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|  | **Document C25/113-E** |
| **21 August 2025** |
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| **SUMMARY RECORD**  **OF THE**  SEVENTH PLENARY MEETING | |
| Thursday, 26 June 2025, from 1435 to 1815 hours  **Chair**: Ms C. Flutur (Romania) | |
| |  |  |  | | --- | --- | --- | |  | **Subjects discussed** | **Documents** | | 1 | Report on the proposed venues for RA‑27, WRC‑27 and CPM31‑1 *(continued)* | [C25/58+Add.1,2](http://www.itu.int/md/S25-CL-C-0058/en), [C25/101](http://www.itu.int/md/S25-CL-C-0101/en) | | 2 | ITU activities on strengthening the role of ITU in building confidence and security in the use of ICTs | [C25/18](https://www.itu.int/md/S25-CL-C-0018/en), [C25/81](https://www.itu.int/md/S25-CL-C-0081/en) | | 3 | Meaningful youth engagement and initiatives at ITU | [C25/32](https://www.itu.int/md/S25-CL-C-0032/en) | | 4 | Report on Resolution 70 (Rev. Bucharest, 2022) of the Plenipotentiary Conference | [C25/6](https://www.itu.int/md/S25-CL-C-0006/en) | | 5 | Letter from the Administration of India concerning the 2030 plenipotentiary conference *(continued)* | [C25/19](https://www.itu.int/md/S25-CL-C-0019/en), [C25/73](https://www.itu.int/md/S25-CL-C-0073/en) | | 6 | Dates and duration of the 2026, 2027 and 2028 sessions of the Council and Council working group and expert group clusters for the same period | [C25/2](https://www.itu.int/md/S25-CL-C-0002/en) | | 7 | Schedule of future conferences, assemblies and meetings of the Union: 2025‑2028 | [C25/37](https://www.itu.int/md/S25-CL-C-0037/en) | | |

**1 Report on the proposed venues for RA‑27, WRC‑27 and CPM31‑1 *(continued)* (Documents** [**C25/58 and Addenda 1 and 2**](http://www.itu.int/md/S25-CL-C-0058/en)**,** [**C25/101**](http://www.itu.int/md/S25-CL-C-0101/en)**)**

1.1 The Chair recalled that the councillor from China, supported by the councillor from Cuba, had moved that discussions on the item be closed and that two councillors had already taken the floor against that motion. Pursuant to No. 107 of the General Rules of conferences, assemblies and meetings of the Union, that motion should now be put to the vote. In accordance with Article 19 of the Rules of Procedure of the Council, the councillor from China, supported by the councillors from Cuba and Tanzania, had requested that that vote be conducted by secret ballot. The Legal Counsel having confirmed that, if that motion was sustained, the Council would then proceed to vote on the invitation from China to host the 2027 radiocommunication assembly (RA‑27), the 2027 world radiocommunication conference (WRC‑27) and the first session of the conference preparatory meeting for WRC‑31 (CPM31‑1) in Shanghai, the councillors from China, Cuba and Indonesia requested that that vote also be conducted by secret ballot.

1.2 On behalf of the Chair, the Legal Counsel, having confirmed that there was a quorum, announced that the vote on the motion for closure of debate under No. 107 of the General Rules would be conducted by secret ballot, and declared the beginning of the vote.

1.3 The Chair announced the results of the vote:

Number of ballot papers deposited: 48

Number of Invalid ballot papers: 2

Abstentions: 6

Number of delegations present and voting: 40

Required majority: 21

In favour of the motion: 24

Against the motion: 16

1.4 The motion for closure of debate was sustained by 24 votes to 16, with 6 abstentions.

1.5 The Legal Counsel said that, as a result, the Council would proceed to a vote by secret ballot on the invitation by China to host RA-27, WRC-27 and CPM31-1 in Shanghai. If the offer by China to host WRC-27 was accepted by the Council, the next step would be to submit that decision to all Member States for concurrence, in accordance with No. 42 of the ITU Convention. Responding to a point of order, he reminded everyone present of the stipulation under No. 129 of the General Rules that secrecy of the vote be ensured, which prohibited filming of the process.

1.6 On behalf of the Chair, having confirmed that there was a quorum, the Legal Counsel declared the beginning of the vote. Responding to a point of order, he reiterated the imperative of maintaining secrecy: it was not permitted to film or photograph the vote.

1.7 The Chair announced the results of the vote:

Number of ballot papers deposited: 48

Number of invalid ballot papers: 1

Abstentions: 5

Number of delegations present and voting: 42

Required majority: 22

In favour of the motion: 25

Against the motion: 17

1.8 The motion to accept the invitation was sustained by 25 votes to 17, with 5 abstentions.

1.9 The Council therefore **decided** to accept the invitation from China to host the 2027 Radiocommunication Assembly (RA-27), the 2027 World Radiocommunication Conference (WRC-27) and the first session of the Conference Preparatory Meeting for WRC-31 (CPM31-1) in Shanghai. As a result, and subject to the concurrence of the majority of the Member States of the Union, the 2027 World Radiocommunication Conference will take place in Shanghai, China, preceded by the 2027 Radiocommunication Assembly.[[1]](#footnote-2)

1.10 The councillor from the United States delivered the following statement: <http://council.itu.int/2025/wp-content/uploads/sites/5/2025/08/Statement_United-States-26062025.pdf>.

1.11 The councillor from China expressed gratitude to the Secretary-General and the Chair of the Council for their efforts and to the Director of the Radiocommunication Bureau (BR) for his prior onsite inspection and objective comments, as well as to the majority of councillors for supporting China’s invitation to host WRC-27. It was deeply regrettable that her government's sincere invitation to host the events had encountered various obstructions. Her administration had experienced an unprecedented situation; and there had indeed been a lack of transparency in the bidding process. According to the Chinese saying, justice resided in the heart of people; she therefore believed that all Member States would have their own judgement on the matter of the WRC-27 venue. China would listen to the advice and input of all parties and would do its utmost to ensure the highest levels of services and facilities for WRC-27; it had the confidence and capability to present to all Member States a WRC that attracted broad participation and was maximally inclusive, fair, impartial and open.

1.12 The Legal Counsel, responding to a request for clarification, explained that the next required step was a consultation by correspondence of all Member States to confirm the Council's decision. The decision would be confirmed by simple majority, but at least 50 per cent participation was required; if 50 per cent participation was not achieved on the first attempt, the consultation would be relaunched. On that second attempt, the Member States not participating would not be counted. If the consultation did not result in a majority of Member States confirming the Council decision, the matter would be returned to the Council at its 2026 session for a decision on how to proceed.

1.13 The Director of BR, thanking the Council for the decision on the venue for the WRC-27 and China on their invitation to host the conference and its associated events, said that the success of WRC-27 was critical to the future of the industry and to many services and applications used on a daily basis. The Radio Regulations was a fine example of an international treaty that had stood the test of time. He urged all Member States to contribute to the success of the conference.

1.14 The Secretary-General thanked China and others who had expressed a willingness to host WRC-27 and associated events. The decision had not been an easy one to reach, which was testament to the importance of the conference. Throughout its 160-year history, ITU had brought countries together to find common ground and had always worked through differences. That had been key to the Union remaining united and consistently moving forward. The Council had decided that China would host RA-27 and WRC-27. As the Legal Counsel had confirmed, the secretariat would proceed to conduct a consultation by correspondence with all 194 Member States. She called on all colleagues to continue to work together to support a successful WRC-27.

1.15 Returning to the proposal contained in the contribution from the United States (Document C25/101), on the need for the development of a formal, collaborative and transparent bidding process for hosting future ITU conferences and for selecting among multiple bids, the Chair proposed that the Council Working Group on financial and human resources be instructed to take up that task.

1.16 It was so **agreed.**

**2 ITU activities on strengthening the role of ITU in building confidence and security in the use of ICTs (Documents**[**C25/18**](https://www.itu.int/md/S25-CL-C-0018/en)**,** [**C25/81**](https://www.itu.int/md/S25-CL-C-0081/en)**)**

2.1 A representative of the General Secretariat introduced the report in Document C25/18, which summarized ITU's activities in implementing Resolution 130 (Rev. Bucharest, 2022) of the Plenipotentiary Conference (PP), on strengthening the role of ITU in building confidence and security in the use of information and communication technologies (ICTs), and in its role as sole facilitator for World Summit on the Information Society (WSIS) Action Line C5, also on building confidence and security in the use of ICTs. The activities involved legal, technical and procedural measures, development of organizational structures, capacity building, international cooperation and child online protection efforts.

2.2 The councillor from Nigeria introduced his country’s contribution in Document C25/81, providing an update on the establishment and subsequent activities of the International Advisory Body on Submarine Cable Resilience and noting the holding of the 2025 International Submarine Cable Resilience Summit in Abuja, Nigeria. The need for action and cooperation in the domain was acute: submarine cables were the backbone of digital communication, but ageing infrastructure and the impact of industry posed a systemic risk.

2.3 Several councillors and an observer welcomed ITU's efforts to build confidence and security in the use of ICTs, in particular those addressing the evolving needs of cybersecurity as well as those concerning submarine telecom cables resilience. ITU provided important leadership in strengthening international cooperation on cybersecurity and valuable capacity building through global and regional cyberdrills. Multilateral collaboration was required to advance national and regional cybersecurity. Several councillors highlighted national and regional events and initiatives, some of which had benefited from direct involvement from ITU, including a seminar organized by the Caribbean Telecommunications Union on strengthening submarine cable resilience, in which the Deputy Secretary-General had participated.

2.4 One councillor expressed the hope that ITU would continue its work to help developing countries to develop resilient ICT infrastructure, in particular through technical work at study group level and development of practical, forward-looking standards.

2.5 One councillor welcomed ITU's guidance on child online protection, noting that his government had made it available in its national language. Another councillor welcomed the fifth edition of the ITU Global Cybersecurity Index and expressed the hope that the sixth edition would include data from even more countries.

2.6 Councillors commended Nigeria for hosting the highly successful International Submarine Cable Resilience Summit and looked forward to implementation of the resulting Abuja Declaration. They affirmed support for the International Advisory Body on Submarine Cable Resilience, noting the critical need to protect that vital infrastructure which underpinned activities across a great many socio-economic sectors.

2.7 In response to a councillor's question, a representative of the General Secretariat confirmed that Mr Ota remained the secretariat's focal point for matters related to submarine cable standards, and Mr Maloor was the lead focal point for the International Advisory Body on Submarine Cable Resilience, which was supported by an intersectoral secretariat team.

2.8 The councillor from France delivered the following joint statement on behalf of 31 countries: <http://council.itu.int/2025/wp-content/uploads/sites/5/2025/07/Statement_France-and-co-countries_260625-e.pdf>.

2.9 The observer for the Russian Federation delivered the following statement: <http://council.itu.int/2025/wp-content/uploads/sites/5/2025/07/Statement_Russia_260625-e.pdf>.

2.10 The observer for the Islamic Republic of Iran called on ITU and the Secretary-General to condemn unequivocally the recent act of aggression by the Israeli regime targeting critical ICT infrastructure and the public broadcasting authority in his country. He said that attacks on public broadcasting systems constituted information warfare, designed to silence civilian media and threaten global communications. He stressed the importance of upholding the integrity of global communications systems, condemning acts of aggression against critical infrastructure and supporting measures to ensure the resilience and security of ICT networks worldwide.

2.11 The observer for Israel refuted the accusations made by the observer for the Islamic Republic of Iran. She said that her government had targeted legitimate military infrastructure. The building used by the broadcasting authority had been used by Iranian armed forces for military activities; it had been targeted with great precision and in strict adherence to international law, with all feasible precautions taken to minimize civilian harm. She stressed that unlike the military operations of the Islamic Republic of Iran, Israel's were aimed exclusively at legitimate targets that posed a threat to Israel and its civilian population.

2.12 The Council **noted** the reports contained in Documents C25/18 and C25/81.

**3 Meaningful youth engagement and initiatives at ITU (Document**[**C25/32**](https://www.itu.int/md/S25-CL-C-0032/en)**)**

3.1 A representative of the General Secretariat introduced Document C25/32, which summarized ITU's engagement in youth initiatives and progress in implementing PP Resolution 198 (Rev. Bucharest, 2022), on empowering youth through ICTs. The report covered youth empowerment within ITU and external advocacy, including youth engagement through ITU events, such as the AI for Good summit and the 2024 world telecommunication standardization assembly (WTSA‑24). She noted that youth representation among ITU staff had risen, with 4.3 per cent now under 30 years old, and introduced four staff members recruited under the ITU Young Professional Programme (ITU‑YPP).

3.2 Councillors welcomed the members of staff recruited under ITU‑YPP. The councillor from Japan, whose country had contributed to the ITU‑YPP fund, expressed satisfaction that the programme had attracted highly motivated and capable young professionals.

3.3 Councillors and observers commended the progress in advancing youth engagement under PP Resolution 198 (Rev. Bucharest, 2022), in particular through the ITU Gender and Youth Office, the Generation Connect Youth Envoys (GYCE), the Global Youth Summit 2025 (GYS‑25) and the Secretary-General's Youth Advisory Board, as well as the increased representation of youth among ITU staff. Direct engagement with youth at regional and global levels was essential to identifying priorities. Youth should be more than participants; they should help to shape the digital future. Councillors encouraged ITU to continue enhancing geographic representation and include more youth from developing and least developed countries in initiatives. Several councillors supported increased use of fellowships for that purpose, while one councillor noted that youth-engagement activities had been primarily in-person and suggested using hybrid formats to increase participation.

3.4 Several councillors described initiatives and events conducted in their own countries to promote youth engagement in the development of ICTs and public policy and to promote digital education and entrepreneurship, so that young people were active participants in building a sustainable digital future. The councillor from India recalled the high level of youth engagement in WTSA‑24.

3.5 Councillors commended the secretariat and Cuba on the successful organization of GYS‑25. The councillor from Cuba said hosting the summit had been a great honour. One councillor proposed enabling participants in ITU events to identify as "under 35" when registering in order to improve data collection and better inform training programmes aimed at young delegates. Councillors encouraged the secretariat to continue streamlining youth engagement activities, including more impactful collaboration with university students and academia.

3.6 The representative of the General Secretariat thanked Member States for their support and for advancing youth engagement nationally. The secretariat would further explore collaboration with academia and students and expansion of fellowships, which were largely funded through voluntary contributions. She expressed gratitude to Member States contributing in that regard and to Cuba for hosting GSY‑25. She encouraged Member States to continue to support youth engagement through additional voluntary contributions.

3.7 The Council **noted** the report contained in Document C25/32.

**4 Report on Resolution 70 (Rev. Bucharest, 2022) of the Plenipotentiary Conference (Document** [**C25/6**](https://www.itu.int/md/S25-CL-C-0006/en)**)**

4.1 A representative of the General Secretariat introduced Document C25/6, which reported on ITU's gender equality and mainstreaming (GEM) work for 2024-2025. The first part of the report detailed targeted initiatives to address the gender digital divide, while the second part addressed efforts to promote gender equality within ITU. A key development requested under Council Decision 631 (C23) had been the establishment of the Gender and Youth Office, which was now fully operational. She and several councillors expressed gratitude to Canada for its support for the ITU160 Gender Champions initiative.

4.2 Councillors expressed strong support for ITU's work on gender equality, in particular the establishment of the Gender and Youth Office, the ITU160 Gender Champions initiative and each Sector's Network of Women (NoW). It was proposed that ITU assist Member States in developing gender‑responsive programmes that supported the participation of women in national digital transformation policies. Gender parity was not just a matter of fairness: it enhanced productivity, drove innovation, strengthened digital economies and unlocked the full potential of communities.

4.3 Some councillors emphasized the need to strengthen regional balance and to expand technical capacity building for women in developing countries. In that regard, one councillor called for a special focus on promoting digital literacy of women in rural and agricultural areas, while another requested that future reports provided regionally disaggregated data and a third called for continued efforts to improve data collection on access and digital skills.

4.4 It was noted that, despite ITU's actions to encourage girls' involvement in ICTs, female participation in ITU's meetings had plateaued at 32 per cent, and remained lower in ITU‑R and ITU‑T, and women were still underrepresented in ITU leadership roles and overrepresented in general service staff. Greater female participation was crucial to enriching discussion, ensuring diverse perspectives and promoting gender equality across the ICT ecosystem. Several councillors welcomed, however, collaboration across the Sectors, in particular through each NoW, which offered an excellent, membership-driven platform for personal and professional mentoring. The secretariat was encouraged to step up collaboration with other United Nations system entities to align and enhance GEM strategies and promote participation and empowerment of women and girls in the Union.

4.5 The representative of the General Secretariat, responding to comments, said that there had been some improvement in gender parity in leadership roles in ITU: currently, there were more women than men in D.2 positions. She noted the need to improve female participation in events and said that the Telecommunication Development Bureau was developing a mentoring programme for women delegates in order to boost participation in the 2025 world telecommunication development conference. Efforts were also under way to ensure a higher participation of women at the 2026 plenipotentiary conference and identify a sponsorship mechanism to support female participation in events. In response to a request for information on implementation of *recommends* 1 of Decision 631 (C23), she said that the secretariat had been discussing how best to approach gender-based violence online with the United Nations Entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women (UN Women); it hoped to carry out joint activities on that theme before the end of the year.

4.6 The Council **noted** the report contained in Document C25/6.

**5 Letter from the Administration of India concerning the 2030 plenipotentiary conference (*continued*) (Documents** [**C25/19**](https://www.itu.int/md/S25-CL-C-0019/en)**,** [**C25/73**](https://www.itu.int/md/S25-CL-C-0073/en)**)**

5.1 The Chair recalled that the councillor from India had introduced Document C25/19 outlining his administration's expression of interest in hosting the 2030 plenipotentiary conference (PP‑30).

5.2 Councillors welcomed the kind invitation from the Government of India and recalled its highly successful hosting of WTSA‑24. Two councillors expressed support for approving India as host of PP‑30. Several other councillors, however, in light of the discussions on the venue of WRC‑27 and associated events and the Council's decision to develop a formal, collaborative and transparent bidding process for hosting future ITU conferences and for selecting among multiple bids, said that the Council should wait until such a process had been adopted before accepting India's invitation. That would also allow the opportunity to consider how to reduce costs for host countries and innovations such as co-hosting or co-sponsorship.

5.3 The Chair suggested that the Council thank the Government of India for its kind proposal to host PP‑30 and invite it to make a formal proposal once a bidding process had been finalized and adopted.

5.4 The councillor from India said that the circumstances surrounding WRC-27 were exceptional and should not be conflated with India's invitation to host PP‑30. India had a deep and rich experience of hosting United Nations events; it had the appropriate infrastructure and stood ready to welcome representatives from every Member State. However, a timely decision was required to ensure sufficient time for preparatory work.

5.5 The Council **noted** the invitation from the Government of India to host PP‑30, as contained in Document C25/19.

**6 Dates and duration of the 2026, 2027 and 2028 sessions of the Council and Council working group and expert group clusters for the same period (Document**[**C25/2**](https://www.itu.int/md/S25-CL-C-0002/en)**)**

6.1 The Secretary of the Plenary introduced Document C25/2, which contained a draft new decision for approval by the Council on the dates and duration of the 2026, 2027 and 2028 sessions of the Council and of the Council working group (CWG) and expert (EG) group clusters for the same period, in accordance with PP Resolution 77 (Rev. Bucharest, 2022). She noted that the meetings of the 2028 session of the Council were planned to be held at Palexpo.

6.2 One councillor requested that the first CWG/EG cluster not be scheduled in January, apart from in plenipotentiary conference years, as the financial year began in January in many countries, which made travelling for meetings challenging. She also asked if there was any flexibility to move the dates of the 2026 session of the Council (Council-26) given that it currently fell across a number of national and religious holidays.

6.3 The Secretary of the Plenary undertook to review the dates for Council-2026 and report back at the following plenary meeting.

6.4 The Chair suggested that the item be taken up again at the following plenary meeting.

6.5 It was so **agreed**.

**7 Schedule of future conferences, assemblies and meetings of the Union: 2025-2028 (Document**[**C25/37**](https://www.itu.int/md/S25-CL-C-0037/en)**)**

7.1 A representative of the General Secretariat introduced Document C25/37, which listed the ITU conferences, assemblies and meetings planned for the four-year period 2025‑2028, in line with the Sectors' and General Secretariat's schedule of activities. In some instances, the proposed dates and periods remained indicative and might be subject to change, given the long time-frame and the Sector study group cycles.

7.2 The Council **noted** the schedule of future conferences, assemblies and events of the Union, as contained in Document C25/37.

The Secretary-General: The Chair:

D. BOGDAN-MARTIN C. FLUTUR

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1. Under agenda item 3.10 (see §§ 7.1-7.2 of this summary record), the Council noted the dates of 11 October–16 November 2027 for the meetings of RA‑27, WRC‑27 and CPM31‑1, as reflected in Document C25/37. The proposed dates not having been contentious, the vote had been conducted exclusively on the venue for the three events. [↑](#footnote-ref-2)