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| **Council 2021Virtual consultation of councillors, 8-18 June 2021** |  |
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|  | **Document C21/90-E** |
| **22 June 2021** |
| **Original: English** |

SUMMARY RECORD

OF THE

SIXTH MEETING

Tuesday, 15 June 2021, from 1200 to 1500 hours

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

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|  | **Subjects discussed** | **Documents** |
| 1 | Outcomes of discussions held on 14 June 2021 | [C21/DT/1(Rev.4)](https://www.itu.int/md/S21-CL-210608-TD-GEN-0001/en) |
| 2 | Information and Communication Technologies Development Fund | [C21/34](https://www.itu.int/md/S21-CL-C-0034/en) |
| 3 | Strengthening the regional presence | [C21/25](https://www.itu.int/md/S21-CL-C-0025/en) |
| 4 | How ITU is currently utilizing the Global Cybersecurity Agenda framework | [C21/36](https://www.itu.int/md/S21-CL-C-0036/en) |
| 5 | Guidelines for utilization of the Global Cybersecurity Agenda framework by ITU | [C21/71](https://www.itu.int/md/S21-CL-C-0071/en), [C21/82](https://www.itu.int/md/S21-CL-C-0082/en) |
| 6 | Report from the Ethics Office | [C21/59](https://www.itu.int/md/S21-CL-C-0059/en) |
| 7 | After-Service Health Insurance (ASHI) liability | [C21/46](https://www.itu.int/md/S21-CL-C-0046/en) |
| 8 | ICT Development Index | [C21/62](https://www.itu.int/md/S21-CL-C-0062/en), [C21/80](https://www.itu.int/md/S21-CL-C-0080/en) |
| 9 | Outcomes of WRC-19 with financial implications | [C21/67](https://www.itu.int/md/S21-CL-C-0067/en) |
| 10 | Requests for exemptionfrom financial contribution to defraying Union expenses | [C21/39+Add.1](https://www.itu.int/md/S21-CL-C-0039/en) |
| 11 | Strategy for the coordination of efforts among the three Sectors of the Union | [C21/38](https://www.itu.int/md/S21-CL-C-0038/en) |
| 12 | ITU participation in the United Nations Joint Staff Pension Board | [C21/69](https://www.itu.int/md/S21-CL-C-0069/en) |

**1 Outcomes of discussions held on 14 June 2021 (Document** [**C21/DT/1(Rev.4)**](https://www.itu.int/md/S21-CL-210608-TD-GEN-0001/en)**)**

* 1. Document C21/DT/1(Rev.4) was noted.

**2** **Information and Communication Technologies Development Fund
(Document** [**C21/34**](https://www.itu.int/md/S21-CL-C-0034/en)**)**

2.1 The representative of BDT introduced Document C21/34, containing the report on the Information and Communication Technologies Development Fund (ICT-DF). The report, which had originally been prepared for submission to the Council in 2020 as Document C20/34, had been updated to reflect the outcomes of the three ICT-DF Steering Committee meetings held in 2020 to consider three projects. As required under the rules, external funding had been mobilized, accounting for over 75 per cent of the funds needed for those projects. Despite the negative impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic on project implementation, mitigation measures had been taken and all projects were on course. The balance of the ICT-DF at 31 December 2020 stood at just over USD 4.1 million. Given that the Fund’s resources were generated by revenue from ITU Telecom events, which had diminished over time, a study was being conducted into how to diversify sources of funding.

2.2 Councillors welcomed the comprehensive report and underscored the importance of effective monitoring of the implementation and budgetary performance of projects supported by the ICT-DF. Clarification was requested on whether the budget for the digital transformation centres project included programme implementation in countries; the project was already under way in some countries and was having a positive impact. One councillor, referring to §3.4 of the report, on the return to the ICT-DF of funds allocated for the implementation of development projects that had failed to attract external partner funding, requested further information on the amount and percentage of funds returned.

2.3 The representative of BDT said that the digital transformation centres project complemented ongoing capacity-building and skills-development initiatives covered by the ITU centres of excellence and the ITU Academy. The project was at its initial stage, and resources were being continuously mobilized to cover all regions and in particular developing countries, as required. With regard to the return of funds, when a project was completed, any remaining funds were returned on a pro rata basis to the partners that had contributed. In the event that a project could not be implemented because donors had failed to put up the funds committed, the ICT-DF resources allocated to that project would be returned to the ICT-DF. In certain cases, when projects had been fully implemented and ICT-DF funds remained as a result of efficiencies, the balance would be returned to the ICT-DF.

2.4 The Chairman said he took it that councillors wished to conclude that, keeping in mind the fact that the item was urgent, a consultation by correspondence of Council Member States would be undertaken to note Documents C21/34 and C20/34.

2.5 It was so **concluded**.

**3 Strengthening the regional presence (Document** [**C21/25**](https://www.itu.int/md/S21-CL-C-0025/en)**)**

3.1 The Deputy Director of BDT drew attention to Document C21/25 on strengthening the regional presence, supplemented by detailed information in Document C21/INF/6, which reported on the implementation of Resolution 25 (Rev. Dubai, 2018). The document was an updated version of Document C20/25, which had been submitted to the Council in 2020, but had not been presented or considered. The report summarized the main activities of BDT in the regions. The figures in the document reflected monies disbursed in 2020, and did not necessarily refer to all projects implemented. At the end of 2020, 25 new projects had been approved to advance regional initiatives in all ITU regions, including several multi-region projects. The preparation of nine new projects was under way with partners, with details expected to be finalized and approved in 2021. With regard to the new ITU area office for South Asia, which was being set up in India, he informed the VCC that since the preparation of Document C21/25, the host-country agreement had been approved by both ITU and the Government of India.

3.2 Councillors welcomed the report and the efforts to strengthen ITU’s regional presence and improve the accountability and efficiency of the regional offices, since regional work was vital for maintaining ITU’s effectiveness and relevance, and for ensuring that the Union responded to local needs. The work of the regional offices was commended; they played a key role in preparing for conferences, and in particular in bringing together Member States and Sector Members of the Union on matters of local relevance. The regional offices must be fully funded and be given adequate human resources, and should operate in coherence with each other and with ITU headquarters in Geneva, under the banner of “One ITU”. Any restructuring of the regional presence should be done in line with the principles and guidance of other United Nations bodies, and should be used as an opportunity to cooperate with their regional offices. The secretariat should prepare suggestions for the revision of the regional presence for consideration by CWG-FHR at its next meeting, and for consideration by PP‑22.

3.3 The Deputy Director of BDT thanked councillors for their expressions of support for ITU’s work at the regional level and said that several of the issues raised, including the setting of objective criteria for the establishment of regional offices, had been included in the PwC report and were being addressed through the review process. The regional presence should indeed reflect “One ITU”; coordination had been discussed at length in the ad hoc group of CWG-FHR, and steps were being taken by the secretariat to improve coherence. The establishment of an internal coordination committee was being considered, and revisions to the website were under way, to better reflect the work of BR and TSB in each region. It was hoped that Member States would soon see an improvement in the information provided on the website. The secretariat would endeavour to provide the information requested to the CWG-FHR in preparation for the next plenipotentiary conference.

3.4 The councillor from Pakistan requested clarification regarding the proposal to establish a South Asia area office in India. His Administration, while supporting in principle the creation of an area office, was concerned that the location of such an office must be decided by consensus. Pakistan had conveyed that position in writing in 2018, along with the view that clear evaluation criteria and standard operating procedures for the submission and consideration of proposals for ITU area offices were essential. At the 2018 session of the Council, several councillors had likewise emphasized the need for objective criteria in that regard. The protracted nature of the debate and lack of consensus or conclusion was reflected in the summary record of Council-18, which did not specify a prospective host country. It was, moreover, important for the Council to confirm that the move to establish a new area office resonated with the spirit of previous processes, decisions, resolutions and review reports, not least Council Resolution 1114, the United Nations JIU report of 2009 and PP Resolution 25 (Rev. Dubai, 2018), all of which called for objective criteria. Pakistan considered that moving ahead with the establishment of an area office in South Asia without the criteria-based approach and clarity of purpose would be detrimental to the consensus mechanism of the Council, and urged the Council to adopt a phased approach to deal with the proposal, keeping in mind the views and agreements of all countries of the region concerned.

3.5 The councillor from India said that the decision regarding the new area office for South Asia had been taken by consensus in the final meeting of the Council in 2018, held in Dubai. It was supported by councillors from across the globe, on the basis of objective criteria, such as for example the large population covered (24 per cent of the world’s population). The preparation process prior to taking that decision had been thorough, and had included a consultation with Member States in the region. The Council’s decision had been clearly recorded in the summary record of the meeting. His Administration had been making every effort and deploying extensive resources to complete the process and finalize and conclude the host-country agreement.

3.6 The Deputy Director of BDT said that, after a consultation held with Member States in the region, the establishment of the new area office in India had been deliberated by Council-18 at its April session, and further discussed at length at its final meeting held in October 2018 in Dubai. The decision was set out in the summary record of that meeting (§4.11 of Document C18/129).

3.7 The councillor from Pakistan said that the decision reflected in the aforementioned summary record was vague, contradictory and ambiguous. It did not specify the prospective host country. It stated that the Council “could agree”, rather than “agreed”. Furthermore, it stated that the secretariat should suggest clear criteria, which should logically precede rather than follow the decision.

3.8 The ITU Legal Adviser said that §4.11 of the summary record of the final meeting of Council‑18 in Document C18/129 must be read in conjunction with and in the light of §4.9 of the same document, in which the Secretary-General indicated that there appeared to be no objection to the establishment of an ITU area office in a region that was home to 24 per cent of the world’s population, and funding had already been earmarked by India. It was on that basis that the Chairman had taken it that the Council could agree to confirm the establishment of the area office in India, and to invite the Secretary-General to start negotiations of a host-country agreement, including the financial arrangements. With regard to criteria, the Council had further requested the secretariat to suggest clear criteria for the creation of an area office: the use of the indefinite article “an” rather than the definite article indicated that the request related not to ‘the’ area office whose establishment had been confirmed, but to the future establishment of area offices in general, and it was on that basis that PwC had been asked to examine the question of criteria for the establishment of ITU area offices in its study of ITU’s regional presence.

3.9 The Chairman, indicating that the comments by Pakistan and India would be reflected in the summary record of the meeting, said he took it that councillors wished to conclude that, keeping in mind the fact that the item was urgent, a consultation by correspondence of Council Member States would be undertaken to note Documents C21/25 and C20/25.

3.10 It was so **concluded**.

**4 How ITU is currently utilizing the Global Cybersecurity Agenda framework (Document** [**C21/36**](https://www.itu.int/md/S21-CL-C-0036/en)**)**

4.1 The representative of the General Secretariat introduced the report on how ITU was utilizing the Global Cybersecurity Agenda (GCA) framework, contained in Document C21/36, which provided a snapshot of the activities conducted by the Union under the GCA since its launch in 2007.

4.2 The Chairman said he took it that councillors wished to conclude that, keeping in mind the fact that the item was urgent, a consultation by correspondence of Council Member States would be undertaken to note the report in contained in Document C21/36.

**5 Guidelines for utilization of the Global Cybersecurity Agenda framework by ITU (Documents** [**C21/71**](https://www.itu.int/md/S21-CL-C-0071/en) **and** [**C21/82**](https://www.itu.int/md/S21-CL-C-0082/en)**)**

5.1 The representative of the General Secretariat introduced the report contained in Document C21/71, which provided specific guidelines on each pillar of the GCA and general cross-cutting guidelines. The guidelines were developed by taking into account ITU’s role as sole facilitator of WSIS Action Line C5 and activities to date, the recommendations contained in the 2008 report of the High-Level Experts Group (HLEG), developments in the field since 2008, written inputs received from Member States and other stakeholders, and feedback received at the two well-attended open consultations for all WSIS stakeholders. The Council was invited to consider and approve the document.

5.2 Some councillors acknowledged the importance of the GCA and the value of guidelines for enabling better utilization of the framework as they have taken into account present-day developments in cyberspace. They also acknowledged the importance of this process given that ITU is the sole facilitator of WSIS Action Line C5 that aims to build confidence and security in the use of ICTs.

5.3 Several councillors expressed appreciation and support for the guidelines, as contained in Document C21/71, believing the document to be a good compromise, taking into account input from Member States and other stakeholders, and an enhancement to the GCA, which has been a valuable tool in guiding Member States, in particular developing countries, in the use of ICTs and the formulation of cybersecurity strategies.

5.4 One councillor welcomed the reference to the Global Cybersecurity Index (GCI) in the guidelines as a tool to guide ITU in its use of the GCA. Another councillor stressed the importance of the GCI in helping countries to develop cybersecurity strategies and suggested that the guidelines reflect that it should be produced at regular two-year intervals.

5.5 One councillor suggested that item 3.12 of the report be amended to reflect that only the recommendations related to Pillar 2 in the HLEG 2008 Report which had achieved consensus or broad agreement remained valid.

5.6 The councillor from Canada introduced the contribution contained in Document C21/82 on behalf of Australia, Canada, the Czech Republic, Romania and the United Kingdom. While the GCA was a useful reference document for multistakeholder cooperation, there were and would continue to be divergent positions on the need, scope, purpose and intended audience of the guidelines on its use. In addition, the report contained in Document C21/36 demonstrated that ITU was already using the GCA effectively and efficiently. Furthermore, there were already multiple resolutions pertaining to cybersecurity as well as guidelines and initiatives on the development of national cybersecurity strategies and related areas, as well as work being undertaken by ITU-T and ITU-D study groups. If there were to be guidelines on the use of the GCA by ITU, they should be limited to a brief introduction and specific activities under the five GCA pillars, as reflected in Document C21/82.

5.7 One councillor was unsure as to the need and reasoning for the common understanding of the term “emerging technologies” called for in Document C21/82.

5.8 Some councillors expressed support for streamlining the guidelines and dispensing with the commentary on the five pillars of the GCA and believed that Document C21/82 was a step in the right direction.

5.9 Another councillor, expressing support for Document C21/82, emphasized that ITU was not the only body working in the field of cybersecurity and should continue, within its mandate, to promote collaboration and coordination among national, regional, international and private-sector stakeholders engaged in cybersecurity and, importantly, establish a mechanism to coordinate the work of its various study groups in the area of cybersecurity in order to avoid duplication.

5.10 One councillor said that ITU could play its role in the UN system through existing coordination mechanisms, including through the Chief Executives Board for Coordination.

5.11 Another councillor said that, given the concerns of international forums and organizations dealing with the Internet that national cybersecurity initiatives were often contradictory and led to fragmentation in the overall global Internet space, the role of ITU as the sole facilitator of WSIS Action Line C5 should not be underplayed. ITU was the forum where all stakeholders, whether Member States, private sector or civil society, could come together to reach consensus in that regard.

5.12 Several councillors said that they supported the adoption of document C21/71 without editorial changes, while others insisted that they could not agree to the guidelines as presented in that document.

5.13 Noting the lack of consensus, the Chairman took it that councillors wished to conclude that, keeping in mind the fact that the item was urgent, a consultation by correspondence of Council Member States would be undertaken to instruct the secretariat to conduct further consultations with Council Member States, taking into account the inputs received and the comments made at this meeting. The secretariat should bring back a revised document for consideration and approval at the next session of the Council.

5.14 It was so **concluded**.

**6 Report from the Ethics Office (Document** [**C21/59**](https://www.itu.int/md/S21-CL-C-0059/en)**)**

6.1 The Ethics Officer introduced the report contained in Document C21/59, providing a review of the Ethics Office’s activities in 2020 and observations to be considered for future activities. She noted in particular that the issuance of a charter for the Ethics Office would help better to define its role and responsibilities and would be timely as part of further work to incorporate the new investigation unit into the relevant texts and policies of ITU. For 2021, the Ethics Office would prioritize strengthening and harmonizing the ethical framework and mechanism, from revising policy on harassment and sexual harassment to providing input into a review of disciplinary procedures. The Council was invited to take note of Document C21/59 and of Document C20/59, which contained the previous year’s report.

6.2 Several councillors expressed appreciation for the report and the work done by the Ethics Office.

6.3 One councillor commended in particular the importance attached to awareness-raising activities and training for ITU staff in dealing with ethics-related matters in order to ensure that policies be fully implemented. He also appreciated the Union’s collaboration in the UN system-wide effort to ensure that organizations maintain the highest ethical standards.

6.4 Another councillor, noting the importance of setting out the Ethics Office’s responsibilities, supported the call for the issuance of a charter.

6.5 Responding to a question from a councillor, the Ethics Officer said that investigations were not under the purview of the Ethics Office and she was therefore unable to provide an update on the status of the five complaints which had been advanced for formal investigation.

6.6 The Chairman took it that the councillors wished to conclude that, keeping in mind the fact that the item was urgent, a consultation by correspondence of Council Member States would be undertaken to note Documents C21/59 and C20/59.

6.7 It was so **concluded**.

**7 After-Service Health Insurance (ASHI) liability (Document** [**C21/46**](https://www.itu.int/md/S21-CL-C-0046/en)**)**

7.1 The representative of the General Secretariat introduced Document C21/46 and drew attention to the factors causing a rise in the level of the ASHI liability and the proposal of the UN ASHI working group that each UN organization create a dedicated reserve, based on a contribution of 5.35 per cent of salary mass for officials recruited from 1 January 2022. The Council was invited to take note of Document C21/46 as well as Document C20/46(Rev.1), which contained the previous year’s report.

7.2 Responding to questions from councillors, the Chief of the Financial Resources Management Department said that the proposal to contribute 5.35 per cent of salary mass of future officials recruited from 1 January 2022 was to be submitted to the UN General Assembly and was therefore still to be approved. Meanwhile, however, ITU would already apply that measure to new recruits, and intended also to include provision for it in the draft financial plan for 2024‑2027.

7.3 He pointed out that most organizations were in a similar situation, owing to their ageing workforces and high medical costs in the Geneva area, and ITU was working closely with other organizations, including as part of the UN ASHI working group, to identify best long-term financing practices. Moreover, PP Decision 5 (Rev. Dubai, 2018) allowed for savings to be used to build up the ASHI liability fund, and the Secretary-General endeavoured to allocate budget implementation surpluses to the ASHI fund wherever possible.

7.4 Finally, he stressed that it was important to remember, however, that the Union was a viable going concern and the ASHI liability would only become payable in the highly hypothetical event of cessation of ITU’s activities; it was simply that IPSAS required organizations to have a provision in place to cover for that unlikely eventuality. There were certainly no issues in the short or medium term.

7.5 Responding to a question from a councillor, the representative of the General Secretariat said that the money paid to join the UNSMIS medical plan had been taken in its entirety from the CMIP guarantee fund and had therefore had no impact on the Union’s liquidities or finances.

7.6 The Chairman took it that the councillors wished to conclude that, keeping in mind the fact that the item was urgent, a consultation by correspondence of Council Member States would be undertaken to note Documents C21/46 and C20/46(Rev.1).

7.7 It was so **concluded**.

**8 ICT Development Index (Documents** [**C21/62**](https://www.itu.int/md/S21-CL-C-0062/en) **and** [**C21/80**](https://www.itu.int/md/S21-CL-C-0080/en)**)**

8.1 The representative of BDT, introducing Document C21/62, said that the ICT Development Index (IDI) had been published from 2009 to 2017, when a revised IDI had been proposed to take account of technological advances. Since 2018, attempts either to publish the IDI in line with PP Resolution 131 (Rev. Dubai, 2018) or to develop an entirely new index had been unsuccessful, as no consensus could be reached within the Expert Group on Telecommunication/ICT Indicators (EGTI) and the Expert Group on ICT Household Indicators (EGH). The PP resolution provided no mechanism to address such a situation. The deep and multiple divergences suggested that consensus would be difficult to achieve. In particular, EGTI/EGH members could agree neither on a methodology nor on the process for developing one. The secretariat had made extensive efforts to resolve the deadlock, including by proposing a revised version of the IDI and a concept for a new index linking ICTs to the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), but no consensus could be reached on either proposal. Resolving the current deadlock will require consensus on the process underpinning the development of an index. Nevertheless, the secretariat continued to deliver on its mandate regarding official statistics and to find new ways to present data and strengthen its data-collection efforts.

8.2 The councillor from Tunisia, expressing regret that it had not been possible to publish the IDI for several years, introduced Document C21/80, which contained a proposal to publish the IDI for 2018, 2019 and 2020 and subsequent years using the initial methodology, until a new approach could be approved, while continuing work on the secretariat’s 2020 proposal, supplemented with a number of additional indicators.

8.3 The Chairman urged councillors to focus on how to make progress on what was an important issue, rather than dwelling on how the situation had arisen, and to avoid reopening previous debates.

8.4 During the ensuing discussion, appreciation was expressed to the secretariat for its efforts to resolve the deadlock and to continue its statistical work in the meantime, and the importance of having a reliable index was emphasized. While several councillors felt that further efforts should be made to address the lack of consensus within EGTI/EGH, with some making specific methodological proposals, others expressed the strong view that further discussion by EGTI/EGH should be deferred until the underlying causes of the deadlock had been resolved. It was suggested that the matter should be referred to PP-22 for a decision within the context of Resolution 131. One councillor encouraged the secretariat to engage in discussions, including on methodology and processes, with Member States before reporting back to the Council at its next session. Others welcomed the proposal put forward by the Administration of Tunisia as a constructive basis on which to build. Divergent views were expressed on whether the IDI should be published using the existing methodology or a new methodology, such as the secretariat’s 2020 proposal, or discontinued. Further information was sought regarding the secretariat’s efforts to achieve consensus on publishing the IDI and thereby implementing Resolution 131 (Rev. Dubai, 2018).

8.5 The representative of BDT said that all avenues to achieve consensus on either the original methodology, the revised IDI or the secretariat’s 2020 proposal had been exhausted. It would not be possible to tackle issues relating to the availability and quality of data and achieve consensus until governance matters had been resolved.

8.6 The Chairman, observing that the Council was not the forum for discussing technical details but that a way forward must be found, took it that councillors wished to conclude as follows:

* All the views and comments raised during the meeting were noted.
* The councillors appreciated the efforts undertaken by the secretariat to advance the work on statistics.
* It was agreed that further discussion and any decision regarding the future of the IDI should be deferred to the next PP in the context of Resolution 131.
* Keeping in mind the fact that the item was urgent, a consultation by correspondence of Council Member States would be undertaken to note the report contained in document C21/62.

8.7 It was so **concluded**.

**9 Outcomes of WRC-19 with financial implications (Document** [**C21/67**](https://www.itu.int/md/S21-CL-C-0067/en)**)**

9.1 The Deputy Director of BR, introducing Document C21/67, said that, since consideration of the topic by councillors in 2020, the Secretary-General had used his existing authority to allocate savings from BR’s 2020 budget implementation to fund software developments required for implementing some of the outcomes of WRC-19. In view of the cancellation of physical meetings as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic, and the associated savings made, there were no funding issues outstanding.

9.2 The Chairman took it that councillors wished to conclude, keeping in mind the fact that the item was urgent, that a consultation by correspondence of Council Member States would be undertaken to note the report contained in document C21/67; that BR would review and revise, as required, the estimates for the preparation of those specific WRC-23 agenda items identified by WRC‑-19; and that, if necessary, the Secretary-General might submit a revised request to the 2022 meeting of the Council.

9.3 It was so **concluded**.

**10 Requests for exemption from financial contribution to defraying Union expenses (Document** [**C21/39 + Addendum 1**](https://www.itu.int/md/S21-CL-C-0039/en)**)**

10.1 The representative of the General Secretariat introduced Document C21/39 and Addendum 1, which contained requests for exemption from Sector Member fees. Among the main criteria for exemption, which could be granted by the Council at the Secretary-General’s recommendation, were that the requesting entity must be a non-profit-making regional or international organization dealing with telecommunications/ICTs, representing members which also have not-for-profit status, and must offer reciprocal benefits to the Union.

10.2 One councillor sought clarification as to whether all members of such a regional or international organization must also be non-profit-making, as some previous exemptions granted suggested otherwise.

10.3 The representative of the General Secretariat replied that exemptions were sometimes recommended for organizations with predominantly not-for-profit members, but it would always be for the Council to decide.

10.4 The Chairman took it that councillors wished to conclude, keeping in mind the fact that the item was urgent, that a consultation by correspondence of Council Member States would be undertaken to approve the requests for admission as Sector Members, exempted from financial contribution, as recommended by the Secretary-General in Document C21/39 and Addendum 1.

10.5 It was so **concluded**.

**11 Strategy for the coordination of efforts among the three Sectors of the Union (Document**[**C21/38**](https://www.itu.int/md/S21-CL-C-0038/en)**)**

11.1 The representative of the General Secretariat, introducing Document C21/38, relating to the implementation of PP Resolution 191 (Rev. Dubai, 2018) on the strategy for the coordination of efforts among the three Sectors of the Union, said that it had originally been prepared as Document C20/38 for submission to the 2020 session of the Council but had not been examined. Councillors were therefore invited to note both documents.

11.2 One councillor, welcoming the efforts made, emphasized the importance of streamlining electronic working methods and making documents available in all six official languages of the Union.

11.3 The Chairman took it that councillors wished to conclude, keeping in mind the fact that the item was urgent, that a consultation by correspondence of Council Member States would be undertaken to note the report contained in Document C21/38 as well as Document C20/38.

11.4 It was so **concluded**.

**12 ITU participation in the United Nations Joint Staff Pension Board
(Document**[**C21/69**](https://www.itu.int/md/S21-CL-C-0069/en)**)**

12.1 The Chief of the Human Resources Management Department (HRMD) introduced Document C21/69, which provided background information on the reduction from 1.5 to 1 of the Union’s voting seats on the United Nations Joint Staff Pension Board. He explained that the change had resulted from the incorporation of the International Organization for Migration (IOM) into the United Nations Joint Staff Pension Fund (UNJSPF) in 2007. In order to allocate a seat on the Pension Board to IOM, which had initially had no vote, the allocations to ITU and UNIDO had been reduced, without consultation of their respective staff pension committees, and the UNJSPF’s rules of procedure amended accordingly. The ITU Staff Pension Committee had raised the matter with the Board, which had asked its Governance Working Group to provide specific options on the size and composition of the Board for consideration in July 2021.

12.2 One councillor, a member of the ITU Staff Pension Committee, welcomed the latter’s efforts to pursue the issue and keep the Council apprised of developments, even though Member States were not directly affected. He and another councillor nevertheless emphasized the indirect impact on Member States, who relied on the staff of the Union. A third councillor enquired about the implications of the reduction in seats on the Board and any planned action.

12.3 The Chief of HRMD replied that the reduction would decrease the Union’s influence in decision-making. The ITU Staff Pension Committee would seek to regain its position and would report to the Council again once the Governance Working Group’s proposals had been discussed by the Board.

12.4 The Secretary-General added that the most worrying aspect of the situation was the lack of consultation. The reduction in itself was relatively small, and allocations were in any case constrained by the fixed number of voting seats on the Board. The secretariat was working with other organizations similarly affected; he urged Member States to advance the Union’s cause wherever possible.

12.5 The Chairman took it that councillors wished to conclude, keeping in mind the fact that the item was urgent, that a consultation by correspondence of Council Member States would be undertaken to note document C21/69.

12.6 It was so **concluded**.

The Secretary-General: The Chairman:

H. ZHAO S. BIN GHELAITA

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