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| **Council Working Group for Strategic and Financial Plans 2024-2027** |  |
| **Third meeting – 21 and 22 February 2022** |  |
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|  | **Document CWG-SFP-3/10-E** |
| **7 February 2022** |
| **Original: Russian** |
| **Contribution by the Russian Federation** | |
| PROPOSALS FOR DOCUMENT CWG-SFP-3/4  annex 1 to resolution 71:  DRAFT itu strategic plan for 2024–2027 | |
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**Introduction**

The Russian Federation presents its proposals and questions in relation to individual sections of the draft ITU Strategic Plan 2024-2027, taking into account the outcomes of discussions on Document CWG-SFP-2/2 at the second meeting of CWG-SFP on 13-14 January 2022. Although the group was unable to reach consensus on Document CWG-SFP-2/2, many useful proposals were nevertheless made by delegates and have been taken into account in the drafting of this contribution.

We again note the innovative nature of the draft strategic plan, its alignment with the current strategic plan and the fact that the original draft of Annex 1 to Resolution 71, on the ITU Strategic Plan for 2024-2027, took into account proposals and contributions from Member States that are important for optimizing the strategic framework for the work of ITU, maintaining continuity of plans and focusing on strategic goals, priorities and the main products of the Union, in line with its mandate, the interests of Member States and trends in the development of telecommunications/ICTs.

We believe that the basis of the draft ITU strategic plan under discussion provides a sufficiently clear and well-founded structure for the setting of high-level goals and objectives and that it provides the opportunity to tap into the strengths of the activities of all the Sectors, which, together, will contribute to the achievement of the strategic goals of the Union as a whole.

In addition, we support the way in which the enablers identified in the strategic plan serve as cross-cutting elements across ITU’s work, as they are essential to planning and are differentiated from thematic priorities, outcomes or outputs by nature and purpose.

**Proposals** are presented in the text of Appendix A and the table of Appendix B, which follow.

appendix A

1. On the topic of cybersecurity, we support Option 1 – to reflect cybersecurity as a standalone thematic priority. This is in line, in particular, with the working priorities of the United Nations, see for example § 2.1 (3) of Documents CWG-SFP-2/3 and CWG-SFP-3/5: “… the UN Secretary-General’s strategies and priorities are increasingly focused on digital and cyber-security issues …”.

2. It is noteworthy that “emerging” is often used in relation to technology in many formulations. “Innovation”, meanwhile, is extremely important and should be highlighted more, even though it is referred to more frequently than in the previous version of the document, see §§ 25, 28 and 69. Where possible, innovation should be given greater prominence in the draft strategic plan, as a key factor in delivering on ITU’s capabilities.

3. It is proposed to swap the order of §§ 47 and 48 as in our opinion the tasks described in § 48 are of higher significance than those described in § 47.

4. In relation to § 31 – “1) ITU’s work under the Enabling environment Thematic Priority is expected to deliver the following outcomes:

1) Conducive policy and regulatory environment; …” more concrete information on how the conducive policy and regulatory environment will be measured/assessed (indicators/results) would be desirable.

5. The combination “telecommunications/ICTs” should be used throughout the text.

6. The wording of §§ 63-67 is cumbersome compared with that of others. For example, § 64 could be presented as follows:

Regional presence

64 a) As an extension of ITU as a whole, the regional presence plays a vital role in the achievement of ITU’s mission, enhancing the Union’s understanding of local contexts and its ability to respond to countries’ needs effectively. The regional presence will consolidate strategic planning at the level of each regional/area office, implementing programmes and initiatives that are consistent with and based on the Union’s strategic goals and thematic priorities.

64 b) By cascading and applying the global targets and clarifying programme priorities at the regional level, ITU will also seek to enhance its overall global effectiveness and impact to build enhanced regional opportunities and thereby reach more countries and define clearer more impactful priorities for country-level engagements.

64 с) The regional presence will strengthen ITU’s position as a shaper/doer and enhance UN cooperation.

64 d) Efforts will also be made to strengthen capacity at the regional level to ensure the ability of the regional and area offices to implement the programmes and engagements determined based on the Union's strategic goals and thematic priorities.

Appendix B

Table – Proposals on Document CWG-SFP-3/4, questions and reasoning

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| No. and/or title of section | Proposals for amendments to the text of Document CWG-SFP-3/4 for consideration at the third meeting of CWG-SFP | Comments/reasons |
| **1** | **2** | **3** |
| **2.4**  **10** | The strategic goals of the Union are listed hereafter and support ITU's realization of its mission and role in facilitating progress towards the implementation of the World Summit on the Information Society (WSIS) Action Lines and the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. | The strategic goals of the Union are not focused exclusively on WSIS and the SDGs, as stated in the document itself, see the definition under section 2.1 – “The Union's high-level goals, which enable the realization of its mission”. |
| **11**  **Goal 1** | **Goal 1 – Universal Connectivity: Enable and foster universal access to affordable, high-quality and secure telecommunications/ICTs**. To advance universal connectivity, ITU will make efforts to ensure universally accessible, affordable, high-quality, interoperable and secure telecommunication/ICT infrastructure, services, and applications. | The Union itself does not provide telecommunication/ICT networks and services. Rather, it does everything to ensure that the telecommunication/ICT sectors of the independent ITU Member States provide accessible services, thereby bridging the digital divide and facilitating development of the digital society and SDG attainment. |
| **12**  **Goal 2** | **Goal 2 – Sustainable Digital Transformation: Foster equitable and inclusive use of telecommunications/ICTs to empower people and societies for sustainable development.** By leveraging telecommunications/ICTs, ITU will strive to facilitate digital transformation to help build an inclusive information society for sustainable development. ITU will thereby work to close the digital divide in the use of telecommunication/ICTs in all countries and for all peoples. ITU will work to promote and enable digital transformation across spheres of life and activity, to address the dual climate and environmental crisis, and to foster the advancement of science, sustainable exploration of Earth, space, and the use of their resources for the benefit of all. | The term “information society” is currently still in use. (WSIS Summit 2003, UNGA resolutions, including the recent resolution A/76/189 of 17 December 2021, which uses “information society” exclusively). The information society is mentioned under section 2.4 “Strategic goals”. The corresponding changes should therefore be made here and elsewhere.  The concept “all peoples” is necessary and sufficient and covers all interpretations. It keeps the phrase short and is used in the UN.  The last revision “for the benefit of all” adds a target to the message about the use of resources.  Instead of “industry sectors”, it would be better to say “spheres of life and activity”. |
| **22** | **Infrastructure and services**  Telecommunications and ICT infrastructure and services are the basis and integral components of the digital economy and information society. | The information society is mentioned under section 2.4 “Strategic goals”, also see comments on § 12. |
| **23** | To achieve this, the Union will work to foster the development of infrastructure and services, including through the development of international standards and new technologies for radiocommunication services and for the operation and interworking of telecommunication networks and by providing assistance to membership on new and emerging issues. | We propose replacing “emerging solutions” with “emerging issues” as issues emerge and solutions are adopted. |
| **28** | An enabling environment consists of an policy and regulatory environment conducive to sustainable telecommunication/ICT development that encourages innovation, investment in infrastructure and ICTs and increases adoption of telecommunications/ICTs to reduce the digital divide and towards a more inclusive and equal information society. | It is possible to have “society” by itself without the qualification of “information”, but “digital” should be removed in any case.  We suggest that “enabling environment” not be defined through itself and therefore the repetition of “enabling” can be removed without a loss of meaning. |
| **30** | ITU’s role in creating an enabling environment also entails the promotion of active participation of the membership, in particular developing countries, least developed countries, small island developing states, landlocked developing countries, and countries with economies in transition in the definition and adoption of international telecommunication/ICT standards and regulations with a view to bridging the standardization gap and fostering equitable access to radio spectrum, satellite orbit and other essential resources. | **Question**: Why is mention only made of radio spectrum resources? There are also other resources, e.g. numbering resources, information resources, etc., which should be reflected in the wording of § 30.  We propose listing all types of developing countries, as done for example in § 63: least developed countries, small island developing states, landlocked developing countries, and countries with economies in transition. |
| **2.7** | **Development and application of international regulations**  36. The international regulations are Administrative Regulations that regulate the use of telecommunications/ICTs, and are binding on all Member States. These regulations … (list). | **Question**: Why does this section only refer to the Radio Regulations without mentioning other regulations, even though § 36 mentions in the plural “… administrative regulations that regulate the use of telecommunications, and are binding on all Member States”.  The section should be expanded to cover the purposes and role of the other administrative regulations. |
| **37** | The foundation of international frequency management is the Radio Regulations (RR), the binding international treaty that contain several regulatory provisions and procedures which describe how the administrations from all ITU Member States may acquire and exercise rights to use spectrum in the various frequency bands allocated for this purpose, and the corresponding obligations. | It would be better to replace the precise number of Member States (193) with a reference to “all Member States” as the precise number may change with time. |

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