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|  | **Document C25/106-E** |
| **1 September 2025** |
| **Original: English** |
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| **SUMMARY RECORD****OF THE****INAUGURAL PLENARY MEETING** |
| Tuesday, 17 June 2025, from 0935 to 1245 hours**Chair**: Mr F. Sauvage (France)**Later**: Ms C. Flutur (Romania) |

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|  | **Subjects discussed** | **Documents** |
| 1 | Opening remarks by the outgoing Chair of the Council | – |
| 2 | Election of the chair and vice-chair of the Council | – |
| 3 | Addresses by the Chair and Vice-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 2025 session of the Council | [C25/1(Rev.4)](https://www.itu.int/md/S25-CL-C-0001/en) |
| 7 | Allocation of documents | [C25/DT/1](https://www.itu.int/md/S25-CL-250617-TD-0001/en) |
| 8 | Draft time-management plan | [C25/DT/2(Rev.4)](https://www.itu.int/md/S25-CL-250617-TD-0002/en) |
| 9 | Organizational matters | – |
| 10 | Preparations for the 2025 world telecommunication development conference | [C25/30](https://www.itu.int/md/S25-CL-C-0030/en) |
| 11 | Statements by councillors |  |

# 1 Opening remarks by the outgoing Chair of the Council

1.1 The outgoing Chair, Mr Frédéric Sauvage (France), declared the 2025 session of the Council open and delivered the address available at: <http://council.itu.int/2025/wp-content/uploads/sites/5/2025/07/Statement_C24-chair-170625-e.pdf>.

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

2.1 The Secretary-General proposed that Ms Cristiana Flutur (Romania), who had served as vice-chair of the Council at its 2024 session, be elected chair of the Council for its 2025 session.

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

2.3 The Secretary-General, noting that, in keeping with the principles of rotation and equitable geographical distribution, the vice-chair of the Council would be from Region D, said that Nigeria had nominated Mr Bosun Tijani.

2.4 Mr Bosun Tijani (Nigeria) was **elected** vice-chair of the Council by acclamation.

2.5 Councillors congratulated the Chair and Vice-Chair on their appointment and paid tribute to the outgoing Chair.

# 3 Addresses by the Chair and Vice-Chair of the Council

3.1 The Chair thanked the Council for entrusting her with the guidance of its deliberations and delivered the address available at: <http://council.itu.int/2025/wp-content/uploads/sites/5/2025/07/Statement_C25-chair-170625-e.pdf>.

3.2 The Vice-Chair of the Council thanked the Council for the trust placed in him and delivered the address available at: <http://council.itu.int/2025/wp-content/uploads/sites/5/2025/07/Statement_C25-Vice-Chair-170625-e.pdf>.

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

4.1 The Secretary-General recalled that the term of office of Mr Dirk-Olivier von der Emden (Switzerland) as chair of the Standing Committee on Administration and Management (ADM Committee) had ended after two years. He would be replaced by the current vice-chair, Ms Aparajita Sharrma (India).Mr Vilém Veselý (Czech Republic) would continue as one vice‑chair. Region A had proposed that Mr Augusto Esteban Giménez Candia (Paraguay) should serve as the second vice-chair.

# 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=72>.

5.2 Several councillors highlighted the key role played by ITU over 160 years in the telecommunication revolution. With emerging technologies creating both unprecedented opportunities and challenges, ITU must remain at the forefront. The councillors agreed with the Secretary-General that the priority in the coming years must be to bridge the digital divide and connect the unconnected and described efforts made by their administrations to that end.

# 6 Approval of the agenda of the 2025 session of the Council (Document [C25/1(Rev.4)](https://www.itu.int/md/S25-CL-C-0001/en))

6.1 The Secretary of the Plenary introduced Document C25/1(Rev.4).

6.2 The councillor from China noted that, in accordance with Council Decision 556 (C10, last amended C16), on the submission and publication of documentation for Council sessions and Council working group meetings, and with Rule 20, Chapter VIII of the Rules of Procedure of the Council, on deadlines for the preparation of documents, all documents should be submitted no later than 14 calendar days before the opening of a Council session to ensure timely translation and their thorough consideration during that Council session. Document [C25/101](https://www.itu.int/md/S25-CL-C-0101/en) had been submitted on the evening of 16 June and published just moments before the start of the 2025 session. Nevertheless, the document had been included in the formal agenda and in the corresponding allocation of documents and time management plan, which was clearly not in line with the rule of procedure. The secretariat should follow the Rules of Procedure by either issuing Document C25/101 as an information document or deferring its consideration to the following session of the Council. Several other councillors supported the proposal made by the councillor from China.

6.3 The councillor from the United States of America pointed out that Document C25/101 had been submitted in response to an addendum to Document [C25/58](https://www.itu.int/md/S25-CL-C-0058/en) published by the secretariat on the previous day. Document C25/101 contained useful information that would facilitate discussion of the item.

6.4 In reply to a question from a councillor, the Legal Counsel said that Decision 556 (C10, last amended C16) stipulated that Member State contributions "submitted to a Council session or a Council working group meeting should be posted on the relevant page of the website no later than seven calendar days before the beginning of the meeting". The use of the word "should" indicated that the Council had not intended to set a firm deadline for posting such submissions, consistent with its long-standing practice of accepting contributions less than seven days before the start of a Council session. When such contributions were not available in the six official languages of the Union, it was the practice of the Council to push the agenda item concerned to a later point in the session.

6.5 One councillor and two observers said that "practice" was not a legal term and expressed concern at the failure to respect the Rules of Procedure of the Council. The Council set deadlines for a reason, namely to allow Council members to come to the session well prepared to take informed decisions. The secretariat should therefore treat Document C25/101 as an information document and update the three Council documents on the draft agenda (C25/1(Rev.4)), the draft list and allocation of documents (DT/1(Rev.1)) and the draft time management plan (DT/2(Rev.4) accordingly.

6.6 In view of the remarks of the Legal Counsel, the Chair proposed that the Council adopt the agenda set out in Document C25/1(Rev.4).

6.7 It was so **decided**.

# 7 Allocation of documents (Document [C25/DT/1](https://www.itu.int/md/S25-CL-250617-TD-0001/en))

7.1 The Secretary of the Plenary introduced Document C25/DT/1, which was **approved**.

7.2 One councillor proposed that Information Document [C25/INF/1](https://www.itu.int/md/S25-CL-INF-0001/en), on follow-up of forensic audit and of internal audit recommendations, be converted to a contribution and allocated to the ADM Committee for consideration alongside the report from the Oversight Unit on the internal audit function (Document [C25/44](https://www.itu.int/md/S25-CL-C-0044/en)).

7.3 It was so **decided**.

# 8 Draft time-management plan (Document [C25/DT/2(Rev.4)](https://www.itu.int/md/S25-CL-250617-TD-0002/en))

8.1 The Secretary of the Plenary introduced the draft time-management plan for plenary meetings contained in Document C25/DT/2(Rev.4), which was **approved**.

8.2 She also drew attention to the time-management plan for the ADM Committee contained in Document [C25/DT/3(Rev.3](https://www.itu.int/md/S25-CL-250617-TD-0003/en)). 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. The proceedings would be webcast, in accordance with previous practice. All documents would be made available on the Council webpage and via the Council-25 Sync application. Captioning in English of Plenary Meeting and ADM Committee discussions would be provided within the meeting room and on the web. It was possible that artificial intelligence-based captioning and interpretation would be tested during information sessions. MyWorkspace would be piloted during Council meetings.

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.

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 United Nations system events was applicable to all ITU meetings.

9.4 With Council elections scheduled to be held in 2026, participants were reminded that a call for nominations would be sent in November 2025.

9.5 The Chair said that Observer Member States did not have the right to vote or raise points of order or motions of order and could only speak once on a given agenda item. An Observer Member State requesting to speak to introduce its written contribution would not be able to speak again on the same agenda item. Observer Sector Members did not have the right to speak or submit written contributions to the Council. The Chair also added that An Observer Member State wishing to speak will be given the floor only after the Member States of the Council have finished making their interventions. He further clarified that these conditions also apply to meetings of the Standing Committee on Finance and Management and working groups that are established.

9.6 The information on the organization of work for the 2025 session was **noted**.

# 10 Preparations for the 2025 world telecommunication development conference (Document [C25/30](https://www.itu.int/md/S25-CL-C-0030/en))

10.1 The Director of the Telecommunication Development Bureau introduced Document C25/30, which informed the Council of the status of preparations for the organization of the 2025 world telecommunication development conference (WTDC‑25), scheduled to take place in Baku, Azerbaijan, on 17‑28 November 2025.

10.2 An ITU team had conducted a site visit and had been satisfied with the facilities. Coordination between ITU and the host country was ongoing. Regional preparatory meetings had been held in all six ITU regions to identify topics of interest and engage Member States, in addition to a regional preparatory meeting that had coincided with the meeting of the Telecommunication Development Advisory Group in May 2025. Two interregional meetings on the topics that would require coordination and consensus had been scheduled for 14‑15 July and 29‑30 September 2025.

10.3 Mr Samaddin Asadov (Deputy Minister of Digital Development and Transport, Azerbaijan) said that it was a great honour and responsibility for his country to host WTDC‑25. In line with national priorities, the country was strengthening its digital infrastructure and ecosystem, and it remained committed to digital inclusion and harnessing digital technologies for sustainable development. Azerbaijan worked closely with ITU to highlight the importance of information and communication technology in tackling the global climate crisis.

10.4 WTDC‑25 would offer an opportunity to advance a shared vision of universal, meaningful and affordable connectivity for an inclusive and sustainable digital future. In collaboration with ITU, preparations for WTDC‑25 were progressing smoothly. He looked forward to welcoming participants to Baku.

10.5 A councillor from Azerbaijan said that WTDC‑25 would be hosted by the Ministry of Digital Development and Transport of Azerbaijan. All resources and services related to attending WTDC‑25 were available online through the official platform. Registration via the ITU portal, verified by the designated focal point, was mandatory for all participants. Depending on their nationality, participants would either be issued a visa on arrival in Azerbaijan or have to complete an online visa application. Hotel bookings could be made through a centralized WTDC‑25 platform; multilingual assistance to support check-in and orientation would be provided.

10.6 WTDC‑25 was being organized with sustainability in mind; single-use plastics would not be used and catering would highlight local produce. Electric buses would operate as shuttles between the international airport, official hotels and the WTDC‑25 venue. Digital transport schedules would be made available online and at information points.

10.7 He drew attention to Youth Celebration Day on 16 November, which would be focused on gender-based, geographical and generational diversity. It would involve meetings, interactive talks and innovation showcases. The official opening ceremony of WTDC‑25 would take place on 17 November. Delegations wishing to host social events must coordinate with the ITU Protocol Service.

10.8 A short video presentation was given, showcasing Azerbaijan and the city of Baku.

10.9 Councillors took the floor to thank the Government of Azerbaijan for its offer to host WTDC‑25 and its commendable preparations. It was hoped that the event would lead to tangible outcomes.

10.10 Two councillors expressed particular appreciation for Youth Celebration Day and looked forward to information about the planned activities, including direct interactions between youth participants and policy-makers. Azerbaijan was encouraged to ensure inclusive participation at WTDC‑25.

10.11 The councillor from Rwanda welcomed the emphasis in the draft Baku Declaration on the importance of partnerships and on challenges such as the affordability of devices, access to digital services, poverty alleviation through digital connectivity, access to finance, standardization gaps, the risks associated with emerging technologies and the protection of consumer rights, especially for vulnerable groups. Her country, as the host of WTDC‑22, commended ITU for its efforts to mobilize funding for the implementation of projects under the Kigali Action Plan. Despite considerable progress, connectivity challenges remained, including high costs and infrastructure. Going forward, her country requested collaboration, strategies and investment in emerging technologies, including artificial intelligence, to address persistent disparities and ensure inclusive connectivity in line with the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals.

10.12 The councillor from Tanzania expressed support for the event's proposed focus on meaningful, affordable connectivity for an inclusive and sustainable digital future, which resonated with African development needs. He encouraged continued efforts to ensure that the draft regional initiatives agreed at the Regional Preparatory Meeting for WTDC‑25 for Africa were reflected in the Baku Action Plan.

10.13 One observer, noting that policy statements had not been permitted during high-level discussions at WTDC‑22, would support the continued exclusion of policy statements from plenary, committee and relevant group meetings at WTDC‑25. Relevant optional events, aligned with the mandate of ITU, could be held outside the working hours of WTDC‑25.

10.14 The Council **noted** the report on preparations for WTDC‑25 in Document C25/30.

# 11 Statements by councillors

11.1 Mr Yuansheng Xie (Member of the Leadership, Ministry of Industry and Information Technology, China) announced that, in order to further increase its support for the work of the Union, his administration had submitted an official bid to host the 2027 world radiocommunication conference in Shanghai. As the sole bidding country to host the 2027 world radiocommunication conference, China would sincerely appreciate the strong support from Member States and was committed to delivering an outstanding conference with warm, thoughtful, high-quality and excellent services. Should that bid be approved, the administration would actively consider providing financial support to facilitate participation of delegates from least developed countries (LDCs), making the conference the most widely participated in and inclusive event in the history of ITU.

11.2 The councillor from India announced that his government would be submitting a bid to host the 2030 plenipotentiary conference.

11.3 The councillors from Saudi Arabia and India announced that their countries’ candidacy for re-election to the Council.

The Secretary-General: The Chair:

D. BOGDAN-MARTIN C. FLUTUR

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