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|  | **Document CWG-FHR-21/15** |
| **27 August 2025** |
| **English only** |
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| Contribution by India (Republic of) | |
| BIDDING PROCESS FOR HOSTING ITU CONFERENCES | |
| **Purpose**  This contribution is submitted in response to the Council’s decision to establish a formal, collaborative, and transparent bidding process for hosting future ITU conferences. India welcomes this initiative and proposes specific criteria and procedural elements to support the development of this process by the CWG-FHR during its planned session in January 2026.  **Action required**  The Council Working Group on financial and human resources is invited to:   * **consider** the benchmarks and process recommendations provided in this contribution; * **take them into account** when formulating a comprehensive bidding process for hosting ITU conferences.   **References**  *Council Document* [*C25/101(Rev.1)*](https://www.itu.int/md/S25-CL-C-0101/en)*, CWG-FHR Document* [*CWG-FHR-21/7*](https://www.itu.int/md/S25-CWGFHR21-C-0007/en) | |

1. **Background**

At recent Council sessions, the importance of developing a transparent and systematic approach for selecting host countries for ITU conferences was emphasized, particularly in light of multiple expressions of interest for major conferences. Hosting high-level events requires significant logistical, financial, and operational commitment. A well defined and early selection process will enable host countries to make necessary arrangements well in advance, ensuring the success of the event and satisfaction of all participants.

1. **India’s proposal**

India proposes the following key elements for inclusion in the formal bidding process:

* 1. **Benchmarks for Evaluating Candidatures**

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| Criteria | Description |
| Venue Infrastructure | Adequacy and flexibility of conference center, number of meeting rooms, and office facilities |
| Accommodation Capacity | Availability and proximity of hotels |
| Connectivity | International flight connectivity and efficient local transport systems |
| Internet and ICT Readiness | Secure, high-speed internet across venue and official hotels |
| Security and Safety | Host Country’s record and readiness for large international events |
| Medical Facilities | Access to emergency and high-quality healthcare services |
| Compliance with ITU Regulations | Adherence to ITU travel policies and the 1947 Convention on Privileges and Immunities |

#### ****2.2 Timeframe for selection****

* The host country for major ITU conferences (e.g., Plenipotentiary, WRC, WTDC and WTSA) should be ideally decided **(5) years in advance**.
* This will provide for sufficient preparation time, including infrastructure development, coordination with the ITU Secretariat, and engagement with local and international stakeholders.

#### ****Selection Principles****

* **Eligibility**: Candidatures must meet or exceed all benchmark criteria outlined above.
* **Selection approach**:
* The list of candidate countries, who applied before the Council Meeting scheduled at least 5 years before the proposed event, should be prepared by ITU and presented to the Council.
* If there is only one candidature meeting the benchmarks, it should be finalised during the Council Meeting five years before the event.
* If multiple candidatures are available meeting the benchmarks, a first-come, first-qualified principle may be applied and finalised during the Council Meeting five years before the event.
* The procedure will be implemented for future events after 2031(assuming that the procedure will be approved in Council 2026)
* **Documentation**: All candidatures should submit a hosting proposal including logistics availability, compliance assurances, and letters of governmental support.

1. **Conclusion**

India reaffirms its commitment to contributing to the effective functioning of the ITU and supports the establishment of a fair and transparent system for the selection of host countries for ITU conferences. The proposed benchmarks and principles aim to enhance predictability, fairness, and quality in the organization of future conferences.

We request the CWG-FHR to **consider** these proposals and **incorporate** them into the bidding framework under development.

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