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| **Council Working Group on the Use ofthe six official languages of the Union** |  |
| **11th meeting, Virtual meeting, 5 February 2021** |  |
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|  | **Document CWG-LANG/11/4-E** |
| **22 January 2021** |
| **English only** |

**Contribution by Australia**

Consideration of the extension of contribution submission deadlines, taking into account the Report by the secretary-general pursuant to resolution 154 and Resolution 1372

**Introduction**

Australia notes with thanks the report of the Secretary-General regarding the implementation of Resolution 154 (Rev. Dubai, 2018) in accordance with Resolution 1372 (C15, last amended C19) ([CWG-LANG/11/2](https://www.itu.int/md/S21-RCLCWGLANG11-C-0002/en)).

We wish to endorse the concerns raised under Annex 1, point 8 of the report, which observes that staff in Language Sections were required to work overtime and weekends during the three weeks prior to WRC-19 to translate the required documents, despite provisions for deadlines for the submission of contributions that require translation to major meetings of the ITU being respected. The report also notes that this resulted in significant financial implications.

Taking into consideration the importance of timely and accurate translation of contributions prior to major ITU meetings, the strain this places on ITU staff, and the significant financial implications of ITU staff working overtime raised in the Secretary-General’s report, Australia proposes that Member States consider the benefits of extending the current contribution submission deadline outlined in Resolution 165 (Rev. Dubai, 2018).

**Discussion**

Resolution 165 currently determines a submission deadline for contributions of 21 calendar days before the opening of conferences and assemblies. For ITU secretariat documents, this deadline is 35 calendar days. These deadlines are in place to ensure the timely translation of documents, and were updated at the ITU Plenipotentiary Conference 2018. However, based on the report of the Secretary-General submitted to CWG-LANG, we consider that this deadline is not sufficient in light of the time required to translate contributions.

Australia believes that there is value in considering extending the submission deadlines for contributions to ITU conferences and assemblies to 35 calendar days. Extending the deadline will reduce the strain on ITU Language Sections that perform the crucial role of translating contributions prior to major meetings, and lessen the financial impact on the ITU by reducing the amount of staff required to work weekends and overtime.

Australia acknowledges that such a change to the submission deadlines for contributions to ITU conferences and assemblies would require modifications to Resolution 165 at the ITU Plenipotentiary Conference 2022.

**Proposal**

Based on the concerns outlined above, Australia proposes:

1. Drawing the attention of Member States to the significant financial impact created by the current contribution submission deadlines to ITU conferences and assemblies.
2. That Member States consider extending the current contribution submission deadline outlined in Resolution 165 to 35 calendar days before the opening of conferences and assemblies in the lead-up to the ITU Plenipotentiary Conference 2022.