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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/INF/1** |
| **5 February 2020** |
| **English only** |

**Intervention by the ITU Secretariat
further to the Contribution by the Russian Federation on the harmonization of the ITU Sectors’ websites in all six languages of the Union (CWG-LANG/11/3)**

The Secretariat welcomes and supports the Contribution by the Russian Federation and is pleased to share progress.

Let me please start with the context.

The Secretariat has been deploying important efforts to meet the requirements of PP-18 and the Council. Such efforts are two-fold:

One) investment in a new website infrastructure – in the front- and the back-end - to sustain ITU business continuity and

Two) optimization of processes related to multilingual web content.

Both efforts are interdependent. ITU’s current platform vendor announced in 2018 the discontinuation of its platform and regular support in the coming few years.

A modern platform would allow for business continuity and to take advantage of next-generation machine translation tools (ML/AI) – as referred to by the Secretary-General in his introduction. We aim for more cost-efficient publishing of potentially more web pages in the six languages of the Union. “To do more with less,” as the Secretary-General said.

2 million Swiss Francs are needed to migrate the entire ITU website to a new platform as outlined in document C20/53-E, dated 17 April 2020 and document CWG-FHR 12/3, presented to the Council Working Group on Financial and Human Resources on 25 January.

This would enable business continuity and to address requests from Member States for the full implementation of 6-language content across the website. It would also enable the harmonization and improved usability for members, delegates and visitors - with reference to Resolution 154.

At that 25 January session, Member States noted the importance of the three business continuity projects presented. They requested that all ITU unfunded requests be consolidated in one document for consideration by Council 21.

It was added that all such requests were not included in either the 2020-2021 or 2022-2023 biennial budget and, therefore, would require a Council decision.

One delegation encouraged ITU to implement a ‘OneITU’ to avoid duplication and overlap between the Bureaux and the Departments in the General Secretariat.

Let me please share progress now towards ‘OneITU’:

The Secretariat recently created an Intersectoral Group on Multilingualism which reports directly to the Inter-Sectoral Coordination Task Force. Its mandate is to promote and facilitate multilingualism in ITU. The Group is expected to develop an ITU policy on multilingualism which shall include a proposal for a multilingual website with an equitable use of the six languages of the Union. The policy is to be submitted to Council 2022 for information.

In June 2020, the Secretariat launched the beta version of ‘[MyITU](https://www.itu.int/en/myitu)’ to test new approaches on the way towards a new ‘OneITU’ website. ‘MyITU’ is a new mobile-friendly site combining ITU News blogs and the ITU News Magazine, a selection of free publications and events. It provides information in a simplified and personalized way according to the interest of the user. The static information is already available in the six languages of the Union.

Moreover, as referred to by Mister Secretary, the Secretariat is testing various in-house and third-party tools for machine translation, in some instance coupled with human post-editing, of its public information content. Testing is likely to result in the use of a combination of tools.

Furthermore, since June 2020, the Secretariat has built the prototype of a mobile-friendly ‘OneITU’ public information website.

In a first step, the website will offer information for current and new members about governing bodies, strategy, funding, oversight, ethics, procurement, careers, regional work and harmonized sectoral landing pages as well as ‘MyITU’ - in a seamless, harmonized experience for the user.

The first prototype iteration has been shared with ITU membership via the Snapshot Report of the Second Virtual Consultation of Councillors in December 2020. The site is planned to go live in 2021, pending dedicated resources which the ITU Secretariat has requested in document C20/53 which I had referenced earlier.

The Secretariat has drawn attention of the Coordination Committee to the Russian Contribution, which requests the “unconditional implementation of work on the harmonization of the ITU Sectors' websites to ensure clarity, ease of navigation and an image of One ITU, using the six official languages of the Union on an equal footing,” as referred to by the distinguished delegate from the Russian Federation.

The Coordination Committee is committed to harmonizing sectoral homepages, and coordination has begun.

A prototype of the new ‘OneITU’ webpages will be submitted to Council 2021 for information.

In a second step, from 2022 to 2025, the remaining sectoral pages are to be migrated to the new web infrastructure – again, pending dedicated resources.

The Secretariat will submit a detailed analysis of work carried out and the budget required to Council 2021.

Finally, the Secretariat would like to emphasize that a ‘OneITU’ in the six languages of the Union requires the intervention of all Sectors and the General Secretariat at five levels: financial, technical, content, policy and process.

All Sectors and levels are to date engaged. We are grateful for your support.

Thank you very much for your attention.

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