|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **Agenda item: ADM 1** | **Document C23/39-E** |
| **9 June 2023** |
| **Original: English** |
|  |  |
| Report by the Secretary-General | |
| NEW REQUESTS FOR EXEMPTION FROM FEES FOR ORGANIZATIONS OF AN INTERNATIONAL CHARACTER | |
| **Purpose**  Each year, ITU receives requests from organizations of an international character seeking exemption from membership fees and other financial contributions to the Union based on reciprocity. These new requests are reviewed by the secretariat according to criteria established by the ITU Council.  **Action required by the Council**  The Council is invited **to consider** the recommendations of the Secretary-General regarding new requests for exemption.  **Relevant link(s) with the Strategic Plan**  Membership driven.  **Financial implications**  The total value of membership fees for entities recommended for approval by the secretariat is CHF 174 900.  \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_  **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 Each year, ITU receives requests from organizations of an international character seeking exemption from membership fees and other financial contributions to the Union. These requests are considered as per the procedure established by the ITU Council at its 2000 session (see [C2000/28(Rev.1)](http://www.itu.int/itudoc/gs/council/c00/docs/28rev1.html)) and in accordance with No. 476 of the ITU Convention and [Council Resolution 925 (C-1985, last amended C19),](https://www.itu.int/md/S19-CL-C-0141/en) as well as criteria established by Council, revised in 2017 (see point 1.5 below).

1.2 Exemption from fees is granted by the Council following an analysis of the relevant Sectors and a recommendation by the Secretary-General. If approved, they become Sector Members or Associates under the terms of No. 231 of the Convention.

1.3 Currently, there are 132 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 Plenipotentiary Conference (Busan, 2014) 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 At its 2017 session, the Council approved revised criteria, available [here](https://www.itu.int/hub/membership/itu-family/organizations/exempted-entities/exemption-criteria/). Since then, each Council session has reviewed new applications according to these criteria.

1.6 This document addresses only new requests for fee exemption since the last session of the Council. The secretariat reviewed the entire list of entities which currently benefit from fee exemption and provided a recommendation for the consideration of the Council at its 2022 session. The Council referred the review of the existing list as outlined in [C22/100](https://www.itu.int/md/S22-CL-C-0100/en) to the Council Working Group on financial and human resources (CWG-FHR).

**2 New requests and recommendations**

2.1

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| **Organization** | **Sector** | **Recommendation** |
| **Communications Regulators’ Association of Southern Africa (CRASA)** | ITU-R  ITU-T  ITU-D | YES  YES  YES |

Headquartered in Botswana, the Communication Regulators’ Association of Southern Africa (CRASA) is a thirteen Member State forum of ICT and postal regulators. CRASA is a specialized agency of the Southern African Development Community (SADC) and was set up in 1997 within the framework of the SADC Protocol on Transport, Communications and Meteorology (1995). CRASA focuses on the harmonization of regulatory frameworks for the telecommunication, broadcasting and postal markets. As a regional organization of Member States, in the view of the secretariat, this entity meets the criteria established by the Council for fee exemption.

2.2

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| **Organization** | **Sector** | **Recommendation** |
| **Telecommunications Standards Development Society, India (TSDSI)** | ITU-R  ITU-T | NO  NO |

This request was deferred by the Council at its 2022 session, pending the full review of all exempted entities, as referenced in section 1.6 above. In the meantime, TSDSI joined as a fee-paying Sector Member of ITU-R and ITU-T.

TSDSI was established as an autonomous body by Indian industry, academia, research entities and the Government of India as a non-profit entity to drive telecommunication standardization activities in India and promote Indian interests in global forums. TSDSI membership includes international companies and academic/research institutions from numerous countries. While TSDSI is active internationally, including in ITU, and it has international members (mainly national subsidiaries), their members are mainly for-profit companies. Furthermore, TSDSI is established as a national entity rather than as an international/regional organization. For these reasons, in the view of the secretariat, this entity does not meet the criteria established by the Council for fee exemption.

2.3

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| **Organization** | **Sector** | **Recommendation** |
| **IoT Lab** | ITU-T | NO |

This request was deferred by the Council at its 2021 and 2022 sessions, pending further consultation and study and the full review of all exempted entities, as per section 1.6 above. Located in Switzerland, IoT Lab is an international platform of services and resources for the Internet of Things (IoT), bringing together: IoT Services, Privacy & Security, Testlab, Tech Transfer, SDGs and Network & Community. In the view of the secretariat, while it has international partners, this entity does not meet the criteria for exemption as they are not a membership-based organization.

2.4

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| **Organization** | **Sector** | **Recommendation** |
| **Feynman Foundation** | ITU-T | NO |

The Feynman Foundation headquartered in Belgium has the aim, in Belgium or abroad, of promoting science and quantum technologies (including computers, telecommunications and quantum sensors) as a good at the individual, institutional, national, regional and international levels. The Feynman Foundation provides support by granting financial assistance, open science, software free, open-source code as well as open hardware based on the following pillars: free access to scientific and/or technological knowledge; open science and/or technology infrastructure; open scientific and/or technological communication; open stakeholder participation of society; and open dialogue with other knowledge systems. In the view of the secretariat, this entity does not meet the criteria established by the Council for fee exemption as it is not a member-based organization.

2.5

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| **Organization** | **Sector** | **Recommendation** |
| **Libyan Organization for Information Technology and Telecommunications** | ITU-D | NO |

The Libyan Organization for Information Technology and Telecommunications is a non-profit civil society organization located in Libya, linking all community stakeholders, including the public, companies, governments and ministries. In the view of the secretariat, this entity does not meet the criteria established by the Council for fee exemption as it is a national entity.

2.6

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| **Organization** | **Sector** | **Recommendation** |
| **World Federation of Engineering Organizations (WFEO)** | ITU-R  ITU-T  ITU-D | NO  YES  YES |

The World Federation of Engineering Organizations (WFEO), an international, non-governmental organization, was established to unite multidisciplinary engineering associations throughout the world. WFEO brings together national engineering institutions from some 100 nations and represents more than 30 million engineers. As an international organization with a wide membership of scientific and technical associations around the world, in the view of the secretariat, this entity meets the organizational criteria established by the Council for fee exemption, as well as reciprocity for ITU-T and ITU-D. However, it is not clear how the organization will offer value to ITU-R as a Sector Member since it does not articulate if it has expertise in radio-frequency spectrum management.

2.7

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| **Organization** | **Sector** | **Recommendation** |
| **Environmental Coalition on Standards (ECOS)** | ITU-T | YES |

Founded in 2001, the Environmental Coalition on Standards (ECOS) is an international NGO with a network of members and experts advocating for environmentally friendly technical standards, policies and laws. ECOS claims to be the only global environmental organization to specialize in standardization. It works towards a more inclusive, open and transparent standardization system internationally and at European and national levels, and at the same time ensuring the appropriate use of standards in support of environmental legislation and policy. As an international organization with NGO members, in the view of the secretariat, this entity meets the criteria established by the Council for fee exemption.

2.8

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| **Organization** | **Sector** | **Recommendation** |
| **MTU XRP Ledger Trust** | ITU-T  ITU-D | NO  NO |

The MTU XRP Ledger Trust is an independent non-profit entity which works to support development and use of the XRP Ledger. Its aim is to create a digital asset that is sustainable and built specifically for payments. As this organization does not have members, the secretariat is of the view that this entity does not meet the criteria established by the Council for fee exemption.

2.9

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| **Organization** | **Sector** | **Recommendation** |
| **Global Impact (Global Digital Inclusion Partnership)** | ITU-D | YES |

Headquartered in the United States, Global Impact was founded in 1956 when four international charities joined together to form a federation. By the 1980s, the number of member charities had grown to approximately 50. Global Impact launched the Global Digital Inclusion Partnership (GDIP), a coalition of public, private and civil society organizations working to bring internet connectivity to the global majority and ensure everyone is meaningfully connected by 2030. GDIP advances digital opportunities to empower and support people’s lives, leading to inclusive digital societies. In the view of the secretariat, this entity meets the criteria established by the Council for fee exemption.

2.10

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| **Organization** | **Sector** | **Recommendation** |
| **Arab League Educational, Cultural and Scientific Organization (ALECSO)** | ITU-T  ITU-D | YES  YES |

The Arab League Educational, Cultural and Scientific Organization (ALECSO) is a Tunis-based institution of the Arab League, established in 1970 and with 22 Member States. ALECSO works to coordinate cultural and educational activities in the Arab world. Among its various activities, subsidiary ALECSO institutions have been established across the Arab world. As an international organization with Member States, the secretariat is of the view that this entity meets the criteria established by the Council for fee exemption.

2.11

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| **Organization** | **Sector** | **Recommendation** |
| **Open & Agile Smart Cities (OASC)** | ITU-T | YES |

Open & Agile Smart Cities (OASC) is a non-profit association and a global network of cities and communities whose common purpose is to improve the quality of life of their citizens through innovation and technology. The mission of OASC is to unite cities and communities around the world to build a global market for smart city data and services from the demand side, based on the needs of cities and communities. As an international non-profit association with local government members, in the view of the secretariat, this entity meets the criteria established by the Council for fee exemption.

\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_