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| ITU logo | INTERNATIONAL TELECOMMUNICATION UNION**TELECOMMUNICATIONSTANDARDIZATION SECTOR**STUDY PERIOD 2017-2020 | SCV–C-005 |
| **SCV** |
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| **Source:** | Russian Federation |
| **Title:** | Draft revision of Resolution 154 on the use of the six official languages of the Union on an equal footing |

# I Introduction

The Plenipotentiary Conference that took place in Dubai, in 2018 (PP-18) acknowledged the need to streamline resolutions of Plenipotentiary Conference and relevant resolutions of ITU-R, ITU-T and ITU-D.

In ITU-R resolution 61, ITU-T resolution 67 and ITU-D resolution 86 on the use of the languages of the Union on an equal footing there are many similar items that are common between them and with PP resolution 154.

It seems reasonable to modify the PP Resolution 154 by including items that are common for all sectors. It could allow significantly reducing or even suppressing relevant Sector’s resolutions.

The Russian Administration offers a draft revision of Resolution 154 "Use of the six official languages of the union on an equal footing" for comments and proposals of the group.

II Proposal

To consider and discuss the following amendments in the Resolution 154 (Rev. Dubai, 2018):

See Annex I

ANNEX I

**MOD**

RESOLUTION 154 (REV. BUCHAREST, 2022)

Use of the official languages of the Union on an equal footing

The Plenipotentiary Conference of the International Telecommunication Union (Bucharest, 2022),

*recalling*

1. United Nations General Assembly Resolution 73/346 on multilingualism;
2. Article 29 of the ITU Constitution and Article 35 of the ITU Convention on the official languages of the Union;
3. Resolution 66[[1]](#footnote-1) of the Plenipotentiary conference on documents and publications of the Union;
4. Resolution 165 of the Plenipotentiary conference on deadlines for the submission of the proposals and registration of participants for conferences and assemblies of the Union;
5. Resolution 168 of the Plenipotentiary Conference on translation of ITU recommendation;
6. Decision 5 of the Plenipotentiary conference on revenue and expenses for the Union;
7. Resolution 1386 of the Council on ITU Coordination Committee for Terminology (ITU CCT);
8. Report of the UN Joint Inspection Unit JIU/REP/2020/6 on Multilingualism in the United Nations system
9. relevant Sector’s resolutions on use of the languages of the Union on an equal footing

*reaffirming*

1. that UNGA in its Resolution 73/346 recognized that multilingualism, as a core value of the United Nations (UN), contributes to the achievement of the goals of the UN, as set out in Article 1 of the Charter of the United Nations;

that multilingualism, as a core value of the Organization, contributes to the achievement of the goals of the United Nations

1. the fundamental principle of equal treatment of the six official and working languages as enshrined in Resolution 115 (Rev. Marrakesh, 2002 ) of the Plenipotentiary Conference, on the use of the six official and working languages on an equal footing,

*noting with satisfaction and appreciation*

1. the progress made in regard to alignment of working methods and optimization of staffing levels in all the official languages, linguistic unification of databases for definitions and terminology and centralizing editing functions;
2. ITU's active participation in the International Annual Meeting on Language Arrangements, Documentation and Publications (IAMLADP);
3. The development of the ITU database for telecommunication/information and communication technology (ICT) terminology and definitions in all the ITU official languages;
4. the work accomplished by the ITU CCT, on the agreement and adoption of terms and definitions in the field of telecommunications/ICTs in all the official languages of the Union,

*recognizing*

1. that translation and interpretation are essential elements of the work of the Union that enable a common understanding among the entire ITU membership on the important issues under discussion;
2. the importance of maintaining and improving the multilingual content of services required by the universal character of United Nations system organizations, as called for in the United Nations Joint Inspection Unit report on Multilingualism in the United Nations System (Document JIU/REP/2020/6);
3. the work accomplished by CWG-LANG, as well as the work by the secretariat to implement the working group's recommendations as agreed by the Council, in particular with regard to the unification of linguistic databases for definitions and terminology and the centralization of editing functions, the integration of the terminology database for all the official languages of the Union, as well as harmonizing and unifying working procedures in the six language services;
4. that websites in all the official ITU languages are essential tools for membership, the media, educational institutions and general public,

*recognizing further*

1. the budget constraints facing the Union, and the importance of ensuring that ITU's work on the use of all the official languages of the Union on an equal footing is considered in conjunction with the budget so as to achieve an efficient allocation of expenses;
2. that Decision 5 of the Plenipotentiary conference stipulates that expenses on interpretation, translation and text processing in respect of all the official languages of the Union shall not exceed the value specified in the relevant *decides*,

[*taking into account*

that the Council approved, at its 2022 session, the Policy Framework on Multilingualism in ITU,]

*resolves*

1. to continue to take all necessary measures to ensure use of the all official languages of the Union on an equal footing and to provide interpretation and the translation of ITU documentation, although some work in ITU (for example working parties, regional conferences) might not require the use of all the official languages;

2 that the ITU CCT, comprising experts with command of the various official languages, appointed by the interested ITU membership, ITU Sector’s study groups and the General Secretariat, is responsible for the coordination of work on vocabulary within ITU, development and maintenance of vocabulary of telecommunications/ICT;

3 that the ITU CCT in close collaboration with language sections of the General Secretariat should consider proposals in English submitted by the study groups and Council Working groups and adopt, as appropriate, the translations into the other official languages;

4 that, when selecting terms and preparing definitions, study groups and then the ITU CCT shall take into account the established use of terms and existing definitions in ITU, in particular those included in the online ITU Terms and Definitions database. In cases when several terms are proposed using similar definitions and/or concepts, a single term and a single definition, acceptable to all of the study groups concerned, should be selected

*instructs the Secretary-General, in close collaboration with the Directors of the Bureaux*

1. to present annually to the Council and to CWG-LANG a report containing:
2. evolution of the budget for translation of documents to all the official languages of the Union since the last Plenipotentiary conference, taking into consideration variations in the volumes of translation services provided in each year;
3. procedures adopted by other international organizations inside and outside the United Nations system and benchmark studies on their costs of translation;
4. initiatives undertaken by the General Secretariat and the three Bureaux to increase efficiencies and cost savings in the implementation of this resolution and comparison with the evolution of the budget since the last Plenipotentiary conference;
5. alternative translation procedures feasible to be adopted by ITU, in particular the use of innovative technologies, and their advantages and disadvantages;
6. progress made on the implementation of measures and principles for translation and interpretation adopted by the Council;
7. to publish as soon as possible, but not later than 3 working days after receiving, all contributions submitted to the ITU secretariat for any ITU event in their original language on the respective event website even before their translation into the other official languages of the Union;
8. to intensify work on harmonization of the ITU Sectors' and the General Secretariat websites in all the official languages of the Union to ensure clarity, ease of navigation and implement an image of One ITU;
9. to support the implementation of multilingualism in communications and knowledge-sharing, focusing on the multilingual content of the official websites and social media accounts globally;

5 to provide timely updates of the pages of the ITU website in the all official languages of the Union;

6 to provide the ITU CCT with all relevant information and support;

7 to collect all new terms and definitions which are proposed by the ITU study groups in consultation with ITU CCT, enter them in the online ITU Terms and Definitions database  and publish them biannual as a technical report;

8 to monitor the quality of translation and associated expenses;

9 to translate Policy and Guidelines documents on the ITU intellectual property rights;

10 to continue to explore all possible options for the interpretation and the translation of ITU documentation available to promote the use of all the official languages of the Union on an equal footing during official meetings of the ITU, in particular, study groups,

*instructs the ITU Council*

1. to continue to analyse the adoption by ITU of alternative translation procedures, taking into account their financial implications and leveraging the benefits of innovative technologies in order to reduce translation and typing expenses in the budget of the Union, while maintaining or improving the current quality of translation and the correct use of technical telecommunication terminology;
2. to continue to analyse, including through the use of appropriate indicators, application of the updated measures and principles for interpretation and translation adopted by the Council, taking into consideration the financial constraints, and bearing in mind the ultimate objective of full implementation of treatment of all the official languages on an equal footing;
3. to monitor implementation of the Policy Framework on Multilingualism in ITU,
4. to pursue and monitor appropriate operational measures, such as:
5. to continue review of ITU documentation and publication services with a view to eliminating any duplication and to creating synergies;
6. to facilitate the timely and simultaneous delivery of high-quality and efficient language services (interpretation, documentation, publications and public-information materials) in all the languages, in support of the Union's strategic goals;
7. to support optimum levels of staffing, including core staff, temporary assistance and outsourcing, while ensuring the required high quality of interpretation and translation;
8. to continue implementation of judicious and efficient use of ICTs in language and publications activities, taking into consideration experience gained by other international organizations and best practices;
9. to continue to explore and implement all possible measures to reduce the size and volume of documents (page-limits, executive summaries, material in annexes or hyperlinks), and achieve greener meetings, when justified, without affecting the quality and content of the documents to be translated or to be published, and bearing clearly in mind the need to comply with the United Nations system objective of multilingualism;
10. as a matter of priority, to take, to the extent practicable, all necessary measures for equitable use of all the languages on the ITU website in terms of multilingual content and user-friendliness;
11. to monitor the work carried out by the ITU secretariat in regard to:
12. merging all existing databases for definitions and terminology into a centralized system, with proper measures for its maintenance, expansion and updating;
13. completion and maintenance of the ITU database for telecommunication/ICT terminology and definitions for all the official languages;
14. providing all the language service units with the necessary qualified staff and tools to meet their requirements in each language;
15. enhancing ITU's image and the effectiveness of its public-information work, making use of all the official languages of the Union, in, among other things, publishing ITU News, creating ITU websites, organizing Internet broadcasting and archiving of recordings, and issuing documents of a public-information nature, including announcements of ITU Telecom events, e-flashes and such like;
16. to maintain CWG-LANG, in order to monitor progress and report, including relevant recommendations, to the Council on the implementation of this resolution, working in close collaboration with the ITU CCT and the Council Working Group on financial and human resources;
17. to review, in collaboration with the Sector advisory groups, the types of material to be included in output documents and translated;
18. to continue to consider measures to reduce, without sacrificing quality, the cost and volume of documentation as a standing item, in particular for conferences and assemblies;
19. to report to the next plenipotentiary conference on the implementation of this resolution,

*instructs the Sector Advisory Groups*

to review annually the use of all the official languages of the Union on an equal footing in ITU publications and web-sites,

*invites Member States and Sector Members*

1. to ensure that the different language versions of documents and publications are utilized, downloaded and purchased by the corresponding language communities, for the sake of maximizing their benefit and cost- effectiveness;
2. to submit their contributions and inputs sufficiently early before the beginning of conferences, assemblies and meetings of the Union, respecting deadlines for the submission of contributions that require translation, and to contain their size and volume to the greatest extent.

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1. Hereafter a reference to a resolution or a decision without specifying date and place of its adoption is considered as a reference to the most recent version of that resolution or decision, unless otherwise specified. [↑](#footnote-ref-1)