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|  | **Document EG-ITRs-5/7** |
| **27 August 2025** |
| **English only** |
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| Contribution by the United States of America |
| PROPOSED REVISIONS TO THE DRAFT FINAL REPORT |
| **Purpose**This contribution provides U.S. comments and revisions to the draft final Report of the EG-ITRs to ITU Council 2026.**Action required**The Expert Group on the International Telecommunication Regulations is invited to **consider** this document and reflect it during the drafting process for the final Report.\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_**References**[*EG-ITRs-5/2*](https://www.itu.int/dms_pub/itu-s/md/25/egitrs5/c/S25-EGITRS5-C-0002%21%21MSW-E.docx) |

**Introduction and overall comments:**

The United States expresses its gratitude to the Secretariat and the EG-ITRs Management Team for developing the initial draft final Report of the EG-ITRs to ITU Council 2026, contained in Document [EG-ITRs-5/2](https://www.itu.int/dms_pub/itu-s/md/25/egitrs5/c/S25-EGITRS5-C-0002%21%21MSW-E.docx). We welcome and support the manageable length, including the use of links to consolidate and cross-reference other documents. We fully support a final Report that is factual and concise. In this spirit, we provide the attached comments and revisions in order to further refine the draft text.

As an overall observation, we note that the final Report to Council 2026 should not draw any conclusions that are beyond the Terms of Reference or that did not reach consensus during previous discussions. The drafting of the final Report should not be taken as an opportunity to rehash debates from prior meetings, or to introduce new concepts or conclusions not previously addressed; rather, this exercise should aim to accurately capture the content and results of the EG-ITR’s efforts to date.

From our perspective, given the clear divergence of views repeatedly referenced in the draft final Report, the only overarching conclusion that can be drawn from the work of this Group is the continued lack of consensus.

It is worth emphasizing, however, that a lack of consensus does not mean this group has failed to fulfil its mandate; rather, the work of this Expert Group has successfully reiterated the different perspectives on this topic. Ultimately, the lack of consensus is in and of itself a valuable conclusion that should inform next steps.

**Summary of the proposal for the meeting report:**

This contribution provides comments and revisions to the draft final Report of the EG-ITRs to ITU Council 2026, with the aim of ensuring that the text remains factual and concise and accurately reflects the continued lack of consensus that has characterized the work of the Group.

***Annex: 1***

ANNEX: U.S. revisions to Document [EG-ITRs-5/2](https://www.itu.int/dms_pub/itu-s/md/25/egitrs5/c/S25-EGITRS5-C-0002%21%21MSW-E.docx):

Proposal by the Chair

Draft final Report of the EG-ITRs to ITU Council 2026

# 1 Introduction and background

## 1.1 Introduction

**1.1.1** In accordance with [ITU Plenipotentiary Resolution 146 (Rev. Bucharest, 2022)](https://www.itu.int/en/council/Documents/basic-texts/RES-146-E.pdf), and [Council Resolution 1379 (Mod. 2023)](https://www.itu.int/md/S19-CL-C-0139/en), the Expert Group on the International Telecommunication Regulations (EG-ITRs), open to all Member States and Sector Members, was reconvened in 2023. This document is the final report of the Expert Group to Council 2026.

**1.1.2** In the sections below, the report provides an overview of the background of the Group, the activities carried out by the Group, the summary of views of members, and the potential way forward in respect of the ITRs.

**1.1.3** The Council is invited to examine this report of EG-ITRs and submit it to the 2026 Plenipotentiary Conference with the Council's comments.

## 1.2 Background

**1.2.1** In accordance with Article 4 "Instruments of the Union" of the ITU Constitution, the International Telecommunication Regulations (ITRs) are one of the two Administrative Regulations included in the list of Instruments of the Union (paragraph 29 of the Constitution).

Two versions of the ITRs exist: the 1988 ITRs and the 2012 ITRs. Background information concerning the two versions are available [here](https://www.itu.int/en/wcit-12/Pages/itrs.aspx).

**1.2.2** At its 2016 session, the ITU Council, in accordance with ITU Plenipotentiary Resolution 146 (Rev. Busan, 2014), created an Expert Group on the International Telecommunication Regulations, open to all Member States and Sector Members. The Group, chaired by Mr Fernando Borjón (Mexico), held four meetings in 2017-2018. The final report of the Group, along with the comments of Council 2018, was submitted to ITU Plenipotentiary Conference 2018 and is available [here](https://www.itu.int/en/council/eg-itrs/Pages/default.aspx).

**1.2.3** At its 2019 session, the ITU Council, in accordance with ITU Plenipotentiary [Resolution 146 (Rev. Dubai, 2018)](https://www.itu.int/en/council/Documents/basic-texts/RES-146-E.pdf), reconvened the Expert Group on the International Telecommunication Regulations, open to all Member States and Sector Members. The Group, chaired by Mr. Lwando Bbuku (Zambia) along with the following Vice Chairs: Mr. Guy-Michel Kouakou (Africa Region), Mr. Santiago Reyes-Borda (Americas Region), Mr. Xiping Huang (Asia-Pacific Region), Mr. Aleksei S. Borodin (CIS Region), Mr. Simon van Merkom (Europe Region) and Mr. Ahmed Al-Raghy, 2019-2021 (Arab States)/Ms. Shahira Selim (Arab States) 2021-2022, held six meetings in 2019-2022. The final report of the Group, along with the comments of Council 2022, was submitted to the ITU Plenipotentiary Conference 2022 and is available here.

**1.2.4** At its 2023 session, the ITU Council, in accordance with [Resolution 146 (Rev. Bucharest, 2022)](https://www.itu.int/en/council/Documents/basic-texts/RES-146-E.pdf), reconvened the [Expert Group on the International Telecommunication Regulations (EG-ITRs)](https://www.itu.int/en/council/Pages/eg-itrs.aspx).

**1.2.5** The Terms of Reference for the EG-ITRs, specified in [Council Resolution 1379 (Mod. 2023)](https://www.itu.int/md/S19-CL-C-0139/en), are as follows:

 *1 On the basis of contributions submitted by Member States, Sector Members and inputs from the Directors of the Bureaux if necessary, the EG-ITRs shall continue to review the ITRs.*

 *2 Taking into consideration the work of the previous two Expert Groups, the review may consider, among others:*

 *a) new trends in telecommunications/ICT and emerging issues in international telecommunications/ICT environment which may impact the ITRs,*

 *b) empirical data on the current use of the ITRs by operating agencies and/or administrations and the proportion of global telecommunication services which now rely on the ITRs, and*

 *c) the relevance of the ITRs which “consist of high-level guiding principles” in the current telecommunication/ICT environment.*

 *3 The EG-ITRs will present a progress report reflecting all views on the ITRs review to Council 2024 and Council 2025, and a final report to Council 2026 for examination and submission to the 2026 Plenipotentiary Conference with the Council’s comments.*

**1.2.6** Council 2023 appointed Ms Shahira Selim (Egypt) as the Chair of the Group. Council 2023 also appointed six Vice-Chairs as follows:

a) Africa Region - Mr Guy-Michel Kouakou (Côte d'Ivoire)

b) Americas Region - Ms Ena Dekanic (United States)

c) Arab States - Mr Omar Ali Alnemer (United Arab Emirates)

d) Asia-Pacific Region - Mr Sunil Singhal (India)

e) CIS Region - Mr Ulugbek Azimov (Uzbekistan)

f) Europe Region - Mr Vilem Vesely (Czech Republic)

**1.2.7** EG-ITRs held six meetings. All documents and reports related to the meetings of the EG-ITRs can be found on the [EG-ITRs website](https://www.itu.int/en/council/Pages/eg-itrs.aspx), as well as webcast archives of all the meetings.

# 2 Activities of the EG-ITRs

The reports as well as the documents of the six meetings are transmitted to the Council for information:

## 2.1 First meeting, 16 October 2023 ([see report](https://www.itu.int/md/S24-EGITRS2-C-0020/en)): The EG-ITRs deliberated on the contributions received, with the discussion focusing on the work plan proposals.

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| **Contributions received at the first meeting** | – Agenda (Doc. [EG-ITRs-1/1](https://www.itu.int/md/S23-EGITRS1-C-0001/en))– Overall considerations (Doc. [EG-ITRs-1/2](https://www.itu.int/md/S23-EGITRS1-C-0002/en)): Contribution by Hill– Proposal for working methods and work plan of EG-ITRs (Doc. [EG-ITRs-1/3](https://www.itu.int/md/S23-EGITRS1-C-0003/en)): Contribution by Hill – On the structure of the interim and final reports of the EG-ITRs to the Council on the results of studying issues relating the ITRs, including its consideration, and the work plan of the EG-ITRs for the period of 2024-2026 (Doc. [EG-ITRs-1/4](https://www.itu.int/md/S23-EGITRS1-C-0004/en)): Contribution by Armenia and the Russian Federation– Review of the International Telecommunication Regulations and working methods (Doc. [EG-ITRs-1/5](https://www.itu.int/md/S23-EGITRS1-C-0005/en)): Contribution by Bulgaria, Czech Republic, Denmark, Germany, Hungary, Romania, Spain, Sweden, United Kingdom– Work plan proposal for EG-ITRs (Doc. [EG-ITRs-1/6](https://www.itu.int/md/S23-EGITRS1-C-0006/en)): Contribution by Bulgaria, Czech Republic, Denmark, Germany, Hungary, Romania, Spain, Sweden, United Kingdom– Support to the Revision of the ITRs (Doc. [EG-ITRs-1/7](https://www.itu.int/md/S23-EGITRS1-C-0007/en)): Contribution by Ghana – Proposal for the work of the EG-ITRs (Doc. [EG-ITRs-1/8](https://www.itu.int/md/S23-EGITRS1-C-0008/en)): Contribution by Egypt and the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia– Periodic Review of the International Telecommunication Regulation – Discussion on the work plan and ToR of EG‑ITRs, based on PP Res. 146 (Rev. Dubai, 2022) and Council Res. 1379 (Mod. 2023) (Doc. [EG-ITRs-1/9](https://www.itu.int/md/S23-EGITRS1-C-0009/en)): Contribution by China and South Africa.The following contribution was submitted late and was not considered at the first meeting:– Proposal for working methods and work plan of EG-ITRs (Doc. [EG-ITRs-1/10](https://www.itu.int/md/S23-EGITRS1-C-0010/en)): Contribution by Hill |

## 2.2 Second meeting, 29-30 January 2024 ([see report](https://www.itu.int/md/S24-EGITRS2-C-0021/en)): The meeting approved a work plan with the understanding that it provides guidance for the work of the Group and does not limit any members to submit contributions in line with Resolution 146 (Rev. Bucharest, 2022) and Council Resolution 1379 (Mod. 2023). The Group decided that the reports of the meetings held in October 2023 and January 2024 would be merged and consolidated to be presented to the Council as Progress Reports in 2024 and 2025, respectively.

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| **Contributions received at the second meeting** | – Agenda ([Doc. EG-ITRs-2/1](https://www.itu.int/md/S24-EGITRS2-C/en))– Proposal for request for empirical data ([Doc. EG-ITRs-2/2](https://www.itu.int/md/S24-EGITRS2-C/en)): Contribution by Hill– Empirical data on industry requests ([Doc. EG-ITRs-2/3](https://www.itu.int/md/S24-EGITRS2-C/en)): Contribution by Hill– Liaising with WTO ([Doc. EG-ITRs-2/4](https://www.itu.int/md/S24-EGITRS2-C/en)): Contribution by Hill– Use of AI in international telecommunication services ([Doc. EG-ITRs-2/5](https://www.itu.int/md/S24-EGITRS2-C/en)): Contribution by Hill– Routing of international numbers ([Doc. EG-ITRs-2/6](https://www.itu.int/md/S24-EGITRS2-C/en)): Contribution by Hill– Proposal for structure of final report ([Doc. EG-ITRs-2/7](https://www.itu.int/md/S24-EGITRS2-C/en)): Contribution by Hill– Items for the final report [(Doc. EG-ITRs-2/8](https://www.itu.int/md/S24-EGITRS2-C/en)): Contribution by Hill– Proposed revisions to the Draft report of the first meeting of the Expert Group on the International Telecommunication Regulations, 2023-2026 (EG-ITRS) [(Doc. EG-ITRs-2/10](https://www.itu.int/md/S24-EGITRS2-C/en)): Contribution by Hill– Work plan proposal for EG-ITRS [(Doc. EG-ITRs-2/11](https://www.itu.int/md/S24-EGITRS2-C/en)): Contribution by Czech Republic, Bulgaria, Croatia, Denmark, Germany, Hungary, Latvia, Netherlands (Kingdom of the), Poland, Portugal, Romania, Slovakia, Spain, Sweden, United Kingdom– Findings of the previous two Expert Groups [(Doc. EG-ITRs-2/12](https://www.itu.int/md/S24-EGITRS2-C/en)): Contribution by Czech Republic, Bulgaria, Croatia, Denmark, Germany, Hungary, Latvia, Netherlands (Kingdom of the), Poland, Portugal, Romania, Slovakia, Spain, Sweden, United Kingdom – Updating General Secretariat documents concerning preparations for the World Conference on International Telecommunications 2012 and preparation of new documents on legal and procedural aspects of the examination and revision of the International Telecommunication Regulations (ITRs), as well as procedures for accession thereto ([Doc. EG-ITRs-2/13](https://www.itu.int/md/S24-EGITRS2-C/en)): Contribution by [Russian Federation](https://www.itu.int/md/meetingdoc.asp?lang=en&parent=S24-EGITRS2-C&source=Russian%20Federation), [Armenia](https://www.itu.int/md/meetingdoc.asp?lang=en&parent=S24-EGITRS2-C&source=Armenia), [Belarus](https://www.itu.int/md/meetingdoc.asp?lang=en&parent=S24-EGITRS2-C&source=Belarus), [Kyrgyzstan](https://www.itu.int/md/meetingdoc.asp?lang=en&parent=S24-EGITRS2-C&source=Kyrgyzstan), [Tajikistan](https://www.itu.int/md/meetingdoc.asp?lang=en&parent=S24-EGITRS2-C&source=Tajikistan), [Uzbekistan](https://www.itu.int/md/meetingdoc.asp?lang=en&parent=S24-EGITRS2-C&source=Uzbekistan)– Proposals on reviewing of the ITRs ([Doc. EG-ITRs-2/14](https://www.itu.int/md/S24-EGITRS2-C/en)): Contribution by [Russian Federation](https://www.itu.int/md/meetingdoc.asp?lang=en&parent=S24-EGITRS2-C&source=Russian%20Federation), [Armenia](https://www.itu.int/md/meetingdoc.asp?lang=en&parent=S24-EGITRS2-C&source=Armenia), [Belarus](https://www.itu.int/md/meetingdoc.asp?lang=en&parent=S24-EGITRS2-C&source=Belarus), [Kyrgyzstan](https://www.itu.int/md/meetingdoc.asp?lang=en&parent=S24-EGITRS2-C&source=Kyrgyzstan), [Tajikistan](https://www.itu.int/md/meetingdoc.asp?lang=en&parent=S24-EGITRS2-C&source=Tajikistan), [Uzbekistan](https://www.itu.int/md/meetingdoc.asp?lang=en&parent=S24-EGITRS2-C&source=Uzbekistan)– Problematic issues related to the application of the ITRs ([Doc. EG-ITRs-2/15](https://www.itu.int/md/S24-EGITRS2-C/en)): Contribution by [Russian Federation](https://www.itu.int/md/meetingdoc.asp?lang=en&parent=S24-EGITRS2-C&source=Russian%20Federation), [Armenia](https://www.itu.int/md/meetingdoc.asp?lang=en&parent=S24-EGITRS2-C&source=Armenia), [Belarus](https://www.itu.int/md/meetingdoc.asp?lang=en&parent=S24-EGITRS2-C&source=Belarus), [Kyrgyzstan](https://www.itu.int/md/meetingdoc.asp?lang=en&parent=S24-EGITRS2-C&source=Kyrgyzstan), [Tajikistan](https://www.itu.int/md/meetingdoc.asp?lang=en&parent=S24-EGITRS2-C&source=Tajikistan), [Uzbekistan](https://www.itu.int/md/meetingdoc.asp?lang=en&parent=S24-EGITRS2-C&source=Uzbekistan)– On the structure of the final report of the EG-ITRs and the work plan of the EG-ITRs for the period 2024-2026 ([Doc. EG-ITRs-2/16](https://www.itu.int/md/S24-EGITRS2-C/en)): Contribution by [Russian Federation](https://www.itu.int/md/meetingdoc.asp?lang=en&parent=S24-EGITRS2-C&source=Russian%20Federation), [Armenia](https://www.itu.int/md/meetingdoc.asp?lang=en&parent=S24-EGITRS2-C&source=Armenia), [Belarus](https://www.itu.int/md/meetingdoc.asp?lang=en&parent=S24-EGITRS2-C&source=Belarus), [Kyrgyzstan](https://www.itu.int/md/meetingdoc.asp?lang=en&parent=S24-EGITRS2-C&source=Kyrgyzstan), [Tajikistan](https://www.itu.int/md/meetingdoc.asp?lang=en&parent=S24-EGITRS2-C&source=Tajikistan), [Uzbekistan](https://www.itu.int/md/meetingdoc.asp?lang=en&parent=S24-EGITRS2-C&source=Uzbekistan)– Empirical data on the current use of the ITRs by operating agencies and/or administrations and the proportion of global telecommunication services which now rely on the ITRs ([Doc. EG-ITRs-2/17](https://www.itu.int/md/S24-EGITRS2-C/en)): Contribution by Ghana, Kenya, South Africa, Tanzania– New Trends in Telecommunications/ICTs and Emerging Issues in International Telecommunications/ICTs Environment which may impact the ITRs ([Doc. EG-ITRs-2/18](https://www.itu.int/md/S24-EGITRS2-C/en)): Contribution by Ghana, Kenya, South Africa, Tanzania– Overall U.S. views on the current review of the ITRs ([Doc. EG-ITRs-2/19](https://www.itu.int/md/S24-EGITRS2-C/en)): Contribution by United States |

## 2.3 Third meeting, 30 September – 1 October 2024 ([see report](https://www.itu.int/md/S24-EGITRS3-C-0012/en)): The Group deliberated on the contributions received, including those on new trends which may impact the ITRs, empirical data on the current use of the ITRs, format and content of the Group’s Final Report to Council 2026, and other general contributions.

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| **Contributions received at the third meeting** | – Agenda ([Doc. EG-ITRs-3/1](https://www.itu.int/md/S24-EGITRS3-C/en))– Overall considerations and detailed analysis [(Doc. EG-ITRs-3/2](https://www.itu.int/md/S24-EGITRS3-C/en)): Contribution by Hill– Liaising with WTO [(Doc. EG-ITRs-3/3](https://www.itu.int/md/S24-EGITRS3-C/en)): Contribution by Hill– Items for the final report [(Doc. EG-ITRs-3/4](https://www.itu.int/md/S24-EGITRS3-C/en)): Contribution by Hill– Updating certain documents [(Doc. EG-ITRs-3/5](https://www.itu.int/md/S24-EGITRS3-C/en)): Contribution by Hill– Challenges in the provision of telecommunication services by non-geostationary satellites in low-Earth orbit [(Doc. EG-ITRs-3/6](https://www.itu.int/md/S24-EGITRS3-C/en)): Contribution by Côte d'Ivoire, Cameroon, South Africa, Tanzania– Evidence of the use of the ITRs by operating agencies in Europe [(Doc. EG-ITRs-3/7](https://www.itu.int/md/S24-EGITRS3-C/en)): Contribution by Czech Republic, Bulgaria, Croatia, Denmark, Netherlands (Kingdom of the), Romania, Sweden, United Kingdom– ITRs provisions that address operating agencies [(Doc. EG-ITRs-3/8](https://www.itu.int/md/S24-EGITRS3-C/en)): Contribution by Egypt– Empirical data on the current use of the ITRs by operating agencies and/or administrations and the proportion of global telecommunication services which now rely on the ITRs [(Doc. EG-ITRs-3/9](https://www.itu.int/md/S24-EGITRS3-C/en)): Contribution by Tanzania– Further United States observations on the current review of the ITRs [(Doc. EG-ITRs-3/10](https://www.itu.int/md/S24-EGITRS3-C/en)): Contribution by United States– New trends and issues emerging in the global telecommunication/ICT environment with potential effects on the International Telecommunication Regulations [(Doc. EG-ITRs-3/11](https://www.itu.int/md/S24-EGITRS3-C/en)): Contribution by China |

## 2.4 Fourth meeting, 20-21 February 2025 ([see report](https://www.itu.int/md/S21-EGITR4-C-0008/en)): The Group deliberated on the contributions received and decided on an outline of the Final Report to Council 2026. The Group also requested that the Management Team and the Secretariat produce a first draft version of the Final Report at least one month before the next meeting of the EG-ITRs.

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| **Contributions received at the fourth meeting** | – Agenda [(Doc. EG-ITRs-4/1](https://www.itu.int/md/S25-EGITRS4-C/en))– Importance of Special Arrangement [(Doc. EG-ITRs-4/2](https://www.itu.int/md/S25-EGITRS4-C/en)): Contribution by Hill– Proposal for structure of final report [(Doc. EG-ITRs-4/3](https://www.itu.int/md/S25-EGITRS4-C/en)): Contribution by Hill– Items for the final report annex [(Doc. EG-ITRs-4/4](https://www.itu.int/md/S25-EGITRS4-C/en)): Contribution by Hill– Items for the final report [(Doc. EG-ITRs-4/5](https://www.itu.int/md/S25-EGITRS4-C/en)): Contribution by Hill– Work plan [(Doc. EG-ITRs-4/6](https://www.itu.int/md/S25-EGITRS4-C/en)): Contribution by Hill– Possible consensus item [(Doc. EG-ITRs-4/7](https://www.itu.int/md/S25-EGITRS4-C/en)): Contribution by Hill– Considerations for the final report of the EG-ITRs [(Doc. EG-ITRs-4/8](https://www.itu.int/md/S25-EGITRS4-C/en)): Contribution by Bulgaria, Belgium, Czech Republic, Germany, Lithuania, Netherlands (Kingdom of the), Sweden, United Kingdom |

## 2.5 Fifth meeting, fill in (see report): At the fifth meeting, Summarize Report

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| Contributions received at the fifth meeting | FILL IN |

## 2.6 Sixth meeting, fill in (see report): At the sixth meeting, the EG-ITRs discussed and finalized this Report and also approved the Sixth Meeting Report

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| Contributions received at the sixth meeting | FILL IN |

# 3 Summary of views

3.1 Various views and contributions were filed during the work of the EG-ITRs between 2023 and 2026.

3.2Divergent views were expressed by the members while studying the items listed under section 2 of the EG-ITRs Terms of Reference (ToR).

3.3 Some members were of the view that there are no practical problems with having two versions of the ITRs, as the Vienna Convention clarifies which text applies in specific circumstances. Some members were of the view that it is important to have a single ITRs applied by all Member States, similar to the Radio Regulations, and that the presence of two versions of the ITRs is a hindrance to their functionality and the image of the ITU.

3.4 Some members were of the view that it was appropriate to review the ITRs provision-by-provision, in accordance with the items listed under section 2 of the ToR. Some members were of the view that such a provision-by-provision review was outside the scope of the ToR.

3.6 A summary of the divergent views with respect to the items listed under section 2 of the ToR is set forth here:

*a)* *With respect to**new trends in telecommunications/ICT and emerging issues in international telecommunications/ICT environment which may impact the ITRs*, some members expressed the view that the ITRs should be revised to take into account new and emerging issues, such as (listed in no particular order): Internet of Things; connectivity technologies (FTTH, 5G, and satellite); Artificial Intelligence; cybersecurity; network security; technological evolution; adjacent services from OTTs; separation of infrastructure and service layers; decreasing voice revenues; reduction in CDRs; taxation; collection charges; E-commerce and digital trade; spam; the provision of telecommunication services by NGSO satellite; digital divide; privacy and data protection. Some members expressed that there is a fundamental incompatibility with the use of an inflexible treaty instrument to attempt to regulate a dynamic, competitive international telecommunications/ICT marketplace. According to some members, it has become clear that some Member States are interested in addressing new and emerging technologies via a treaty mechanism, but this broader debate within the international arena does not necessarily implicate the ITRs; if and how best to accommodate new trends and emerging issues within the ITU’s scope and mandate remains an open question, which should not presuppose a need to continue reviewing, or to revise, the ITRs.

*b)* *With respect to* *empirical data on the current use of the ITRs by operating agencies and/or administrations and the proportion of global telecommunication services which now rely on the ITRs,* some members expressed the view that Sector Members and other leading global network operators have repeatedly established that the vast majority of operators worldwide no longer use the ITRs and instead rely on commercial arrangements. Some members expressed the view that operators in their jurisdiction do rely on the ITRs. Some members expressed the view that, while most operators do not explicitly refer to the ITRs in their commercial contracts,they rely on the ITRs in order to avoid having to use the accounting rate system; transparency would be improved if all Member States could agree to the provisions of Article 8 of the 2012 ITRs.

*c)* *With respect to* *the relevance of the ITRs which “consist of high-level guiding principles” in the current telecommunication/ICT environment,* some members expressed the view that the ITRs are of limited relevance in today’s international telecommunications/ICT environment. In particular, some members expressed the view that the successful deployment and use of telecommunication services and applications worldwide, as reflected and evidenced in several international telecommunication reports and publications, including those of the ITU, has not been the result of the ITRs; what has been and will continue to be a successful path for the deployment, adoption and use of telecommunications and ICTs in a rapidly evolving telecommunications sector, is the creation and enhancement of regulatory environments that promote competition, investment, transparency, entrepreneurship and innovation; public-private partnerships (PPPs) have proven to be very effective in the design and successful implementation of national and regional telecommunication and ICT development strategies. Some members expressed the view that high-level guiding principles remain relevant, and that these should be set forth in the ITRs. Some members expressed the view that the accounting rate provisions of the ITRs are no longer relevant at the international level and could be abrogated – if they are used within regions, they can be incorporated in regional agreements as appropriate. Some members expressed the view that certain provisions of the ITRs could be abrogated, while other provisions of the 2012 ITRs remain relevant.

*d)* *With respect to other issues considered,* some members expressed the view that references to private parties are not needed in the ITRs because the matter is covered by the ITU Constitution; that is, without prejudice to the question of whether or not the ITRs should or should not be revised, in principle, the ITRs should focus on Member States, not private parties, and references to operating agencies, private recognized operating agencies, recognized operating agencies, and authorized operating agencies are not needed in light of Article 6 of the Constitution. Some members expressed the view that there is no need to consider this matter. Some members expressed the view that, if the ITRs are revised, it may be appropriate for them to include references to private parties. Some members expressed the view that work in international trade agreements overlaps or possibly conflicts with work in ITU, and that coordination and liaison with the World Trade Organization (WTO) should be improved, in particular with respect to the work of the WTO Joint Statement Initiative (JSI) on e-commerce. Some members expressed the view that there is no need for additional coordination or liaison in this respect.

# 5 Potential way forward

5.1 As detailed above, members expressed divergent views regarding various proposed potential ways forward.

5.2 There was no consensus on a proposed potential way forward, but some members suggested that possible ways forward could include the following (listed in no particular order):

*a)* Suspend discussions on the ITRs, given that there is no consensus on how to proceed.

*b)* Convene another EG-ITRs in order to attempt to find consensus on how to proceed.

*c)* Convene a WCIT, and its preparatory process, in order to revise the ITRs.

*d)* Convene a “mini-WCIT,” back to back with a WTSA, to abrogate the substance of the ITRs, or, if possible, to abrogate the ITRs entirely.

5.3As a result, it was decided that there is lack of consensus within the Group on the way forward with respect to the ITRs.  Given that the EG-ITRs has not reached a consensus on how to proceed with the ITRs, this should be decided at the 2026 ITU Plenipotentiary Conference.

# [6 Summary of the report

6.1 This report summarizes the work conducted by the Expert Group on the International Telecommunication Regulations (EG-ITRs) between 2022 and 2025, pursuant to ITU Plenipotentiary Resolution 146 (Rev. Bucharest, 2022) and Council Resolution 1379 (Mod. 2023). The Council is invited to examine this report and submit it to the 2026 Plenipotentiary Conference with its comments.

6.2 Between 2023 and 2025, the Group held six meetings and reviewed a wide range of contributions from Member States and Sector Members. Topics covered included new trends and emerging issues, empirical data, and the current relevance of the ITRs, as well as internal working methods and structural proposals for the final report. A comprehensive work plan was adopted, and discussions were consolidated into a draft reflecting the variety of perspectives on the future role and structure of the ITRs.

6.3 The EG-ITRs discussions revealed diverse views on the relevance and future of the International Telecommunication Regulations.

6.4 There was no consensus on a potential way forward, but possible options proposed by some members included:

– suspending discussions on the ITRs given the lack of consensus;

– convening a new EG-ITRs for further examination;

– organizing a full or mini WCIT (World Conference on International Telecommunications) to either revise, streamline, or abrogate the ITRs.

6.5 These scenarios reflect the range of perspectives within the group and the continued lack of consensus regarding the future of the ITRs.]

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