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|  | **Document CWG-FHR-16/12-E** |
| **11 September 2023** |
| **English only** |
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| Contribution by the secretariat | |
| REVIEW OF THE LIST OF EXEMPTED ENTITIES | |
| **Purpose**  At its 24 September 2022 session, Council examined document [C23/100](https://www.itu.int/md/S22-CL-C-0100/en) which summarizes the secretariat’s review of the list of organizations of an international character that benefit from fee exemption. Council decided to refer document C23/100 to the CWG-FHR.  Taking into account the concerns expressed by some delegations during the 24 September session of Council, and the relative costs and benefits concerned, the Secretary-General recommends that Council *continue the current practice of maintaining fee exemption for* *entities which were approved prior to the revised criteria of 2017 (provided they offer reciprocity) and continue to apply the revised criteria to new requests for exemption*.  **Action required**  The Council Working Group on Finance and Human Resources is invited to consider the recommendation of the Secretary-General for its report to Council.  **Financial implications**  If Council were to continue the current practice of maintaining fee exemption for those approved before 2017, as recommended by the Secretary General, there would be no direct financial implications. Alternatively, if Council were to *not* extend exemption status of business associations approved prior to the 2017 criteria, the estimated revenue potential could be up to CHF 300,000 a year. That said, it is not clear how many of the currently active business associations would be willing to pay for their membership, and among those who choose to continue on a fee-paying basis, some could decide to reduce the number of memberships they hold, so it is difficult to calculate this revenue potential with any certainty.  **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/exemption-criteria/)*,* [*C22/100*](https://www.itu.int/md/S23-CL-C-0100/en) | |

**Background**

* 1. There are currently 138 entities of an international character that benefit from ITU membership exempt from fees, including six entities which were recently granted fee exemption by Council at its July 2023 session.
  2. Council 2017 revised the criteria for fee exemption, including a new provision that the entity’s members must be not-for-profit (thus disqualifying “business associations), that they have proven legal status, and that they have significant presence and activities in multiple member states. At its 2019 session, the Council decided to apply the revised criteria to new applications while maintaining the existing list for another four years. The criteria are summarised in Annex 1.
  3. At its 24 September 2022 session, Council examined document C23/100, which reported on the secretariat’s review of the entire list of organizations of an international character granted exemption from membership fees by Council.  Of the 132 entities on the list as of the 24 September 2022 session of Council, 84 are deemed to meet the criteria and submitted the required information. The list of these organizations is available in Annex 2. In addition, 19 organizations requested the extension of their exemption status and provided the required information; however, they are not considered to meet one or more criteria. This list is available in Annex 3. Lastly, 29 organizations did not submit a formal request for an extension of their exemption status. This list is available in Annex 4.
  4. Following the presentation of the document C23/100 at the 24 September 2022 session of Council, some delegations raised concerns about the possibility of removing exemption from some current members given their contributions to the Union, including active participation, and their role in providing regional representation and balance. After interventions from delegations, Council decided to refer this document to the CWG-FHR.

**Recommendation**

Taking into account the views expressed during Council at its 24 September 2022 session, and the relative costs and benefits concerned, the Secretary-General recommends that Council *continue the current practice of maintaining fee exemption for* *entities which were approved prior to the revised criteria of 2017 (provided they offer reciprocity) and continue to apply the revised criteria to new requests for exemption*.

**Annex 1. Revised criteria approved by Council-17**

Organisations requesting fee exemption shall meet all the following criteria:

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| **Criteria 1** | Be an organisation of international character dealing with telecommunications; |
| **Criteria 2** | Be a legally recognised non-profit organisation, representing members which also have non-profit status; |
| **Criteria 3** | Have a significant membership, presence, and activities in multiple Member States whose participation in ITU activities would be beneficial to the aims of the Union; |
| **Criteria 4** | Allow ITU to be represented at, and participate in, the organisation’s meetings free of charge and with the rights and benefits available to their members; |
| **Criteria 5** | Allow ITU access to relevant documentation, including information available only to their members |

**Annex 2. Organisations considered as meeting Council’s criteria**

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| **N.** | **Entity Name** | **Main Category** | **Sectors** |
| 1 | African Civil Society for the Information Society (ACSIS) | REGINTORG | D |
| 2 | African Network Information Centre Ltd. (AFRNIC) | REGINTORG | D |
| 3 | African Organization for Standardisation | REGINTORG | T |
| 4 | African Telecommunications Union | REGORG | RTD |
| 5 | African Union | REGINTORG | RTD |
| 6 | American Registry for Internet Numbers (ARIN) | REGINTORG | TD |
| 7 | Arab Information and Communication Technology Organization (AICTO) | REGINTORG | RTD |
| 8 | Arab Regulators Network | REGINTORG | RTD |
| 9 | Arab States Research and Education Network - ASREN | REGINTORG | Academia |
| 10 | ASECNA | REGINTORG | R |
| 11 | Asia Pacific Network Information Centre (APNIC) | REGINTORG | T |
| 12 | Asia-Pacific Broadcasting Union | REGINTORG | RTD |
| 13 | Asia-Pacific Institute for Broadcasting Development | REGINTORG | D |
| 14 | Asia-Pacific Telecommunity | REGORG | RTD |
| 15 | Asociación de Reguladores Administrador del Foro Latinoamericano de Entes Reguladores de Telecomunicaciones | REGINTORG | RTD |
| 16 | Associação de Reguladores de Comunicações e Telecomunicações da Comunidade dos Países de Língua Portuguesa (ARCTEL-CPLP) | REGINTORG | D |
| 17 | Association for Progressive Communications | REGINTORG | RD |
| 18 | Caribbean Association of National Telecommunication Organizations (CANTO) | REGORG | D |
| 19 | Caribbean Broadcasting Union | REGINTORG | RD |
| 20 | Caribbean Telecommunications Union | REGORG | RTD |
| 21 | Child Helpline International | REGINTORG | TD |
| 22 | Committee on Radio Astronomy Frequencies | REGINTORG | R |
| 23 | Committee on Space Research (COSPAR) | REGINTORG | R |
| 24 | Common Market for Eastern and Southern Africa | REGINTORG | RTD |
| 25 | Commonwealth Telecommunications Organisation | REGINTORG | RTD |
| 26 | Consumers International | REGINTORG | TD |
| 27 | Cooperation Council for the Arab States of the Gulf | REGINTORG | RTD |
| 28 | Digital Cooperation Organization | REGINTORG | D |
| 29 | Digital Radio Mondiale | REGINTORG | RD |
| 30 | East African Community | REGINTORG | D |
| 31 | Ecole Supérieure Multinationale des Télécommunications | REGINTORG | RTD |
| 32 | Economic Community for West African States | REGINTORG | RTD |
| 33 | ECPAT International | REGINTORG | D |
| 34 | European Broadcasting Union | REGINTORG | RTD |
| 35 | European Communications Office | REGINTORG | RTD |
| 36 | European Conference of Postal and Telecommunications Administrations | REGORG | RTD |
| 37 | European Radio Amateurs' Organization | REGINTORG | R |
| 38 | European Telecommunications Satellite Organisation | SATORG | RTD |
| 39 | European Telecommunications Standards Institute | REGINTORG | RTD |
| 40 | Forum of Incident Response and Security Teams (FIRST) | REGINTORG | TD |
| 41 | G3ict - Global Initiative for Inclusive ICTs | REGINTORG | RTD |
| 42 | GCC Standardization Organization (GSO) | REGINTORG | T |
| 43 | HFCC-International Broadcasting Delivery | REGINTORG | R |
| 44 | IJMA3-The Arab ICT Organization | REGINTORG | TD |
| 45 | Institute of Electrical and Electronics Engineers, Inc. (IEEE) | REGINTORG | RTD |
| 46 | Inter-American Telecommunication Commission (CITEL) | REGORG | RTD |
| 47 | International Amateur Radio Union | REGINTORG | RD |
| 48 | International Association of Broadcasting | REGINTORG | R |
| 49 | International Assoc of Marine Aids to Navigation and Lighthouse Authorities | REGINTORG | R |
| 50 | International Astronautical Federation IAF Secretariat | REGINTORG | R |
| 51 | International Astronomical Union | REGINTORG | R |
| 52 | International Bureau of Weights and Measures | REGINTORG | R |
| 53 | International Center for Promotion of Enterprises | REGINTORG | D |
| 54 | International Committee of the Red Cross | REGINTORG | RTD |
| 55 | International Council for Science | REGINTORG | R |
| 56 | International Electrotechnical Commission | REGINTORG | RTD |
| 57 | International Federation for Information Processing (IFIP) | REGINTORG | TD |
| 58 | International Mobile Satellite Organization (IMSO) | REGINTORG | RTD |
| 59 | International Organization for Standardization | REGINTORG | RTD |
| 60 | International Satellite System for Search and Rescue | SATORG | R |
| 61 | International Telecommunication Academy | REGINTORG | TD |
| 62 | International Telecommunications Satellite Organization | REGINTORG | RTD |
| 63 | International Union of Radio Science | REGINTORG | RTD |
| 64 | Internet Corporation for Assigned Names and Numbers (ICANN) | REGINTORG | D |
| 65 | Internet Society | REGINTORG | TD |
| 66 | League of Arab States | REGORG | RTD |
| 67 | NetHope Inc | REGINTORG | D |
| 68 | Open Geospatial Consortium | REGINTORG | RTD |
| 69 | Organisation Internationale de la Francophonie | REGINTORG | RTD |
| 70 | Pacific Islands Telecommunications Association | REGINTORG | RTD |
| 71 | Personal Connected Health Alliance | REGINTORG | RTD |
| 72 | Regional African Satellite Communications Organization | SATORG | RD |
| 73 | Regional Commonwealth in the Field of Communications | REGORG | RTD |
| 74 | Registro de Direcciones de Internet para América Latina y Caribe - LACNIC | REGINTORG | TD |
| 75 | Society of Motion Picture and Television Engineers | REGINTORG | R |
| 76 | Southern Africa Telecentre Networks | REGINTORG | RTD |
| 77 | Southern African Development Community | REGINTORG | RTD |
| 78 | Telecommunications Regional Technical Commission | REGORG | RTD |
| 79 | The Asia-Pacific Satellite Communications Council | REGINTORG | R |
| 80 | Union Economique et Monétaire Ouest Africaine | REGINTORG | TD |
| 81 | West Africa Telecommunications Regulators Assembly | REGINTORG | RTD |
| 82 | Wireless World Research Forum | REGINTORG | RTD |
| 83 | World Broadcasting Unions - Technical Committee | REGINTORG | R |
| 84 | WorldDAB Forum | REGINTORG | R |

**Annex 3: Organisations that requested the extension and provided the required information, but are not considered to meet one or more criteria**

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| **N.** | **Entity Name** | **Main**  **Category** | **Sectors** | **Criteria not met** | **Additional Comments** |
| 1 | Asociación Interamericana de Empresas de Telecomunicaciones | REGINTORG | RTD | 2 | Business Association |
| 2 | Associação Empresarial de Comunicações de Portugal | REGINTORG | D | 2 | Business Association |
| 3 | Associação Internacional das Comunicações de Expressão Portuguesa | REGINTORG | TD | 2,3 | Business Association |
| 4 | Broadcast Networks Europe | REGINTORG | R | 2 | Business Association |
| 5 | Consortium d'Appui aux Actions pour la Promotion et le Développement de l'Afrique (CAPDA) | REGINTORG | D | 2,3 | Not a member organization |
| 6 | Digital Opportunity Trust | REGINTORG | D | 2,3 | Not a member organization |
| 7 | European Competitive Telecommunications Association | REGINTORG | RTD | 2 | Business Association |
| 8 | European Telecommunications Network Operators' Association | REGINTORG | RTD | 2 | Business Association |
| 9 | Fiber Connect Council MENA Region | REGINTORG | D | 2 | Business Association |
| 10 | Global VSAT Forum Limited (No longer a separate entity, merged with GSOA) | REGINTORG | D | 2 | Business Association |
| 11 | International Maritime Radio Association | REGINTORG | RT | 2 | Business Association |
| 12 | Internet Systems Consortium | REGINTORG | TD | 2,3 | Not a member organization |
| 13 | ITU-APT Foundation of India | REGINTORG | RTD | 1,3 | National body, insufficient international membership |
| 14 | Mandat International | REGINTORG | T | 2,3 | Not a member organization |
| 15 | North American Broadcasters Association (NABA) | REGINTORG | R | 2 | Business Association |
| 16 | Scientific Committee on Frequency Allocations for Radio Astronomy and Space Science (IUCAF) | REGINTORG | R | 2 | Not a legal entity. Affiliated body of ISC |
| 17 | Sintesio Foundation | REGINTORG | D | 3 | Insufficient international membership |
| 18 | Techfugees Foundation | REGINTORG | D | 2,3 | Not a member organization |
| 19 | World Wide Web Foundation | REGINTORG | D | 2,3 | Not a member organization |

**Annex 4: Organisations that did not submit a formal request for an extension of their exemption status**

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| **N.** | **Entity Name** | **Main Category** | **Sectors** |
| 1 | African ICT Consumers Network (AICN) | REGINTORG | TD |
| 2 | African Union of Broadcasting | REGINTORG | RTD |
| 3 | Arab Business Forum for Information and Communication Technology | REGINTORG | D |
| 4 | Arab Private Broadcasting Union | REGINTORG | RTD |
| 5 | Arab States Broadcasting Union | REGINTORG | RD |
| 6 | Association of Andean Community Telecommunications Enterprises | REGINTORG | RTD |
| 7 | Centre for Environment and Development for the Arab Region and Europe | REGINTORG | TD |
| 8 | Commonwealth ITU Group | REGINTORG | RTD |
| 9 | Communauté économique des Etats de l'Afrique centrale | REGINTORG | RTD |
| 10 | Diaspora africaine pour la société de l'information | REGINTORG | D |
| 11 | Dominic Foundation | REGINTORG | TD |
| 12 | East African Communications Organization | REGINTORG | RTD |
| 13 | EIDQ Association -The Association for the Directory Information and Related Search Industry | REGINTORG | T |
| 14 | FTTH Council Asia-Pacific | REGINTORG | D |
| 15 | Global ICT Standardization Forum for India (GISFI) | REGINTORG | T |
| 16 | Global Knowledge Partnership Foundation | REGINTORG | D |
| 17 | Indigenous Peoples ICT Task Force | REGINTORG | D |
| 18 | International Air Transport Association | REGINTORG | RTD |
| 19 | International Association of IT Lawyers (IAITL) | REGINTORG | T |
| 20 | International Center for Disability Resources on the Internet (ICDRI) | REGINTORG | T |
| 21 | International Council on Large Electric Systems | REGINTORG | R |
| 22 | International Multilateral Partnership Against Cyber Threats (IMPACT) | REGINTORG | T |
| 23 | International Special Committee on Radio Interference | REGINTORG | R |
| 24 | International Telecommunications Users Group | REGINTORG | TD |
| 25 | Telecentre.org Foundation | REGINTORG | D |
| 26 | The Abdus Salam International Centre for Theoretical Physics | REGINTORG | D |
| 27 | United Kingdom Telecommunications Academy (UKTA) | REGINTORG | TD |
| 28 | WebForce International Federation | REGINTORG | D |
| 29 | World Association of Community Radio Broadcasters | REGINTORG | RD |

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