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| **Plenipotentiary Conference (PP-22)Bucharest, 26 September – 14 October 2022** | A picture containing text, clipart  Description automatically generated |
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| PLENARY MEETING | **Document 49-E** |
|  | **21 June 2022** |
|  | **Original: English** |
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| Report by the Council |
| four-year Report OF THE Council Working Group onthe use of the six official languages of the union (CWG-LANG) |
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| SummaryIn accordance with Plenipotentiary Conference Decision 11 (Rev. Dubai 2018), the Chairman of the CWG-LANG submitted a four-year report of the CWG-LANG ([C22/55](https://www.itu.int/md/S22-CL-C-0055/en)) to the 2022 session of the Council for consideration and submission of recommendations to the 2022 Plenipotentiary Conference on the need to maintain, modify, terminate or establish the CWG for the next period. The Council **noted** the report contained in Document C22/55 and **agreed** to transmit it to the Plenipotentiary Conference, together with the summary record of the meeting capturing Council Member States’ recommendations and views.This report summarizes the main activities and achievements of CWG-LANG over the period 2019-2022 in accordance with Resolution 154 (Rev. Dubai, 2018) and Council Resolution 1372. The extract of the summary records of the sixth plenary meeting of the 2022 session of Council reflecting the recommendations and views of the Council Member States is attached to this report as Annex 1.Action requiredThe Plenipotentiary Conference is invited **to consider** this report and **take necessary action, as appropriate.**\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_References[*Plenipotentiary Conference Decision 11 (Rev. Dubai, 2018)*](https://www.itu.int/en/council/Documents/basic-texts/DEC-011-E.pdf)[Resolution 154 (Rev. Dubai, 2018)](https://www.itu.int/en/council/Documents/basic-texts/RES-154-E.pdf)[Council Resolution 1372 (Rev. 2019)](https://www.itu.int/md/S19-CL-C-0138/en)[CWG LANG webpage](https://www.itu.int/en/council/cwg-lang/Pages/default.aspx)   |

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| **Council 2022 Geneva, 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.

**Annex 1: Extract of the Summary Records of the sixth plenary meeting of the Council 2022**

**1 Reports by the Chairman of the Council Working Group on languages (CWG-LANG) on the use of the six official languages of the Union (Documents C22/12 and C22/55)**

1.1 Pursuant to PP Resolution 154 (Rev. Dubai, 2018) and Council Resolution 1372 (Modified 2019), the Chairman of the Council Working Group on languages (CWG-LANG) introduced the annual report of CWG-LANG to the Council contained in Document [C22/12](https://www.itu.int/md/S22-CL-C-0012/en), which included, *inter alia*, updated measures and principles for interpretation and translation in ITU set out in Document [C22/INF/7](https://www.itu.int/md/S22-CL-INF-0007/en) and a proposal that Resolution 154 (Rev. Dubai, 2018) be revised at PP-22; as well as the four-year report contained in Document [C22/55](https://www.itu.int/md/S22-CL-C-0055/en), which summarized the activities and achievements of CWG-LANG in respect of the use of the six official languages of the Union over the period 2019-2022.

1.2 Councillors welcomed the reports contained in Documents C22/12 and C22/55, and expressed support for extending the mandate of CWG-LANG. One councillor suggested that the report in Document C22/55 should be submitted to PP-22. Two others expressed support for the revision of Resolution 154 (Rev. Dubai, 2018), and Member States were encouraged to contribute to its revision and updating.

1.3 One councillor said that he supported the possibility of using languages other than the six official languages in regional offices, on websites and for other appropriate communications, provided that funding was available.

1.4 One councillor encouraged the secretariat to use technology to ensure the continuity of multilingual coverage.

1.5 One councillor drew attention to the fact that, in certain regions, indigenous languages were widely spoken; he urged ITU to promote connectivity in languages relevant to the communities in question through the regional offices.

1.6 Several councillors highlighted the need to ensure that the ITU website was available in all six languages, on an equal footing. One pointed out in that connection that many of the images on the main page of the site had text available only in English, and that the use of so many images on the website increased download and access times for many users. Moreover, the ITU Cybersecurity Activities webpage was only available in English, the ITU Coordination Committee for Terminology (ITU CCT) had no webpage, and the documents on the site of the Inter-Sector Coordination Group were difficult to download. He requested follow-up action on the above-mentioned issues.

1.7 One councillor said that while he appreciated the translation of meeting documents into Arabic, they were often distributed late, not allowing sufficient time for consultation prior to meetings. Expressing support for measures to translate ITU website content and ensure that regional offices’ websites and documents relating to their work were translated into languages used in the respective regions, he said that candidates for posts at the various regional offices should be offered the choice of being interviewed in one of the languages spoken in that region.

1.8 The Chairman of CWG-LANG thanked councillors for their proposals and stressed that the group would continue its efforts to guarantee equal treatment of all six official languages of the Union.

1.9 The representative of the General Secretariat took note of comments regarding the use of regional languages in the regional offices and the suggestion that regional offices could consider promoting and using local languages; the respective offices would examine such matters. Regarding the support expressed by councillors for using technology to ensure an equal footing for all six official languages, as well as comments and suggestions with a view to making the website accessible in all official languages, the secretariat was well aware of those imperatives; indeed, measures had been and would continue to be taken to those ends, as reported to CWG-LANG.

1.10 The lack of a website for ITU CCT had been raised at the meeting of the committee in February. The secretariats of the Coordination Committee for Vocabulary (CCV) in ITU-R and the Standardization Committee for Vocabulary (SCV) in ITU-T were working on the design and implementation of a site. Comments relating to translation of meeting documents into Arabic would be conveyed to the Arabic Language Section.

1.11 Regarding the structure and architecture of the ITU website, another representative of the General Secretariat said that the new One ITU website was the product of collaborative efforts, linking existing microsites across the new ITU platform. Issues relating to search and navigation functions, and the use of images, had yet to be addressed. As outlined in the information session organized for councillors the previous week, there were plans to involve ITU users in developing a new architecture, geared towards meeting the needs of ITU staff and Member States, one example being a recent survey on the prioritization of tasks on the ITU website, in which ITU staff and Member States had also participated. The survey had revealed that the top tasks for the different Sectors were very similar. Progress had also been made to promote multilingualism. For example, the Plenipotentiary Conference site was now available on the new ITU platform in all six languages. Web issues would be included in the operational guidelines being developed by an intersectoral working group on multilingualism to support the proposed policy framework, and the concept of multilingualism had been incorporated in the new One ITU web guidelines. There were plans to test online instant machine translation tools on the new microsites on the ITU platform. The General Secretariat had submitted a time-frame to the Council in 2021 for that work, subject to funding of CHF 2 million. The proposed budget had been included under unfunded mandatory activities in the draft ITU strategic and financial plan for 2024-2027. Lack of funding prevented progress and the scaling up of technology relating to the ITU corporate and Sector webpages. There was a need for donations and sponsorship to scale up and roll out the ITU platform and information architecture across the entire website.

1.12 The Council **approved** the report of CWG-LANG contained in Document C22/12.

1.13 The Council **noted** the four-year report in Document C22/55 and **agreed** to transmit it to the Plenipotentiary Conference, along with the summary record of the meeting.

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