|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **Agenda item: PL 3** | **Document C25/58-E** |
| **16 May 2025** |
| **Original: English** |
|  |  |
| Report by the Secretary-General | |
| REPORT ON THE PROPOSED VENUES FOR RA-27, WRC-27 AND CPM31-1 | |
| **Purpose**  ITU Council-24 noted the expression of interest by the Administrations of Rwanda and China to host the RA-27, WRC-27 and CPM31-1. The Radiocommunication Bureau (BR) communicated to these Administrations the ITU requirements for hosting these events. The BR Director visited the proposed venues in Kigali (Rwanda) and Shanghai (China).  This document reports back on the assessment of the proposed venues with respect to the ITU basic requirements necessary to host WRC-27 and its associated events.  **Action required by the Council**  The Council is invited to **note** this report, **decide** on the venue and dates of the WRC-27 and associated events, and **approve** the draft decision [annexed](#Annex) to this document.  **Relevant link(s) with the Strategic Plan**  Thematic Priority of Spectrum use for space and terrestrial services; development and application of the ITU Administrative Regulations; allocation and management of resources, convening platforms.  **Financial implications**  ITU to confirm or release the CICG booking for WRC-27 and its associated event 18 months before the starting date of the events. If the booking is not released before the deadline and the CICG is ultimately not used, ITU will incur increasing penalties (depending on the actual date of cancellation) up to a maximum of CHF 1 789 650 corresponding to the total cost of rental.  \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_  **References**  [*Nos. 42, 47, 75 of the Convention*](https://www.itu.int/en/council/Documents/basic-texts/Convention-E.pdf)*;* [*Resolution 813 (WRC-23)*](https://www.itu.int/dms_pub/itu-r/opb/act/r-act-wrc.16-2024-pdf-e.pdf)*; Circular letter* [*CL 24/49*](https://www.itu.int/md/S24-SG-CIR-0049/en)*; Council Document* [*C24/64*](https://www.itu.int/md/S24-CL-C-0064/en)*;* [*Council Resolution 1422 (C24*](https://www.itu.int/md/S24-CL-C-0125/en)*)* | |

# Background

The Secretary-General received formal letters of invitation from the Administrations of Rwanda (on 28 September 2022) and China (on 30 May 2024) to host the upcoming 2027 World Radiocommunication Conference (WRC-27) and its associated events (i.e. the Radiocommunication Assembly 2027 and the first session of the Conference Preparatory Meeting for WRC-31). As usual, the ITU has also made a booking at the International Conference Center Geneva (CICG) for these events, which must be confirmed or released 18 months before the starting date of the first event (i.e. the RA-27).

During the 2024 session of the Council, it was agreed that the BR Director would visit the proposed venues in Kigali and Shanghai and report back on the findings, so that the Council could decide where the WRC-27 and its associated events will take place.

This report focuses solely on the compliance of the proposed venues with the basic requirements necessary to host the WRC-27 and its associated events.

# Site visits

The BR Director visited the venues proposed by Rwanda and China during the month of February 2025. These visits were intended to discuss the basic requirements for the successful holding of the WRC-27 and its associated events. Once a host country and city would be selected by the Council, there will be a detailed Host Country Agreement with the full set of requirements for the WRC-27 and its associated events, and more comprehensive site visits will be organized, as per usual practice.

The main aspects considered during the visits included the following:

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| Conference venue | Meeting rooms flexibility and capacity, office space, private meeting facilities, exhibition space, internet traffic capacity and reliability, delegate services, local staff support |
| Accommodation | Hotels safety and capacity, proximity of hotels to the venue |
| Transportation | International flights deserving the city, local transportation between hotels and the venue with flexible timings |
| Visa issues | Authorization to delegates and staff to enter and remain in the country throughout the WRC-27 and associated events, visa support services provided by the host country |
| Internet | Provision of an open and secure Internet environment for all delegates and ITU staff both at the WRC-27 events venue and in the hotels |
| Regulatory compliance | Adherence to ITU rules for staff travel, application of the provisions of the 1947 Convention on the Privileges and Immunities of the Specialized Agencies as approved by the United Nations General Assembly |
| Local amenities and medical facilities | Dining options for the delegates, quick access to high-quality medical facilities in case of emergencies |
| Safety | Reputation of the host city regarding safety of visitors. |

# Venue proposed by Rwanda

The Kigali Convention Center (KCC), which hosted the ITU World Telecommunication Development Conference in 2022, has enough large-sized conference rooms as well as an ample terrace that could be used to install dining facilities and organize social events, but the number of medium and small-sized meeting rooms is insufficient for the numerous parallel meetings required during a WRC.

However, an additional (smaller) conference center, which will be inaugurated in 2025, is currently being built across the street from KCC and will be connected to it via a walkway. The organizing committee considers that this new facility should provide the required additional meeting rooms lacking in the KCC.

Kigali currently has a 10 000-hotel room capacity, with new hotels being built. In particular, a new hotel would be part of the new convention center across the street from the KCC.

Eight major airlines operate at Kigali Airport. The national airline (RwandAir) travels to 25 destinations and will offer a 15% discount in air tickets for delegates to the WRC-27.

Rwanda does not request visa for citizens from any country; all visas are granted on arrival.

Safety for travelers is reported to be among the best in Africa. Medical facilities will be made available for participants.

The organizing committee assured that robust Internet connectivity will be provided by adding dedicated resources to those existing in the convention center.

Rwanda is a signatory to the Convention on the Privileges and Immunities of the Specialized Agencies as approved by the United Nations General Assembly on 21 November 1947, which ensures regulatory compliance with regard to ITU rules for both staff and delegates.

# Venue proposed by China

The Shanghai Expo Center is a high-standard complex providing well-equipped facilities that largely comply with ITU requirements for organizing the WRC-27. The complex consolidates in a single venue the required large, small and medium-sized conference rooms, as well as the necessary number of meeting rooms and offices for ITU staff. It has dining facilities for 5 000 delegates and available space for social events. It is adjacent to a hotel where the hosts have planned to accommodate the ITU staff during the WRC-27 and its associated events.

Shanghai has three airports operating 1 100 daily flights, with most major airlines serving the city. The organizing committee will work with the major Chinese airlines to provide discounted air tickets for WRC-27 delegates.

Regarding accommodation, there is a very large hotel offering in the city, as it receives 300 million domestic and foreign visitors every year.

For delegates coming from countries requiring a visa to enter China, the organizing committee has committed to providing the necessary support for all participants to obtain their necessary visa, while they are working on increasing the number of countries for which visa requirements would be waived.

Shanghai is considered very safe for travelers. Medical facilities will be made available for participants both in the Expo Center and in nearby medical centers.

The organizing committee assured that open Internet connectivity will be provided throughout the venue as well as in all official hotels during the whole duration of the WRC-27 and its associated events.

The organizing committee has offered to provide complementary lunches for all participants during the whole conference, as well as all-day coffee and tea services.

China is a signatory to the Convention on the Privileges and Immunities of the Specialized Agencies as approved by the United Nations General Assembly on 21 November 1947, which ensures regulatory compliance with regard to ITU rules for both staff and delegates.

# Existing CICG booking in Geneva

As is customary, ITU booked the CICG in Geneva for the holding of the WRC-27 and its associated events in case there were no invitations from Member States to host these events. The booking is from 11 October to 12 November 2027, covering both RA-27 and WRC-27.

It is important to note that the CICG has tightened the conditions that govern such bookings, and they now charge a rental fee at a reduced rate based on a sliding scale from 20 per cent to 5 per cent of the total rental cost together with the strict requirement for ITU to confirm or release the booking 18 months before the starting date of the event.

Therefore, if the conference takes place in Geneva, the rental and technical service costs of CICG would be approximately KCHF 500. However, if the booking is not released before that deadline, a contract is signed, and the CICG is ultimately not used to host RA-27 and WRC-27, ITU will incur increasing penalties (depending on the actual date of cancellation) up to a maximum of CHF 1 789 650, corresponding to the total cost of rental.

It is important to note that the deadline for confirming or releasing the CICG booking is 11 April 2026, which is prior to the scheduled 2026 Council session.

# Conference preparation

The preparation of the WRC-27 and associated events requires a two-year preparation period to ensure all necessary requirements are in place, such as the adequate provision of premises, facilities and services, security and safety measures, local staff engagement, travel and transportation arrangements, etc.

# Conclusion

With Rwanda’s building plans and China’s current facilities, both offers comply in principle with the minimum requirements for the organization of the WRC-27 and its associated events.

Considering the complexities behind the organization of a WRC, either Administration would need at least two years to work with the ITU team to properly prepare for such an event. In addition, ITU must confirm or release the existing booking of the CICG at the beginning of April 2026 at the latest.

In view of the above, the Council is invited to make a decision on the venue and the dates of the WRC-27 and associated events at its 2025 session, as per the draft decision annexed to this document, taking into account the venues proposed and existing booking in Geneva, as well as the dates already reserved for the CICG.

***Annex:*** *1*

ANNEX

DRAFT DECISION […]

Place and dates of the World Radiocommunication Conference (WRC-27) and Radiocommunication Assembly (RA-27)

The ITU Council,

noting

that Resolution 813 of the World Radiocommunication Conference (Dubai, 2023):

*a)* resolved to recommend to the Council that a world radiocommunication conference be held in 2027 for a maximum period of four weeks;

*b)* recommended its agenda, and invited the Council to finalize the agenda and arrange for the convening of the 2027 World Radiocommunication Conference (WRC-27) and to initiate as soon as possible the necessary consultation with the Member States,

noting further

Council Resolution 1422 (C24), which received the agreement of the required majority of the Member States of ITU, established the agenda of the WRC-27,

decides

that, subject to the concurrence of the majority of the Member States of the Union, the next World Radiocommunication Conference will take place in [LOCATION] from [DATES 2027], preceded by the 2027 Radiocommunication Assembly (RA-27) from [DATES 2027],

instructs the Secretary-General

1 to carry out a consultation with all Member States on the exact dates and place of RA-27 and WRC-27;

2 to make all the necessary arrangements, in agreement with the Director of the Radiocommunication Bureau, for the convening of the Conference.

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