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| **Expert Group on the International Telecommunication Regulations (EG-ITRs)** |  |
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| China (People's Republic of) | |
| PROVISION-by-PROVISION examination of articles 9 to 12 and appendix 2  of the 2012 ITRs | |

# 1 Introduction

At its 2019 session, the Council modified Resolution 1379, which sets out the Terms of Reference of the Expert Group on the International Telecommunication Regulations (EG-ITRs). It is stated that the EG-ITRs shall undertake a provision-by-provision examination of the 2012 ITRs. On the basis of a comprehensive review of the applicability, flexibility or lack of flexibility of Articles 1-14 and Appendix 2 of the ITRs, EG-ITRs should propose the way forward in respect of the provisions of the ITRs to accommodate new trends in telecommunications/ICT and emerging issues in international telecommunications/ICT environment.

The 2012 ITRs already includes provisions on energy efficiency/e-waste. Article 11.1 stipulates that “*Member States are encouraged to adopt energy-efficiency and e-waste best practices taking into account the relevant ITU-T Recommendations.*”

While the COVID-19 pandemic poses a great threat to human life and health, and a severe impact on the global economy, it also brings opportunities for digital transformation. Digital work/life patterns can ensure the smooth participation of Member States in conferences and activities. They also help Member States to reduce travel and labour costs while promoting energy efficiency and emission reduction. Therefore, Member States should be encouraged to strengthen cooperation in this regard and advocate the greater role of ICTs in promoting energy efficiency and emission reduction.

# 2 Proposal

At present, participation in conferences, conducting business and studies remotely using ICTs may become the "new normal" for people's work and life. Consequently, the People's Republic of China proposes that, during the review of Articles 9-14 of the 2012 ITRs, the impact of digital transformation brought by the COVID-19 pandemic should be taken into account, and that new provisions should be included to encourage Member States to participate in conferences and activities in a digital, connected and smart way, so as to save manpower, travel and conference costs and promote energy efficiency and emission reduction. At the same time, the Member States should be encouraged to strengthen cooperation in this regard so as to push information telecommunication technology to play a more important role in energy-saving and emission-reduction.

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