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MORNING PLENARY SESSION

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(meeting in progress).

>> CHAIR: I invite comments on this. Canada, please.

>> CANADA: Thank you, Chairman. And thank you to the Russian Federation for posing a very important question.

The purpose of this Committee that you have handled very well, Mr. Chairman, is to move forward, and it is our understanding that we have removed the brackets, thus approving the document, notwithstanding the right of any administration to go to the plenary and submit any contribution that they wish to submit. It would basically lessen the relevance of the work done here. If we are removing the brackets and adopting the document, I gather that your report to the plenary will indicate so.

And then my question is, on all the resolutions that have been approved, is it the expectation that then we are going to go to the plenary and open them up again? Thank you, Chair.

>> CHAIR: Thank you, Canada. No, I think we, as I said, in order to move forward, the suggestion by the Chair of Committee 3 is to approve this document without any square brackets, but exceptionally in my report to the plenary, I would indicate that administrations may have other remarks on this, and they of course it is their sovereign right to raise any point that they

may have. United States.

>> UNITED STATES OF AMERICA: Thank you, Chairman, and good morning, colleagues. Chairman, my comments are similar to those made by Canada. We support this document as is, without square brackets, and my understanding is that from your report, is that we are approving this document in com 3 without the square brackets and in your report, you will make a mention of some Member States have concerns with the text. But if we remove the square brackets and we are sending it up to plenary without them, that we are approving this document here. We spent a lot of time on this document. There has been many hours, each side has compromised.

I would implore everyone to in the spirit of compromise that we move on. Thank you.

>> CHAIR: Thank you, U.S.  
Jordan, please.

>> JORDAN: Thank you very much, Mr. Chairman. We want to support your to move forward, this is why we accepted what you have mentioned that in your report, you will refer that there was a concern.

But this will not be helpful for us to raise our point in considering that other colleagues believe that we approve this document. I would like to go back to what the Russian Federation has raised. Our position from the beginning was no change in this document. We accepted to do compromises, and this compromise it should be reflected in the text in entire in the resolution that provided this compromise was not implemented in the appropriate way, so we insist now to keep the square bracket in this part and to take it to the plenary. Please, put the square bracket back and let us take this for further discussion at the plenary. Thank you.

>> CHAIR: Thank you. Saudi Arabia, please.

>> SAUDI ARABIA: Thank you, Chairman. I would like to express my gratitude for the efforts that have been made to come up with a solution, but after having heard all the interventions I believe we are really close to a solution for this paragraph. From a procedural point of view, perhaps it would be preferable to keep the square brackets and, for example, with the, we can work with the coordinator from the United Kingdom, the representative, to come up with a solution that we can submit to the plenary session. Thank you, Chairman.

>> CHAIR: Thank you very much for this. This is the last proposal that we put back the square brackets around the paragraph 2 in instructing the Director of BDT, and we use the time between this session and the time that it will be discussed in the plenary to make every effort to remove the square brackets and propose a way forward to the plenary. Will that be

agreeable to everybody? Any objection? None? Thank you very much. So decided.

Can we go back to action plan, I understand the document on action plan is available. It is DT35. You can see it on the screen. We heard a report from the Chair of the ad hoc group on action plan. We do not need to go back to repeat the presentation of this document. I invite comments. This is document DT35. It is available on the system. Can I take it that it meets with your approval? Russian Federation.

>> RUSSIAN FEDERATION: Thank you, Chairman. Unfortunately, the document is quite large. So perhaps we might not have noted all the comments that we need to make. If you have no objections, I'd like to go to page 18, please.

Thank you very much, the bottom of the page, here we have a statement, that organise regional meeting between ITU members on the use of spectrum for broadcasting services, including the transition from digital terrestrial to satellite television and so on, so forth.

It is our opinion, and also given the tasks of Study Group 1 and 8.1 we are talking about the transition from digital broadcasting, and our opinion is that we do not believe that the transition from terrestrial to satellite television should be necessarily leads to a increase in the efficiency and the quality of services.

We believe that digital terrestrial television is also the appropriate platform for providing broadcast services. That is our first comment.

Now, as regards the other comments, on page 28, in the table which is lower down, it notes and promotes innovation initiatives where in this conference not once has the issue been raised of the fact that the word "innovation" is not very felicitous. We would like to ask for this word to be deleted from here.

In addition to this, on page 51, lower down in result 4.3, the background section, there is a mention made of the issue of the gender digital divide. We would like to ask that we leave in here, what we understand about gender digital divide is that it's a technical term, and in accordance with a similar line on page 53, where it was simply indicated is the gender divide, we would like to also have gender divide here. Thank you, sir.

>> CHAIR: Thank you, Russia. Brazil.

>> BRAZIL: Thank you, Chair. We want to associate with the comments made by Russia, in the specific part related to broadcasting. We would like to propose an alignment of the action plan with the items of study of question 8.1 and also with what is stated in resolution 2, and it's in page 18, broadcasting. That's it, further down, a little more. Yeah,

that's it. The first paragraph, where it says to achieve smooth migration, we would like to propose after migration the following text: And adoption of digital broadcasting, comma, including the transition from analog to digital, the texts are there, and after digital broadcasting, include also, after, yeah, and digital to digital, comma. I think that's it. Thank you.

>> CHAIR: Thank you.  
United States.

>> UNITED STATES OF AMERICA: Thank you, Chairman. We appreciate the comments that have, that we received from Russia and from Brazil. I'd like to respond to the intervention from the Russian Federation with regards to the text in the table related to innovation.

I guess this is a question for clarification. It's our understanding that the text in the action plan for the outcomes and outputs is going to track verbatim the text in the strategic plan which has already been approved. So we would appreciate clarification on that matter, because in our view, that would certainly resolve the point raised by the Russian Federation. Thank you.

>> CHAIR: Thank you, United States. Just for my own information, I feel that maybe the intention was to use innovative, instead of innovation. Maybe that would clarify the situation. United States.

>> UNITED STATES OF AMERICA: Thank you, Chairman. In looking at the version of the strategic plan that we approved, we do use the phrase that appears here in this document, using the terminology innovation. And again, our understanding was that there will be a verbatim, that the text in the action plan will follow verbatim from this strategic plan. Thank you.

>> CHAIR: Thank you very much. Canada, please.

>> CANADA: Thank you, Chairman. We also had a similar question for clarification, because this comes from the strategic plan, and of course we fail to understand why promoting developing strategies to promote innovation initiatives would be anything contentious. That is my first comment.

The second one, in regards to the reference made by the Russian Federation on the issue of gender divide, as opposed to digital gender divide, this is an issue, Mr. Chairman, that we have addressed many times in this conference. There are digital divides, there is a digital divide between men and women, there are digital divides that we have to take that into consideration. We would call for maintaining the text as it appeared on the screen. Thank you.

>> CHAIR: Thank you, Canada. Czech Republic.

>> CZECH REPUBLIC: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Good morning to all colleagues.

We would like to ask you to go to the part of objective 4.1. I cannot indicate the pages just now. But that is one text in square brackets concerning technological bank. After the consultations with concerned parties, we would like to ask to remove the square brackets. Thank you.

>> CHAIR: How was it, output 4.1? Czech Republic, please.

>> CZECH REPUBLIC: Yes, thank you, Mr. Chairman. Yes, it is at the end of output 1, just at the bottom of the page, that is mentioning, that is programme on the support of least developed countries and there is the technology bank. It's very short text. Maybe we could do it with the Secretariat in the meantime. Thank you.

>> CHAIR: Thank you, Czech Republic. Shall we start from this last suggestion, can we remove the square brackets? Yes, I'm asking the Committee. Can we remove and agree to the proposal to remove the square brackets? Any objection? No? Thank you very much. So we remove the square brackets.

Now let's consider other points. There was a number of proposals and concerns by Russian Federation. I'd like to start from the point on innovation initiative. Taking into account what was stated by United States that that is a verbatim copy and paste of the text from the strategic plan into the action plan, do you insist on removing this? Russian Federation.

>> RUSSIAN FEDERATION: Chairman, taking into account that this really is a copy from the strategic plan, we will not insist on deleting this word. However, in the future, we need to understand that innovation and what we think is innovation today may change tomorrow. Moreover, when we are talking about innovative approaches, we often think this is an approach which will be better than the previous approach, but it is not always the case.

But in any case, we will not insist on deleting this word. Thank you, sir.

>> CHAIR: Thank you, Russia. There was another point, the gender digital divide. Do you insist on your position on that?

>> RUSSIAN FEDERATION: Thank you, Chairman. I would once again like to note that we understand that in accordance with the technological database of the ITU and in accordance with a large number of reports of the technical nature, the digital divide is a digital, a divide rather in the technical opportunities available to receive telecommunication services. We do not fully understand how, if for example you are thinking about the technical opportunities possible to receive a broadcast signal in a household, to where people of one gender receiving services and people of the other gender not receiving

services, it's not really understandable how it could happen.

In any case, we will not insist on deleting this, either. However, we would still like to understand how this could come about, from a technical point of view, with a technical understanding of the digital divide and resolution 37, which we have here at this conference. Thank you, sir.

>> CHAIR: Thank you, Russia, for your cooperation. In light of your agreement that you are not insisting on this, can I propose that we leave the text as it is in this section of the text? I understand there is no opposition to my proposal. So the other proposal from Russian Federation was with respect to the use of satellites and the transition from digital to satellite broadcasting would mean that it would be improvement in the efficiencies.

That is a matter of substance. And listening to the proposal made by Russia, can I propose that we accept the addition of the text as indicated by Russia on this topic? Any opposition? None. Thank you very much. I do not see any objection. So we add the text which was proposed by Russia.

Then the last item -- Russian Federation.

>> RUSSIAN FEDERATION: Thank you, Chairman. I would like to clarify that this text in yellow from Brazil, we do agree with it. How far our proposal on this paragraph was to delete the text in which it indicates that the transition from terrestrial to satellite television will lead to improved efficiency and so on.

We believe that that is not quite the case. We would like to delete the modification which starts with including the transition. Thank you.

>> CHAIR: The proposal from Russian Federation is to delete the highlighted text. Any disagreement on this? South Africa, please.

>> SOUTH AFRICA: Thank you, Chairperson. Good morning distinguished colleagues. We totally agree with the Russian Federation that the text should actually be deleted. We don't find any rationale, because in satellite systems you are still subjected to some form of harmful interference. The text even excludes other broadcasting platforms which is actually cable TV. So we strongly suggest that it be deleted. Thank you.

>> CHAIR: Thank you, South Africa. The proposal is to remove the highlighted text. Can I suggest that we agree with this proposal? Any objection? None? Thank you very much. So decided.

There was another amendment proposed by Brazil. I take it that you agree with that amendment as well. Thank you very much.

Now, I think with these changes, we can approve the action

plan as suggested and as modified, any disagreement? None.  
Thank you very much. So decided.

(applause).

Ladies and gentlemen, we have a request that we terminate now. But before we terminate, could I have your agreement that I would transfer the remaining items on our agenda to the plenary with all the square brackets and we use the time that we have between now and the next plenary session to conduct additional consultations. Yes? Mexico, please.

>> MEXICO: Thank you very much, Chairman. I do apologize for drawing attention to this topic, but we think it's quite an easy thing to resolve, so we bring it to your attention. It is just the presentation of a compilation on resolution 77. During the work there was no comment. It exists on the ITU website. It's a document with all of this. We don't think it's got back to text. We think it could be approved by this plenary. Thank you very much, Chairman.

>> CHAIR: You are talking about DT83? Mexico, please.

>> MEXICO: That's right, Chairman. We are talking about DT83.

>> CHAIR: I'm being advised that DT83, there are no square brackets, and there has been extensive consultations. In that respect, could I seek your agreement that we approve revisions to resolution 77 as contained in document DT83? Any objection? None. Thank you very much. So decided.

I would have liked to use this opportunity to thank all Distinguished Delegates and my colleagues, but I understand that I have to absolutely stop at this very moment. So I would come back to thanking each and every one of my colleagues in the plenary when I have the opportunity to present my report. Thank you very much for all your understanding and cooperation. It has been a true pleasure to serve you. And I look forward to working with you again. But in the meantime, I am of course available day and night to have further consultations.

Thank you very much. The meeting is adjourned.

(applause).

(pause).

(standing by).

>> CHAIR: Good morning. We will now begin the plenary meeting. I would ask you all to take your seats.

I would like to ask the interpreters to confirm that they are ready.

>> Yes, Chairman, the interpreters are ready.

>> CHAIR: Thank you very much. Let us begin with our 10th plenary meeting of this conference. I put to your consideration today's agenda contained in document ADM/31-E revision 1. Are there any comments on the agenda? Seeing none, the agenda is

adopted. So we will move on to the next item on the agenda, which is item 3, to address the fourth series of texts submitted by the editorial Committee to the plenary.

I would like to give the floor to the Chair of Committee 5. You have the floor.

>> Thank you, Chairman. I apologize for the delay. I was looking for the text. It's my pleasure to introduce the fourth series of texts to the plenary. This is document 73, coming from the second series of com 3. This relates to the changes to resolutions 9 and 80 and the suppressions of resolutions, 50, 64 and 68. I would like to draw your attention to the fact that in resolution 80, there are square brackets on page 13 paragraph 2. Thank you, Chairman.

>> CHAIR: Thank you very much. We will begin with our review of the resolutions contained in this fourth series of texts, which I would repeat is document 73. We will begin our review page by page of the version in English. We will begin on page 1, resolution 9, Buenos Aires 2017. Are there any comments on page 1? Any comments on page 2? Are there any comments on page 3? Page 4 now. Page 5. Page 6. Page 7. Page 8. Page 9. Page 10, which is the last item in this document. Seeing no comments, this document is adopted.

We now move on to resolution 80, which begins on page 10 of the English version. Are there any comments on this page 10? Page 11. Page 12. Page 13. On page 13 we have some square brackets. Are there any comments on this set of square brackets or on page 13? There are no comments. Resolution 80 is therefore adopted. We now move on to the suppressions. ATDI, you have the floor.

>> Good morning. In page 13 there is a bracket. So did we leave it or delete it? But we cannot stay with the brackets. I propose to leave it. Thank you, Chair. Page 13, in the number 2. Thank you, Chairman.

>> CHAIR: South Africa, you have the floor.

>> SOUTH AFRICA: Thank you, Chair. Very good morning to all. Chair, I think we also share the sentiments expressed by the previous speaker, because Chair, if we were to adopt it with the square brackets, the sentence would have been incomplete. We also are proposing that we delete the square brackets but retain the text. Thank you.

>> CHAIR: Germany, you have the floor.

>> GERMANY: Thank you, Chairman. Well, with regard to this square brackets we are talking about a new question. I suppose this question was already approved. And if we delete the square brackets, we have to make sure that the text corresponds to the title of the new question, which I'm not sure whether this is the case, Mr. Chairman. Only under this condition one could



remove the square bracket. Thank you.

>> CHAIR: Thank you. The text within the square brackets would therefore remain in the text. I think that this question and this issue would be sufficiently reflected. Are there any comments? Seeing none, the resolution is adopted with the clarification that the text in square brackets will remain in the resolution.

Resolution 80 is adopted. Thank you. Let's come back to the suppressions. Resolution 50, suppression 4, on page 13 of the English version of the document. It is suppression 4 of resolution 50. Are there any comments? We will move on to the next suppression, suppression 3. Suppression 5 relating to resolution 68. Seeing no comments, we adopt the suppressions. Thank you.

We will move on to the next item on the agenda, that's the presentation of the fifth series of texts submitted by the editorial Committee. I'll give the floor to the Chair of the Editorial Committee.

>> Thank you, Chairman. It's my honor to introduce the fifth series of texts from Committee 5 and document 78. This comes from com 4 under document 75 and plenary and document number 77. With regard to document 75, these are revisions to resolutions 21 and for the, and 32 and the plenary revisions to resolution 25. Thank you, Chair.

>> CHAIR: Thank you very much. Let us begin with our review of this document 78, I repeat, page by page of the English version of the document. Page 1 on resolution 21? Are there any comments here? Page 2. Page 3. Page 4. Seeing no comments, this resolution is adopted.

We now move on to resolution 25 which begins on page 4. Are there any comments on page 4, resolution 25? Page 5? Page 6? Seeing no comments, apologies, Estonia, you have the floor.

>> ESTONIA: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I'm taking the floor on behalf of member states of the European Union and we reserve our right to come back to resolution 25 after the lunch break. Thank you.

>> CHAIR: I thank you, sir. Jordan, you have the floor.

>> JORDAN: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. We are in the process to adopt the resolution. It is not clear to us that some Member States they are reserving the right to come to a resolution without explaining what is the reasoning behind that. Otherwise anyone with the floor has the right to come after the break. We need to proceed with approval of the document. First we have any position they have to restate that for us to consider. Thank you.

>> CHAIR: Yes, I understand that resolution 25 is to be approved and what was being requested is to take consultations

during the coffee break on an issue, connected issue which the delegation wishes to raise. But the resolution is being approved. Estonia, you have the floor.

>> ESTONIA: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Yes, we don't have any problems with the resolution itself. Thank you.

>> CHAIR: I thank the delegate of Estonia. With these clarifications in that case, resolution 25 is adopted. With that, we can move on to the next resolution, resolution 30.

It begins on page 6 of the document in the English version. Are there any comments on page 6? Are there any comments on page 7? Any comments on page 8? Page 9? Page 10. Page 11. Page 12. Seeing no comments, resolution 30 is adopted. Now let us move on to the suppressions. There is only one. It is on page 13 of the English version of the document. It is suppression 4 of resolution 32.

Are there any comments? Seeing no comments, this suppression is adopted. Nigeria, you have the floor.

>> NIGERIA: Thank you, Chairman. I'm speaking as Chair of Committee 5 to indicate that Committee 5 may not be able to complete its mission within the time allocated to it, because of the delay in other committees. Therefore, I would request that the editorial Committee be granted an extension, so that it can continue with its mandate with the support of the Secretariat of the ITU after the conference.

>> CHAIR: Are there any comments or question about the request made by the Chair of Committee 5? ATDI, you have the floor.

>> Now in the conference in the last day we got in format the final acts, draft final acts, if Committee 5 will continue after our meeting, the question to the Secretariat is when we receive the final WTDC Buenos Aires. Thank you, Chairman.

>> CHAIR: Thank you very much. Germany, you have the floor.

>> GERMANY: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The final acts of this conference, it is not a treaty making conference. It is a final report. But nonetheless we understand the request, because time is short. I don't know whether there are precedence other conferences, maybe legal advisors of the ITU can clarify this, but I see a certain problem if texts cannot be adopted by, finally adopted by your plenary.

This precedence of previous conferences we could of course follow the procedures applied in that particular occasion.

Thank you very much, Mr. Chairman.

>> CHAIR: Thank you very much. I'll give the floor to the legal advisor of the ITU to comment on this situation.

>> Thank you, sir, and good morning, everyone. I would like to briefly confirm that there are precedents for this,

where the editorial Committee continues with its work to simply refine text in a linguistic level. And the internal rules provide for this Committee to continue after this, after the conference ends, if the conference so decides. So I see no problem with this, sir.

>> CHAIR: Thank you very much to the ITU legal advisor. Having heard this clarification and given that it is a possibility provided for in the rules of the ITU, if there are no objections, we authorize Committee 5 to be able to extend its mandate. Thank you very much.

The next agenda item is 5, the Buenos Aires declaration. I would like to give the floor to the Vice-Chair of the conference for the Americas region who is to report to us on the result of his consultations carried out jointly with the Chair of the working group of the plenary on the paragraph 17 which was still outstanding. Vice-Chair for the Americas region, you have the floor.

>> Thank you very much, Mr. Chairman. Good morning, all colleagues.

We met yesterday night after Committee 3 meetings from 10:00 a.m. to 11:30 night. We were able to discuss many alternatives for the text. But the group has decided that the preference will be still working on the text that were presented before, so no further language would be attempt in order to find a consensus.

In this regard, Mr. Chairman, the words are basically the same. There was discussion also in the afternoon, but still remaining brackets under the word privacy, in paragraph 17. We could also include last meeting some new words just recognizing the article of the constitution, recognizing the sovereignty right of each state to regulate its telecommunication after the word priorities in this paragraph.

Those words will try to limit and to clarify things that can come up with the words data protection and privacy and especially privacy some regions also want to be included. So Mr. Chairman, this is briefly my report, so there is this issue for us to solve with brackets under, and privacy words, thank you, Mr. Chairman.

>> CHAIR: I thank the Vice-Chair from the Americas region. I now give the floor to Jordan.

>> JORDAN: Thank you very much, Mr. Chairman. In the document, on this document there is still square bracket on paragraph 22 and 22 Alt. Is this as well subject for further discussion? And I have a general remark, Mr. Chairman, if you allow me.

We all know that the declaration is very important document. In fact, the declaration is showing the world what

was the output of this conference. I made a comment that we postpone the discussion on the declaration until we finish with all the resolutions and the agreement on the strategies, the implementation plan, all of that is very important to be considered in the declaration. Thank you very much, Mr. Chairman.

>> CHAIR: I thank you, sir. The United States, you have the floor.

>> UNITED STATES OF AMERICA: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I would like to thank all the parties who have been involved in the discussion of this declaration for their willingness to compromise.

Unfortunately though, on behalf of the United States, I do have to request that we maintain square brackets around the text in paragraph 22. My understanding of our discussion yesterday was that we would consider the changes that were proposed as one package. The United States at this time is not able to accept the deletion of the terms under favorable conditions, and on mutually-agreed terms, which we believe is a very necessary and appropriate characterization of technology transfer. Thank you very much.

>> CHAIR: I thank the delegate of the United States. I give the floor to Argentina.

>> ARGENTINA: Thank you, Chairman. I would like to request a clarification, because we see that all of the brackets are still here with regard to the paragraphs which were under discussion. We understand that some of them have been resolved, and that has been clarified by the U.S. delegation that they would also have difficulties with accepting what was agreed on the paragraph 22, but there are still brackets in paragraph 7. We would like to have some clarification about what we agreed yesterday, whether or not it was agreed, we are just going to discuss paragraph 17, or whether we are going to discuss all of the paragraphs. Thank you.

>> CHAIR: I thank the delegate of Argentina. Yes, yesterday we agreed on 7 and 22 -- 7, 8 and 22. With regards to 17, I would like to ask all of the delegations to try to ask you to focus on difficulties where they really existed on paragraph 17. I give the floor to Sudan.

>> SUDAN: Thank you, Chair. At the outset, I would like to thank Mr. Jefferson from Brazil for the huge efforts that he has made. I would like to say, Mr. Chairman, that a surprise repeating here what has been said and repeatedly said yesterday, we had four issues that were under brackets and we have agreed on three of them. So there was only one paragraph still pending which is paragraph 17.

This paragraph is about privacy, as was said. We have

tried after the session reaching resolution. We did not agree. Yet we have already agreed on the previous three paragraphs and we still have one day before the end of the conference. So here we go back to issues that were previously agreed upon. So I'm surprised. I thank you, Mr. Chair.

>> CHAIR: I thank Sudan. I give the floor to Germany.

>> GERMANY: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Well, there is confusion now with regard to what has been agreed and what have not been agreed, is due to the fact that yesterday there was a relatively large crowd around our able ad hoc Chairman from Brazil, and not, in principle, not all had a chance to really see what has been proposed. Therefore of course, it was appropriate to have this meeting although at late night, but it was appropriately a meeting but at late night and after and in parallel, by the way, to Committee 3. This is the result, the intervention of the United States.

Mr. Chairman, formally as far as I remember we in fact had cleared in the plenary three of this square brackets, and the remaining one was on paragraph 17, on number 17. Nevertheless Taking into account the procedure in which we came to this conclusion, I would kindly ask you to accept the intervention of the United States. Thank you.

>> CHAIR: Thank you, sir. I give the floor to Saudi Arabia.

>> SAUDI ARABIA: Thank you, Chair. I would like to support what my colleague from Jordan has said. It's better and preferable to postpone the adoption of the declaration until the end of the plenary, as this will be the declaration that will emanate from our conference. So it's better to submit at the end.

I think that we are close to reaching a consensus. There is one paragraph that is still pending in this document. So I think that it's better to discuss this document and to go back to it at the end of our proceedings. At that time, I may expect that there will be a better consensus on the last pending point. So if you agree, Mr. Chairman, let it be the last document to be discussed in this plenary. And let us give us some space, and I think we are close to consensus, and we can get this consensus on the last point that is pending. Thank you, Mr. Chair.

>> CHAIR: Thank you, sir. I would like to ask the Vice-Chair of the conference for the Americas region whether or not he could make an additional effort with these interested parties to try to come up with an agreement on this paragraph which is still open, taking into consideration the suggestion made by the delegate of Saudi Arabia.

The Vice-Chair, you have the floor.

>> Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I'm at your disposal and also

the disposal of the conference. I will look forward to work with colleagues in order to find agreement on paragraph 17. And just to make clear, yesterday we decided to strike all the square brackets on, as you said, on paragraphs 7, 8 and 22, and just negotiate at night the paragraph 17. But we look forward to make more consultations and see if we can find agreement on all the declaration. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

>> CHAIR: Thank you, Vice-Chair. I enormously value the efforts that you make. I would like to ask delegations, so we are close to the end of this conference, we do need flexibility. So please, if agreement is reached, then it needs to be kept. I would like to request the Vice-Chair from the Americas region for this conference to inform me after the coffee break about when we could expect some developments from his side. The United States, you have the floor.

>> UNITED STATES OF AMERICA: Thank you very much, Mr. Chair. Unfortunately, I do have to disagree. I believe the decision made yesterday was that we would look at the four proposed changes again today after paragraph 17 was discussed.

We withheld comment based on the fact that we wanted to see the results of the discussion on paragraph 17. But we continue to disagree with the dropping of the language from paragraph 22, and cannot accept dropping that language.

>> CHAIR: As was previously indicated, therefore giving the floor to Afghanistan with which we will close the speakers list, we are asking the Vice-Chair of the Americas region to carry out informal consultations, and to come up with an agreement on these paragraphs which is still open. Afghanistan, you have the floor.

>> AFGHANISTAN: No comments.

>> CHAIR: No comments. In that case we wait development. We hope there will be agreement on that point. With that we can move on to the next agenda item. Report on revision of resolution 18, I would like to give the floor to the Vice-Chair from the Arab States region for this conference who will be entrusted with seeking additional consensus on this point. You have the floor, Vice-Chair.

>> Thank you very much, Mr. Chair. Good morning, everyone.

Mr. Chair, the Arab States have incorporated some changes to the resolution as for the latest developments that have taken place at different places such as ITU many meetings and conferences.

Regarding this resolution, it has won the support of many countries, Mr. Chair. Mr. Chair, there are still consultations that are being made on this resolution. We expect that these consultations will continue today with the different parties that may have amendments to suggest on this resolution, and to

the proposal made by the countries on this resolution, namely those consultations are still going. So as I have said, Mr. Chairman, we do need more time in order to discuss further this resolution.

Based on that, we would like to ask you to give us further time, and we will notify you of the latest developments during the plenary in the afternoon. We will try at the lunch break to reach resolution regarding the resolution. This resolution has been discussed over more than one session. This is why we insist that there are still paragraphs that have not seen any consensus. As I have said, during the lunch break, I will do my utmost to conduct further discussions and consultations, hoping to reach a consensus on this resolution.

Thank you, Mr. Chair.

>> CHAIR: Thank you, Vice-Chair. I give the floor to Jordan.

>> JORDAN: Thank you, Chair. In my turn I would like to say that I was party to all those meetings, and I would like to thank all the countries that have shown their interest and their support of the resolution.

This resolution is of paramount importance in strengthening the role of ITU in achieving Sustainable Development Goals, all this to allow the people to ensure the basic rights to ICT and technologies. As you know, this is a basic human right. This is why I would like to thank them once again, the need to reach a consensus and to support the resolution, as this will signal very positive, send a very positive signal to the world, and to the WTDC that we have been able to agree on something that will serve the Palestinian cause. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

>> CHAIR: I now give the floor for United Arab Emirates and then to South Africa, and then I would like to come to a conclusion on this topic. The United Arab Emirates, you have the floor.

>> UNITED ARAB EMIRATES: Thank you very much, Mr. Chairman. I would ask colleagues that we should wait, I'm doing some consultations with our colleagues in order to reach to a solution and compromise on this resolution. So during the lunch break, I'll do my efforts to hopefully reach some consensus on this resolution. Then after that, I will be happy to report to you the results of these discussions, and accordingly we will help on that.

But for the time being, as I said, there is a number of resolutions which are in square brackets, so with the understanding and cooperation hopefully by everyone in order to reach consensus, and agreeable text to agreement on this resolution. Thank you very much, Mr. Chairman.

>> CHAIR: Thank you very much. I give the floor to South

Africa.

>> SOUTH AFRICA: Thank you very much, honorable Chairperson. We have listened to the Chair and we would like to indicate that we would like to be part of those consultations. From the outset, Chair, let us say that the issue of the Palestine has come to this conference a number of times. And for us, we do believe that it's a pity that each time we had to go through this matter, because we hoped in the spirit of reconciliation that the problems that are facing the Palestinian people are resolved.

But we don't want to get engaged into the debate now. But we are hoping to get engaged into the process so that we can facilitate the adoption of this resolution, so that we move forward in a positive manner. Thank you, Chair.

>> CHAIR: I thank South Africa. Well, based on the comments and the request that we have heard from the Vice-Chair of the conference for the Arab States, I'll be grateful if after lunch you could communicate to me how you have progressed and whether or not you will be able to achieve a consensus on dealing with the resolution in the plenary. Thank you very much.

The next agenda item is report on revision of resolution 51, provision of assistance and support to Iraq. I'd like to give the floor to the Vice-Chair from the Arab group for this conference to present the work and consultations undertaken from yesterday. Mr. Vice-Chair, you have the floor.

>> Thank you, Mr. Chairperson. With regards to resolution 51, regarding providing assistance and support to Iraq, this resolution was discussed yesterday, Mr. Chairperson, and amendments were brought about on this resolution, in different parts of the resolution.

However, since the discussions regarding this resolution started quite belatedly, we are still in need of more time to discuss the final amendments on this resolution. Therefore, Mr. Chairperson we as I said need more time to discuss it and to come up with a consensus on the text regarding resolution 51. Thank you very much, Mr. Chairperson.

>> CHAIR: Thank you, Vice-Chair. I'd like to move as we did before, if we could come back to this after lunch, just to have a little bit of time to schedule the work of the plenary. You have the floor.

>> Thank you very much, Mr. Chairperson. I will try as much as possible to come to, after the lunch break, with a consensual solution regarding resolution 51. However, Mr. Chairperson, I would like to inform you that the Iraqi delegation was unable to obtain the visa to enter into Argentina, and in view of the difference, the time difference



between Argentina and the republic of Iraq, we might need more time, in order to find a solution to this resolution.

I will try my best, Mr. Chairperson, to inform you with the latest developments after the lunch break. But for the reasons I have mentioned, and because we do not have the Iraqi delegation with us in this conference, that is why we might need more time. We do not foresee any difficulties with this resolution. The difficulties only have to do with the time difference between us here in Argentina and the time in the republic of Iraq, and a possibility of discussing with them the resolution. I hope to come back to you after lunch with some good news.

But I can't promise you, sir, that I will be coming back after lunch with a consensual text regarding resolution 51. Thank you, sir.

>> CHAIR: Thank you. I really value your efforts. So I look forward to some comments and feedback from you as soon as possible, hopefully after lunch, if not, as soon as possible. Now we will move on to the next agenda item on agenda which is the report on the draft new resolution in ARB-4, the provision of assistance and support to Libya. This can be found in document DT/87. Once again I'd like to give the floor to the Vice-Chair for the Arab group of this conference to present this document and consultations which took place yesterday. Mr. Vice-Chair, you have the floor.

>> Thank you very much, Mr. Chairperson. With regards to this resolution, I am pleased to inform you that we have come to a solution regarding this new draft resolution concerning assistance provided to Libya, and as you had mentioned the text of this resolution can be found in DT/87.

And after having discussed this resolution with a number of parties and based on observations received, we have come up with a consensual solution and it is included in the agenda of the plenary to be adopted. Thank you, sir.

>> CHAIR: Thank you very much. Are there any comments on this document, DT/87? Any comments from the floor? Germany, you have the floor.

>> GERMANY: I don't understand the last sentence on the request to Secretary-General that the Plenipotentiary Conference in Dubai should allocate the specific budget beginning of 2019. The budget 2018-2019 has, was already approved by Council. The Plenipotentiary Conference is not dealing with budget, but this financial plan. So it will be more appropriate if the meeting ask the Council to do this, in particular if you deal with the year 2019. Thank you.

>> CHAIR: Thank you, distinguished Delegate from Germany. I'd like to seek the opinion of the Chair of Committee 2,

which addresses budgetary matters. You have the floor.

>> (pause).

>> CHAIR: It seems that the Chair of Committee 2 is not here. I'd like to move to the secretary of that Committee if he could bring to light any comments or any feedback on the concern raised by Germany. Thank you. Canada, you have the floor.

>> CANADA: Thank you very much, Chairman. Briefly and speaking as the Vice-Chair of com 2 for the Americas region, I would concur with the observations and clarifications made by Germany. It would be better to have in the requests 3 the Secretary-General to bring to the attention of Council 2018. Thank you, sir.

>> CHAIR: Therefore, I'd like to, if there isn't any objection with regard to the proposed change suggested by Germany, seconded by the Vice-Chair of Committee 2, united Arab Emirates, you have the floor.

>> UNITED ARAB EMIRATES: Thank you very much, Mr. Chairperson. We understand, sir, the questions that have been raised by the honorable delegate of Germany and the honorable delegate of Canada, since he is a Vice-Chair of Committee 2.

However, we would like to obtain more clarification, sir, because this text can be found in previous resolutions, because in the past it was requested from the Plenipotentiary Conference in 2014 to allocate a budget to support other countries, and such a text can be found in previous resolutions. And therefore, we would like to obtain clarifications from Mr. Ba if he is present, can the Plenipotentiary Conference allocate a budget for those countries that are in need of assistance or not?

As for the Council, with regard to this resolution, resolution request the Council to allocate funds to implement this resolution, and it has been covered in the resolution, that the objective of requesting the Secretary-General to inform the Plenipotentiary Conference of this resolution, and that there be a specific budget that is to be allocated for Libya to implement this resolution. Of course, the budget will be part of the allocated budget for the ITU.

I hope I can get some clarification from the Secretariat and in particular from Mr. Ba on this topic. Thank you, Mr. Chairperson.

>> CHAIR: Saudi Arabia, you have the floor.

>> SAUDI ARABIA: Thank you, Mr. Chairperson. Very briefly, what I wanted to say is that this has been covered, what I wanted to say was covered by the honorable delegate from the UAE. There is an expression that is being prepared for the Council which is to use the requested funds to implement the

activities regarding this resolution, and we believe we should maintain a request to the Secretary-General to preserve the third paragraph under request the Secretary-General, because this paragraph calls to bring to the attention of the Plenipotentiary Conference, and the question of allocating specific funds for Libya in the budget of 2019. We think that the draft resolution in its current form is acceptable and it's good. Thank you, Mr. Chairperson.

>> CHAIR: Thank you, delegate from Saudi Arabia. I have three requests from the floor. I'd like to give the floor to Jordan, Italy and Germany to speak after we have sought clarification from the Secretariat as Germany has raised some concerns. Now Jordan, you have the floor.

>> JORDAN: Thank you, Mr. Chairperson. Briefly, we in turn support what was presented by the honorable delegate of UAE and the honorable delegate of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, because there is a request to the Council in order to provide the necessary funds. As for the third paragraph, it requests to bring to the attention of the Plenipotentiary Conference the need to allocate such funds. Therefore, we are preserving that paragraph without any amendments to it is appropriate. Thank you, Mr. Chairperson.

>> CHAIR: Thank you. Italy, you have the floor.

>> ITALY: Chairman, just to concur in what the delegates from Germany and Canada said, Italy has the honor to Chair the last Council, and my colleague, and I can confirm the Council, one of the main tasks of the last Council was to approve the annual budget 18-19. The budget is approved. That does not preclude that funding, this budget, the development sector can, activity can allocate funds. But the budget biennium for 18/19 has been approved. Now the Plenipotentiary has the right to, in my opinion, to ask for extra fund in the year to come but the biennial budget is already approved.

>> CHAIR: Thank you for those comments. I give the floor to comment, you have the floor, Mr. Ba.

>> Thank you, Chairman. I would be happy to. I'm working on the report of Committee 2, if the Distinguished Delegates would be happy enough to repeat the question, I'd be happy to respond. Thank you.

>> CHAIR: Thank you. The director of the development sector has the floor.

>> Thank you very much, Mr. Chairman. Of course, the way I see it is that the two can go together. Of course I'm not talking about the substance. The Council adopted budget 2018-2019. So it is the Council 2018 may want to revise this budget, to take into account if we are to have resources for this resolution in 2019. At the same time, the Plenipotentiary

Conference will adopt the financial plan starting 2020. So then we can keep, we may want to keep both because the question is here, the Council may want to revise the decision on the budget to take into account the resources to implement this resolution in 2019.

The plenipot now in the financial plan 20, 2020, 2023, 24, now we also make other provision for this resolution. I hope that helps. This is my opinion from the commenters. Thank you.

>> CHAIR: Thank you, Director. Germany, you have the floor.

>> GERMANY: Exactly, that is the issue, Mr. Chairman. You cannot compare resolutions of WTDCs that were approved in the same year where a Plenipotentiary Conference took place.

As a matter of fact, the Plenipotentiary Conference will determine the financial plan 2020-2023. If we want to have an extra budget for Libya, then the Council 2018 needs to be asked to try to revise their already approved budget, and allocate funds for this particular action in 2019.

The explanation of the director of the BDT was correct. Thank you.

>> CHAIR: Jordan, you have the floor.

>> JORDAN: Thank you very much, Mr. Chairman. I'm grateful to Germany. This is basically what is the resolution says. It's called out, Council to consider this and it is us asking the Secretary-General to bring this to the attention of the Plenipotentiary Conference.

I think we don't have an issue with approving the text as it is. Thank you very much.

>> CHAIR: United Arab Emirates, you have the floor.

>> UAE: ....

(hearing no English).

Plenipotentiary can overrule that and also can, and also my understanding, after intervention from BDT Director, is that within that allocated budget for 2000, approved budget for 2018-2019, within that final budget, I mean allocation, I mean specific amount or budget could be allocated within the final budget for the assistance to Libya. If that does not help, Mr. Chairman, I have another proposal.

But I, with that understanding Plenipotentiary can review whatever Council decided. We can retain text as is, thank you, Mr. Chair.

>> CHAIR: Thank you very much. I'd like to give the floor to Sweden and Mongolia and then we close the list of speakers in order to wrap up this item. Sweden, you have the floor.

>> SWEDEN: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Well, there was part of the last intervention from the United Arab Emirates that was lost in translation. So maybe what I'm going to say was already

covered by the delegate from the United Arab Emirates, and if that is the case, I apologize for my intervention.

Regarding the invites Council in document 87, I compare that with what has been done in previous WTDCs, for example resolution 57, the text I think is already agreed and maybe we should just copy that text, that says to allocate the necessary funds with available resources for implementation of this resolution.

Regarding the request to Secretariat number 3 I agree with Germany that using the word budget in this case is probably not appropriate. And it will not be from 19. So the Council will take a decision at this 18 session within budget limitations and then it will be Plenipotentiary Conference to take this into account when they develop the financial plan.

Maybe with those changes, there is a possibility to reach an agreement, not contradicting previous resolutions. Thank you.

>> CHAIR: Thank you. Mongolia, you have the floor.

>> MONGOLIA: Thank you, Chairperson. We don't have any comments. Thank you.

>> CHAIR: Thank you. Before closing this item, I can see that there aren't any in depth differences with regard to the intent of the resolution to allocate resources to assist Libya. The discussion is based upon procedural aspects on budgetary periods and the need to intervene from different bodies from the union. Therefore, I would like to ask that those interested parties can meet off-line during the coffee break with the Vice-Chair, the Arab Group for this conference, you have been working on this resolution in order to find formal drafting which is required to precisely encompass the formal aspects.

I can't really see any in-depth disagreements. So people can talk and discuss different points of view, so I'd like to see those interested parties to meet with the Vice-Chair from the Arab group with the assistance from the Secretariat, in particular Mr. Alassane Ba. Now I'd like to close in agenda item having said that. Thank you.

I'd like to move on to the next item which is item 9, reports of Chairmen of committees and the Working Group of the plenary. We only have one document here, which is doc/61. I'd like to give the floor to the Chair of the Working Group of the plenary to present this document.

>> Mr. Chairman, the floor is given to us UAE. I have a proposal to make, Mr. Chairman, on this text that would resolve the issue. I know you have, you would like us to take informal consultation. But after hearing all the comments, Mr. Chairman, if you can agree to go back to the previous item, I have a proposal to make, so if it's agreeable to everyone, perhaps we

can close this issue and approve the new resolution.

So if you allow, Mr. Chairman, request the Secretary-General 3 to bring to the attention of the Plenipotentiary Conference by 2018 the need to allocate specific budget for Libya, full stop. So we take out, as from the beginning of 2019, so that will be general. So if this is acceptable, Mr. Chairman, we can go ahead and approve the resolution. Apologize, Mr. Chairman, for going back to this agenda item. Thank you.

>> CHAIR: Thank you, Vice Chairman. I would prefer if you had consultation with the Secretariat. As I said I don't think there are substantive differences. It is a question of dates, so that we don't delay any further, if we can have the formal drafting discussion. Of course we can come back to this after the coffee break with pleasure.

I would like to thank you for all the efforts undertaken, and you continue to do, in order to conclude this topic.

So now having said this, I'd like to come back to the next agenda item and I'd like to give the floor to the Chair of the Working Group of the plenary to present document doc/61. You have the floor, sir.

>> Thank you, Chair. Document 61, I have already presented this in detail yesterday, giving a partial review of the work undertaken of the Working Group, during five meetings which took place.

If you want, I can go into more detail in this. This can be found in the document. We have reached agreement on the strategic plan, for the 2020 to 2023 period. We have also agreed on the four objectives, instead of five objectives from the strategic plan.

This can be seen on page 3 of the document. We have sent this to the 23, so that it considers this in the action plan for the sector. I participated yesterday and this morning, and they took note and approved the action plan for the sector. We still had a pending question on the annex which were asking Committee 3 to complete it, again with the SDGs.

I think that this will be worked upon. We didn't discuss this before. As you know, we had many discussions ongoing in square brackets. I think that hopefully the enthusiasm which my friend from Brazil has brought to the discussions can bring colleagues to agreement, as the declaration is the final point in a very political point to come out of this conference. Therefore, it has to have agreement from all countries. Yesterday, by concluding my introduction to the report, I asked all delegates to have a spirit of cooperation, and this has always been the foundation of my interventions and my Chairmanship.

To end, Chair, I would like to sincerely thank the four Vice-Chairs who have helped me. We have had many coordinating meetings. They have all participated actively in the discussions, and working on the ad hoc groups, they have also consulted with their countries, with representatives from CITEEL during the coordination meetings in order to have a positive outcome.

I would like to also thank the Secretariat who has supported me during my discussions. Mr. Cosmos and all of the team, they haven't all been listed in the report but nevertheless, they are part of the overall BDT team which has contributed to the various aspects of our work.

So thank you once again and for the efforts undertaken in order to complete our work. Thank you.

>> CHAIR: Thank you, Fabio, for all of your work and for the report which you have presented. We have finished our agenda items.

I'd now like to take a coffee break. We have 15, 20 minutes. Let's meet again in 15 or 20 minutes. We have the plenary session until 12:30 so 15 or 20 minutes. I'd like to reconvene after the coffee break on resolution on assistance and support to Libya, which I feel is almost finalized. Once again, I'd like to ask the Vice-Chair of the conference for the Arab States and Mr. Alassane Ba to meet and coordinate efforts in order to complete this drafting. So reconvene after 15 or 20 minutes. Thank you.

(break).

(standing by).

>> CHAIR: Ladies and gentlemen, now again to carry on with our plenary session, we kindly ask you to take your seats, please.

Okay, let's begin. Before the coffee break, the Chair of the Working Group of the plenary presented his report which was in document doc/61, which we took note of. Now I'd like to go back to agenda item 8 referring to the new resolution providing assistance to Libya. I'd like to ask the Vice-Chair for the Arab group for this conference to come back to us on the consultations which he has undertaken during the coffee break. Vice-Chair, you have the floor. Thank you.

>> Thank you very much, Mr. Chairman. During the coffee break, Mr. Chairman, we had some consultations with a number of colleagues who raised concerns about the text or the procedure, and aspects on this specific text. Also we had the Secretariat with us, Mr. Ba who joined us in the discussion. The text that we are proposing or the group agreed to certain text would read as follows: There is no change in the other parts of the resolution, except requests Secretary-General 3 to bring to the

attention of the Plenipotentiary Conference the by 2018 the need to allocate and from here is the sections, Mr. Chairman, addition, the need to allocate the necessary resources to implement this resolution, full stop. So the text, the previous text where we say a specific budget for Libya as from the beginning of 2019 was striked out. And the text, the new, I mean the section is additional specific number 3 of requesting Secretary-General is to bring to the attention of the Plenipotentiary Conference by 2018 the need to allocate the necessary resources to implement this resolution. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

>> CHAIR: Thank you very much, Vice-Chair. I'd like to, are there any comments on this proposed text? If there was no opposition, then we might be able to approve this resolution. Seeing none, this resolution is thereby approved.

Now I'd like to bring to your attention revision 2 of the agenda. As you know, there is a footnote on today's agenda, and also this afternoon's session as well most probably, which indicates that we can address documents as they become available from the Drafting Committee.

In this vein we have incorporated as agenda item 10 addressing the sixth series of text presented by the Editorial Committee. This is doc/83.

I would like to move on to reviewing this document. I'd like to give the floor to the Chair of Committee 5 to present this document.

>> Thank you very much, Chair. I have the honor to present the 6th series of Committee 5, looking at document 83, coming out of com 4, and reference 76. This is with regards to resolution 31. Thank you very much, Chair.

>> CHAIR: Thank you very much to the Chair of that Committee. Now let's have a look at the review of this document, resolution 31. Page 1 of the English version, are there any comments on this page? Page 2? Page 3. Seeing no comments, this resolution number 31 is thereby approved. Thank you.

With this, we have completed our agenda for this morning's plenary session. I'd like to give the floor to the secretary to make some announcements. The secretary doesn't have anything to address us on this matter.

Therefore, I'd like to adjourn this morning's session, and we will meet again at 2:30 this afternoon for our next plenary session. Thank you.

(meeting adjourned at 12:08 p.m.)

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