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| **Council 2022Geneva, 21-31 March 2022** |  |
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| **Agenda item: PL 1.6** | **Document C22/55-E** |
| **18 February 2022** |
| **Original: English** |
| Report by the Chairman of the Council Working Group on the use of the six official languages of the Union (CWG-LANG) |
| four-year Report of the Council Working Group on languages |

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| SummaryThis Report summarizes the activities and achievements of the Council Working Group on Languages (CWG-LANG) over the period 2019-2022, in accordance with Resolution 154 (Rev. Dubai, 2018) and Council Resolution 1372 (Rev. 2019).Action requiredThe Council is invited **to consider** this report and **to submit** its recommendations to the Plenipotentiary Conference as appropriate.\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_References[*Plenipotentiary Conference Decision 11 (Rev. Dubai, 2018)*](https://www.itu.int/en/council/Documents/basic-texts/DEC-011-E.pdf)[*CWG-LANG website*](https://www.itu.int/en/council/cwg-lang/Pages/default.aspx) |

1. **Introduction**

As per Resolution 154 (Rev. Dubai, 2018) and Council Resolution 1372, the Council Working Group on Languages (CWG-LANG) is mandated to continue to take all necessary measures to ensure the use of the six official languages of the Union on an equal footing, and to provide interpretation and translation of ITU documentation.

Chaired by **Monia Jaber Khalfallah** **(Tunisia)** throughout the period 2019 -2022, the work of CWG-LANG focused on:

a) Analysis of translation and interpretation budget and procedures in the six official languages.

b) Statistics on use, download and purchase of different language versions of ITU documents.

c) Participation in inter-institutional meetings to benchmark tools and procedures-

d) Study and evaluation of alternative translation procedures.

e) Efforts to improve the use of the six languages on the ITU website on an equal footing.

f) Establishment of an Intersectoral Group on Multilingualism.

g) Development of a Multilingualism Policy Framework.

1. **CWG-LANG activities**

1. The main results of the [ninth meeting](https://www.itu.int/md/S19-RCLCWGLANG9-C-0005/en) of the CWG-LANG, held on 28 January 2019, were:

- provision of guidance for the implementation of Resolution 154 (Rev. Dubai, 2018) over the period 2019-2022

- request for a detailed plan for pilot projects related to alternative translation, interpretation and captioning procedures for the next two or four years;

- request a revision of the terms of reference of CWG-LANG (Council Resolution 1372) to include assistance on financing and maintaining a WSIS Forum website, available in the six official languages of ITU.

2. The main results of the [tenth meeting](https://www.itu.int/md/S20-RCLCWGLANG10-C-0004/en) of the CWG-LANG, held on 14 February 2020, were:

- to request the secretariat to include information on the budget for interpretation services in future reports;

- to require the secretariat to take all necessary measures to unconditionally fulfil work on the harmonization of the ITU Sector websites using the six official languages of the Union on an equal footing.

3. The main results of the [eleventh meeting](https://www.itu.int/md/S21-RCLCWGLANG11-C-0005/en) of the CWG-LANG, held on 5 February 2021, were:

- to request the secretariat to include information on the actual expenditures for language services and the evolution of translation volumes per language in future reports;

- to request the secretariat to follow up on JIU’s recommendations on supporting multilingualism in communications and knowledge-sharing

- to recommend that Council ask BDT to consider the possible use of languages other than the six ITU official languages in regional offices, websites and communications;

- to take note of information provided by the secretariat on its efforts for the harmonization of sector websites in the six languages of the Union.

 -to request the secretariat to provide factual information on the consequences of the implementation of Resolution 165 deadlines in forthcoming major meetings in terms of submitting contributions to ensure timely translation.

4. The main results of the [twelfth meeting](https://www.itu.int/md/S22-RCLCWGLANG12-C-0005/en) of the CWG-LANG, held on 18 January 2022, were:

- request to accelerate development of the OneITU website, providing concrete proposals, prototypes and timeline;

 -endorsement of the Multilingualism Policy Framework, as amended by the Council Working Group;

- request that the secretariat develop administrative and operational guidelines for the implementation of the Policy Framework;

- to propose setting new deadlines for the posting of translated documents in advance of meetings and conferences; and

 request the provision of a four yearly report summarizing the CWG-LANG meetings 2019 to 2022, to be presented to Plenipotentiary in 2022.

1. **Recommendations to PP-22**

In accordance with *decides* 4 and 5 of Decision **11** of the Plenipotentiary Conference, the Council is invited to recommend to the Plenipotentiary Conference to maintain the Council Working Group on Languages as per Resolution 154 of the Plenipotentiary Conference on the Use of the six official languages of the Union on an equal footing.

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