To the Council Working Group for the Elaboration of the draft Strategic Plan and draft Financial Plan of the ITU

**Source: FINLAND**

Views on the Proposed Framework for the Strategic Plan of the ITU

The Plenipotentiary Conference 2014 will discuss and adopt a Strategic Plan and a Financial Plan of the Union for the period 2016-2019. The preparatory work for the plans is ongoing in the three Sector Advisory Groups, as well as in the Council Working Group. Unfortunately, Finland has not so far had the resources to actively take part in the preparations. However, we wish to express our appreciation to the work done so far. We also wish to give some views on the structure of the 2016-2019 Strategic Plan.

In general, Finland believes that the ITU’s Strategic Plan should be concise, and define the ITU's objectives and outputs for the upcoming four years. The ITU needs to clearly specify the priorities of the objectives. Furthermore, the resources of the ITU need to be divided accordingly to be able to achieve the most important goals. We would also like to stress that the priorities must be in line with the core mandates of the Union.

The plan should also be capable to respond to the changes in the telecommunications environment. However, the ITU should not by itself try to take over new issues. If relevant for its objectives, it should engage in enhanced co-operation and coordination around ICT issues with other organizations.

Finland supports a simplification of the structure and a reduction of the volume of the plan. We would also like to see a clear division of tasks between the three sectors and the Council in order to avoid any overlapping and inefficient use of resources. The role and tasks of each Bureau should be clearly identified.

The ITU has thirteen field offices including regional offices and area offices. Finland is not fully convinced that the ITU needs to maintain such a wide network of field offices. Contact and cooperation with national authorities, regional organizations and other key stakeholders can be achieved without the physical presence of the ITU. Improved efficiency is a key factor for a balanced budget. Finland has for some time been concerned with the budgetary situation of the ITU. Hopefully the Strategic Plan and Financial Plan will improve the situation. The Strategic Plan should facilitate cooperation and avoid duplication.