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| **Agenda item: PL 3** | **Document C23/4-E** |
| **25 May 2023** |
| **Original: English** |
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| Report by the Secretary-General | |
| REPORT ON THE 21ST PLENIPOTENTIARY CONFERENCE (PP-22) | |
| **Purpose**  Further to Resolution 77 (Rev. Dubai, 2018) of the Plenipotentiary Conference and ITU Council Decision 610 (C19), and following consultation with Member States ([CL-19/33](https://www.itu.int/md/S19-SG-CIR-0033/en) and [CL-19/45](http://www.itu.int/md/S19-SG-CIR-0045/en)), the 21st plenipotentiary conference was held in Bucharest, Romania, from 26 September to 14 October 2022. This document reports on the preparation, roll-out and outcomes of the conference.  **Action required by the Council**  The Council is invited to **take note** of this report and the instruction of the Plenipotentiary Conference (Bucharest, 2022) to the Council to examine the conduct of election campaigns and procedures for electing the Secretary-General, Deputy Secretary-General, Directors of the Bureaux and members of the Radio Regulations Board by the end of the 2024 session of the Council.  **Relevant link(s) with the Strategic Plan**  Convening platforms, partnership and international cooperation.  **Financial implications**  None.  \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_  **References**  [*Resolution 77*](https://www.itu.int/en/council/Documents/basic-texts-2023/RES-077-E.pdf) *(Rev. Bucharest, 2022) of the Plenipotentiary Conference; Council Document* [*C23/INF/1*](https://www.itu.int/md/S23-CL-INF-0001/en)*.* | |

1. At the invitation of the Government of Romania, the 21st plenipotentiary conference was held in Bucharest in the Palace of Parliament from 26 September to 14 October 2022.

2. After the 2018 Plenipotentiary Conference (PP-18), a report was submitted to the 2019 session of the ITU Council ([C19/4](https://www.itu.int/md/S19-CL-C-0004/en)), and Member States also submitted contributions, as contained in Documents [C19/67](https://www.itu.int/md/S19-CL-C-0067/en) and [C19/101](https://www.itu.int/md/S19-CL-C-0101/en), on further improvements of conference roll-out and procedures. At the request of Member States, a report on possible improvements to the roll-out of plenipotentiary conferences was prepared for the 2020 session of the Council ([C20/13](https://www.itu.int/md/S20-CL-C-0013/en)) but, due to the coronavirus disease (COVID-19) pandemic, was only submitted and reviewed during the virtual consultation of councillors in 2021 (VCC-21) as Document [C21/13](https://www.itu.int/md/S21-CL-C-0013/en). Further to this discussion, the Council agreed to approve the secretariat’s proposals, within the existing budget, regarding:

* further strengthening of the interregional preparatory process;
* streamlining of resolutions and decisions within the context of the secretariat’s preparation for interregional meetings, without creating a separate council working group;
* improved preparation of delegates, including through training;
* greening of the conference; and
* organization of a fully gender-responsive and inclusive plenipotentiary conference.

Additionally, a document on the implementation of PP-18 recommendations on the ITU electoral process was also drafted for Council 2020 ([C20/4](https://www.itu.int/md/S20-CL-C-0004/en)) but only reviewed at VCC-21 as Document [C21/4(Rev.1)](https://www.itu.int/md/S21-CL-C-0004/en). At its 2022 session, the Council agreed to re-endorse the ethical guidelines but decided to forward the remainder of the document to the Plenipotentiary Conference (Bucharest, 2022) (PP-22) for discussion. A report on preparations for PP-22 was submitted to Council 2022 in Document [C22/4](https://www.itu.int/md/S22-CL-C-0004/en).

3. The regional preparatory process, under the leadership of the regional telecommunication organizations, was instrumental in preparations for PP-22. Almost all regional groups invited the other regional groups to participate in their meetings, facilitating discussion of proposals.

Mr Sabin Sărmaș (Romania), chairman designate of PP-22, led three informal interregional meetings: during Council 2022 in March; in Kigali, Rwanda, before the 2022 World Telecommunication Development Conference in June; and lastly in Riyadh, Saudi Arabia, in August, in conjunction with the last regional meeting of the Arab States. Remote participation was available at all meetings. The secretariat prepared a list of proposals with a focal point per issue/resolution from each region, a draft allocation of proposals, and facilitated the exchange of views per topic.

4. To prepare delegations, several presentations were posted on the PP-22 website regarding an introduction to the Plenipotentiary Conference, election and document processes, drafting of ITU resolutions, the final days of the conference, how ITU is funded, and voting rights.

5. With the support of the Government of Australia, an online training programme was designed and implemented to equip more than one hundred women delegates with the knowledge, skills and expertise to negotiate effectively at the conference and to take on more leadership positions by actively chairing and facilitating meetings.

6. A total of 3 234 participants (33 per cent female and 67 per cent male), with 2 940 attending in person and 294 virtually, representing 184 Member States, 64 Sector Members and four United Nations and other entities attended PP-22, including 1 VVIP, 27 VIPs, 87 ministers, 71 deputy ministers and 106 ambassadors. A total of 5 642 persons were badged, including delegates, ITU staff, local working staff and host country security, as well as others who required access to the venue. The final list of participants is published in Document [PP-22/210](https://www.itu.int/md/S22-PP-C-0210/en).

7. The opening ceremony, organized by the host country, was honoured by the presence and participation of the Deputy Prime-Minister of Romania, H.E. Mr Sorin Grindeanu, a message by United Nations Secretary-General Mr Antonio Guterres and statements by the ITU Secretary-General Mr Houlin Zhao and H.E. Mr Sebastian Burduja, Minister of Research, Innovation and Digitalization of Romania. The opening ceremony included a cultural performance by the Cantus Mundi children’s choir, who sang the PP-22 anthem, which had been composed for the occasion.

8. At the first plenary meeting, Mr Sabin SĂRMAȘ (Romania) was elected chairman of the conference. Six vice-chairmen were elected as follows:

Ms Caroline GREENWAY (Papua New Guinea)

Mr Orozbek KAIYKOV (Kyrgyzstan)

Mr Mohamed Amine BENZIANE (Algeria)

Ms Erica BARKS-RUGGLES (United States)

Mr Oli BIRD (United Kingdom)

Mr Tareq AL-AWADHI (United Arab Emirates).

9. The following committees were established and started their work on the second day of the Conference (see also the structure of PP-22 in Document [PP-22/103](https://www.itu.int/md/S22-PP-C-0103/en) and the complete list of chairmen and vice-chairmen in Document [PP-22/9](https://www.itu.int/md/S22-PP-C-0097/en)7):

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| Committee 1  (Steering) | (Composed of the chairman and vice-chairmen of the conference and of the chairmen and vice-chairmen of the other committees and Working Group of the Plenary) |
| Committee 2 (Credentials) | **Chairman**: Mr Al-Ansari AL-MASHAKBEH (Jordan) |
| Committee 3 (Budget Control) | **Chairman**: Mr Bakhtiyar MAMMADOV (Azerbaijan) |
| Committee 4 (Editorial) | **Chairman**: Mr Christian RISSONE (France) |
| Committee 5 (Policy and Legal) | **Chairman**: Ms Mina Seonmin JUN (Republic of Korea) |
| Committee 6  (Administration and Management) | **Chairman**: Ms Vernita HARRIS (United States) |
| Working Group of the Plenary (WG-PL) | **Chairman**: Mr. Kwame BAAH-ACHEAMFUOR (Ghana) |

10. PP-22 elected the following new management team to take or continue in office as of 1 January 2023:

Secretary-General: Ms Doreen BOGDAN-MARTIN (United States)  
Deputy Secretary-General: Mr Tomas LAMANAUSKAS (Lithuania)  
Director, BR: Mr Mario MANIEWICZ (Uruguay)  
Director, TSB: Mr Seizo ONOE (Japan)  
Director, BDT: Dr Cosmas ZAVAZAVA (Zimbabwe).

PP-22 also elected the Member States of the Council and the members of the Radio Regulations Board (RRB). Full details, including candidates’ biographies, interviews and information on each round, can be found here: <https://pp22.itu.int/en/elections/elections-results/>. Candidates were invited to submit a vision statement and curriculum vitae, which were published together as an official conference document. Most candidates also provided a pdf brochure and even a link to a video introduction or their own campaign website. A special edition of the ITU News Magazine on the elections and the candidates was issued. The [ethical guidelines](https://plenipotprod.wpengine.com/wp-content/uploads/2021/09/PP-Ethical-guidelines.pdf) were published on the PP-22 website.

11. A total of 119 policy statements were delivered at PP-22. Speakers delivered their statements from the lectern on the podium. Once delivered, policy statements were published on the [PP-22 website](https://pp22.itu.int/en/policy-statements/policy-statements-and-plenary-speeches/).

12. Member States were encouraged to use the conference proposals interface (CPI) to submit proposals for the work of the conference. The total number of proposals received for PP-22 was 211, with two withdrawn before the end of the conference, covering a total of 1 503 original pages.

13. PP-22 adopted six new resolutions, revised two decisions and 57 resolutions, and suppressed one resolution. Neither the ITU Constitution nor the ITU Convention was modified. The Final Acts of PP-22 are available on the ITU website at: <https://www.itu.int/pub/S-CONF-ACTF-2022>. The list of decisions adopted by PP-22 were captured in the minutes of the plenary meetings, in particular decisions based on recommendations of the committees and the Working Group of the Plenary (see [C23/INF/1](https://www.itu.int/md/S23-CL-INF-0001/en)). Among them, recommendation 4 of Committee 5 adopted at the 16th plenary meeting instructs the Council to examine the conduct of election campaigns and procedures for electing the Secretary-General, Deputy Secretary-General, Directors of the Bureaux and members of RRB, while ensuring that all candidates have the opportunity to participate in accordance with the principles of fairness, transparency, integrity and impartiality in the conduct of election campaigns. The examination of this matter should be completed by the end of the 2024 session of the Council and any related changes should be implemented before the next plenipotentiary conference.

14. A number of side events were held during PP-22, including:

- a ministerial roundtable on building a better digital future for all, organized by the host country;

- a women’s high-level panel and networking breakfast sponsored by the Government of Australia;

- intergenerational dialogues on education, future jobs, digital skills and bridging the gender digital divide;

- a meaningful youth engagement workshop: shaping the next generation of ITU delegates, which is part of a project funded by the Governments of Canada and Australia and in coordination with the host country to promote youth engagement in the conference.

15. A [greening plan](https://pp22.itu.int/en/about/greening-the-pp/) was drawn up and the ITU green event checklist duly followed. The efforts to make the conference as green as possible were holistic, requiring engagement from the ITU secretariat, host country, participating Member States and delegates themselves.

16. A [gender-responsive event plan](https://s42372.pcdn.co/wp-content/uploads/2022/05/Gender-Responsive-PP-22.pdf) was prepared to ensure that a gender perspective be taken into account in the preparation, roll-out and follow-up of the conference. Of the delegates attending in person, some 33 per cent were women, which not only represents a 4-per-cent increase from PP-18 but also is very close to the set target of 35 per cent. Of the delegates attending virtually, 43 per cent were women, and they took part in both substantive discussions and negotiations. Two substantive committees were chaired by women delegates: Committee 5 (Policy and Legal Matters) and Committee 6 (Administration and Management). Of the 38 ad hoc, drafting and informal groups, 13 were chaired and/or coordinated by women delegates.

17. Full information on PP-22, including all documents, policy statements, elections results, photos, videos and highlights can be found here: <https://pp22.itu.int/en/>.

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