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| **Council 2022Geneva, 21-31 March 2022** |  |
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| **Agenda item: ADM 26** | **Document C22/73-C** |
| **5 March 2022** |
| **Original: Chinese** |
| Proposal by the People’s Republic of China |
| Proposed further improvements on remote participation in ITU meetings |

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| SummaryThis document presents China's input opinions on further improving remote participation in ITU meetings.Action requiredThe Council is invited to discuss and consider the input opinions submitted by China on further improving the remote participation in ITU meetings.\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_References*Documents* [*C22/65*](https://www.itu.int/md/S22-CL-C-0065/en)*;* [*CWG-FHR-15/19*](https://www.itu.int/md/S22-CWGFHR15-C-0019/en)*; PP-18* [*Decision 5 (Rev. Dubai, 2018)*](https://www.itu.int/en/council/Documents/basic-texts/DEC-005-E.pdf)*,* [*Resolution 167 (Rev. Dubai, 2018)*](https://www.itu.int/en/council/Documents/basic-texts/RES-167-E.pdf) *and* [*Resolution 213 (Dubai, 2018)*](https://www.itu.int/en/council/Documents/basic-texts/RES-213-E.pdf) |

# 1 Background

Due to the significant impact of the ongoing COVID-19 epidemic and restricted international travel on the work of ITU and the ways in which Member States participate in its meetings, remote participation has become an important way in which Member States participate in meetings.

Long before the outbreak of the epidemic, ITU had recognized "the remarkable benefits of electronic participation in meetings for ITU members". The Plenipotentiary Conference, in Resolution 167 (Rev. Dubai, 2018), instructed "ITU to further study the influence of remote participation on the existing rules of procedure". In the meantime, the procedures of remote participation have also posed some difficulties and challenges to the work of ITU and its Member States, such as the time difference between different regions, unstable network connection or limitations of telecommunication infrastructure in some Member States, and differences in participation procedures and effectiveness between remote participants and on-site participants.

China is of the view that non-decision-making meetings, such as trainings and study group meetings, can be held through remote participation, which not only helps to reduce international travel expenses, save more expenses for ITU, but also promotes the participation of developing countries in the work of ITU. However, for some treaty-making meetings, it is imperative for Member States to attend offline meetings in order to ensure the equity and efficacy of the decision-making process.

# 2 Proposal

Considering the remarkable benefits and challenges brought about by remote participation to ITU members, China is of the view that ITU needs to establish sound procedures, guidelines and relevant rules for remote participation, and in the meantime use funds to support developing countries to better participate in treaty-making meetings and high-level meetings such as the Council meetings. Specific recommendations include:

• clearly define the scope and list of ITU meetings for remote and physical participation;

• study and develop guidelines for remote participation in important ITU meetings, especially the mixed meetings and decision-making process, and invite ITU-R, ITU-T and ITU-D to participate in related work;

• as for fellowships saved as a result of remote participation, it is suggested that part of the cost saved be used to support the high-level conferences held offline, such as the treaty-making conferences and ITU Council meetings, and a list of conferences and Member States that receive the fellowships shall be established;

• increase funding and technology input and utilize 5G, virtual reality, artificial intelligence and other technologies to enrich the means of participation, improve the effect of participation and ensure that remote meetings and activities be conducted smoothly.

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