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| **The Council 2022Geneva, 21 – 31 March 2022** |  |
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|  | **Document C22/INF/10-E** |
| **18 February 2022** |
| **English only** |

**Report by the Secretary-General**

STATUS REPORT ON REVIEW OF LIST OF EXEMPTED ENTITIES

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| **Summary**The secretariat is currently reviewing the entire list of 131 organizations of an international character that have been exempted from membership fees to assess whether they fully meet the criteria revised by Council in 2017. A full report is being prepared for the consideration of the meeting of the Council in September 2022.Action requiredThis report is transmitted to the Council **for information**.\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_**References**[*C2000/28(Rev.1)*](http://www.itu.int/itudoc/gs/council/c00/docs/28rev1.html),[*Council Resolution 925*](https://www.itu.int/md/S19-CL-C-0141/en)*,* [*Council Criteria for Exemptions (Rev 2017)*](https://www.itu.int/hub/membership/our-members/exempted-entities/) |

# 1 Background

1.1 Currently, there are 131 exempted organizations of an international character. A full list is available [here](https://www.itu.int/hub/membership/itu-family/organizations/exempted-entities/).

1.4 In Resolution 187 (Busan, 2014), the 2014 Plenipotentiary Conference instructed Council to “review the practice and criteria for exempting entities from membership fees and, if necessary, make changes to tighten the criteria to help bring greater clarity, consistency and fairness between paying and non-paying members and to reduce the total of exempted entities.”

1.5 Council 17 approved revised criteria, available [here](https://www.itu.int/hub/membership/itu-family/organizations/exempted-entities/exemption-criteria/). Since then, each Council has reviewed new applications according to these criteria.

1.6 At its 2019 session, Council decided to apply the revised criteria to new applications and maintain (i.e. “grandfather”) the existing list for another four years as a transitionary measure.

1.7 The secretariat is currently reviewing the entire list of exempted entities to assess whether they meet the revised criteria with the intention of providing a full report to the meeting of the Council in September 2022 for consideration. This information document provides an update on this review process.

2 **Review Process and Results To-Date**

On 11 October 2021, the Secretary-General wrote to all 131 organizations of an international character ([DM 21/1023](https://www.itu.int/md/S21-DM-CIR-01023/en)) that currently benefit from fee exemption requesting that they confirm if they wish to extend their exemption status for the 2024-27 period, subject to reciprocity, and to provide updated information. These entities were informed that Council revised the criteria in 2017 and were further asked to provide information demonstrating that they meet the revised criteria. A reminder email was sent by the secretariat on 3 November 2021.

Of the 131 entities exempted from fees, 92 entities have responded to the SG’s letter so far. The secretariat has also been researching each entity that has not replied to find alternative contacts in case focal points have changed. The secretariat is currently reviewing the submissions received to assess them against the revised criteria.

3 **Next Steps**

The secretariat will continue to make every effort to contact entities and compile the information received.

The Secretary-General will soon send a second letter to those who did not reply, indicating that if the secretariat does not receive a response by a set date, ITU would take their non-reply to mean that they would not like to request an extension of their exemption status.

Once all the above-noted efforts have been exhausted, the secretariat will provide a full report with analysis of the situation and a recommendation for each entity to the meeting of the Council in September 2022.

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