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|  | **Document CWG-SFP-1/9-E** |
| **29 October 2024** |
| **English only** |
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| Chair of the Council Working Group for strategic and financial plans |
| FINAL REPORT OF THE 1ST MEETING OF THE COUNCIL WORKING GROUP FOR STRATEGIC AND FINANCIAL PLANS 2028-2031 |
| PurposeThis report highlights the main outcomes of the Council Working Group for strategic and financial plans 2028-2031 (CWG-SFP) meeting held on 10-11 October 2024 in line with [Council Resolution 1428](https://www.itu.int/md/S24-CL-C-0139/en).Action requiredThe Council Working Group for strategic and financial plans 2028-2031 is invited to **consider** and **approve** the report.\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_References[*CWG-SFP website*](https://www.itu.int/en/council/CWG-SFP-2028-2031/Pages/default.aspx)*;* [*Resolution 1428 (C24)*](https://www.itu.int/md/S24-CL-C-0139/en) |

# 1 Introduction

The first meeting of the Council Working Group for strategic and financial plans 2028-2031 (CWG-SFP) took place on 10-11 October 2024.

The meeting was chaired by Mr Mansour Alqurashi (Saudi Arabia). Vice-Chairs, Mr Mulembwa Denis Munaku (Tanzania); Mr Kenji Kuramochi (Paraguay); Ms Maitha Al Jamri (United Arab Emirates); Mr Yi Lun (China); Mr Bakhtjan Smanov (Uzbekistan), and Mr Rafał Bartoszewski (Poland).

# 2 Opening remarks and adoption of the agenda

The Chair welcomed participants and emphasized the significance of this working group in preparing the new draft strategic and financial plans for the 2028-2031 period. The ITU Secretary-General, Ms Doreen Bogdan-Martin also delivered opening remarks.

The agenda [CWG-SFP-1/1(Rev.2)](https://www.itu.int/md/S24-CWGSFP1-C-0001/en) reflecting the distribution of the documents was adopted.

# 3 Overview of Council Resolution 1428 (C24)

The Secretariat presented document [CWG-SFP-1/INF/1](https://www.itu.int/md/S24-CWGSFP1-INF-0001/en) containing the CWG-SFP’s mandate, which includes drafting the new strategic and financial plans 2028-2031, as well as other key tasks listed below:

– considering the report on the implementation of OneITU;

– developing draft strategic and financial plans for the 2026 Council session;

– recommending a preliminary amount for the contributory unit for the 2025 Council session;

– continuing the mapping exercise of resolutions and decisions to align with Plenipotentiary Conference outcomes; and

– coordinating with other Council working groups and advisory groups.

# 4 Presentation on the proposed process for the elaboration of the ITU strategic and financial plans for 2028-2031

The Secretariat detailed the formal process for developing the new draft plans, presenting a timeline with themes, activities, and deliverables for the working group’s consideration. The presentation can be found [here](https://www.itu.int/en/council/CWG-SFP-2028-2031/Documents/2024/CWG-SFP-Oct24-Presentation-Process-Background-R1.pptx).

Contributions received from China ([CWG-SFP-1/6](https://www.itu.int/md/S24-CWGSFP1-C-0006/en)), the United Arab Emirates ([CWG-SFP-1/8](https://www.itu.int/md/S24-CWGSFP1-C-0008/en)), and TSAG ([CWG-SFP-1/7](https://www.itu.int/md/S24-CWGSFP1-C-0007/en)) were presented. The Chair proposed considering the UAE and TSAG’s suggestions when initiating the drafting of the new plans, and revisiting China’s input later as related with other agenda items. The group agreed to proceed with the proposed process.

# 5 Consultations

The Secretariat introduced a proposal to carry out a first online consultation ([CWG‑SFP‑1/2(Rev.2)](https://www.itu.int/md/S24-CWGSFP1-C-0002/en)) with the objective to gather input for the strategic and financial plans from different stakeholders, including the Sectors’ advisory groups, youth board members, and ITU staff members. The questions were adapted from previous surveys to align with the current strategic framework.

Following discussions, the group agreed to reduce the number of questions and to make open-ended questions optional. The consultation period was agreed to be extended to 2 December 2024, with results to be presented to the CWG-SFP meeting in February 2025.

The Secretariat presented a draft liaison statement inviting active participation from other Council working groups. It was suggested to include the CWG-SFP’s timeline as an annex to clarify contribution deadlines. The group agreed to extend the recipients to include CWG FHR, CWG-WSIS&SDGs, RAG, TSAG, and TDAG. The group instructed to Secretariat to distribute the liaison statement, as agreed on Document [CWG-SFP-1/3(Rev.1)](https://www.itu.int/md/S24-CWGSFP1-C-0003/en), right after the meeting.

# 6 Strategic planning workshop: subject and proposed timeline

A proposal for a strategic planning workshop was presented by the Secretariat, aimed at involving stakeholders in an open discussion to help shape the draft plans. After addressing concerns about costs and outcomes, the group decided to hold a 3-hour workshop during the CWG meeting in February 2025.

The CWG-SFP instructed the Secretariat to work together with the group’s Management Team on the workshop’s programme.

# 7 Mapping of ITU Resolutions and Decisions

The Secretariat presented on how to harmonize outcomes of the Plenipotentiary Conferences. It was proposed to use AI tools to map the resolutions, focusing on operational parts. The group agreed to review this mapping process in the next meeting. The presentation can be found [here](http://council.itu.int/2024/wp-content/uploads/sites/4/2024/09/CWG-SFP-Oct24-Presentation-Res.pptx).

# 8 Assessment of the preliminary amount of the contributory unit

The Secretariat presented Document [CWG-SFP-1/5](https://www.itu.int/md/S24-CWGSFP1-C-0005/en) highlighting financial pressures, including inflation, post Conferences/Assemblies resolutions and decisions, and long-term obligations for the Union, and recommended an increase in the contributory unit.

There was a general agreement on the need for further discussions. Virtual sessions were proposed to be organized ahead of the next CWG meeting to examine this in detail, considering other options such as presenting examples from other UN agencies.

# 9 Development of the new strategic framework

Representatives from UNESCO and UNIDO were invited to share their experiences in strategic planning, focusing on improving Results-Based Management (RBM) processes. Their approach links goals, outputs, and outcomes through a structured framework, promoting intersectoral collaboration and result measurement to inform budget decisions. The presentation can be found [here](https://www.itu.int/md/S24-CWGSFP1-INF-0003/en).

Their lessons were well-received, and the Chair proposed involving experts from sister organizations in the design of the workshop to be organized in February 2025.

# 10 Date of the Next Meeting

The next meeting, along with the strategic planning workshop, will be held during the CWG cluster in the week of 17-21 February 2025.

# 11 Any other business

No additional business was raised, and the meeting was adjourned.

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