on the International Telecommunication Regulations (EG-ITRs)](https://www.itu.int/en/council/Pages/eg-itrs.aspx), open to all Member States and Sector Members, was reconvened by Council Resolution 1379 (Modified 2019) 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).

1.2 The terms of reference for the EG-ITRs, specified in Council Resolution 1379 (Modified 2019), are to undertake a comprehensive review of the ITRs on the basis of contributions submitted by Member States, Sector Members and inputs from the Directors of the Bureaux if necessary, by undertaking a provision-by-provision examination of the ITRs, focusing on the 2012 ITRs, with the review including, among others:

a) applicability of the provisions of the ITRs in fostering the provision and development of international telecommunication/ICT services and networks;

b) 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.

1.3 Plenipotentiary Conference Resolution 146 (Rev. Dubai, 2018) instructed the Council to examine the reports of EG-ITR at its annual sessions and submit the final report of EG-ITR to the 2022 Plenipotentiary Conference with the Council's comments.

**2 Activities of the EG-ITRs**

2.1 The EG-ITRs held its third and fourth meetings on 17-18 September 2020 and 3-4 February 2021, respectively.

2.2 The Reports of the [third](https://www.itu.int/md/S20-EGITR3-C-0012/en) and [fourth](https://www.itu.int/md/S21-EGITR4-C-0008/en) meeting of EG-ITRs were approved by the Group.

2.3 In the [third](https://www.itu.int/en/council/Pages/eg-itrs.aspx) meeting of the EG-ITRs, the Group completed the Examination Table (for provisions contained in Articles 5-8/Appendix 1) set out in the Annex of the Report, with the Summary Outcome column filled as agreed by members during the meeting while the other two columns on “Applicability in fostering provision and development of networks and services” and “Flexibility to accommodate New trends and Emergent issues” respectively were completed offline by the Vice-Chairs in consultation with the members from their regions based on the contributions and discussions at the meeting.

2.4 In the [fourth](https://www.itu.int/en/council/Pages/eg-itrs.aspx) meeting of the EG-ITRs, the Group completed the Examination Table (for provisions contained in Articles 9-14/Appendix 2) set out in the Annex of the Report, with the Summary Outcome column filled as agreed by members during the meeting while the other two columns on “Applicability in fostering provision and development of networks and services” and “Flexibility to accommodate New trends and Emergent issues” respectively were completed offline by the Vice-Chairs in consultation with the members from their regions based on the contributions and discussions at the meeting.

2.5 With the conclusion of the fourth meeting, the EG-ITRs have completed the provision-by-provision review of the 2012 ITRs. In the remaining two meetings, as per the agreed Work Plan, the Group will discuss the overall observations of members on the 2012 ITRs based on the provision-by-provision examination conducted during the first four meetings, as well as finalize the Group’s Report to Council 2022.

**3. Conclusions**

3.1 The Council is invited to note this progress report of the EG-ITRs.

3.2 On behalf of EG-ITRs, the Chairman extends his personal thanks to all the ITU Member States who made contributions and participated in the work of the Group, the Vice-Chairmen, the Secretary-General, Deputy Secretary-General, Directors of TSB, BR, and BDT, and the General Secretariat for their efficient assistance during the four meetings of the EG-ITRs held to date.

**Chairman: Lwando Bbuku**

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