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| **Agenda item: PL 3** | **Document C25/2-E** |
| **16 May 2025** |
| **Original: English** |
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| Report by the Secretary-General | |
| PROPOSED DATES AND DURATION OF THE 2026, 2027 AND 2028 SESSIONS OF THE COUNCIL ALONG WITH THE PROPOSED DATES OF CLUSTERS OF COUNCIL WORKING GROUPS AND EXPERT GROUPS FOR THE SAME PERIOD | |
| **Purpose**  Resolution 77 (Rev. Bucharest, 2022) of the Plenipotentiary Conference instructs the ITU Council, at each ordinary session, to schedule its next three ordinary sessions in June-July and to review the Council’s schedule on a rolling basis.  **Action required by the Council**  The Council is invited to **confirm** the dates for its 2026, 2027, and 2028 sessions together with the dates of the clusters of Council Working Groups and Expert Groups (CWGs & EGs) for the same period, and to **adopt** the draft Decision contained in Annex to this document.  **Relevant link(s) with the Strategic Plan**  Convening platform.  **Financial implications**  The costs for holding Council sessions and clusters of CWGs & EGs in ITU in 2026 and 2027 are covered by the biannual budgets.  In 2028, ITU headquarters meeting rooms and the CICG will not be available.  An alternative option is to hold events at Palexpo, with the following estimated costs negotiated with 40 per cent discount (for rental fees only – *technical needs and security needs will result in additional fees*):  – 10 days for the first cluster of CWGs and EGs (9 days + 1 day for room preparation), estimated costs **CHF 48 000**;  – 10 days for the Council 2028 (9 days + 1 day for room preparation), estimated costs **CHF 95 400**;  – 10 days for the second cluster of CWGs and EGs (9 days + 1 day for room preparation), estimated costs **CHF 48 000**.  Total estimated costs at negotiated rates for the renting of space for all 3 events: **CHF 191 400**.  \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_  **References**  [*Rule 1, Council Rules of Procedure*](http://www.itu.int/council/pd/rop-e.pdf)*; Resolution 77 (Rev. Bucharest, 2022),* [*Resolution 111 (Rev. Busan, 2014)*](https://www.itu.int/en/council/Documents/basic-texts/RES-111-E.pdf) *of the Plenipotentiary Conference; Council* [*Decision 642*](https://www.itu.int/md/S24-CL-C-0143/en) *(C24)* | |

Introduction

1 The ITU Council at its 2024 session (11-21 June 2024) adopted [Decision 642](https://www.itu.int/md/S24-CL-C-0143/en)regarding the dates and duration of the 2025, 2026, and 2027 sessions of the Council, along with the clusters of Council Working Groups and Expert Groups (CWGs and EGs) for the same period.

2 Council-25 is requested to reconfirm the dates for 2026 and 2027, and to consider and approve the dates proposed for the Council and its working groups in 2028.

3 Scheduling for 2028 presents several challenges:

– ITU Headquarters meeting rooms may be unavailable in 2028, due to the dismantling of the Varembé building (see Council [Decision 640](https://www.itu.int/md/S24-CL-C-0132/en) (C24) on alternative reassessed project for ITU’s headquarters premise; Document [CWG-FHR-20/8](https://www.itu.int/md/S25-CWGFHR20-C-0008/en) on initial draft of the campus strategic plan; and the timeline for the ITU Headquarters project presented under Annex G of Council Document [C24/7](https://www.itu.int/md/S24-CL-C-0007/en)).

– The International Conference Center Geneva (CICG) will be unavailable in 2028.

– The conference center Palexpo (in Geneva) is currently the proposed location for holding Council-28 and both clusters of CWGs and EGs; the conference center will not open on the weekend before the events, and consequently, the clusters of CWGs and EGs would have to start on Tuesday, so to allow the preparation of the rooms on the Monday prior to the beginning of the meetings.

– To avoid conflict with two major religious events, the first cluster of CWGs and EGs is to be held either very early in the year or later in March.

4 Therefore, the proposed dates for the CWGs and EGs as well as the Council session in 2028 are as follows:

– First cluster of CWGs and EGs (9 days): **from** **Tuesday,** **11 January to Friday, 21 January 2028**

– 2028 session of the ITU Council (9 days): **from** **Tuesday, 13 June to Friday, 23 June 2028**

– Second cluster of CWGs and EGs (9 days): **from Tuesday, 12 September to Friday, 22 September 2028**

5 The Council is invited to **adopt** the draft new Decision in the Annex, agreeing on the dates of the Council sessions and the clusters of CWGs and EGs.

***Annex:*** *1*

Annex

DRAFT NEW DECISION [...]

Dates and duration of the 2026, 2027, and 2028 sessions of the Council,   
along with the clusters of Council Working Groups and Expert Groups   
for the same period

The ITU Council,

bearing in mind

*a)* Resolution 77 (Rev. Bucharest, 2022) of the Plenipotentiary Conference, which instructs the Council“at each ordinary session, to schedule its next three ordinary sessions in June-July and to review the Council’s schedule on a rolling basis”;

*b)* Resolution 111 (Rev. Busan, 2014) of the Plenipotentiary Conference, which resolves “that the Union and the Member States of the Council should make every effort, as far as practicable, in order that the planned period of any Council session not be scheduled during a period which is considered a major religious period by a Member State of the Council”,

emphasizing

*a)* the need to schedule ordinary sessions of the Council as much as possible around the same time-frame each year in order to facilitate the arrangement of other ITU events;

*b)* that scheduling the clusters of Council Working Groups and Expert Groups (CWGs & EGs), over the next three years, would not only improve the overall planning of ITU events, but also reduce the risk of overlapping,

recalling

Council Decision 642 (C24) confirming the dates and duration for the 2025, 2026, and 2027 sessions of the Council, along with the cluster of Council Working Groups and Expert Groups for the same period,

*considering*

*a)* Decision 640 (C24) on alternative reassessed project for ITU’s headquarters premise, and the need for finding meeting rooms outside ITU headquarters during the year 2028;

*b)* that the International Conference Center Geneva (CICG) will not be available most of the year 2028,

*mindful*

of Decision 11 (Rev. Bucharest, 2022) of the Plenipotentiary Conference on the creation and management of Council Working Groups, referring to Annex 2 to Decision 5 (Rev. Bucharest, 2022) of the Conference on options for reducing expenses,

*decides*

1 that the 2026 ordinary session of the Council will open in Geneva for a period of nine working days, and will hold its cluster of CWGs & EGs as follows:

– Sole cluster: from Monday, 12 January to Friday, 23 January 2026;

– **Council-26: from Tuesday, 28 April to Friday, 8 May 2026**, and shall have its final meeting on Saturday, **7 November 2026**, prior to the start of the 2026 Plenipotentiary Conference;

2 that the 2027 session of the Council will open in Geneva for a period of nine working days, and will hold its clusters of CWGs & EGs as follows:

– First cluster: from Monday, 18 January to Friday, 29 January 2027;

– **Council-27: from Tuesday, 8 June to Friday, 18 June 2027**;

– Second cluster: from Monday, 30 August to Friday, 10 September 2027;

3 that the 2028 session of the Council will open in Geneva for a period of nine working days, and will hold its clusters of CWGs & EGs as follows:

– First cluster (9 days): from Tuesday,[[1]](#footnote-2) 11 January to Friday, 21 January 2028;

– **Council-28: from Tuesday, 13 June to Friday, 23 June 2028**;

– Second cluster (9 days): from Tuesday,1 12 September to Friday, 22 September 2028.

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1. The event will start on a Tuesday if held at Palexpo, so to allow the setting of the room on the Monday prior to the first meeting. [↑](#footnote-ref-2)