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|  | **Document C24/110-E** |
| **29 August 2024** |
| **Original: English** |
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| **SUMMARY RECORD**  **OF THE**  **INAUGURAL PLENARY MEETING** | |
| Tuesday, 4 June 2024, from 0930 to 1240 hours  **Chair**: Mr F. SAUVAGE (France) | |

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|  | **Subjects discussed** | **Documents** |
| 1 | Opening remarks by the Secretary-General | - |
| 2 | Election of the chair and vice-chair of the Council | - |
| 3 | Address by the Chair of the Council | - |
| 4 | Chair and vice-chairs of the Standing Committee on Administration and Management | - |
| 5 | Address by the Secretary-General on the state of the Union | - |
| 6 | Approval of the agenda of the 2024 session of the Council | [C24/1(Rev.2)](https://www.itu.int/md/S24-CL-C-0001/en) |
| 7 | Allocation of documents | [C24/DT/1](https://www.itu.int/md/S24-CL-240604-TD-0001/en) |
| 8 | Time-management plan | [C24/DT/2(Rev.3)](https://www.itu.int/md/S24-CL-240604-TD-0002/en) |
| 9 | Organizational matters | - |
| 10 | Report on the implementation of the strategic plan and the activities of the Union for 2023-2024 | [C24/35](https://www.itu.int/md/S24-CL-C-0035/en) |
| 11 | Operational plan for the Union for 2025-2028 | [C24/28](https://www.itu.int/md/S24-CL-C-0028/en) |
| 12 | Announcement by the councillor from Uganda concerning the Global Symposium for Regulators (GSR-24) | - |

**1 Opening remarks by the Secretary-General**

1.1 The Secretary-General welcomed all delegates and declared the 2024 session of the Council open.

**2 Election of the chair and vice-chair of the Council**

2.1 The Secretary-General proposed that Mr Frédéric Sauvage (France), who had served as vice-chair of the Council at its 2023 session and as acting chair of the Council since the retirement of Mr César Martinez (Paraguay) in December 2023, be elected chair of the Council for its 2024 session.

2.2 Mr Frédéric Sauvage (France) was **elected** chair of the Council by acclamation.

2.3 In keeping with the principles of rotation and equitable geographical distribution, the vice-chair of the Council would be from Region C. Romania had nominated Ms Cristiana Flutur.

2.4 Ms Cristiana Flutur (Romania) was **elected** vice-chair of the Council by acclamation.

**3 Address by the Chair of the Council**

3.1 The Chair expressed gratitude for the trust placed in him and delivered the address available at: <http://council.itu.int/2024/wp-content/uploads/sites/4/2024/07/C24-Statement-Chair-Council_PLinaug.docx>.

**4 Chair and vice-chairs of the Standing Committee on Administration and Management**

4.1 The Secretary-General recalled that Mr Dirk-Olivier von der Emden (Switzerland) would continue to serve as chair of the Standing Committee on Administration and Management (ADM), and Ms Aparajita Sharma (India) and Mr Vilem Vesely (Czech Republic) would continue as vice-chairs of ADM.

**5 Address by the Secretary-General on the state of the Union**

5.1 The Secretary-General delivered the address on the state of the Union available at: <https://www.itu.int/en/osg/Pages/Speeches.aspx?ItemID=51>

**6 Approval of the agenda of the 2024 session of the Council (Document**[**C24/1(Rev.2)**](https://www.itu.int/md/S24-CL-C-0001/en)**)**

6.1 The Secretary of the Plenary introduced Document C24/1(Rev.2), which was **approved**.

6.2 One councillor urged that, among the many key items on the Council’s agenda, particular importance be attached to reaching a decision on the ITU headquarters building at the current session; to reaching consensus on a specific resolution for support and assistance to Palestine in rebuilding its telecommunication sector; and to the WSIS+20 review and establishing the Global Digital Compact (GDC) in such a way as to avoid duplication and complement existing United Nations operations while ensuring ITU played an appropriate major role in implementing GDC outcomes.

**7 Allocation of documents (Document**[**C24/DT/1**](https://www.itu.int/md/S24-CL-240604-TD-0001/en)**)**

7.1 The Secretary of the Plenary introduced Document C24/DT/1, which was **approved**.

**8 Time-management plan (Document**[**C24/DT/2(Rev.3)**](https://www.itu.int/md/S24-CL-240604-TD-0002/en)**)**

8.1 The Secretary of the Plenary introduced the time-management plan for plenary meetings contained in Document C24/DT/2(Rev.3), which was **approved**.

8.2 She also drew attention to the time-management plan for the ADM committee contained in Document C24/DT/3(Rev.3). Both time-management plans would be updated as the work of the Council progressed.

**9 Organizational matters**

9.1 The Secretary of the Plenary, after confirming the customary working hours, said that interpretation and documentation would be provided in the Union's six official languages. All documents would be made available on the Council webpage and via the C24 Sync application. The proceedings would be webcast, in accordance with previous practice. Captioning in English of the plenary and standing committee discussions would be provided within the meeting room and on the web.

9.2 Remote participation was available. Remote participants would be given the floor after councillors present in the Popov room. Decisions would be taken only by councillors physically present. Observer Member States could only speak once on a given item.

9.3 Participants were reminded that there was a standard of conduct, integrity and respect for diversity and professionalism that all could reasonably expect in discussions, free of discrimination and harassment. The Code of Conduct to Prevent Harassment, including Sexual Harassment, at UN System Events was applicable to all ITU meetings.

9.4 The information on the organization of work for the 2024 session was **noted**.

**10 Report on the implementation of the strategic plan and the activities of the Union for 2023-2024 (Document**[**C24/35**](https://www.itu.int/md/S24-CL-C-0035/en)**)**

10.1 The Deputy Secretary-General introduced the report in Document C24/35, which, together with the dedicated web platform on the implementation of resolutions of the Plenipotentiary Conference and a Power BI report based on various dashboards displaying results for each of the targets in the strategic plans, constituted the annual report on the implementation of the strategic plan and activities of the Union. As it covered the period May 2023 to April 2024, the report captured the completion of the strategic plan for 2020-2023, with results on its 24 targets and five goals, while providing a baseline for the bold new direction towards the two overarching priorities of universal connectivity and sustainable digital transformation and the 12 targets set forth in the plan for 2024-2027. The intention was in future to move to a reporting period corresponding to the calendar year, to better align on the Union’s financial reporting. The wealth of data in the report testified to steady progress towards universal connectivity and sustainable digital transformation, but also persistent challenges. The report also highlighted positive trends and actions in regard to partnerships, membership and financial implementation, and captured the work accomplished by the three Sectors.

10.2 Councillors expressed appreciation for the comprehensive report, commending in particular the work accomplished and continued focus on universal connectivity and sustainable digital transformation, and highlighting the key areas where the Union’s activities had delivered progress and which must be pursued in order to address the challenges faced: connectivity, affordability, bridging the digital divide, inclusive digital development, narrowing the gender gap, youth engagement, sustainable digital practices, standards for energy-efficient equipment, e-waste management, recycling, circular economy, climate change, and use of new technologies, notably artificial intelligence (AI), within an ethical framework that mitigated risks. Some councillors pointed to national measures their countries were undertaking towards digital connectivity and sustainability.

10.3 Several councillors emphasized the major importance of multistakeholder collaboration and partnerships and welcomed the success of the P2C initiative and other creative ideas for partnership and innovation to meet the increasing needs of the membership. Two councillors reported that their administrations were striving to increase the participation of their regulators, industry and academia in ITU.

10.4 A number of councillors welcomed the outcomes of WRC-23, which were important for management and use of the spectrum and for space services in particular, benefiting connectivity and attainment of the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).

10.5 Several councillors expressed particular appreciation for the ongoing efforts to transform ITU and make it fit for purpose. The Council itself had a role to play in providing guidance and oversight for ITU to deliver on its core priorities in radiocommunications, standards and ICT development. Accelerating transformation initiatives so as to enhance ITU’s oversight mechanisms, transparency and ethics and strengthen its financial management, as well as a clear decision on the Union’s headquarters, would all contribute to equipping the Union to tackle the emerging challenges in terms of connectivity and sustainable digital transformation.

10.6 One councillor suggested that future reports should track the evolving context in which the implementation was taking place, better identify evolving strategic risks and mitigation measures, and provide more information on how the enablers were effectively contributing to implementation of the strategic plan.

10.7 Responding to a question from a councillor, the Deputy Secretary-General explained that as the report spanned the transition between two strategic plans, it was obliged to address the priorities identified in both; from next year onwards; however, the annual report would fully reflect the strategic goals and thematic priorities set out in the strategic plan for 2024-2027. He thanked councillors for their feedback and suggestions for improvement, which would be taken on board, and especially for their commitment and engagement in ITU’s work in general and its transformation in particular. The need to operate in an integrated manner with the global United Nations processes, including the future GDC, was fully understood. Referring to the persistent gaps identified, he gave councillors an insight into some of the work planned for the coming period, citing relevant examples.

10.8 Document C24/35 was **approved**.

**11 Operational plan for the Union for 2025-2028 (Document** [**C24/28**](https://www.itu.int/md/S24-CL-C-0028/en)**)**

11.1 The Chief of the Financial Resources Management Department (FRMD) introduced Document C23/28, which contained the draft four-year rolling operational plan for the Union for 2025-2028 and, in annex, a draft resolution on the approval thereof. The draft plan followed the structure of the strategic and financial plans for 2024-2027 approved by PP-22, and provided the following information on the five thematic priorities and the 43 outputs: description of the thematic priority; summary of cost allocation for 2025; key outline of outcomes and outcome indicators; key risk factors; and contribution of outputs to 2025 costs for each thematic priority. The operational plans for ITU-R and ITU-D had been presented at the Radiocommunication Advisory Group and Telecommunication Development Advisory Group meetings, respectively. The operational plan for ITU-T would be presented to the Telecommunication Standardization Advisory Group meeting at the end of July.

11.2 Several councillors expressed appreciation for the plan presented. Two councillors stressed that the information on allocation of costs to the SDGs was useful, recognizing the major role ITU played in the global development arena.

11.3 Replying to questions from councillors, the Chief of FRMD said that proposals for use of the CHF 1.4 million budget surplus from savings made on budget implementation in 2023 through efficiency measures would be dealt with in the discussion on Document [C24/19](https://www.itu.int/md/S24-CL-C-0019/en). The CHF 24 million deficit referred to elsewhere was simply an accounting deficit that included amortization of expenses, due to new reporting requirements under the IPSAS accounting standards. The cost structure in § 3.2 of the document was in line with the cost-allocation methodology in Council Decision 535 (C04, amended C14), whereby staff costs were allocated to priorities and outputs on the basis of time surveys. The costs of centralized General Secretariat support and administrative services for the Sectors were reallocated to the Sector outputs; that explained the preponderant contribution of General Secretariat costs to the thematic priorities. Detailed operational plans for the Sectors were considered by the respective advisory groups, and the four-year rolling operational plan took account of the outcomes of conferences and assemblies. The ITU Convention prescribed that the four-year rolling operational plan should cover the following year and the three remaining years. Thus, the operational plan in Document C24/28 provided the financial figures for 2025 and only information on outcomes and indicators for the following three years.

11.4 The Council **approved** the four-year rolling operational plan for the Union for 2025-‑2028 and **adopted** the resolution contained in Annex A to Document C24/28.

11.5 The Deputy Secretary-General assured councillors that the secretariat would take on board their comments and those of the advisory groups. It intended to seize the opportunity provided by the new strategic plan and the transformation process, including results-based management, in order to improve and enhance the operational plans, making the planning framework more focused on results and impact and turning it into a better tool for prioritization and optimization of resources.

**12** **Announcement by the councillor from Uganda concerning the Global Symposium for Regulators (GSR-24)**

12.1 The councillor from Uganda, on behalf of the Government of Uganda and the Uganda Communications Commission (UCC), urged ITU members to attend the upcoming Global Symposium for Regulators (GSR-24), which Uganda was proud to be hosting in Kampala on 1‑4 July 2024, with the theme of “Regulation for impact”. Full details of the event, which would also mark the 25th anniversary of UCC, could be found on the host’s website at: <https://ugandagsr2024.go.ug/>.

The Secretary-General: The Chair:  
D. BOGDAN-MARTIN F. SAUVAGE

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