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|  | **Document CWG-FHR-21/17** |
| **27 August 2025** |
| **English only** |
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| Contribution by China (People's Republic of) |
| RECOMMENDATIONS ON IMPROVING BIDDING FOR HOSTING FUTURE ITU CONFERENCES AND ASSEMBLIES |
| **Purpose**Based on the challenges that China has encountered during the bid for WRC-27, this contribution puts forward suggestions for improvement in the bidding for hosting future ITU conferences and assemblies, so as to support the ITU in continuously improving its fairness, transparency and predictability, and encourage Member States to consider hosting conferences and assemblies.**Action required**The Council Working Group on financial and human resources is invited to **consider** the recommendations proposed in this contribution and to **take necessary action**.\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_**References**[*Articles 1, 3 and 47 of the ITU Convention*](https://www.itu.int/en/council/Documents/basic-texts/Convention-E.pdf)*;* [*Section. 1, 2, 3 and 6 of Chapter 1 of the General Rules of Conferences, Assemblies and Meetings of the Union*](https://www.itu.int/en/council/Documents/basic-texts/General-Rules-E.pdf)*;* [*Resolutions 5 (Kyoto, 1994)*](https://www.itu.int/en/council/Documents/basic-texts-2023/RES-005-E.pdf) *and* [*144 (Rev. Busan, 2014)*](https://www.itu.int/en/council/Documents/basic-texts-2023/RES-144-E.pdf) *of the Plenipotentiary Conference.**Council Documents* [*C07/22 (Rev.1)*](https://www.itu.int/md/S07-CL-C-0022/en)*,* [*C24/64*](https://www.itu.int/md/S24-CL-C-0064/en)*,* [*C25/58(+Ad.1-2)*](https://www.itu.int/md/S25-CL-C-0058/en)*,* [*C25/101(Rev.1)*](https://www.itu.int/md/S25-CL-C-0101/en)*; Summary records* [*C25/106*](https://www.itu.int/md/S25-CL-C-0106/en)*,* [*C25/109*](https://www.itu.int/md/S25-CL-C-0109/en)*,* [*C25/112*](https://www.itu.int/md/S25-CL-C-0112/en)*,* [*C25/113*](https://www.itu.int/md/S25-CL-C-0113/en)*; Information document* [*C25/INF/16*](https://www.itu.int/md/S25-CL-INF-0016/en)*Council Working Group Document* [*CWG-FHR-21/7*](https://www.itu.int/md/S25-CWGFHR21-C-0007/en) |

**Background**

**1.** It has become a common practice for the Member States to apply for hosting ITU’s conferences or assemblies. The Plenipotentiary Conference (PP), World Conferences on International Telecommunications (WCIT), and major events of the three sectors (WRC, RA, WTSA, WTDC) have all been held away from Geneva, proven to be effective in expanding ITU’s regional influence, and in enhancing the member participation.

**2.** In June 2025, during the discussions on the proposed venue for the 2027 World Radiocommunication Conference (WRC-27), 2027 Radiocommunication Assembly (RA-27), and First Preparatory Meeting for WRC-31 (CPM31-1), Council accepted China’s invitation to host RA-27, WRC-27, and CPM31-1 in Shanghai. The Council also agreed to discuss the issue of bidding for hosting future ITU conferences and selecting among multiple bids in Council Working Group Financial and Human Resources (CWG-FHR).

**3.** In August 2025, the General Secretariat made available to the CWG-FHR for discussion provisions relating to host country issues for conferences or assemblies, as well as the practice of other United Nations bodies (CWG-FHR-21/7).

**Discussion**

**1.** Regarding the selection of host countries for ITU’s conferences and assemblies, there are codified provisions. These procedures may be divided into two categories: with or without an inviting country.

(1) Convention (CV): In accordance with Article 1 (no. 2) and Article 3 (nos. 41 – 42) of the Convention, the precise location and dates of a conference or assembly may be fixed by PP. In the absence of such a decision, the Council shall determine the place and dates with the concurrence of a majority of Member States. The consultation with Member States to obtain this concurrence is conducted in accordance with Article 47 of the Convention.

(2) General Rules of Conferences, Assembly, and Meetings of the Union (GR): **In cases where there is an inviting government**, the venue shall be determined in accordance with Sections 1, 2, and 3 of Chapter I of the GR. **For cases where there is no inviting government,** Section 6 of Chapter I of GR shall apply. The Secretary‑General shall take the necessary steps to convene and organize the conference or assembly at the seat of the Union, after agreement with the Government of the Swiss Confederation.

(3) Resolutions of Plenipotentiary Conference (PP): Resolution 5 (Kyoto, 1994) recommended that world conferences and assemblies of the Union should normally be held at the seat of the Union. The resolution stipulates that that invitations to hold conferences and assemblies of the Union away from Geneva should not be accepted unless the host government agrees to defray the additional expenditure involved; that invitations to hold development conferences and meetings of the study groups of the Sectors away from Geneva should not be accepted unless the host government provides at least adequate premises and the necessary furniture and equipment free of charge, except that in the case of developing countries equipment need not necessarily be provided free of charge by the host government, if the government so requests. In accordance to Resolution 144 (Rev. Busan, 2014), the Council approved the model host-country agreements and its annexes (C07/22(Rev.1)) to help potential invitees estimate conference requirements.

**2.** Prior to the Council’s formal discussion on the WRC-27 venue issue, China had already secured its position as the sole inviting country to host WRC-27 and its associated events. The proposed venue met all operational requirements after the on-site inspections by the secretariat. However, Chinese organizers encountered unprecedented challenges during their bid for the 2025 Council discussions regarding WRC-27 hosting locations. Critical timelines in this process included:

(1) During the 2023 World Radiocommunication Conference (WRC-23), China was informed that no other country had formally submitted an invitation to the Secretary-General to host RA-27, WRC-27 and CPM31-1.

(2) Prior to the 2024 session of the Council, the C24/64 document released on 3 May regarding WRC-27 preparations contained no invitations from any Member States. On 31 May 2024, China submitted its invitation letter for hosting WRC-27. The Rev.1 of the C24/64 document published on 3 June released the invitation letters from both Rwanda and China, simultaneously.

(3) Prior to Council 2025, Document C25/58 released on 16 May confirmed that all candidate venues met the basic requirements for hosting WRC-27 and its related events. According to Add.1 to Document C25/58 published on 16 June, China became the sole host country for WRC-27 and its associated events. In Document C25/101 released on 17 June, the United States proposed hosting WRC-27 in Geneva, Switzerland.

(4) On 19 June 2025, the Council formally discussed the venue selection for WRC-27 for the first time. The Chinese Councilor stated that China had made substantial budget allocations and meticulous preparations for WRC-27, including providing financial support to representatives from least developed countries. During the event, all participants would enjoy complimentary lunches and discounted accommodation and meals to enhance member participation (see document C25/INF/16 for details). Additionally, Shanghai successfully hosted an 80-day ITU-R Working Group meeting from April to May 2025, with 365 delegates from over 80 countries and regions attending in person. The meetings venue facilities, network infrastructure, catering services, and visa processing received high praise from both working group chairs and participants. As revealed in Add.2 of document C25/58 released on 23 June, the United States proposed hosting WRC-27 in the U.S.. Ultimately, the Council accepted China’s invitation to host RA-27, WRC-27, and CPM31-1 in Shanghai (see documents C25/106, C25/109, C25/112, C25/113).

**3.** During the 2025 session of the Council, Member States shared valuable insights, notably including: the selection on the host country should base on principles of inclusivity, equity, and equal opportunity; the secretariat should handle relevant documents properly, to ensure that Councillor are well-prepared for informed decisions; hosting conferences away from the headquarters helps alleviate ITU’s financial challenges; and ITU’s consistent acceptance of invitations from Member States to organize major events.

**Recommendations**

Based on the previous practice of the ITU, as well as the challenges encountered in its own bid for WRC-27, China puts forward the following suggestions for improvement in the bidding process for ITU conferences and assemblies:

**1.** Principles: Instead of creating a new procedure, we propose to improve the bidding for hosting future conferences and assemblies, within the existing framework of CV, GR, and PP resolutions, improve the standardization and transparency, and minimize competition among multiple inviting countries.

**2.** Specified time period for invitation: Considering that preparations for conferences and assemblies require extensive work, it is recommended that the responsible departments of the conferences/assemblies specify the deadlines for submission of invitations. All Member States shall have the right to apply to host the conferences/assemblies within the stipulated period. The deadlines for PP and WCIT shall be defined by the General Secretariat, while those for conferences/assemblies of the three Sectors shall be set by their respective bureau. The General Secretariat shall submit these specified time periods for application to the Council for its approval, in collaboration with the three Bureaux.

**3.** Submission of invitations: Invitations to host ITU conferences/assemblies shall be submitted in written format by the competent authorities of the Member States, including an official letter to the Secretary-General, or an official contribution submitted to the competent meetings (PP or the Council).

**4.** Acceptance and publication of invitations: When a Member State submits an invitation for organizing a conference via official letter, the Secretary-General shall notify all Member States of the acceptance through a circular within five (5) working days upon receiving the letter, specifying the date of receipt. For invitations submitted in contribution documents, the secretariat shall promptly publish the invitations in accordance with the rules on documentation for the corresponding meetings.

**5.** Minimum requirements of hosting the events: The responsible department for conferences/assemblies shall establish preliminary minimum requirements, which may cover economic, security, and ICT services. For PP and WCIT, the General Secretariat shall lead the formulation of these requirements. For conferences/assemblies of the three Sectors, the General Secretariat defines the requirements with close collaboration with the respective Bureaux. These minimum requirements will serve as references for drafting the host country agreements. The General Secretariat and the three Bureaux shall provide consultancy services to the inviting governments upon request, particularly on procedures and conference/assemblies requirements, in line with fairness and professionalism.

**6.** Site visit: To assist decision-makers (PP or Council) in making informed decisions, the responsible department of conferences/assemblies should conduct a site visit to assess the proposed venue before the meeting formally reviewing the invitations. The minimum requirements of hosting the event should establish the primary basis for the inspection. Inviting governments are encouraged to provide assistance to the secretariat during these on-site inspections.

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