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| **Council 2021 Virtual consultation of councillors, 8-18 June 2021** |  |
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|  | **Document C21/93-E** |
| **23 June 2021** |
| **Original: English** |

SUMMARY RECORD

OF THE

NINTH AND LAST MEETING

Friday, 18 June 2021, from 1200 to 1310 hours

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

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|  | **Subjects discussed** | **Documents** |
| 1 | Tribute to the councillor from Uganda | – |
| 2 | Outcomes of discussions held on 17 June 2021 | [C21/DT/1(Rev.7)](https://www.itu.int/md/S21-CL-210608-TD-GEN-0001/en) |
| 3 | Outcome of the informal consultations on 2022 events (continued) | [C21/DT/6(Rev.3)](https://www.itu.int/md/S21-CL-210608-TD-GEN-0006/en), [C21/DT/5](https://www.itu.int/md/S21-CL-210608-TD-GEN-0005/en), [C21/DT/7](https://www.itu.int/md/S21-CL-210608-TD-GEN-0007/en) |
| 4 | List of candidatures for chairmanships and vice-chairmanships of CWGs, EGs and IEGs (continued) | [C21/21+Add.](http://www.itu.int/md/S21-CL-C-0021/en)4 |
| 5 | Closure of the third virtual consultation of councillors | – |

**1 Tribute to the councillor from Uganda**

1.1The Chairman called for a minute of silence in memory of Mr Simon Bubaga, councillor from Uganda, who had died one day earlier from COVID-19, and for all the other victims of the pandemic.

1.2 **A minute of silence was observed.**

**2 Outcomes of discussions held on 17 June 2021 (Document** [**C21/DT/1(Rev.7)**](https://www.itu.int/md/S21-CL-210608-TD-GEN-0001/en)**)**

2.1 The councillor from Kuwait said that the outcome relating to Document C21/7 should include the noting of Document C21/77, as it was the basis for the contribution.

2.2 Document C21/DT/1(Rev.7) was **noted**, with that amendment.

2.3 Regarding the Internet activities package of documents, the Chairman, recalling the outcome of discussions at the seventh meeting, informed councillors that no comments had been received from Council Member States on Documents C21/33 and C20/33; the definitive package containing the reports in question and the relevant VCC summary record would therefore be published as Document C21/DT/8(Rev.1), for approval by correspondence.

**3 Outcome of the informal consultations on 2022 events (continued)   
(Documents** [**C21/DT/6(Rev.3)**](https://www.itu.int/md/S21-CL-210608-TD-GEN-0006/en)**,** [**C21/DT/5**](https://www.itu.int/md/S21-CL-210608-TD-GEN-0005/en) **and** [**C21/DT/7**](https://www.itu.int/md/S21-CL-210608-TD-GEN-0007/en)**)**

3.1 One councillor suggested that the back-up plan for WTSA-20 be explicitly mentioned in Document C21/DT/6(Rev.3), in order to ensure that a situation did not arise in which it might prove impossible to make a decision on the matter.

3.2 Two councillors disagreed, on the grounds that the back-up plan was recorded in the outcomes in Document C21/DT/1 and that it had already been agreed that the three major events to take place in 2022 (WTSA-20, WTDC-21 and PP-22) should not be linked and that their dates could therefore not be changed.

3.3 The representative of TSB confirmed that, should India be obliged to withdraw its offer to host the assembly, WTSA-20 would automatically take place on the same dates in Geneva, which was the default venue for ITU conferences and assemblies.

3.4 The councillor from India assured councillors that his administration would advise the secretariat in August 2021 if it appeared that WTSA-20 would be unable to go ahead in India.

3.5 The first councillor said that it was preferable for every document to be able to stand on its own and suggested that a link to Document C21/DT/1 be added in Document C21/DT/6(Rev.3).

3.6 The councillors **noted** that Document C21/DT/6(Rev. 3) would be revised to include a link to Document C21/DT/1 and published as Document C21/DT/6(Rev.4).

3.7 In reply to a query from one councillor, the Secretary of the meeting said that Council Member States would be consulted by correspondence on Document C21/DT/6(Rev.4) as a package; they would not be able to approve or object to specific sections thereof.

3.8 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 approve Documents C21/DT/6(Rev.4), C21/DT/5 and C21/DT/7.

3.9 It was so **concluded**.

**4 List of candidatures for chairmanships and vice-chairmanships of CWGs, EGs and IEGs (continued) (Document** [**C21/21 + Addendum 3**](http://www.itu.int/md/S21-CL-C-0021/en)**)**

4.1 The Secretary-General said that he was pleased to inform councillors that, following consultations, broad consensus had been reached on the nomination of Mr Frédéric Sauvage (France) as chairman of CWG-SFP. Furthermore, the Asia-Pacific region had decided to nominate Mr Chunfei Zhang (China) as vice-chairman. The agreement reached in no way detracted from the value of the other candidates, who would all be closely consulted in CWG-SFP meetings, and India would continue to be actively involved in the SFP process. He thanked all Member States, particularly India, for their spirit of collaboration and willingness to work towards the goals of ITU.

4.2 The councillor from India said that his country, which had always been a multilateral player, remained committed to multilateralism and cooperation.

4.3 The Chairman, thanking all involved for their efforts, said that the agreement would be reflected in Addendum 4 to Document C21/21. He took it that councillors wished to conclude that, keeping in mind that the chairmen and vice-chairmen should start their functions in advance of the next cluster of CWG meetings, a consultation by correspondence of Council Member States would be undertaken to appoint the new chairmen and vice-chairmen for the Council working groups, as listed in Addendum 4 to Document C21/21.

4.4 It was so **concluded**.

**5 Closure of the third virtual consultation of councillors**

5.1 The Secretary of the meeting said that the outcomes arrived at during the virtual consultation had been compiled in a PowerPoint document, which had been organized according to the traditional agenda of the Council and would be posted on the ITU website. Provisional conclusions had been reached on more than 100 items, 80 of which would be submitted for approval by correspondence.

5.2 The Secretary-General, having expressed his condolences regarding the passing of the councillor from Uganda, thanked participants for their hard work, cooperation and flexibility, which had made possible the difficult task of addressing all agenda items. Highlighting some of the main achievements, he said that the trust placed in the secretariat was greatly appreciated and he assured councillors that the measures successfully implemented in response to the pandemic would continue in order to ensure business continuity for the Union. He thanked the host countries of the three major conferences in 2022 for their support in the unprecedented and unpredictable situation and for their willingness to act in the best interests of the ITU family. In view of the uncertain situation, the secretariat would be in close contact with councillors at least six months in advance of any planned physical meeting and would take into account the request to rotate the start times of virtual meetings to accommodate different time zones. He thanked all those involved in the success of the meeting, expressing his deep appreciation to the Chairman, to whom a certificate would be presented to complement the medal awarded the previous year.

5.3 The Chairman delivered the address available at: <https://www.itu.int/en/council/Documents/2021/VCC1-Chair-closing-speech-E.pdf>

5.4 Numerous councillors, speaking on behalf of their own countries or regional groups, thanked the Chairman for his hard work and praised his wise and effective leadership, patience and good humour, which had enabled the virtual consultation to come to a successful conclusion. They expressed the hope that it would not be too long before a physical meeting was possible. They thanked the Secretary-General, the elected officials, the Secretary of the meeting, ITU staff and the interpreters for their valuable efforts.

5.5 The Chairman thanked councillors for all their hard work and cooperation, and declared the third virtual consultation of councillors closed.

The Secretary-General: The Chairman:

H. ZHAO S. BIN GHELAITA

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