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ADM COMMITTEE

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 >> CHAIR: Good afternoon, everyone. We are going to start the ADM Committee at this time. I would like to thank all of you for coming to the ADM. Just a few words. I want to thank my region, the Americas, and the United States Delegation for supporting me to be Chair of the Admin, the Standing Admin Committee for Council. I'm sure with your help that we will get through our very heavy agenda and that we will have a consensus outcome to all of our issues that we need to discuss. And I want to introduce you to my team. To my left I have Mr. Toure' from Mali and Mr. Von Der Emden from Switzerland, and to my right is Mr. Ellison and we know Malcolm Johnson. This is your team for the ADM Committee. We will meet, we have agreed on times in the time management plan. We will meet according to that schedule. If there are changes by the Steering Committee.

 Before we get started I would like to check the interpretation. Let's see. English?

 >> INTERPRETER: Good afternoon, Madam. Here is the English channel.

 >> CHAIR: To French?

 Three is Spanish.

 Four, Russia? And five is China? And six, Arabic. We have interpretation? Great. Thank you very much.

 This afternoon our agenda is in document C17DT/3 Rev 2. I'm putting the agenda forward for your consideration. Can we approve the agenda?

 Thank you. Agenda approved. I would like to invite the Staff Council to make a statement to the admin Committee, please. You have the floor.

 >> Madam Chair, this is the statement by the Staff Council. Madam Chair, Secretary General, Councillors, dear colleagues. I have the honor of delivering the address of the ITU Staff Council whose membership was renewed by the elections held in December last year. The Staff Council's first five months of activity August you are well as regards constructive future collaboration with management. The same spirit of collaboration also prevailed when the Chairman of the 2017 session of ITU Council, Dr. Eva Spina met with the Staff Council representatives on 27 April, for which we thank her.

 Staff Council intends to strengthen and further extend this dialogue to ensure that consultation of the staff on matters of direct concern to them becomes an integral part of the decision making process.

 Only then will it be possible to establish and consolidate the bond of trust which must exist between staff and management and only then will the staff be reassured that its concerns will be heard and taken into account.

 We must acknowledge that those concerns are numerous. We thank you for giving us the opportunity today to share these concerns with you, and also to share with you our proposed solutions.

 Madam Chair, ladies and gentlemen, we are aware of the budgetary constraints affecting the finances of many of the union's Member States, and of the efforts which public service staff in those countries are being asked to make. ITU staff is not out of touch with these relates. Far from it. That is why we endeavor to serve the goals of the Union to the best of our ability despite increasingly limited resources. This capacity to provide Member States with high quality service is nevertheless liable to be compromised if this approach of forever doing more with less continues to be applied at the expense of ITU staff. You are preparing to adopt the budget of the Union for 2018-2019. This provides for more savings. This budgetary austerity offers little hope there will be any relaxation on the severe pressure already brought to bear on staff. It is legitimate to wonder how far this frenetic optimization of resources can be taken before breaking point is reached.

 Madam Chair and ladies and gentlemen, budgetary choices have significant consequences for the staff. Workload is constantly increasing. The suppression of certain posts or their downgrading follow retirements is leading to serious problems of under staffing in some units where staff find themselves doing work of two posts to the detriment of their health and family lives. Absenteeism is on the rise and creating delays in the performance of certain tasks.

 At the same time staff members are seeing their conditions of service remuneration deteriorate alarmingly. The general services category has already suffered a loss of earnings of 1.8 percent. As for the staff in the professional higher categories, the entry into the force of the new set of the United Nations common systems benefits will reduce their entitlements significantly, even before we consider the announcement by the International Civil Service Commission of a brutal reduction of 7.5 percent in the net pay in Geneva. The Staff Council wishes to make it clear that it strongly disagrees with the implementation of this reduction. Management doesn't intends to accommodate the imbalances by making ever more use of non-staff Members from outside ITU under special service agreements. As you are aware, such contracts are intended to allow the implementation of one of projects or activities or for specific events and meetings. Staff representatives note that these contracts have been hijacked from their initial purpose in order to make it possible to hire subcontractors less expensively to carry out administrative or support tasks that pertain to the regular work of the organisation and its staff and should be covered by fixed term contracts. This contractual practice creates de facto a category of precarious staff which runs counter to the principle of equal pay for equal work. For example, the IS department which, moreover, manages the security service, makes regular use of these SSA contracts rather than taking on regular staff. Just like the permanent staff, colleagues hired under SSA contracts are privy to confidential information that is essential to the security of our IS system, of our buildings, and of individuals. As a result of their precarious employment, they acquire confidential information despite the fact that they will leave the organisation after two or four years. So what commitments can management make regarding our digital and physical security? Your security?

 You must agree, ladies and gentlemen, that these budget constraints not only tend to unsettle the staff but also to undermine ITU's presentation of itself and thus make it less effective. In order to improve conditions of work for staff now in post and to comply with the provisions of Resolution 48Rev Busan 2014, representatives of the Staff Council would like these restructuring initiatives and redeployments to be studied for each sector and explain to the staff using ITU's intranet in order to ensure that these changes are more willingly accepted rather than just grudgingly suffered. Transmission of knowledge is essential and much be a key factor in staff management. The Staff Council wants to see steps taken to ensure that the welfare of staff is more effectively and fairly taken into account and all sectors where major events take place at ITU about by granting rest days for work beyond a certain threshold by professional staff. Staff Council wishes to see more consistent application of rule 3.8 of the staff regulations and staff rules concerning special post allowances for general service staff. Staff Council has a mandate to defend the interests of all current staff, retirees and future staff. The image of the United Nations overall has been damaged by demonstrations and newspaper articles reporting abuse of employment of interns within our family. With regard to these internship contracts, staff representatives want to ensure that all beneficiaries of such contracts are enrolled in higher education and wish to see the rapid establishment of remuneration policy based on practices of the host country or of certain other organisations such as WIPO or ILO.

 A budget line will need therefore to be created for this purpose, with a quota of interns for each sector. Staff Council is answerable to ITU staff as regards your proposals and your concern to ensure that they are put into practice. In its judgment, 3736 and 3671, the Administrative Tribunal of ILO affirmed the obligation of ITU's administration to respect rules providing for consultation of the Staff Council as set out in staff regulations and staff rules. This is what has enabled staff representatives to submit their proposals to the administration. We count on you to ensure that these proposals which we have available for you are implemented. Staff Council also wishes to draw your attention to the issue of the representation of active members and retired members on our health insurance fund management Committee. Our colleagues in the field have had to rely on themselves to make their problems known. In our view, the absence of any representation of the regional offices is a failing that needs to be rectified. Staff representatives count on your support for holding additional elections to enable two staff representatives from the regional offices to sit on the Committee.

 As you know, a new building should become operational in 2024. Staff Council is involved in this project as a member of the relevant Working Group and as a member of the jury.

 Staff Council wishes to thank the administration for this consultation. It would appear that the new building will have open plan offices. A survey among the staff has highlighted a widespread reluctance to accept arrangements of this kind. Concerns have been expressed regarding issues of concentration, confidentiality, and noise. In the interests of the wellbeing of staff it would be desirable for the Member States to reconsider, instruct the Secretary General 7 of Council Decision 588 in 2016 to consider the future introduction of flexible working in addition to open space working principle which is essential for the implementation of the project and to ensure that remote working and flexible working hours are introduced quickly as an essential element of moving to the new building.

 Your Staff Council representatives have many demands on their time and are very much focused on the mandate entrusted to them. In order to ensure that staff representation is effective and respects your decisions, the Staff Council requests that the post of administrative secretary be reestablished as being essential to the smooth working of the Staff Council and the process of consultation among the stakeholders. Staff representatives call on you to include a budget line for this full-time G5 post in the budget for 2017-2018 and in future budgets as was done in the past. Such a request has been made more than once in the course of a number of Staff Council mandates.

 In conclusion there is no shortage of concerns for the staff, as you can see. We are confident that the dialogue established between Staff Council, management and elected officials will be maintained and we hope it will in time bear fruit. Staff Council emphasizes that this address is no more than an excerpt from various documents that have long been available and could usefully be brought to your attention to provide more detail. Staff representatives are at your disposal should you wish for copies of these reports. On behalf of the staff the ITU the Staff Council wishes to thank the Chair, all the Councillors, the Secretary General and all the elected officials for having given us this opportunity to take the floor. Thank you for your attention.

 >> CHAIR: Thank you very much, Mrs. Geller. If you make sure we get your statement, I'll include it in my report to the Plenary. At this time I'm opening the floor for any comments. The floor is open.

 I see no one asking for the floor. We will proceed to the next Agenda Item. Agenda Item 2, the draft budget of the Union for 2018-2019. As you recall this was introduced in the Plenary. Do we need to have that document introduced again?

 I don't think so. Just an observation from this morning. Before I had the request from the Delegate from Germany to have a list of all the expenses. So what I would like to do is create a parking lot. It is going to be called our parking lot of expenses that are unfunded. If we can put that on the screen. It will be a running list of items that are not included in the budget from this morning's discussion.

 Thank you. Australia, you have the floor.

 >> AUSTRALIA: Thank you, Chair. Chair, the Australian Delegation would like to take this opportunity to recognize the efforts of the Secretariat, particularly those of Mr. Ba and his team to presenting this budget. We recognize there have been savings made across the Union's work and understand that these savings are redistributed among the various sectors and work areas of the Union to core areas of the Union's work.

 Chair, on Thursday this week the Council will be asked to consider the 2017 implementation plan for the ITU's gender equality and mainstreaming policy, document 71.

 This is a sound implementation plan that is aligned with the United Nations systemwide action plan for gender equality and empowerment of women, UNSWAP. The government of Australia is a strong proponent of UNSWAP. It is our expectations that all U.N. programmes and specialized agencies comply with UNSWAP and allocate sufficient resources to ensure compliance for its implementation. For this reason the Australian Delegation holds the strong view that gender equality and mainstreaming is also core to ITU's work.

 We congratulate the Secretariat on its reporting and responsiveness to UNSWAP. I refer to information document 7, a letter from the Executive Director of U.N. women to Secretary General Zhou that congratulations ITU for its efforts in this regard. The ITU has undertaken capacity building and awareness raising initiatives including will unconscious bias training for senior managers. She recognizes that the ITU has been collecting disaggregated data to track women's participation in ITU conferences and in workforce planning.

 However, we also note that U.N. women has identified that there are still gaps. One of these areas is resource allocation. Chair, there is currently no budget allocation for gender activities in the draft budget for 2018-19. As stated, Australia considers UNSWAP compliance and mainstreaming core to how ITU should deliver its work and this should be reflected in the core budget of the Union. We call on ITU management and our fellow Councillors to assure appropriate resources both human and financial are allocated to the effective implementation of the policy in this budget. Thank you.

 >> CHAIR: Thank you, Australia. We have placed gender equality in our parking lot for now and we will come back to that.

 So I have Russia on my list of speakers. And Russia, when you please take the floor could you please introduce your document at the same time?

 Document 80-woo, thank you.

 >> RUSSIAN FEDERATION: Thank you, Madam Chair. I have a number of questions on document 10, but if you are asking me to present our document, then I will now present document 80, first of all. To speed up presentation, I sent to the Secretariat a Power Point presentation. Could you please now show this Power Point presentation on the screen for document 80, Rev. 1? Please put the Power Point presentation on the screen now.

 Well, while we are waiting for the presentation to appear, I'll start. I'll tell you what is on the first slide.

 In presenting the contribution C17-80 Rev. 1, first of all I would like to point out that for Russia, Armenia and Belarus, all the activities of ITU are important. And we believe that particularly given the limited financial resources, it is very important to have a balanced approach when allocating resources in light of the objectives for each of the structures within ITU. When we analyze the last 20 years, what we see is that the approach is not sufficiently balanced, particularly when it comes to the Radiocommunications Sector. The second slide, I'll tell you what it says on the second slide since we don't have the Power Point presentation still. There is no need at Council to explain in detail the extraordinary importance of the objectives of the Radiocommunications Sector. In the last period which is under the slogan "connecting everyone, all the time."

 Is this Power Point presentation going to be displayed? I wonder? One of the objects is indicators of growing interest in the work of ITU-R. Second slide, thank you.

 Is the increasing number of participants at world radiocommunication conferences, which is the largest and longest ITU Forum. In 1997, the WRC had some 2000 participants in attendance, whereas in 2015 there were already 3,300 participants, as this slide shows.

 Slide 3, please. When we look at the ITU-R budget during this long period, we have to note that in recent years there has been a great reduction in the reduction of the R Sector. You can see that in this slide. It should be noted that the draft budget for 2018-2019 has a further reduction in the financing of the regular work of the Radiocommunications Sector, this slide shows that some 3 million are allocated for the RA and WRC, and as a result the budget for regular activities of the sector has a further significant increase.

 Slide 4. It should be noted that the unique role of on the Radiocommunications Sector in providing revenue from cost recovery from processing of satellite network filings, as you see on the slide, and there's revenue from sales of ITU-R publications. And, therefore, these activities contribute to over half of the sector's biennial budget. It amounts to over half of the sector's biennial budget.

 For 2018 and 2019, as you see, there is the plan of a reduction -- it is anticipated that the figure is 28 million. 28 million, sorry.

 Slide 5. One of the ways in which we can assess the financing of the sectors is comparing the average biennial budgets for the sectors in the budget and document 17-10. The figures in the table in this slide speak for them sells. None of the other sectors of ITU is subject the to such cuts as ITU-R.

 Slide 6. We see the same picture with reductions in workforce of the BR. In 2006 and 2007, the radiocommunication Bureau had 180 posts budgeted, but as you see for 2018 and '19, the budget providing is only 139 posts. As the slide shows, the BR workforce is the only one which is going to be suffering such significant reductions. It should be noted that these reductions are planned despite the recommendation of Council 15 not to carry out further staff cuts for BR.

 Slide 7, please. One of the indicators of the BR's work is processing time for registration of satellite network filings. As you see here in recent years when processing the filings, the BR has not managed to comply with the regulatory time limit in the radio regulations. And the delays are becoming ever longer.

 Slide 8. In our view, the identified problems are due in large measure to a reduction in the financial and human resources made available to the ITU-R in recent years, including a steep reduction in BR's workforce. This same conclusion was also expressed by the radio regulation board at its meeting and supported by the radiocommunication advisory group. We believe that the best solution would be to provide to ITU-R in the biennial budget a budget which is the same as that of 2014-2015, which would be slightly over 62 million francs.

 And last slide. Council is invited to amend the draft budget 2018-2019 with a view to increasing ITU-R's budget, which will eliminate the existing imbalance between the volume of tasks dealt with by the Radiocommunications Sector and the resources made available. To instruct the director of the BR to adopt urgent measures to restore staffing levels in the BR to the level needed for BR to carry out its mandate in full. To instruct the director of the BR to adopt measures to eliminate delays in the processing of frequency assignment filings. And finally, instruct the director of the BR to report on the measures adopted and the results at the 2018 session of the Council with a view to subsequent submission to the Plenipotentiary conference in 2018.

 Thank you very much. I apologize for having such a lengthy presentation.

 >> CHAIR: Thank you, Russia. Now, let me apologize to the room. I probably did not articulate clearly the method of work this morning. This afternoon. So I will have everyone introduce all the documents related to the budget and then have our general discussion. Okay?

 My apologies. Russia, do you want to introduce document 82 as well? No? Yes? Sorry. U floor.

 >> RUSSIAN FEDERATION: Thank you, Madam Chair. Yes, we would also like to introduce document number 82. This document, the document, the draft budget for 2018-2019 which contains 48 pages of different tables, so on and so forth, and the document on revenues and expenditures contains a lot of measurements that need to be analyzed jointly, all together.

 However, when considering the budget of the ITU becomes a review of similar documents presented at the previous sessions of the ITU Council. However, in similar content, various documents, the format of the tables often changes. So we propose that we don't change the structure of the tables for this period and that all financial documents on the closed financial period are set forth, have one accounting date. We also suggest, propose this need to ensure harmony of data on the very same issues, which are found in various different documents. And to develop general rules for setting up tables when drawing up documents on the budget process. Thank you very much.

 >> CHAIR: Thank you, Russia. The next document I have is document 110 from UAE. Thank you, you have the floor.

 >> UNITED ARAB EMIRATES: Thank you, Madam Chair. We would like to congratulate you upon assuming the chairmanship of this Committee. We would also like to congratulate the Vice Chairs. We would like to wish you every success in the work of the Committee.

 Madam Chair, the United Arab Emirates are submitting a proposal on the budget. On standardisation and the support provided to the DT Sector. You will be aware that WTSA adopted a number of new or revised resolutions. These have financial impacts for the T sector. WTSA adopted resolution 168 where it mentions that there is a need to add financing measures that it will take to increase revenues to ensure that there are supplementary sources of income. There were also discussions which took place within the Council in 2016 on INRs, international numbering resources as well as the issue of presenting a balanced budget for the 2018-2019 period unless new sources of revenue are identified. I would also like to mention recommendations of last year's Council session, namely that there was a need to present these recommendations to this session of the Council and there was a need to present a study identifying all possible sources of revenue for the Union without restriction to INRs.

 I would like to recall that during the discussions at the group responsible for considering all these issues, it was noted that the proposed ITU-T budget for 2018-2019 was 25 million which does not include the additional cost of WTSA-16 which range from 1.3 million to 3.8 million Swiss francs. These are estimates.

 The proposal, Madam Chair, is that the Council should consider the possibility of allocating additional budget to ITU-T to implement WTSA-16 resolutions and to close the ITU-T budget deficit.

 Secondly, the Council should consider the report and the recommendations of the director of TSB and the study conducted by the Union to identify all possible or potential sources of revenue for ITU-T and to take prompt measures to generate additional resources for ITU-T to ensure that this sector can carry out its duties and functions. These will include revenues that can be collected from INRs and the inclusion of the ITU logo, and from conducting compliance and interoperability tests.

 As is mentioned in resolution 85, the Council should also -- the professionals at the Council should ask that TSB study additional measures for generating revenue for ITU-T with those studies accompanied by financial analysis and possibilities for generating revenues, the impact on the ITU-T budget.

 Finally, it is proposed that the Council submit its recommendations on this subject to the 2018 Plenipotentiary conference.

 Madam Chair, this is an issue which has been discussed and studied at length, particularly as regards the INRs. It has been more than six years now since we began discussing this issue. INR resources. Consequently, there is a need for us to take a decision in this regard, to take in this regard supplementary income which could be channeled to the ITU-T in order to assure that it can undertake the tasks it has been entrusted with. Thank you.

 >> CHAIR: Thank you, UAE. Just one question. Would you please repeat the information regarding the ITU logo?

 >> UNITED ARAB EMIRATES: Thank you, Madam Chair. Resolution 85 from WTSA in Tunisia stipulates that the ITU-T, rather the Council in the ITU should consider urgent measures to be taken in order to generate additional revenue sources for the sector. In particular, INR resources. And the inclusion of the ITU's logo and also the analysis from conducting compliance and interoperability tests too. One of the things we could study in order to generate supplementary or extra income, so we are inviting ITU-T to consider these activities and any other activities which might generate additional revenue. Thank you.

 >> CHAIR: Thank you, UAE. The next document is 111. I will call on the Director of the R, Mr. Rancy, you have the floor.

 >> FRANCOIS RANCY: Thank you very much, Madam Chair. And good afternoon to all of you. The Ryan actually received the same contribution which was presented a few minutes ago by the Russian Federation. In summary, shared the concern expressed in the contributions in that contribution as regards the level of staffing in the BR at present. I gave explanation on the reason for this situation. Actually, it is not a direct result of the decrease in the BR staffing levels in the last six years or seven years. But rather the extraordinary increase that we had in recent months in the number and complexity of satellite filings, whether geostationary or non-geostationary.

 In addition to that, the need to upgrade the software used by the Bureau in order to align them with the decisions of WRC-15. It was a combination of several facts. I think the membership has been investing for many years in software tools for the BR. Therefore, it is expected that the efficiency increase results from the use of this software should also result in less staff to process the network. So this is why over the years the staff for the BR has been decreasing. But until about 18 months, until the time where the WRC-15 took place, the BR was able to process notices without exceeding the, on average, the maximum time allowed for this regulatory regulation which is performance in the case of coordination of systems in bands which are not subject to a plan.

 So we have reviewed the situation internally. I think we could discuss that maybe in a smaller group. That there may be a need to increase the staff of the BR, especially taking into account that we have received last January another bunch of extraordinary number of filings, 100 networks in one month corresponding to the date of entry into force of the acts of WRC-15, compared to 25, which is the average number in regular years.

 So consistently in the last two years we have been facing between, I would say up to two times the average number of satellite network filings and also an increase in complexity of the other free times. Obviously this has raised challenges, especially if you see that this increase has been combined with the need to upgrade the software. Therefore, the impossibility to use the software as it was for some time. So this increased the backlog. Also on the side of launching a subsystem, that is subject to another contribution from Russia. We had after 20 years of almost no filings received, we had quite a number of new filings received in the last 18 months. As the will technology seems to have evolved in the right direction to make these systems happen, and these filings that we have received are also a lot more complex than what we have seen in the past. The maximum we had seen 20 years ago was something like 800 satellites. We have now received in the last 18 months filings with several thousands of satellites, including very different characteristics.

 It appears that some of them are actually a mix of several possible version of the same system, but combined into one single system with the obviously objective to pay less fees than what cost recovery has foreseen. This also will be the subject of another discussion later, but I just wanted to share with you at this time that the situation we are facing of an increase in the processing time, which went to eight months instead of four months, a regulatory limit, which is back to six months. This increase is still under control. But certainly if the trends of the number of complexity of satellite filings that we receive continues in the same way we certainly need to hire more people on. On the positive side it means there will be more revenue from the cost recovery which may be the remedy for the problem raised from the report.

 >> CHAIR: Thank you, Mr. Rancy. The final document is document 85. Can I call on Poland to introduce that document, please?

 >> POLAND: Thank you, good afternoon, Chairman and Delegates. I would to address the Free Online Access to ITU Reports, Statistics, and Indicators for Member States. Yesterday we had an interesting discussion during which this contribution received positive feedback and support. It shows that the topic is considered important and worth speaking about. Just to summarize for all those who were absent yesterday, this is about the ITU publications which should be free of charge for countries which are contributing to preparing such documents. Thank you, Vice Secretary General for this initial analysis which stated yes, the loss would amount to 10,000 francs yearly. But we have to keep in mind the proposal concerns only these Member States which contribute to the creation of such reports. As I understood this amount which we spoke about yesterday is an amount considering income from all Member States.

 So this, I believe, would be a motivation for all Member States to contribute and make documents and data even more comprehensive. We therefore welcome the ADM to analyze this issue, but please keep in mind that this is only for Member States who contribute to specific document. Thank you.

 >> CHAIR: Thank you, Poland. We introduced all the documents. Document Number 6, the info document, is only for information only and will not be introduced.

 I would like to reopen the floor now for general discussion on the budget document, number 10. The first on my list is Canada.

 >> CANADA: Yes. Thank you, Madam Chair. First of all, congratulations on your nomination to Chair the Standing Committee on administration and management. Congratulations and, as always, you can count with our full cooperation and collaboration.

 Madam, my initial request was merely to follow the intervention of Australia in regards to the GEM policy and to reiterate as we did last week several times during TDAG the fact that the gender equality is and will remain a key priority for Canada and that consequently we believe that all measures need to be taken, in order for that policy to receive all appropriate funding. We will, of course, reserve our right to come back with some other questions on other issues and, in particular, when document 71 is presented at the later date. Thank you.

 >> CHAIR: Thank you, Canada. Can I ask the Secretariat to please put the parking lot document back up on the screen? Now on my list I have UAE. Thank you.

 >> UNITED ARAB EMIRATES: Thank you, Madam Chair. I wish to clarify something. Namely, that as regards the logo of the ITU, it was not mentioned in resolution 85. The resolution which was initially presented to WTSA did concern this issue, did have this issue involved in it. But it was then deleted later on. Now, Alternative Resolution 76 on conformance and interoperability, in particular as regards the ITU logo it said that the ITU is an international organisation responsible for standardisation. So we just need to overcome difficulties associated with ensuring comparability and interoperability of telecommunications in accordance with which the regulations, the Directors of the Bureau should also ensure that these three proposals are implemented.

 The ITU logo was already mentioned. This is one of the -- so the logo is something which could provide additional revenue to the ITU-T. Thank you.

 >> CHAIR: Thank you for that clarification, UAE.

 United States, you have the floor.

 >> UNITED STATES: Thank you, Madam Chair. As has been acknowledged, the radiocommunication Bureau is struggling to meet the deadlines in the radio regulations for processing frequency assignments. The status of frequency assignments in the master international frequency register determines the right to international recognition and protection from harmful interference.

 Thus, the United States views the management of frequency assignments as an essential function. We are concerned that the ITU-R budget is insufficient to the demands. This is having an impact on the ITU's treaty responsibilities. Accordingly, we believe resources should be reallocated to the ITU-R while maintaining a balanced budget. We thank the administration of Russia for their excellent contribution on the imbalance in the resources allocated to the radiocommunication sector, and support their proposals. We note the discussion of unfunded requirements in the budget, which includes the implementation of decisions taken at WTSA, and the unfunded requirement to implement physical security enhancements and the organizational resilience management system.

 We support the plan to primarily utilize savings to meet the safety and security requirement, leaving the reserve account as the last option. We look forward to receiving a costing of each element required to support the safety and security upgrades, as well as confirmation that the savings is sufficient to meet the need. We request additional information identifying the timeline associated with and the funding identified in support of the implementation of the decisions taken at WTSA.

 We would also suggest that the Council ask the TSB Director to provide TSAG at the 2018 meeting with information about the financial implications for each new WTSA decision as well as each ongoing TSB project, so that the TSAG can decide a prioritized list of activities.

 In addition, the budget does not provide detail with regard to the expenses associated with the regional groups of ITU-T study groups. In revision 1 in the revisions to Resolution 1 at WTSA-16, new section 5.4Bis was added, which provides that the director shall promote the active participation of the membership, in particular Developing Countries, in the contribution driven work of the ITU-T and shall publish in the Chairman's report of each meeting of a study group or regional group a complete account of the resources used and fellowships requested and provide along with that any budgetary resources expended.

 That same level of detail is necessary for Council to make informed budget decisions.

 We applaud the ITU for taking the UNSWAP programme seriously and we note the rigor you applied to compliance efforts. We believe resources from the existing ITU budget should be allocated to this important area.

 In the development sector we note that the budget for the office of the director and the regional offices is combined. We request that they be separated.

 Similarly, in the standardisation sector we note there is only one line item for study groups. We would request a separate line item for the regional study groups. In both cases we would like this information to be provided to Council.

 -- to Council 2017. We thank the ITU for contribution 110. It asks the Council to find new revenue for the budget. We believe the Plenipotentiary direction to be more cost conscious and efficient is the appropriate direction for the Union. No effort has yet been made to prioritize the WTSA-16 decisions, although this has been a subject of discussion at TSAG. Before new revenue is sought, that exercise should be completed. We do not support the proposal to increase revenue from INRs, as our contribution to that subject will indicate. Or the inclusion of the ITU logo. We support the contribution by the Republic of Poland because it suggests that members should not pay for the data they provided. Editorially, we believe that references to a WCT Working Group should be changed to experts group ITRs, and reference to RTDC be deleted.

 Thank you, Madam Chair.

 >> CHAIR: Thank you, United States. The next --

 Sorry, Russia, you have the floor. Thank you.

 >> RUSSIAN FEDERATION: Thank you, Madam Chairman. I apologize. I just thought that I could ask questions later. I'll do it now. We have a number of questions. I won't ask all of them. But they are mainly on document 10. To begin with, on table 13, we aren't very clear on why and due to what we are proposing that the budget of the RRB be reduced by 42 percent. The RRB, the Radio Regulations Board is very important, extremely important for the work of the radio sector. It has 12 elected officials, people who we elect at Plenipotentiary. And all the necessary conditions for it to function properly should be created. So I would like to notoriety away that in 2019 we will have a different composition of the RRB. This might lead to different expenditure from the point of view of languages.

 Another question that I have on this very same table is about the reduction in the budget for study group meetings -- as a RAG, I beg your pardon, by almost 30 percent. And similarly the budget for the study group meetings, what is being proposed here is a reduction of almost 20 percent.

 At the very end there is an 11 percent reduction for the financing for seminars. As you'll see, the situation is becoming complex, not with regard, just with regard to the processing of satellite filings and staffing, but with regard to other things too.

 We have a question on table 16. In table 16 under the section entitled Activities and Programmes, you may note that on this item for 2014-2015, 19,220 Swiss francs were planned. Then there was a sharp increase. Then once again we, what is being estimated here is 21 million or a little more than that. We haven't found any information with regard to what is being planned under this budget line.

 Finally, on page 24, we have table three. If we look at section 7 which is entitled the very same way, activities and programmes, then the figures are completely different. Instead of 19 million, it is almost 15 million. And instead of 21 million, we have 18 million.

 So there is a small difference, some 3 million here. So table 3 which is on page 23 in the English version, does not correspond to the table at table 16, which is on page ... so we have another range of smaller questions, but perhaps we can deal with those offline. Thank you very much.

 >> CHAIR: Thank you, Russia. If you have more questions, please ask them. I really do not want anyone to feel that they can't ask questions about the budget. So everyone please take the time to ask your questions. Thank you.

 The next on my list is Switzerland.

 >> SWITZERLAND: Thank you, Madam Chair. I congratulate you on your election. On gender equality, let me say we agree with the view expressed by Australian Delegation. Although, as we see it, development of the gender distribution in the Bureaus and general Secretariat and by categories is a positive development. But we think that work needs to continue on this. We would like to recall, if I remember rightly, it was last year that the joint inspection unit already made a recommendation that gender equality be strengthened in the higher management echelons.

 So Switzerland again wishes to propose that Council invite the Secretary General to redouble efforts to achieve gender equality within the staff of the Union at all levels of the hierarchy of the Union. Thank you.

 >> CHAIR: Thank you, Switzerland. Next on my list is Argentina.

 >> ARGENTINA: Thank you, Madam Chair. Congratulations on your election. We are in favor of a budget increase for the ITU in general. Everything must be done to have an increase in the activities of our organisation in general.

 >> CHAIR: Thank you, Argentina. Morocco?

 >> MOROCCO: Thank you, Madam Chair. We believe that it is quite appropriate to have a good budget for the standardisation sector, so that it can activate a number of resolutions that were adopted by the WTSA, the World Telecommunication Standardization Assembly. Therefore, we support the proposal made by the UAE with regard to increasing the budget of the standardisation sector.

 Also we agree with the content of the document presented by the Russian administration with regard to the budget of the Radio Sector. Thank you, Madam Chair.

 >> CHAIR: Thank you, Morocco. Next on my list is Germany.

 >> GERMANY: Thank you, Madam Chair, and congratulations for your appointment to lead us through this and other difficult topics.

 Well, Madam Chair, so far we hear requests to increase budget for certain sectors, for obvious reasons. We didn't hear much contributions where this additional budget should come from. If I look at your table on the screen, we may generate 400,000, I guess, additional. But as you can see from the other figures, this will not help very much. Of course, it may help a little.

 A lot of questions have been asked. So I will add some questions. First, with regard to the document presented by Russia on the ITU-R budget, I remark that the peak budget in 2006-2007 correspond also with the peak number of employees of the Radio Sector and within ten years the workforce has been reduced by 40 budgeted costs. On the other hand, we had a look at a document that it is not on the present agenda here. It is the financial operating report for 2016, document 42. And annex B1 on page 81, English version, shows savings in the Radio Sector of 2 million Swiss francs in 2016. So there is a question, there were savings and now there is a need for increased the budget.

 By the way, these are part of the savings that were supposed to be used to finance some other activities. Although with a savings you can use it once, and not twice, by the way.

 My question is, what is the reason for this particular savings in the Radio Sector in 2016? Now, with regard to the requests among others in document 110, which we appreciate, presented by the United Arab Emirates, which is dealing with the financial consequences of the WTSA-16. As far as the present budget under discussion is concerned, it is part of the financial plan 2016 to 2019, which have been approved by the Plenipotentiary conference.

 Now, 115 of Article 18 of the constitution says in easy words that no conference or meeting shall take decisions that lead to expenses beyond the financial limits set by the Plenipotentiary conference. Unfortunately, and this is not for the first time certainly, this Article is or used to be ignored. As mentioned in other fora already, we believe that the decision taken at the WTSA-16 at least with regard to the present budget period are unconstitutional. It can be looked at how to accommodate these additional potential costs in the future financial plans, but it will be very, very difficult to accommodate this in the present budget for 2018 and 2019.

 Finally, we would join the request of the United States that some budget lines should be shown a little bit more in detail. We also need to react, of course, to the statement of the Staff Council that was demonstrating to us the situation why we have a balanced budget at all. If you look at the development between 2015, there were 811 budgeted posts. Now we are at 742. There are 68 posts have been abolished within the period of this financial plan. Of course, we can imagine that individual workload of ITU staff is increasing accordingly. This has also to be taken into account.

 To sum up, Madam Chair, we believe that we first need to look at priorities, what are we going to implement. We secondly have to look at potential savings. Thirdly and only finally, we have to look where we can increase our revenues. Thank you very much, Madam Chair.

 >> CHAIR: Thank you, Germany. So I have the following speakers on my list. Uganda, Tunisia, Saudi Arabia, India, Mexico. I am closing the list. If you would like to take the floor, please. Mexico is the last speaker on my list. Thank you.

 France, you have the floor.

 >> FRANCE: Thank you, Madam Chair. We would like to congratulate ITU again on this draft biennial budget which is balanced with 318,000 Swiss francs contributory units, although there has been a drop in income since PP14 and that's a difficult context.

 We welcome efforts made by ITU to cut expenses and the diversification of revenue is a very important direction for work, whether through more partnerships with the private sector or through stronger cost recovery activities. We share Russia's concerns on financial resources for the Radiocommunication Bureau. We can support the proposal for additional recruitment in the BR. Thank you.

 >> CHAIR: Thank you, France. The next speaker on my list is using an today. Before Uganda takes the floor before I close the list there's a technical difficulty here, the last speaker is actually Japan. Thank you. Uganda, you have the floor.

 >> UGANDA: Thank you and congratulations, Chairperson. We wish you all the success in this exciting work.

 Let me start by saying that I generally support the views expressed by some Delegations that I have heard. I remember UAE, Russia, which are calling for the ITU to be leased to generate extra income. I am not an expert in finances, save for those in my pocket, but I know that you can achieve a balanced budget by either cutting costs or just increasing the money. I support the increment of the money because we just heard from the staff of the ITU that there is a likelihood of negative impact as a result of the suggested balanced budget that we are aiming for.

 Secondly, Madam Chair, we have also heard from the radio Bureau, and I think if other directors were given the chance they would probably say the same, that they are suffering in the delivery of service to the members as a result of finances. I know everywhere else there is a drive to reduce costs. One wonders until when where we continue to reduce the costs? I forgot to say that if I was going to make a presentation this time around the heading would be the impact of a balanced budget versus service delivery. At this point, Madam Chair, I would wish to ask that the Secretariat -- this is a difficult question. Can they give us an understanding of the impact, general or specific, of a balanced budget versus service delivery? I have not been at ITU for a very long time but certainly I have noted that there is a difference. I stress there is a difference in the type of services that we used to receive from the ITU then than now. And I can only imagine the reduction of some activities related to finances have an impact on this.

 Finally, Madam Chair, I strongly support the activities that are aimed at enabling ITU to look elsewhere since most of the Member States are not ready to increase their subscription amounts which should to ITU, seriously examine the options available to them within the regulations and the law, to generate income. Otherwise, I fear we shall face some degraded service delivery. Thank you.

 >> CHAIR: What I would like to do is give the floor to Tunisia. After Tunisia we will go to the coffee break. Tunisia, you have the floor.

 >> TUNISIA: Thank you, Madam Chair. At the outset I would like to congratulate you on chairing this meeting and wish you much success in your tasks which you are trying to carry out.

 I will be very brief. I would like to emphasize the importance of increasing the budget, especially in the standardisation sector and the Radio Sector. As you know, for the standardisation sector the recommendations that were issued by the world telecommunication standardisation Assembly asked us to find additional finances. Also the Radio Sector has an important task ahead. And as our colleagues have said, in 2016 we have achieved some savings, but we do support increasing the finance for the Radio Sector and to increase recruitment. We have to fine additional finances that will enable us to achieve a balance in the budget of the ITU. Here we have to concentrate on how, how can we generate such additional resources?

 I would like to mention maybe one of those resources which is the ITRs. We have to take a resolute decision during this Council's session. In view of the important role it has in generating income. I heard some of our colleagues saying that there are priorities. Here I would like to ask a question: The priorities for the ITU? Or for the Member States? Because these might be different from one state member to another.

 I think that defining priorities will be a difficult exercise. We do not -- because each one has his own priorities. And we might have to concentrate, as I said, on generating additional resources and not to define various priorities. Thank you.

 >> CHAIR: Thank you, Tunisia. Why don't we take a coffee break. When we come back I have Saudi Arabia, India, Russia, Mexico, Kenya and Japan -- is it Kenya or Japan? I think there is a difficulty -- it's Kenya, okay. So Japan doesn't show up -- and Japan? Okay. Saudi Arabia, India, Russia, Mexico, Kenya and Japan. Japan is the last speaker.

 So coffee break. Can we return at 4:10, please? Thank you.

 (A break was taken.)

 >> CHAIR: Thank you, everyone. The coffee break this afternoon was sponsored by Kuwait. And when they come back into the room I will let them have the floor. We are having some technical difficulties with the announcement, country announcements. If you could all please raise your flag if you want to speak so to make sure that I don't miss anyone? I do apologize for that. Recognizing that the call system is malfunctioning, if you would like to take the floor, please raise your flag.

 Right now I have Saudi Arabia, India, Russia, Mexico, Kenya, Japan. Anyone else?

 Okay. The list is closed. Japan will be my last speaker. Saudi Arabia? -- Kuwait?

 Kuwait, you have the floor.

 >> KUWAIT: Thank you, Madam Chair. I just wanted to warmly invite the various Delegations to come to the coffee break that we were offering. Thank you.

 >> CHAIR: Thank you, Kuwait. My sincere apologies for the malfunctioning of the equipment.

 With that, Saudi Arabia, you have the floor, please.

 >> SAUDI ARABIA: Thank you, Madam Chair. At the outset we would like to congratulate you on assuming the chairmanship of this meeting. We would also like to congratulate the Vice Chairs and wish you every success during this meeting.

 We would also like to thank the administration of Kuwait for organizing this coffee break.

 As to the subject we are currently discussing, we would like to thank the administration of Russia for their very detailed analysis of the reduction in expenditure in the radiocommunication sector. This reduction has an impact on all of the activities of the R Sector, as was recalled by the Russian administration.

 Madam Chair, we heard a number of comments about the reduction in expenditure in the radiocommunication sector and in the standardisation sector and a number of activities that have to be financed to ensure that the ITU can undertake its mission. There is a question here. What is the total budget required for the ITU to fulfill its mission and organise all of its activities? We are aware that the last WTSA adopted a number of resolutions, and the next WTDC which will be held towards the end of this year will also have to adopt other resolutions.

 What are the planned measures in this current budget for the implementation of these resolutions? We cannot talk about a balanced budget until we have taken into account all of the decisions and resolutions and measures that we want to implement.

 Madam Chair, to begin with we would like to evaluate all of the costs of financing all of the activities of the ITU. Then we can establish whether or not this budget is balanced. Thank you, Madam Chair.

 >> CHAIR: Thank you, Saudi Arabia. Next, India, you have the floor.

 >> INDIA: Thank you, Madam Chair. And we join other members in congratulating you on your election. And I want to mention that we are a technical organisation. Fundamentally we are a technical organisation. We work in an area where technology is fast changing. I refer to the mandate we gave earlier during the declaration of principles where standards development is listed as one of the core competencies of ITU. India has risen with other distinguished Member States, UAE, Uganda, USA, Saudi Arabia and Russian Federation. Priority of work is equally important as raising revenues are. We believe this is important for Developing Countries to bridge the digital divide as well as the standardisation gap and especially making the technologies cheaper and cost effective.

 Madam Chair, let us look at our activities. We have been known for only radio and standardisation activities since long. We have started radiocommunication activities recently. It is, as U.N. activities and ICTs to continue as technical organisations. We require quality from the standardisation sector. We acknowledge work in technical standardisation is critical for Developing Countries. We acknowledge the views of tightening the belt and prevents wasteful expenditure as pointed out by USA. Prioritization of work is critical to ensure the standardisation sector continues without hinderance to ITU resolutions. Perhaps all of us should review and discuss about how we can reduce some of the less important meetings and conferences where effectively we don't accomplish anything except discussions.

 And we support the contribution from the UAE and others on enhancing the budget for standardisation group firmly and also the proposed budget for the R Sector. Thank you.

 >> CHAIR: Thank you, India. Russia, you have the floor, please.

 >> RUSSIAN FEDERATION: Thank you, Madam Chair. I would like to raise some questions. Firstly, we would like to thank the administration of Poland for clarification they provided. We fully support the need to ensure free online access to documents. The development of which, so the participation of administrations. However, we do believe that expenditure from the budget will be minimum. Therefore, we would propose that free access be provided to all administrations not just those who participated in drawing up the documents.

 The second point I wanted to turn to was I would like to draw your attention to the table on the screen, 4, number 4 is our proposal. Expenditure at the moment as indicated is nothing, zero. However, our contribution proposes an increase in expenditure by 3.5 million. I think this should be reflected on the screen in the table.

 >> CHAIR: Thank you, Russia. Yes, we will reflect that in the table. Just so the table was a working document that I thought it would be a good idea to have a list, a running list. So the numbers will get filled out. We will post this on the Delegate site. So right now, do you want me to include 3.5 million right now? Can it wait until later?

 >> RUSSIAN FEDERATION: Thank you. We would like these figures to be shown on the screen already. Thank you.

 >> CHAIR: Thank you, Russia. They are going to do it right now. Thank you.

 Mexico, you have the floor, please.

 >> MEXICO: Thank you, Madam Chair. Good afternoon. Firstly, we would like to congratulate you upon your appointment to Chair this group. We would like to wish you every success in this task.

 We know that you will carry it out very well. We would also like to thank Kuwait for the coffee break just a few minutes ago. Having good coffee allows us to stay awake for these long days.

 Madam Chair, with regard to the draft budget, which is presented in this session and also with regard to the contributions from the UAE, Russia and Poland, we believe it is important to establish criteria for identifying priorities and focus the resources that the Union has towards them. The identified topics and how relevant each of those are in Mexico are gender quality, planning, roll out, use of broadband and also all of those are priority topics for us.

 We are in a situation where we need to focus these efforts. Therefore, the identification of these priorities is more urgent so that we can match some of the existing resources. It is important that when developing proposals for us to all work towards various conferences, for example the WTDC in 2017, and it is important for us to take into consideration during this work the budgetary impact that these may have.

 In this list, which you had on the board, we need to include the resolutions at the WTDC which have financial implications. The Distinguished Delegate of Saudi Arabia had a question about the total A the will budget, which is required for ITU to fulfill its mission. Therefore, along the same line we insist that it is important to bear in mind the mandate that we have and focus our resources, not efforts on priorities. Thank you.

 >> CHAIR: Thank you, Mexico. Kenya, you have the floor.

 >> KENYA: Thank you, Madam Chair. We would also wish to congratulate you for being appointed to Chair this Committee. In addition we also would like to congratulate the team that introduced to us that is helping you carry out your work. We are certain that with you at the helm we are in safe hands and will be able to complete the work of this Committee.

 I will be brief. We take the floor to lend support for the documents contained in 80 introduced by the Russian Federation. I would like to ask Council to consider providing additional budgetary resources to the BR to enable them to carry out the statutory mandate in a timely manner. We had reports today that there is some backlog in some of the work that the BR is doing. Therefore, we would really like to support, join the support of those Delegations that have called on us to try if possible to allocate additional resources to the BR.

 Thank you very much, Madam Chair.

 >> CHAIR: Thank you, Kenya. Japan, you have the floor, please.

 >> JAPAN: Thank you, Madam Chair. I would like to thank you and congratulate you. Regarding the budget of the full year term which was drawn up at the Plenipotentiary conference in terms of 2016-2019, it was decided in 2014 previously. We implement these activities and operations within the budget considering their priority according to the resolution 71 for the Union. So if the priorities change, the period should, ITU should allocate its own resources during these four-year terms.

 Then we are on a strict limited budget. If we really need additional budget, we should limit only those resources which are foreseen. At this point I think that safety and security requirement for falls within that scope. I support the Russian Federation contribution C17-82. It is important to analyze the budget for us members and to make it clear under transparency.

 And I support the contribution by the C17-85, from Poland in line with the balanced budget. It seems to give little budget impact.

 Finally, I think INR is on the agenda. I will be discussing that later. Thank you, Madam Chair.

 >> CHAIR: Thank you, Japan. And as was stated as we were all coming into the room there are technical difficulties and I have one additional Member State to take the floor. Canada, and then the floor is closed and I will give it over to the Secretariat.

 >> CANADA: Thank you, Madam Chair. Let me first thank our friends and colleagues from Kuwait for their generous coffee break.

 Very briefly, Madam Chair, the following issues. First, our support for the proposal from our colleague from Poland on free access to publications. A critical issue, Madam, in regard to the budget issue and following the interventions of many colleagues, it will be most certainly the reallocation of existing budget. In that context, Madam Chair, the issues raised by the director of the BR and by several other administrations, we believe that it is imperative to take a close look as to how we can allocate to the Radiocommunications Bureau the budget it requires to fulfill its statutory obligations.

 Last but not least, Madam Chair, and this seems to be a recurrent issue. We go to conferences and Assemblies, some of us have been part of the budget Committee. And we tend to remind ourselves of convention Article 34, 488, and 489, that explicitly and very clearly state the need for taking a close look at any financial implications associated with the decisions being taken at the conferences. I don't know to what extent there is something that we need to do or any additional measure that needs to be put in place so that this Article in the convention receives probably more focused attention because what we have seen, and it was the case at the recent WTSA, the budget Committee ends up sending a report basically restating the obligations that we have to abide by the convention as it relates to the financial responsibilities of conferences. So hopefully, Madam Chair, as we move forward to other conferences and Assemblies, we will have some measure in place to fully abide by this relevant provisions of the ITU convention. Thank you.

 >> CHAIR: Thank you, Canada. And before I turn it over to the Secretariat to address the questions that were asked by Councillors', my Vice Chairs, would you like to take the floor? No?

 I would like to welcome Director Sanau and Director Lee. But before, would you like to take the floor? No? No? Okay.

 Mr. Toure'.

 >> ABDOURHAMANE TOURE': Thank you, Madam Chair. We thank Kuwait for the coffee break. Kindly offered to participants. We have a question about the statement from Russia, the contribution from Russia. They carried out a very well founded analysis and demonstrated that resources allocated to BR have been greatly reduced. Our question is whether BR itself has requested a budgetary extension or increase and, if so, for which activities and for which amount of funding? Thank you.

 >> CHAIR: Thank you, Vice-president Toure'. Now I will turn it over to Mr. Ba to answer the questions asked by Councillors. Mr. Ba, you have the floor.

 >> ALASSANE BA: Thank you, Madam Chair. On behalf of the Secretariat, first we would like to thank the administrations of the Russian Federation, Armenia and the Republic of Belarus for their contribution to the Council in documents 80 and 82 Rev. 1. Also the United Arab Emirates for document 110; and the Republic of Poland for document 85.

 The Secretariat is prepared to work with Councillors' on the table which is currently displayed because all these budget lines on the table are not in the financial plan 2016-2019 approved by the Plenipotentiary conference in Busan in 2014.

 However, the Secretariat in the spirit of consensus can work and examine with distinguished Councillors to see how we can manage to include these additional requests which were not in the financial plan. And we can present a temporary document in the next few days and try to reach a consensus so that we can approve the draft budget 2018-2019. Of course, Madam Chair, I am subject to correction by you, you could perhaps appoint a Member State or one of your Vice Chairs to lead this ad hoc group which could meet whenever you wish to try to find solutions for these new requests which are not included in the financial plan and draft budget 2018-2019.

 Now, there have been a number of queries, especially on document 10 but also document 9, the Russian contribution 82 Rev. 1, for instance. I think my colleagues from the finance department had a work session yesterday with the Professor from the Russian Federation. And I think that her concerns were taken into account. We will work very hard to make sure in the future there is alignment of the tables so that there are no discrepancies between documents 9 and 10.

 I hope this problem can be resolved bilaterally and in the future there will be harmonisation and alignment of these two presentations.

 Now, next point. Russia was asking about table 16, document 10, which is in contradiction with table 3, which is on page 23 in the English. In table 16, 21 million Swiss francs. But in the other able it is 18 million. Now, we can explain this difference through table 12. Table 12, page 32. In table 16, it is all the expenses, operational and investment. If we add these two amounts, operational and investment, then through activities and programmes we come to 21 million Swiss francs. But if you go to table 3 which is on page 23, here we only have a reference to the operational budget, giving 18,000,834.

 Swiss francs. If you look at table 12, page 32, you have the budget for investment. This budget for investment has infrastructure, built infrastructure, 1 million -- 1.5 million Swiss francs. Information communication communities, capital fund, 1 million Swiss francs. That makes 2.5 million.

 Now, with the table on page -- for the 18 million, that gives you the 21,334,000 Swiss francs. 19,334,000 Swiss francs.

 There were some queries and people said they wanted much more explicit budget lines. For instance, the United States and Germany made this request. For the regional offices, still in document 10, table 19, page 17 in the English document, here you have the breakdown by regional office. I think I have answered requests for additional information. Germany also mentioned savings made in the R Sector. As you can see, the R Sector budget for 2016 for the 2016 period which was closed as 26,338,000 Swiss francs, 31st December 2016. This amount was 25,751,000 Swiss francs which is a savings of 2 million. 2 million, 12,000. This is in document 42.

 I am not going to revert to the statement of the director of the BR who said that the new satellite network filings were so complex, but there has also been an increase in revenue from the sat light network filings. The Secretariat can work with Councillors to see how to improve the work and take account of the new requirements expressed in Russian contribution so that we can reach consensus. I'm available to provide any additional information if you so request.

 >> CHAIR: Thank you, Mr. Ba. With that explanation, Germany, you have the floor.

 >> GERMANY: Thank you, Madam Chair. Well, we know that there was a saving in the BR between the plan and the actuals in 2016. But the 2 million I mentioned, but our question was the reason for that savings, rather than the fact that there is one. Maybe it's more appropriate that the director of the sector is giving an answer to this question. Thank you.

 >> CHAIR: Mr. Rancy, you have the floor.

 >> Francois Rancy: There are several factors. When you are in a situation like the ITU has been facing in recent years, where you know that the Plenipotentiary will be next year and there may or may not be adequate resources to pay the staff, you have to apply careful policy when you make new recruitments. So this is what I have been doing in my previous job in France and what I have been doing in the BR for the last six years, which is when somebody leaves his job, whether he retires or he just goes to another job in another country, I don't rush into replacing him. And this is how you make savings. Before you recruit another person, even though you have the budget you are careful not to do that too quickly because very soon if you do that, you will find yourself at the Council saying well, I'm sorry, I cannot reduce the staff because I have recruited too many people and now I have to pay them for the following year.

 So this is how you make savings.

 Another aspect is that we have some savings in the BR budget and in the study group budgets that we have made in particular in the BR as has been mentioned by the fact that we only work in four languages. Arabic, Chinese are not here because they have not been asked by the members. So it creates some savings. Also we have tried in recent years to limit the number of cases of the study groups. The portion of the activities on the study groups which require interpretation, we have limited that. So we have achieved some savings. This is the main reason why we can propose some reduction. If you compare the proposed budget for the following two years, with the current one. So these are in broad terms the reason for savings.

 Another aspect that also requires some caution is that at the end of the year you may have to face an expense due to people taking home leaves. And so we budget something like 1.2 or 1.5 million to make sure we will be able to face this additional expense. So sometimes it is more than that and sometimes it is less. This is, I think last year has been fair. The year before we were actually having deficits at the end of the year.

 So this actually creates some difficulties to very accurately predict the spending. For me as manager of the Bureau, I have to make sure that we are not going to create deficits. Therefore, to be prudent in particular on spending the money in recruiting very quickly replacement staff.

 I am of course aware that this combined with the additional work required for facing the filing increases in number and complexity, this has created a lot of pressure on the BR staff, in particular on the satellite division. I am conscience that this level of saturation of work in the BR staff has to be fixed. Of course, if the Council wishes to add some more staffing to the BR staff in this regard, it will be greatly appreciated by the staff of the BR. Thank you.

 >> CHAIR: Thank you, director Rancy. U.S.? You have the floor.

 >> UNITED STATES: Thank you, Madam Chair. Many thanks to Mr. Ba for his response to the question. He is right that table, I think it's 19, reflects the regional presence. But in the actual budget that we are asked to adopt there is no such fidelity. It simply says in table 11 under Bureau, office of the director and departments. So what we were asking for is that the regional offices be reflected in the budget.

 Likewise on the regional study groups for the ITU-T sector. Instead of just one line item for study groups, we are asking for more fidelity in the figures in the actual budget will approve including the regional study groups.

 Lastly, since I have the floor, our understanding from reading document 10 was that there could well be a shortfall to implement the security measures. But I don't see that on the table on the screen. So perhaps we should add another line item that indicates the security measures and the range of possible expenditures or financial estimate for that. Thank you, Chair.

 >> CHAIR: Thank you, United States. Yes, we can add a line regarding the security as an unfunded, with the understanding that that discussion will take place later in the week. So we will list it here, but it will not get resolved until later in the week.

 So we have been presented with a presentation of the budget. We have received a number of questions that Mr. Ba has answered.

 I believe the best way forward is that instead of convening a Drafting Group to look at these unfunded proposals, it probably makes more sense that we ask Mr. Ba and his team to go back and look at the budget and come back to this group. Then if necessary, convene a Drafting Group. I value your time and I just don't think it will be well spent if we had a conversation before you could see the revision.

 So that is my proposal for going forward. I see nodding of the heads? Yes, okay. We will do that.

 Saudi Arabia asked for the floor. I do have a couple of comments from Germany and Canada regarding Article 18, and provision 115, and 489. We can make that statement in our report to Plenary that there needs to be more discussion on how when we convene a conference and Assembly, how they abide by the constitution and convention. So if that is okay with Germany and Canada, I can put that into my report.

 With that I have -- before I give the floor to Saudi Arabia and Uganda, are you objecting to letting the Secretariat go back and bring back a Rev, a DT for our discussion?

 Okay. Saudi Arabia.

 >> SAUDI ARABIA: Thank you, Madam Chair. We support the proposal that you have made regarding asking the Secretariat to go back to the Council with regard to certain activities and contributions and activities, all the documents that were presented.

 Now, the observation we have, Madam Chair, with regard to the first item. Now, the minimum of 400,000 francs and maximum -- as for document 168 presented by Saudi Arabia, we are asking the Secretariat when they carry out their work, to take into consideration the contents of the document 106 because the minimum and maximum in the table do not reflect the contribution reflected in document 106. Thank you, Madam Chair.

 >> CHAIR: Thank you, Saudi Arabia. While I have the brilliance of my idea may not seem so brilliant after all because on Thursday we are supposed to look at the INRs discussion. So I do believe that we would need to have a discussion on the INR topic because there are several documents related to the INR before the will Secretariat can include it in their Rev 2 or their DT.

 Yes, okay. So that is one point. This is our parking lot so we don't forget it, but this is an unfunded mandate. Recognize we haven't introduced the documents for this topic yet. Does that make sense? Saudi Arabia, you have the floor.

 >> SAUDI ARABIA: Yes, Madam Chair, you are quite clear. But the figures in the table might not reflect what has to be discussed.

 >> CHAIR: Absolutely correct. With that understanding? Okay.

 Uganda, you have the floor.

 >> UGANDA: Thank you, Madam Chair. I'm sorry to have to come back to you on this. One, I really support your way going forward. I just wanted to make sure that Mr. Ba or the ITU Secretariat does not forget to come back with my request, the impact of this balanced budget on the delivery of service. Madam Chair, much of that may look ambiguous. It helps me at least to understand going forward what we need to do in the discussions so that we don't make proposals that are going to be of financial impact to the Secretariat.

 So it is a simple statement. I think we have done this two years now and there is some experience on the impact of that. As they come back with the assignment you give them, they could also add that, the assignment you have given them. Thank you.

 >> CHAIR: Thank you, Uganda. Yes, we have that on our list. I'm sorry that we did not come back with that question. We will take that on as well. We also inadvertently, there was a request from a couple of administrations regarding the financial impact of WTSA decisions, in particular the resolutions. I'm wondering if the question, the follow-up question here is that, are you asking if there are more financial impacts -- are you asking the ITU-T to look at all the resolutions to see if there are financial impacts? Are you only asking for information on the ones that are mentioned?

 I think this question was started from UAE. UAE, you have the floor, thank you.

 >> UNITED ARAB EMIRATES: Thank you very much, Madam Chair. I had taken the floor because the proposal made by the UAE is not seen in the list. There are a number of proposals that were presented by the UAE, and I'm hopeful that the Secretariat will take into consideration these proposals made by the UAE with regard to a budget and additional budget for the standardisation sector and a number of topics that we find in the document, including the INRs and the interoperability, the logo of the ITU. I hope that all these topics will be taken into consideration within the proposals made by the UAE.

 As for the decisions taken by the conference, I think that the topic is quite different. Because we do not know whether the conference will adopt new activities for the developmental sector and whether the budget will cover these activities. So it is maybe premature to discuss this topic. This is my opinion, but we have to take into consideration the available budget for the development sector. And we should not -- we have to wait until the conference is held and see what the outcomes are. Thank you, Madam Chair.

 >> CHAIR: Thank you, UAE. My apologies. My notes indicated you wanted to know the financial implications for the WTSA resolutions. So this WTSA -- okay, yes. We are correct, it's WTSA, okay. We'll take that.

 So it is number 3 on my unfunded parking lot. Are you asking for all of the resolutions that were taken at WTSA to be evaluated to see if there's financial implications or just the ones that are posted here? Res 44, 77 and 89? Clarification? Thank you.

 >> UNITED ARAB EMIRATES: Thank you very much, Madam Chair. Yes indeed, item 3 does cover this topic with regard to the new resolutions and the activities that were requested by the WTSA to be implemented and that were mentioned by the standardisation Secretariat that these activities were not covered.

 However, there are other proposals in the document including the supporting the specific proposals related to the INRs and other topics that you can find in the document.

 I just hope that we have covered these activities and we are asking the Secretariat of the ITU when they review the budget that they take into account the proposals that you find in the document presented by the UAE.

 Thank you, Madam Chair.

 >> CHAIR: Thank you, UAE. Yes, it is very clear. We will take that on. Germany, you have the floor.

 >> GERMANY: Thank you, Madam Chair. We believe that the financial consequences for the TSB had been examined at the conference at the WTSA. If there was no mission, it was of course no mission of the Secretariat. As a Committee, the budget Committee asked for a calculation of all these, of the financial consequences of the decisions of the conference with regard to the TSB. Now I remember that recently there was a meeting in Vilnius on the government Spain. It was a preparatory meeting for the WTSA for the region B. And there was a discussion about potential financial impact of those resolutions to the development sector because in many of these resolutions, some activities are requested from the director of the BDT.

 I think at that time we were asking for a document to be presented to TDAG. They had not the opportunity to stay until the very end of the TDAG, so I don't know whether this document was finally presented, but it seems not to be the case. Otherwise, this potential financial consequences, if there are, would be added to the unfunded activities on this list.

 So I just remind the BDT that there was this request and probably this should be taken into account.

 Thank you very much, Madam Chair.

 >> CHAIR: Thank you, Germany. Director Sanou?

 >> BRAHIMA SANOU: Thank you very much, Madam Chair. Madam Chair, we have considered this situation. As you are aware, we have a budget which has already been established with objectives and action plan and if a conference as you are also aware, and I think this is the problem. If there is a mismatch between our budget and the conference, we have a financial plan for 2018 and 2019. Any conference held between those budgets needs to take into account the budgetary framework. We do not have any possibilities to extend the budget. We have to absorb it in the existing financial plans.

 In the case of the BDT, the decisions of WTSA-16 are what we are going to try to implement within the framework of our existing budget as far as we can within our existing budget.

 WTSA is also going to look at this issue, particularly Committee 2 and look at the financial implications of decisions made by WRC and WTSA. It is going to look a little bit at the impact that the new decisions of these conferences is going to have. So that is why we are not proposing a document. We need to implement what we can implement in the framework of a programme without any financial extension. And this applies to WTSA-16 decisions. We haven't proposed a document because the document in question would be a more general document which will come about following the WTDC. Thank you very much.

 >> CHAIR: Thank you, Director Sanou. USA, you have the floor.

 >> UNITED STATES: Thank you, Madam Chair. With respect to item 3 under expenses which deals with the WTSA resolutions, we would ask that a second look be given to the new resolutions. Listed above are resolutions 44, 77, and 89. When we look at, for example, resolution 85 which is new from WTSA, we believe it might have an impact on TSB and BDT staff and associated resources because of the assistance to Developing and Least Developed Countries for establishing national quality measurement frameworks and conducting activities in each region to identify problems by developing and least developed countries with respect to service quality to users.

 I think there may be other things in new resolutions that didn't get picked up initially that we should make sure that we find at this point in time. If we go into a prioritization discussion, I think you have to look at the whole scope of work in order to prioritize. Thank you, Madam Chair.

 >> CHAIR: Thank you, United States. Let me summarize a path forward. I am proposing that Mr. Ba and his team go back and develop a limited temporary document that we could then come back into at the ADM Committee to discuss further with the understanding that we will take the parking lot as well as ask the Director of T to take a look at the resolutions coming out of WTSA to ensure that there are no additional financial implications. My understanding from Director Sanou, and I need to have a better understanding, is that the WTSA adopted outcomes that could have an impact on the D sector. My understanding of the notes is that the BDT will absorb those costs in the existing financial plan.

 Is that my understanding? Okay. So we need clarification on that point. We will also take a look at information in document 2 coming from the WTSA as well when we develop the limited document that limited document will then form the basis of our discussion for how do we proceed. I will work with Mr. Ba tonight to look at the agenda for the ADM because I do realize in order for us to conclude on the budget we also have to conclude on the INRs. And all the other discussions that could be impacting the budget. They need to be moved up earlier in the week versus later in the week. I will work with him to do that as well.

 Mr. Ba.

 >> ALASSANE BA: Thank you, Madam Chair. We have taken due note of your summary and your proposals. And we are ready to try to work with you through the document which is projected on the screen.

 However, I would like to indicate that the financial implications of WTSA decisions which were considered through Committee 2 when we were in Hammamet, the Secretariat informed that these new measures are resolutions which have advanced implications are not covered by the financial plan of 2016-2019. It was up to the participants to take into account the financial implications than and the Secretary General through document C18 INF 2 reported to the Council in which he reported on the 2018-2019 budget. So the participants in the WTSA were all aware that these decisions and resolutions which had a financial implication were not covered by the financial plan 2016-2019.

 Now, turning to line 3 which is indicated here, which will take a minimum of 1.3 million a maximum of 3.8 million, it covers resolutions 95 as was indicated by the USA and new resolutions, but also the old resolutions, namely 44, 77, and 89.

 The Secretariat is going to work closely with the other Bureau concerned, that is the BR, the TSB, and our colleagues in charge of security and the gender and mainstreaming policy to come up with a document which will be submitted to you at the next session of the ADM Committee. Thank you very much.

 >> CHAIR: Thank you, Mr. Ba.

 Dr. Sanou?

 >> BRAHIMA SANOU: Thank you very much, Madam Chair. Actually, my intervention was not to say that we are absorbing the impact of the decision of the WTSA-16. It is within our budget. What I'm saying since these decisions were taken at the time we were implementing the plan already, so any extra -- because we can not change other priorities because of the decision of WTSA. The other priorities. So some of them are falling under our priority, implementing already those, are implemented. But that doesn't -- those that don't fall under that will be examined by WTDC 17 and it is after WTDC 17 that BDT will be in a position to talk about the financial implications of the new measures because what was taken in WTSA-16, together with what will be taken by WTDC 17 are for us called new measures that will have additional financial impact.

 In our case, maybe next Council may be talking about these extras. We will be in a position at that time to appreciate and assess those extras that will be presented to you later. Thank you very much.

 >> CHAIR: Thank you, Director Sanou, for that clarification.

 So I have Russia and UAE, Canada. Russia, you have the floor.

 >> RUSSIAN FEDERATION: Thank you, Madam Chair. I'm speaking as the Chair of TDAG. We discussed this issue. As colleagues from the UAE and Germany said, we proposed that when resolutions are adopted at the Assembly or conference that might affect not just that given specific sector, then the budget Committee at that meeting should consider not only its own sector but also the other sectors and the general Secretariat. So that there was a full picture available of the financial implications of the decisions we take. In particular, if we are talking about the influence of decisions of WTSA on the work of the development sector, then we also discussed that, of course, the development sector can implement these decisions but only in the framework of the financial space that it is begin by the Council.

 So we would request this proposal to be taken into account and the corresponding decisions be taken by the corresponding conferences and decisions in the future. Thank you.

 >> CHAIR: Thank you. Dr. Minkin, speaking as the TDAG Chair, I can put this in my report to the Plenary at this point along with the comment from Germany and Canada on this issue as well.

 UAE? You have the floor.

 >> UNITED ARAB EMIRATES: Thank you very much, Madam Chair and I'm sorry to be asking the floor more than once regarding this topic. Very briefly, Madam Chair, we support what was said by Professor Minkin, who is the head of the TDAG and it is an excellent proposal. We support him fully that the budget Committee in each conference study the impact and consequences related to the new resolutions and new activities and their impact on other sectors. Therefore, we do support this proposal which is a very good one and which will help us in the future.

 As for the other topic which I wanted to talk about, we know that we are having certain financial restrictions and we see an increase of activities. Our sector is quite vital. We have a lot of tough work to do. The Honorable Delegate from the USA said that there has to be an identification of priorities in the sectors. With regard to defining these priorities we believe that this topic should not be discussed at the level of the Members of the ITU but this has to be left to the Director of the Standardisation Bureau so that he could define these priorities.

 Because these priorities differ from one administration to another. It is quite a sensitive issue and would lead to lengthy discussions we should avoid. Therefore, we will await the document that the Secretariat will prepare. We are confident in Mr. Ba's ability to come up with such a document and not to deal with defining priorities currently.

 We also believe and value and appreciate the USA proposal in current circumstances and in the available budget. However, we do not think this topic should be discussed at the level of members, but it should be left to the sectors to define themselves what the priorities are.

 Thank you, Madam Chair.

 >> CHAIR: Thank you, UAE. Canada, you have the floor.

 >> CANADA: Thank you, Madam Chair. Very briefly, thank you again and Mr. Ba, we are very much looking forward to the updated parking lot.

 But also very briefly reflecting on the intervention of the Director of the BDT, an issue as reflected well as Professor Minkin, an issue we discussed at TDAG relates also to the timing of conferences as they relate to the adoption of the biennial budget. Of course, less the ability of absorbing the costs of these issues by the WTSA is that it will suffer the consequences of the issues adopted at the WTSA in the sense that should the budget approved here include new resources to tackle the decisions that were adopted at the WTSA, that will obviously reflect at the WTDC when we will find ourselves taking decisions against which there may be no budget.

 So that is a challenge that we have to take into consideration.

 Finally, in regards to the mandate of the budget Committees in the conferences in principle we support the idea that the budget Committee should be -- the budget Committees should be reflecting on the impacts of the decisions of the respective conferences and Assemblies on the other sectors, but to that effect I am not sure if 30s any need to modify the terms of reference or if the respective budget Committees at each conference or Assembly would be entitled to address this issue of evaluating the consequences for the other two sectors.

 Thank you.

 >> CHAIR: Thank you, Canada. Turkey. Are you asking for the floor? Thank you.

 Sorry, it is the Czech Republic is asking for the floor.

 >> CZECH REPUBLIC: Thank you, Mrs. Chair. Good afternoon, Distinguished Colleagues. We listened to the Council discussions with great interest. And we would like to mention some of the last contributions prior, especially UAE contribution concerning priorities. We understand and support that the priorities should be decided, that's true. And maybe they could be decided by the Directors.

 However, there is also a solution that the countries in spite of the fact that they are priorities that are very much, they could also state their priorities. And then having a table of priorities a body, whether Council, Directors, can decide. In other international organisations it is done prior to the meetings where the priorities of the countries are questioned so that the leadership and management Chairmans know these priorities and can work with them.

 So this is the idea also that could maybe be implemented here. Thank you.

 >> CHAIR: Thank you, Czech Republic.

 Interpreters, can I have five minutes to sum up?

 >> INTERPRETER: Yes, Madam Chair, five more minutes is fine.

 >> CHAIR: So as I proposed earlier, I do not think it is fair to ask Mr. Ba to do a prioritization. However, I do think that he can, as we've agreed, that he will have a limited document that will take into account the proposals that we have here.

 The prioritization discussion, there have been a number of Member States that raised that issue. We will have to come back into this group. It is not up to Mr. Ba to do that. He will just look at the unfunded mandates that we have on the screen and then also in document, the UAE document that was mentioned. We have to resolve the INRs. So I will bring that Agenda Item forward. We will work with him tonight to have a revision to the Agenda. With that, I have Saudi Arabia and UAE. You have one minute each.

 Thank you.

 >> SAUDI ARABIA: Thank you, Madam Chair. Very briefly. We just would like to mention the role of the budget control Committee. In terms of our Rules of Procedure, this Committee submits its report to the Council Plenary under paragraph 12.4 of the general rules of the ITU. Thank you.

 >> CHAIR: Thank you, Saudi Arabia. Yes, we will follow those. Okay.

 UAE?

 >> UNITED ARAB EMIRATES: Thank you very much, Madam Chair. Very quickly, my intervention is that I did not, Madam Chair, request Mr. Ba to do such prioritization. I have requested that if such approach is needed, given the limited budget available, this should not be discussed at the membership level. Such prioritization should be left to the sectors and to the Director to decide upon. I have heard -- this is just simply to avoid long discussions, Madam Chairman. So this was my intervention. I did not request any prioritization. I apologize if my previous intervention was not clear. Thank you, Madam Chair.

 >> CHAIR: Thank you, UAE.

 Before we close, I would like to ask Ms. Bogdan to give us -- she is not here. Oh, she is here, sorry.

 It's Mr. Ba, sorry. Mr. Ba, you have the floor.

 >> ALASSANE BA: Thank you, Madam Chair. Just to remind you that tomorrow at 12:30 there will be World Information Technology Society Day, Room C, 12:30. Please come along to this meeting. There will be panelists from Swiss com and GSA. The topic will be "Big Data For Big Impact." We invite Delegates to come along at 12:30 in Room C. Thank you.

 >> CHAIR: Thank you. The meeting is closed. See you tomorrow.

 (The meeting adjourned at 1737 CEST.) (CART provider signing off.)

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