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| **Council 2021Virtual consultation of councillors, 8-18 June 2021** |  |
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| **Agenda item: ADM 20** | **Document C21/77-E** |
| **10 May 2021** |
| **Original: English** |
| Note by the Secretary-GeneralContribution from the State of Kuwait |
| PROPOSED REVISION OF DECISION 619 |

I have the honour to transmit to the Member States of the Council a contribution submitted by the **State of Kuwait**.

 Houlin ZHAO
 Secretary-General

**Contribution from the State of Kuwait**

PROPOSED REVISION OF DECISION 619

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| SummaryTo encourage additional sponsorships and donations for the construction of the Union’s Headquarters Premises Project.Action requiredThe Council is invited **to approve** this proposed amendment to Decision 619. |

1. **Introduction**

Since the adoption of Decision 619, ITU has not received additional sponsorships nor donations.

According to Decision 619 *decides 4*, any future sponsorships or donations will only be applied to offset the final direct project cost without creating any new indirect costs or further delays to the project, and will not increase the amount of the approved final direct project cost of CHF 170,139,000. This makes it unlikely that there will be further sponsorship or donations.

As an example, a sponsor might wish to enhance the building by offering a marble floor in the lobby areas instead of the basic concrete floor. This would increase the project cost but would not increase the cost to ITU and could even reduce the cost to ITU as the cost of the concrete floor would be deducted from total cost to ITU.

**2 Proposal**

It is therefore proposed to revise decides 4 as in annex in order that additional sponsorship and donations would be acceptable even if they resulted in an increase in the project direct and/or indirect costs but provided they do not increase the cost to ITU or delay the project.

ANNEX

DECISION 619

(adopted at the additional 2019 session of the Council)

Headquarters Premises

The ITU Council,

recalling

Resolution 212 (Dubai, 2018) on the Union's future headquarters premises over the long term and Council Decision 588 on Headquarters Premises,

recalling further

Resolution 212 *recalling* c) v) to offset the total final project costs by applying all proceeds from the sale of the Tower to existing loans on assets that are to be disposed of, to the necessary costs associated with the sale, and to reduce to the maximum the outstanding amount of the loan,

noting with appreciation

the efforts made by the ITU management and the BPD (Building Project Division) to optimise costs in order to reduce the overall cost of the new ITU Headquarters,

having considered

the report of the Secretary-General contained in document C19-ADD/2,

mindful

of the concerns of Member States with moving meetings of the ITU outside of Geneva for the duration of the demolition and early construction phase as national representations in Geneva have the human resources to attend ITU meetings while such resources are not necessarily available in all countries, and similar concerns expressed by ITU Staff who should not be expected to relocate outside of their Geneva homes for extended periods in order to cover the high number of meetings scheduled by the ITU but possibly hosted outside Geneva,

decides

1 to approve continuing the project to replace the Varembé building and Tower with a new building which, with the existing Montbrillant building, will form the new Geneva Headquarters of the Union;

2 to approve the final direct project cost of CHF 170,139,000, as described in C19-ADD/2, financed entirely by the available funding of CHF 150,000,000 host country loan, CHF 15,140,000 sponsorships and donations, and CHF 5,000,000 new building fund;

3 to provide an additional financial cushion for the non-mitigated risks up to CHF 12,600,000, which represents the cumulative limit of 8% of the current estimates of direct costs described in C19-ADD/2, through the creation of a Risk Register Fund to be financed by subsequent Council decisions beginning in 2020, in accordance with the Financial Regulations and Financial Rules;

4 that, as of the date of adoption of this decision, any future sponsorships or donations will not increase the final direct or indirect project cost to ITU and will not create further delays to the project, and will not increase the amount approved in *decides* 2 above;

5 to approve the funding to cover indirect project costs of up to CHF 2,275,000 for the period 2021-2023 through measures outlined in the Financial Regulations and Financial Rules and recommend PP-22 to include CHF 2,315,000 within the draft financial plan for the period 2024-2027 for the Capital Fund;

6 to apply all proceeds from the sale of the Tower as per Resolution 212 *recalling* c) v),

instructs the Secretary-General

1 to proceed with the request, to relevant Swiss authorities, for the second part of the CHF 150,000,000 loan;

2 to establish the Risk Register fund in *decides* 3 above noting that any monies left in this account at the end of construction will be placed in the Reserve Account;

3 to address the need for temporary conference and meeting facilities during the demolition and early construction phase of the project by producing a list of the needs, including dates of conferences and meetings during this period and report to MSAG on the progress thereof;

4 to continue the implementation of Council Decisions regarding the preservation of a Popov Room, including providing financial and legal analysis of options presented in paragraph 2.2.18.13 of the Summary record of the ninth and last Plenary Meeting of the 2019 ordinary session of Council (Document [C19/120](https://www.itu.int/md/S19-CL-C-0120/en));

5 to work with the Host Country to address the implementation of UNDSS requirements for UN MOSS compliance;

6 to continue engaging with the Staff Council, to facilitate greater transparency and dialogue in the entire relocation and design process, ensuring morale, well-being, and effectiveness of staff in executing their responsibilities to the benefit of the Union;

7 to create a *Staff Working Conditions Strategy and Implementation Plan* for the consideration of Council 2020, including putting in place measures to facilitate flexible work arrangement including plans to allow staff to work from home;

8 to provide quarterly briefings to the MSAG, including information related to updates of the Risk Register;

9 to conduct regular audits of the project;

10 to continue to abide by the highest standards in terms of ethics and procurement in all bidding procedures organized throughout the project.

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