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19 MAY 2017

1430 CET

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 >> CHAIR: Good afternoon, everyone. I hope you enjoyed your lunch. For our meeting today, our agenda is in Document C17/D73 Rev 6.

 We will start with Item Number 12, Agenda Item 12, provisional participation of entities dealing with telecommunication matters and the activities of the Union. Mr. Clark? You have the floor.

 >> CHRIS CLARK: Thank you, Madam Chair. On behalf of the Secretary General it is my pleasure usual to introduce Document 62. This document reports to the Council the names of entities dealing with telecommunications matters under CB230, provisionally included in the list of sector members to participate in the work of the sectors and the names of associates admitted to participate in a given Study Group. The criteria and procedures for such entities to become Members were established by Council in 1993. These criteria and procedures also apply to associates. At the time of application, the entity must provide the following additional information: The nature and legal capacity of the entity, the manner in which they deal with the telecommunications, and a commitment letter signed by the head. The entities have been provisionally admitted following approval of the respective Member States. And they fully participate in the activities of the Union. They are billed for and are expected to pay the usual fees for participation.

 Document 62 invites Council to one, review the request for participation with respect to their conformity to Council's procedures. And two, to confirm the action taken by the Secretary General regarding the admission of seven entities dealing with telecommunications matters listed in this annex.

 You'll see in the annex we have Nepal Telecommunications Authority, Hundai Motors, Interconnect Communications, Ukrainian Number and Address Consortium, Telecommunications Standards Development of India, Future Cities Catapult, and Agrivision Codowsky Group. Thank you, Madam Chair.

 >> CHAIR: Thank you, Mr. Clark. This document is open for discussion. Any comments on this document?

 Korea, you have the floor.

 >> REPUBLIC OF KOREA: Thank you, Madam Chair. The Republic of Korea supports the participation of the seven entities listed in Document C17/62 in the activities of ITU. Korea welcomes the joining of new members from various sectors to ITU which will enable ITU to carry out more comprehensive and quality activities in today's converging environment. Thank you.

 >> CHAIR: Thank you, Korea. I see no one else asking for the floor. It is requested to confirm the action taken by the Secretary General regarding the admission of seven entities dealing with telecommunications matters as listed in the annex. Any objection to taking this action? I see no one asking for the floor. Approved.

 We will include this in our report.

 The next item is Item Number 13, arrears and special arrears account, C17/11. Mr. Ba.

 >> ALASSANE BA: Thank you, Madam Chair. Good afternoon to all on behalf of the Secretary General, it is my honor to present Document C17/11, which presents measures taken by the Secretary General regarding arrears and special arrears accounts. As of 31st December 2016. Although the total of arrears remains high, it must be outlined that arrears are progressively decreasing due to the sanctions imposed, for example through resolution 152. And efforts deployed to recover the amount owed and irrecoverable debts. Between 2009 and 2016 there was a significant and continued reduction of arrears, see Annex A to this document. Thus, the total arrears fell from 66.6 million Swiss francs at 31st December 2009 to 46.8 million at 31st December 2016, a decrease of nearly 30 percent.

 Several actions have been taken with a view to the settlement of arrears and special arrears accounts. Since the implementation of Resolution 41. A statement of accounts is sent to each debtor four times a year and the outstanding amounts are provided in the finance circular issued quarterly by the financial resources management department.

 The Secretary General has taken all possible actions to reduce outstanding amounts, including special reminders, contacts during conferences and meetings, and ongoing efforts by all the regional offices of the Union. Member States with special arrears accounts are requested to submit to the Secretary General and agree with him a repayment schedule and to comply strictly with the agreed terms of settlement. Those which have not complied have been informed about the sanctions immediately taken against them, including cancellation of the special arrears account and renegotiation of a repayment schedule in accordance with the guidelines laid down by Council in 1999.

 So pursuant to Resolution 41, the Secretary General has opened new special arrears accounts in 2016. The Secretary General thus signed two repayment agreements of two years with a former ITU member and one repayment agreement of three years with a current member. Two administrations as well as a company failed to comply with their repayment schedules, and, therefore, their respective special arrears accounts have been canceled.

 Attention is also drawn to six other accounts which were canceled prior to 2016, four of which belonged to Member States and two to companies or organisations. Member States and companies involved, therefore, have to negotiate a new debt repayment schedule in accordance with the same guidelines.

 As regards satellite network filings, pursuant to Decision 545 of Council 2007, out of 28 administrations, 25 have settled their debts and one entity has signed a repayment agreement. At present only one operator still has an outstanding debt. Now, following the introduction of standards in 2010, we have a provision for the debtor's account of 100 percent, a reserve of 100 percent. So 31st December 2016 the amount of the reserve is 46.8 million Swiss francs, which thus fully provides 100 percent coverage.

 Annex A of Document 11 shows evolutions in arrears and special arrears accounts. I invite Councillors to take note of this and approve the draft decision in Annex B, which is writing off arrears, interest on a years and irrecoverable debt of 3,701,098.45.

 In conclusion, Madam Chair, we would like to thank some countries which have helped us greatly in recovering debts from sector members and associates such as the administration of the United States of America, Ms. Jackson, Lynnette, who helps us a great deal, South Korea and Belgium. We encourage other countries to follow this example so that we can reduce arrears and improve the financial health of our union. Thank you, Madam.

 >> CHAIR: Thank you, Mr. Ba. This Document 11 is open for discussion. Arrears and special arrears accounts. Are there any comments or questions for Mr. Ba regarding Document 11?

 Okay, I see no one asking for the floor. So we have a series of actions. We are to take note of this document. Then we are to ask the Secretary General to write authorizations sought from the Council for the Secretary General to write off 3,701,187 of interest on arrears and irrecoverable debt. Is this action approved?

 I see no one asking for the floor. So we will authorize the Secretary General to do so.

 Then we are asked to adopt the Draft Resolution and attached in Annex B. Any comments on the Annex B draft decision?

 I see no one asking for the floor. So we will adopt the decision.

 So we have taken note of this document, authorized the Secretary General to write off the debt and we have adopted the draft decision in Annex B. Thank you.

 The next Agenda Item is 14, annual review of revenue and expenses. Mr. Lovato. Thank you.

 >> JEAN-PAUL LOVATO: Thank you, ladies and gentlemen, Distinguished Delegates, on before of the Secretary General it is my pleasure to introduce C17/9 on the annual revenue and expenses. The purpose is to show progress on the status of implementation of the 2016/2017 biennial budget. Pain two gives the budget figures for 2016-2017. It gives provisional amounts for revenue and expenses for 2016 and the actual amounts are in Document 42, as of 7 February 2017 amounts have been slightly modified following the closure of accounts. It also gives the actual expenditure and revenue as of 7 February 2017 and forecasts for revenue and expenses for the end of 2017.

 For expenses, the forecasts show there will be savings thanks to voluntary early separation and also the application of efficiency measures which you will find in Document 45. Forecasts for implementation of the 2017 budget currently confirm the trend we saw in February 2017, namely a positive result. With respect to 1,300,000 Swiss francs surplus estimated in February 2017, table 9, actually we see that this trend is accentuated. Therefore, for 2017 there should be a larger surplus. Tables two and three on page 3 give detailed information on revenue from assessed contributions and from cost recovery.

 Thank you, Madam.

 >> CHAIR: Thank you, Mr. Lovato. This document, C17/9 is open for discussion.

 Thank you. Unless I see objections, I move that the ADM Committee endorse this document.

 Thank you.

 Please now take a look at Agenda Item 15, C17/46. After service health insurance liability. Mr. Ba.

 >> ALASSANE BA: Thank you, Madam Chair. On behalf of the Secretary General, it is my pleasure to present to you Document C17/46 containing the after service health insurance liability. That is the ASHI liability. This document shows the situation of ASHI as of 31st December 2016 in line with a request from Council at its 2014 session, so that ITU submits annual reports on ASHI liability and present proposals with figures to finance part of this liability in line with Recommendation 6 formulated by the External Auditor in his 2012 report. We've involved from a positive to a negative balance due to the treatment of the ASHI obligation under IPSAS. That is the international public sector accounting standards.

 The ASHI programme, which is self-funded, is providing a continuation of health insurance after a time and for eligible employees. And it was set up in 1967. Since then, the related costs shared between the Union and the staff have considerably increased due to the increase of the population of retirees covered and the increase in medical costs.

 The situation was under scrutiny already before the implementation of the IPSAS standards.

 Before that we had the ANSAS standards, but since implemented the IPS standards, there has to be a liability. At closure date we can recognize the actual value of what ITU should pay today in case of cessation of activity as expenses not covered by the assets of the ASHI fund, until there are no longer any ex-employees covered by the plan. Although this situation is highly improbable, I would remind you we have had 150th birthday of ITU in 2015 and now ITU is 152 years old. Although the situation is not new, we are aiming to reduce the obligation. Actions have been taken in order to return to a situation where the health insurance plan presents surpluses in order to ensure the coverage on the pay as you go basis and create resources available to fund the actuarial liability.

 Thus several measures have been taken. Increasing contribution, creation of a guarantee fund for the health insurance, creation of a fund for long-term financing of long-term ASHI liabilities and examination of benefits offered in cost containment.

 ITU is an active member of the United Nations group which is currently looking at solutions for cost containment for health insurance and financing liabilities. This group is studying the possibility of establishing a common system for all the United Nations organizations, which it is to report in 2018.

 Several financing long-term strategies are under study, including 4.5 percent charge of total staff expenses. The establishment of a charge of 2 percent of total staff costs a to be included in the common staff costs.

 The advisory Committee also noted that the funding of ASHI benefits is an issue of system wide concern and should in the long-term be handled in a system wide approach, similar to that currently employed by the United Nations joint staff pension fund.

 The conclusions for the financing of ASHI obligations are important to many organizations. The high level Committee on management, the chief Executive Board, they have all identified the need for a common approach to the funding of growing ASHI liabilities within its priority issues. However, it is not possible to foresee future decisions of the United Nations General Assembly. ITU therefore will continue to focus on cost containment and thus for every financial and budgetary period which has a surplus, the Secretary General allocates part of the surplus for the financing of the ASHI fund.

 Council is invited to take note of this document. Thank you, Madam Chair.

 >> CHAIR: Thank you, Mr. Ba. Document 46 is open for discussion. Germany, you have the floor.

 >> GERMANY: Thank you, Madam Chair, and good afternoon. We thank the Secretariat for this report. We have still a question and a remark. The question is, as we know there are savings for the period for the financial year 2016. We would like to know whether part of these savings will be assigned to the ASHI fund. And how much.

 Further, we would like to note that the document in its part 312 to 350, with regard to the results of the 68 General Assembly of the United Nations, speaks about an ASHI solution at the U.N. level. However, Madam Chair, we are not sure whether a solution with the fund is the preferred solution of the United Nations at present. Within the first resumed session of the fifth Committee of the 71st General Assembly of the United Nations, there was a decision to continue as in the past according to the pay as you go procedure or system. As mentioned by the Secretariat, indeed the 73rd General Assembly, that means in two years or in 2018, this topic will be looked at again by the Fifth Committee on the basis of a new report established by the Secretary General of the United Nations.

 The background is that the enormous finance amounts for either capitalized or partly capitalized ASHI funds cannot be obtained from the U.N. Member States. Thank you very much, Madam Chair.

 >> CHAIR: Thank you, Germany. I see no one else asking for the floor. Mr. Ba, would you like to answer Germany's question? Thank you.

 >> ALASSANE BA: Thank you, Madam Chair. First I would like to thank the Distinguished Delegate of Germany for those questions. The first was about the surplus or outcome at the end of 2016. That you will find in Document 42 to be discussed when the External Auditor comes along on Monday, 22nd May.

 But I can tell you that the general sector allocated, made an allocation. ASHI has a positive fund of 8.5 million Swiss francs. As you know, at its 2013 session Council also authorized withdrawal from the reserve account of 4 million Swiss francs, as of 1st January 2014. Since then every time there is a surplus in the Union, the Secretary General allocates part of the surplus to the ASHI fund. If we started with 4 million in 2014, it was 2 million Swiss francs. Then in 2015 Council authorized withdrawal of 1 million Swiss francs to be put in the ASHI fund. At the end of 2015 a new million was allocated and in 2016 500,000 Swiss francs was allocated. So now ASHI has 8.5 million as of 31st December 2016. That is its balance.

 As I told you, to answer your second question, on the pay as you go system which we will be continuing to apply, for every budgetary period when we present to you a budget proposal, we also include contributions from the organization for the next two years. So in the draft budget 2018-2019 which is submitted to you for your approval there is an amount allocated to the contribution to health insurance both from active staff and for retired staff. And as you know, for purposes of solidarity, the Union contributes to the retirement of retired persons. The retired person pays one-third and the Union pays two-thirds. Active staff pays 50 percent of the contributions and the organization also pays 50 percent.

 As I indicated to you, there is no concern in the short-term situation because of the pay as you go system, but with these IPSA standards we now have we have to carry out an actuarial study with a projection from ten, 20, to even 30 years if in the event that the organization has to stop its activities because then it will owe an amount to its active and retired staff. And this amount is in the liabilities, in the balance statement. It depends on future projections, in particular with the discount rate but also medical costs.

 As regards ITU, the number of retired persons is higher than the number of active staff. Therefore, there is a distortion in terms of the amount and objectives for the long-term. We still have, always have the pay as you go system. Each budgetary period. But with the establishment of the IPSA standards we have to carry out full cost and projections for the future. The situation being as it is, we are now trying to work with other sister organizations in Geneva and also in New York. Thus, the General Assembly instructed that a think tank be created. ITU participates in this group, which is supposed to submit conclusions and a report to the 2018 U.N. General Assembly session. We are following this very closely and ITU management is also trying to set up mechanisms so take we can attenuate this amount which increases from year-to-year depending on the working hypothesis used by the actuaries used at the end of each financial period. Thank you, Madam.

 >> CHAIR: Thank you, Mr. Ba.

 I see no one asking to take the floor. Unless I see objections I move the Admin Committee take note of this report as requested by the Secretariat.

 Thank you.

 Moving right along, Mr. Dalhen. Hi, we are on Agenda Item 14, the strategic plan and resolution 48. You have the floor.

 >> ERIC DALHEN: Thank you, Madam Chair I have the pleasure of introducing on behalf of the Secretary General this Document C17/53. A progress report on the implementation of the human resources strategic plan and resolution 48. It is a report submitted to Council each year in application of this resolution number 48. Like every year it is focused on the list of subjects on which we have to report as featured in Annex 1 to resolution 48.

 It addresses items covered by the report covered by the joint inspection unit on its review of management and administration in the ITU. It presents a series of actions that we've taken to apply the recommendations which already have been made by the JIU and actions we need to continue to implement in order to ensure that these recommendations are fulfilled.

 These are recommendations we accepted to implement. This report is accompanied by four complementary information documents, in 13, 14, 17, and 16. In 13, also covers the statistics report which we submit each year to the Council. It contains data on the state of the Union in particular as it regards its staff, the staffing data is organized by category, grade, type appointment, age group, length of service, gender, nationality, so on and so forth. It's a long and detailed report which we submit every year. We also get new information each year. It is also useful for us for defining how a policy on development of human resources is going to evolve.

 The other, in documents 14 and 15 are information documents which are submitted to inform you about the two recommendations which were made by the joint inspection unit. They cover on the one hand the creation of a human resources handbook and INF Document 15 contains draft guidelines on the use of special service agreements. These are contracts that we use for consultants. We usually call them in the U.N. system non-staff. This is an information document which covers a project which is the first stage of development, which requires to be further developed in the consultive process within the Union, including alternative elected officials but also the joint Committee.

 Finally, INF 16 is implementation of a new competency framework which has been drawn up by the ITU. A competency framework which is going to be used as part of the implementation of the new performance assessment system which we are working on at the moment. As you'll know, up to now we have been using a paper system which we are going to replace with an electronic system. We are going to introduce a number of new concepts and it will mainly be arranged around this new appraisal framework for staff.

 So Madam Chair, that concludes my report and I'm ready to respond to any questions that the Councillors might have. Thank you.

 >> CHAIR: Thank you, Mr. Dahlen. Congratulations on your new post.

 The floor is open for discussion. Any comments on Document 53? Germany, you have the floor, please.

 >> GERMANY: Thank you, Madam Chair. Well, we have quite an extensive comment, in fact. The first is in the report it says that the implementation of the early separation programme will have an impact on the session planning, including providing an opportunity to improve diversity and to rejuvenate the workforce.

 So now, our understanding was that this programme was established in order to offset the additional costs that would accrue pursuant to the application of the new rules established with regard to the age of separation for current staff at 65. We also saw that the posts that benefit from this early retirement programme are kind of frozen and not occupied anymore in order to generate savings. So far we have difficulties to understand how this programme is an opportunity to improve diversity and to employee younger people in ITU.

 So we need some explanation for this.

 Then, Madam Chair, we have a remark with regard to the regulatory framework for individual service and consultancy contracts, in particular to the individual contract agreement, ICA, which is managed by U.N. OPS, an entity located in Copenhagen Denmark, providing service for the U.N. system and UNDP in particular. In this regard I need to switch to info Document 15 where this type of programme is explained a little bit further and also in detail.

 Such contracts are used, for example, in the context of national implementation of projects in order to move from headquarters-based to field-based staff, among others. Now, as such, these contracts I could imagine can be applied in the development sector. We have some problems to understand how they can be applied at headquarters in Geneva. Even if we go local, the Geneva salary will be quite high. Nevertheless, of course, there are savings for the Union because in the framework of such contracts there will be no ASHI liability which we discussed liability. As far as I know, there will be also no liability for the pension on behalf of the Union.

 Nevertheless, our question is because those contracts normally are used in organizations like UNDP for projects for a limited time. I remember the ITU had a project with the European Union and there, in fact, project personnel was employed by the Union for, I guess, four or five years of this project funded by the European Union.

 So we have some questions how this kind of contractual arrangement will be implemented with regard to the headquarters.

 Finally, Madam Chair, we take note with regard to the review of the recruitment process that each vacancy should be processed in the same fashion so that each and every candidate gets the same treatment and the same chance to be recruited in the organization. I would kindly request the Secretariat to carefully check Document DL1, whether this principle is applied in that document.

 Thank you very much, Madam Chair.

 >> CHAIR: Thank you, Germany. I have U.S. You have the floor.

 >> UNITED STATES: Thank you, Madam Chair. We thank the Secretariat for all the work on the human resources strategic plan. We have three questions. We note there will be an adapted working time arrangement framework and we really applaud leaning into modern workplace possibilities like tele-work and flexible working schedules. But we would ask how you will implement that in your HR policies to ensure time keeping.

 The second question is the report states that it is expected that the ethics office will provide an annual report of activities starting in 2018. That is a conditional statement. Can you confirm they will start providing a report in 2018?

 The last question is, how are vacancy publications and outreach activities specifically targeting candidates from under represented or unrepresented regions done?

 Thank you, Madam Chair.

 >> CHAIR: Thank you, United States. I see no one else asking for the floor. Mr. Dalhen? Will you address the questions, please?

 >> ERIC DALHEN: Thank you, Madam Chair. I would like to thank the Delegates for the questions. So I will respond in order to the questions. Attending the question from Germany, the voluntary separation programme. Well, as I would like to underline, the objective was to compensate for the budgetary effect on the application on the first of January, 2018 of the new voluntary mandatory age of separation of 65. It was a success, but there are a number of measures which had to be taken in this regard. Some of them would involve freezing of posts of officials who opted for separation because, as you'll know, the period in question was 31st December 2016 until now. So some people have already departed their posts. Some of these posts are frozen. Some of them are not canceled, but they might be reclassified. I was thinking particularly about a policy applied by the ITU for a number of years now. We used the opportunity of the departure of a number of staff, particularly from general service category and higher categories, G6, G7, for example, to turn those posts into professional posts, P1 and P2, due to overlap in pay scales in the two categories of general and professional service categories. And these new posts in the professional category cost less than the old G posts.

 We've also used other measures such as downgrading posts from the current grade as they appear in your document at the moment for the years to come. Other techniques we've used allow us to take the opportunity of someone departing to re-organize the service in the department concerned, which also causes a savings without there being any need to strictly abolish a post.

 So the downgrading of these posts, the creation of professional posts at service entry levels or the re-organization of the services concerned, allow us to work on the succession planning issues. And it gives us possibilities to adapt the staff at the ITU.

 As regards U.N. OPS contracts and ICA contracts, I would like to ... Studied the history that the definition of origin as defined in U.N. OPS is supposed to be used for project posts. Nevertheless, the concept of project is limited to projects which might be implemented away from headquarters, but also projects which could happen in headquarters or in the various organizations which currently use them. I'll give you an example. The project of replacing the Varembe building with a new building is a project that could benefit from this specific form of contract. Another few projects are undertaken here in headquarters which do have time limits and they are going to have to be financed by extra budgetary sources or time limited funds.

 And to support these projects, such contracts might be useful. But it is still currently being studied. It will have to be very carefully considered. And if the decision is made to use these contracts, the decision could be made in this regard then.

 I would like to address the remark from the Delegate of Germany saying that the compensation system associated with this contractual category does enable the ITU to make savings. It also limits along term commitments of the organization and long-term liabilities. When we are talking about what we were just discussing, ASHI but long time responsibility with regard to the pension fund because at the moment these contractors do not need to be affiliated with the pension fund of the United Nations.

 As regards the review of the recruitment process, perhaps I would ask the Delegate of Germany to ask the question again. I didn't really understand the reference he made to Document DL1. So perhaps he could clarify later what that was on.

 Now, turning to the question by the Delegate of the United States, strengthening policies for organization of working time. Well, some of these policies being implemented, tele-working is currently being done, remote working. It's a flexible system which is currently being used.

 Strengthening referred to in this document is part of the project that I just mentioned to illustrate the possible use of ICA. That is the project to replace the building. There are a number of options which are being envisaged at the level of work space arrangement. So it is an opportunity to try and take into account the configurations of these buildings will offer when they are available in terms of working time and working arrangements.

 One of these options is the use of lands, of open space arrangements in the offices. This means that there will be different need for different kinds of work time arrangements defined by fixed hours, as might exist in some contexts.

 So we are taking the opportunity of having this project in order to strengthen the implementation of this working time arrangement policy. We are also looking at other things such as a balance between work/life balance. This is also a programme which the ITU has been developing along with a number of other U.N. agencies for a number of years. I can say that the person responsible for ICT issues is going to start submitting reports to Council starting in 2018. I think that's the case, at any rate.

 I see he is nodding. Yes, it's from 2018 these reports are going to be drawn up.

 So, Madam Chair, I think that perhaps Mr. Plesse could specify what the question was with regard to the recruitment procedures.

 >> CHAIR: Germany, would you please clarify your question? Thank you.

 >> GERMANY: Madam Chair, I gave only a slight note. I will discuss this with the Secretariat. I guess it is not good to discuss it here openly. Thank you.

 >> CHAIR: Thank you, Germany. Now, may I call on UAE to introduce their document? UAE? Document 109? Could you introduce your document, please? Thank you.

 >> UNITED ARAB EMIRATES: Thank you, Madam Chair. I have the honor of introducing this contribution. Madam Chair, this is a contribution coming from the United Arab Emirates. It is on the geographical distribution of the staff of the ITU. The Plenipotentiary conference adopted resolution 48, which is revised in Busan in 2014 on the management and development of human resources.

 In this resolution, it was noted that the human resources policy should emphasize the continued importance of maintaining a geographically equitable and gender balanced workforce. Madam Chair, we would like to thank the ITU and the human resources Department for their ongoing sustained efforts to ensure equitable geographical representation, as is mentioned in Document 53, which was introduced by the representative of the human resources department, Mr. Eric.

 The UAE believes there are a number of Member States within the ITU who do not have any staff. Therefore, we believe there is need to review the recruitment policy in order to assure that resolution 48 is fully implemented, particularly as regards equitable geographical representation and gender equality.

 Regional offices should play a role on publishing notices of vacant posts. The ITU should also take into account the principle of equitable geographical representation when electing new, appointing new staff. We also believe there is a need to submit recommendations to the next session of Council. The Secretariat could also provide us with general global statistics on this issue. These statistics should not pertain to the management of the ITU but the aim is to enable Member States to have more information available with regard to the staff of the ITU and their nationalities as regards Member States of the ITU.

 We thank the Secretariat for the efforts already taken in this regard, but we would like to see efforts stepped up so as to assure more equitable geographical representation in the years to come. Thank you.

 >> CHAIR: Thank you, UAE.

 Cuba, you have the floor.

 >> CUBA: Thank you very much, Madam Chair. We are grateful for the detailed presentation made this afternoon by the Secretariat on staff matters. Cuba would like to fully support the contribution made by the United Arab Emirates with regard to equitable geographical distribution of posts within the Union. We also believe that not all Member States are represented on a geographically equitable basis in the Union. We believe it is important to comply with resolution 48 of the Plenipotentiary and it is important not only to work on gender equality to increase the presence of women in ITU posts but also the equal distribution of geographical origin amongst the posts of the Union. We also think it is important for regional offices as the representative of the UAE said to play a role in communicating new posts and openings for new staff members to join the ITU.

 We think there should also be a way for next year to have a format where we can deal with statistics so that not only statistics on the management of the Union is reflected. We also want to see the reflection of the statistics at all levels from the highest to the lowest level in the Union. We would like to see a table where the regions all over the world and with the posts of the Union so we can have an in depth study of what the representation is of each region in posts at the ITU.

 Thank you very much.

 >> CHAIR: Thank you, Cuba. I have Nigeria. You have the floor.

 >> NIGERIA: Thank you, Madam Chair. And good afternoon to all colleagues. Madam Chair, we would also like to thank the Secretariat for this excellent presentation. We also want to thank the UAE for its contribution in this Document 109. Madam Chair, Nigeria would want to state here that we totally support the contribution of UAE and we will also wish to further stress that the Secretariat provide to the Council at its next meeting a comprehensive statistics representing the staffing distribution at all levels so that membership of the Union will be well informed and so that wherever there is deficiency in the complete equal distribution and representation geographically, we will see how this issue will be addressed. So we totally support that we get a comprehensive list of staff at all levels with the geographical distribution. Thank you, Madam Chair.

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

 >> ALGERIA: Thank you, Madam Chair. First, we support this important contribution from the United Arab Emirates. This is a contribution which is to strengthen measures already implemented by ITU to achieve better geographical distribution and guarantee representation of all regions within ITU. We do need equitable geographical distribution and representation, and we need for each region to have its representatives. Thank you.

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

 >> GERMANY: Thank you, Madam Chair. We would like to associate ourselves to this contribution from the United Arab Emirates. In particular, we believe that there could be probably a better promoting role of the regional offices with regard to vacancy notices of the ITU.

 We also note that the statistics available in INF Document 13, if I am not wrong, fully compliant with the requests of previous speakers. However, I would like to remind that such a statistic can only be established for the professionals and higher degrees because by definition in the U.N. system the general staff is local recruited staff.

 Thank you very much, Madam Chair.

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

 >> SAUDI ARABIA: Thank you, Madam Chair. We thank the Secretariat for presenting the report and also we thank the Distinguished Delegate of the United Arab Emirates. Having seen this contribution, we support the speakers before us who endorsed the contribution. We would like to recall that Article 154 of the ITU constitution states that it is important for recruitment to be done on the basis of the broadest possible geographical representation. We would like the regional offices to be able to play a role in this context.

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

 >> FRANCE: Thank you, Madam Chair. France believes that as for all the U.N. agencies here also diversity is an asset. It is an asset for ITU. It is also very important for ITU that there should be good training and competencies amongst the staff. Resolution 48 from Busan says that ITU needs a recruitment policy which is in keeping with its requirements. So we say thank you for the information Document 13 and we encourage ITU to continue to work outlined in Document 53.

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

 >> SENEGAL: Thank you, Madam Chair. We thank the General Secretariat for presenting the report. Also we thank the United Arab Emirates for their contribution. We support their contribution. We do indeed need equitable geographical representation and distribution and a better gender balance in the staff of the Union.

 Like countries which spoke before us, we also think that statistics should be published of staff per region and country.

 >> CHAIR: Thank you, Senegal. And Belarus, you have the floor.

 >> BELARUS: Thank you, Madam Chair. I associate myself with those who supported the contribution from the United Arab Emirates. Also the Document INF 13, for this Belarus would like to make the following statement. This document states that there are challenges in recruiting to the Secretariat young professionals, epitome says there aren't enough -- there isn't enough use of existing programmes in this area such as the junior professional officers and the internship and national professional officers programmes.

 Therefore, we ask the Secretariat -- could you please tell us what measures you intend to take so that these programmes become more effective? It seems to us, for instance, the junior professional officers programme is designed to attract into the staff people from those countries who have financial resources to create posts in the Secretariat. At the same time, it does not help bringing into the staff representatives of those states who do not have such financial possibilities. Therefore, we propose examining the possibility of examining and adopting U.N. experience, especially the young professional programme, which is geared to seeking out young talented people exclusively from those countries which are not represented in the Secretariat or are represented to an insufficient level in order to put them on the roster for possible recruitment to the staff.

 In this programme there are special examinations for representatives of these countries and young people who have passed these examinations are included on the roster and on the staff so that they can have further training so that they can compete for posts in the Secretariat.

 >> CHAIR: Thank you, Belarus. The last speaker on my list is Egypt. I am closing the list now. Egypt, you have the floor.

 >> EGYPT: Thank you, Madam Chair. At the outset I would like to join all those who preceded me to thank what has been presented by the Emirates. We think that when we have a database giving statistics about the posts and about who has these posts, it's a good idea. When we have a database,that will be very useful for people interested in joining the ITU. When you publish vacancies all over the world like in the will regional offices, you would allow people to think that they can be joining a post of the ITU. That way it will diversify representation on a geographical basis.

 We are looking forward to seeing this database so that everybody can know what are the vacancies. Thank you, Madam.

 >> CHAIR: Thank you, Egypt. Mr. Dalhen, would you like to respond to the questions? I would like to note before I give the floor to Mr. Dalhen that the statistical information is located in information Document 13. However, perhaps instead of being an information document, that document should be an input document to Council. I think that would address one of the concerns that I have heard from Member States.

 Mr. Dalhen.

 >> ERIC DALHEN: Thank you, Madam Chair. To respond to your point on statistics, I just would like to say that my answers will also address questions previously addressed by the U.S. Delegation. I hadn't forgotten them. They were on geographical distribution. They will be covered when we look at the UAE document.

 So coming back to your comment on the document with the statistics. As I understood from the Delegations and their requests, in addition to the statistical information already contained in INF 13, especially pages 13 to 15, what Member States would also like to see is the geographical distribution by grade. The tables in the document so far give the number of staff by nationality, but they do not specify the grade and post of the staff within the organization. So I have understood the request by the UAE supported by a number of Delegations, what they would like to see is the statistics to be more detailed and that they should also include the distribution by level of grade within the professional and higher categories. Of course, this is quite possible and we will do it for the next update of this document.

 As to other proposals made and supported by Member States, by Councillors, I beg your pardon, these support those proposals which we already tabled, especially in Document 53, pages 10 and 11 of the English version, which is about the action plan which was requested by a number of Member States and also the joint inspection unit. Pages 10 and 11 give a table with actions which we are planning to work on, geographical distribution especially through having stronger contracts which we wish to establish in priority with Member States which are not represented or which are less represented than those who have the best representation. We want to work with them also on activities to publicize our vacant posts and also we want to work with them so that the canal dates from these Member States present not only many applications but good applications so that they meet the required qualifications, education level, experience, language knowledge.

 As stated in this table we would like to add into the statistics which we are able to provide to Member States further statistics to show those applications which we receive from these countries by age, gender, level of qualifications so we can perhaps see where there is a problem at the time, right now, which is that often we don't receive applications which some of these countries which are not represented. We don't receive applications which would meet the selection criteria and the vacancy notices.

 So that the selection process cannot include these applicants. So we have various actions which we wish to implement through these contacts to be organized with all of the Member States, whether they are represented or not represented or under represented in the professional and higher categories. Obviously, the regional offices and area offices of ITU are tools which we can leverage as well to help us in these activities, in these actions to publicize our vacancy notices, because our colleagues in the field have closer contacts than we do here at headquarters with those countries where their offices are located. And we have to use this resource.

 Coming on now to JPO to answer the question by the Belarus Delegation, the ITU has been using these JPOs for some time. But ream we haven't received any. I have had contacts for four or five years now. During the Council session we had a presentation on a number of programmes which ITU wished to revitalize, including JPOs, internments, secondments of staff from state administrations or loans. There has been some success for some of these programmes, but less for the JPOs because as the Delegate of Belarus said, it is based on the ability of Member States to support through funding these programmes. That is to say they have to be able to afford to provide to the organizations using these programmes the funding necessary for the recruitment of these young professionals.

 And this so far hasn't been possible. Some Member States haven't been able to come up with the funding. Currently we have contacts with some amongst you. We are trying to reactivate these programmes, to relaunch them. In the course of contacts we have had established in recent years, the main reason which we've heard to explain why Member States could have difficulties with offering these programmes to the ITU was that ITU is a rather expensive duty station. Therefore, a large amount of funding is required. Also there is another reason. This is a very specialized agency. It might be very difficult to identify young graduates in this specialized area who would be available to this JPO programme. Some of these young graduates, I'm sorry to say it in this way, but some of these young graduates may prefer UNDP or UNICEF where they can go know the field to humanitarian support programmes. These young people seem to be more interested in that type of work than in certain very specialized and technical work of the ITU.

 So when I heard this, I said well, these JPOs to be used in other technical areas. They can also be in support services for general activities and broader activities: Conference support, legal services, human resource services. I myself would be very interested to see some young people in the finance department, et cetera, et cetera. So of course, we do want to develop this programme. If any Delegations would like to contact us, I can tell them and explain to them how we can implement such programmes.

 I think I haven't forgotten anything, Madam Chair. If I have, please remind me and I'll answer more questions.

 >> CHAIR: Thank you, Mr. Dalhen. Unless I see objections, I move that the Admin Committee note the report and Document 53, taking into account the comments by Member States to include the Council 2018 report. That's Document 53.

 Taking into account, I did not see -- I saw broad support for Document 109 for the proposals made by the UAE. Noting that a number of those proposals exist in info Document 13. So unless I see objection from the Committee, I am recommending that the Admin Committee instruct the Secretary General to instead of an information document on statistics it should be an input document to Council, taking into account those other areas such as grade and post, level of grade and there is one more -- but I will work with Mr. Dalhen to put in my report, that it be included in the statistical report. This is no longer an informational document. It now should be an input document to Council. That will start in 2018.

 I don't see any objections to that. Great. Thank you.

 Mr. Dalhen, would you like to introduce document 54? Thank you.

 >> ERIC DALHEN: Thank you, Madam Chair. On behalf of the Secretary General it is my pleasure to introduce C17/54 which is submitted annually to Council sessions. It describes the implementation of decisions by ITU and Secretary General taken within the United Nations common system either by the U.N. General Assembly especially for professional and higher categories through the U.N. office in Geneva for the general staff category. This year we report modifications to conditions of remuneration for professional and higher categories. There has been an increase of the base floor of 1.02 percent of the base floor, first January 2017 compensated by reduction in number of equivalent points of post adjustments applicable to Geneva for 2017. This year, or last year, for the preceding period, the period covered by this report to Council, we also had to implement modifications to base salary scales of general service category staff. You will recall that this scale was reduced on 1st June 2016. Then it was readjusted upwards twice because of living costs in Geneva going up. And you can see this in the scales for, depending on entry into service for general service category.

 For these two categories, these measures have been implemented by the Secretary General. The Council is invited to look at levels of remuneration applied to elected staff pursuant to the Plenipotentiary 2016, this is fixed on the basis of the application of a percentage in that resolution of the salary applicable for appointed officials, professional or higher categories to the highest grade.

 Each modification of the base scale for these officials implies the modification for the elected officials. Therefore, Council is to approve those modifications as presented in the Draft Resolution contained in the annex to Document C54. In addition to approval of the salary scales, applicable from 1 January 2017, the resolution invites Council to authorize or instruct the Secretary General to update the staff rules and staff regulations for elected officials on the basis of modifications introduced in the staff regulations applicable to appointed officials. Last year, one July 2016 and now one January 2017, new elements of remuneration were approved, the new compensation package approved by the UNGA on the basis of the rules of ISIC. The elected officials regulations have to be updated for appointed officials and for this Council has to instruct the Secretary General to do this. So Council is invited to take note of measures taken for professional and higher category staff and for general service staff, and it has to also take a decision to approve the Draft Resolution in the annex for levels of remuneration for elected staff and instructing the Secretary General to revise the staff regulations with respect to elected officials. Thank you, Madam Chair.

 >> CHAIR: Thank you, Mr. Dalhen. This Document 54 is open for discussion.

 Okay. So Canada, you have the floor.

 >> CANADA: Yes, thank you, Madam Chair. We would like to thank Mr. Dalhen for the presentation of this document. Madam Chair, we are looking for your advice on the following. We just have seen that the new document has been posted, Document 118 on the reduction of the post adjustment in Geneva. We would be, of course, keenly interested to see when that document is going to be discussed, particularly in light of the document that we have just discussed. Thank you.

 >> CHAIR: Thank you, Canada. Yes, we were waiting for the document to be translated in all six languages. Now that it has been translated we can give the floor to Deputy Secretary General Johnson to introduce it.

 >> MALCOLM JOHNSON: Thank you very much, Madam Chair. Good afternoon, everyone. It is Document 118 just referred to by Canada which has recently been translated into the six languages and is available only on the website.

 On behalf of the Secretary General it is my pleasure to introduce this document. The international Civil Service Commission, the ICSC determines the post adjustment index for U.N. staff at different duty stations around the world. And using a new methodology for estimating the cost of living in Geneva, the ICSC has determined that a cost of living in Geneva has reduced. The result will be a drastic reduction in the pay of the professional and higher categories of staff in Geneva, a reduction of nearly 8 percent by the end of this year. This is on top of the reduction in the income resulting from elements of the new compensation package which Mr. Dalhen has just explained.

 Management is naturally seriously concerned about the adverse effect on staff morale and ITU's ability to attract new recruits of high caliber. This concern is shared by the staff Council which expressed its serious concern to the ADM last Tuesday. Concerns are also expressed, have been expressed by sister organizations in Geneva. As a consequence, the methodology used by the ICSC has been challenged, especially since it is contrary to other indicators which in fact have shown that the cost of living in Geneva has in fact increased.

 This issue was discussed at the world meteorological organization Council just this week. And the WMO Council supported a proposal submitted by the WMO Secretary General that a personal transitional allowance for all affected staff will be implemented to bridge the gap in pay on an interim basis and within available budget funds until a multiplier comes back to its current level. In effect, this means a wage freeze until such time as the normal increments in staff salary catch up.

 So the Council is invited to support that should the discussions with ICSC not result in an adaptation of the proposed measures, that we introduce a similar transitional allowance as agreed by WMO Council for all affected staff so as to supplement the reduced post adjustment and bridge the gap in pay on an interim basis and within available funds, budget funds until a multiplier comes back to its current level.

 It should be noted that this proposal has no impact on the draft budget that was presented to Council. Madam Chairman, we invite Council to consider this request for support. Thank you, Madam Chair.

 >> CHAIR: With that introduction, I would open the floor for discussion on 118 and C54.

 Bulgaria, you have the floor.

 >> BULGARIA: Thank you very much, Madam Chair. Madam Chair, I should like to share with you some of my personal experience. Once I was young and living behind the iron curtain. I was enjoying the state decision with two price reductions of a general nature. Since this time I have never seen such a process to be applied. So for many years I am living in Switzerland most of my time, even after my retirement. And I would like to tell you that my observation of the cost of living here is not identical to the procedures and methods applied by the specialists of the international Civil Service Commission. Everything goes up. Food, transport, fuel, rents, dwellings, clothes and the like.

 Madam Chair, I would like to be brief. We have to face the realities of life and we have to strive to attract and retain experienced, motivated, qualified and competent staff. Because of that consideration and because of the reasoning beforehand, I would like plead strongly that we support the proposal contained in Document 118. Thank you very much.

 >> CHAIR: Thank you, Bulgaria. Australia, you have the floor.

 >> AUSTRALIA: Thank you, Chair. I just want to take the floor to speak to Document 118. Thank you for the explanation. I understand there are concerns across Geneva about the ICSC decision. From my Delegation, we are in consultation with capital on this issue. We are talking to the ICSC. But I would ask that we have a little bit more time to discuss it and I would propose that we delay decision on this document until a later session of the ADM next week for further consultation. Thank you.

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

 >> SAUDI ARABIA: Thank you, Madam Chair. We thank the Secretary General for providing us with this report. And we support the required measures to be taken in this document.

 We are also looking forward to see the staff of the ITU in a situation that would guarantee the continuous and sustainable skills and, therefore, we support the measure that has been required in this document. We do not believe there is any reason to delay taking a decision on this matter. Thank you, Madam Chair.

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

 >> GERMANY: Thank you, Madam Chair. Well, this is a serious problem. The document has been provided today. During the lunch break, being in an ad hoc session, I sent it to capital, to the competent authorities dealing with the common system for international civil servants. It is Friday afternoon. I did not yet receive an answer. I know that one of the persons is out of the office on Fridays.

 So as mentioned by Australia, we certainly need more time to consult. For the time being it is very difficult to support such an approach for many reasons. One of the reasons is that if a number of specialized agencies in Geneva applies those measures, it is clear that the U.N. office in Geneva cannot apply those measures because they are bound to the actions done by the U.N. Secretariat in New York. So you will have different salary scales for the same grade of U.N. employees in Geneva, among others.

 And the ITU will leave the common system. So all this has to be discussed with capital. With all our sympathy to, if possible and agreeable, take compensation measures but at the moment for the reasons given Germany is not in a position to support this document. Thank you.

 >> CHAIR: I propose we take a coffee break and come back to continue discussing this document. It is 4:05. The following Councillors have asked for the floor: U.S., Spain, Ghana, India, Russia, France, Switzerland.

 We will pick up with U.S. when we return. Please come back at 4:20. Thank you very much.

 (A coffee break was taken.)

 (Standing by.)

 >> CHAIR: Thank you, everyone.

 U.S., you have the floor, please. No?

 Spain, you have the floor.

 >> SPAIN: Thank you, Madam Chair. Well, with regard to Document 118, we are grateful for the explanations but this is a document, as has been indicated, which was only given to us a few hours ago. It may have a budgetary impact and this might be an important consideration as well as the organizations involvement with the common system too. Our Delegation is also unable, given these reasons, to be in favor or against this proposal at this stage. We would like to request that we put off debate on this document until next week. Thank you.

 >> CHAIR: Thank you. We perhaps, our team should clarify this document is not up for approval. It is merely to let you know that we received it. We are not expecting anyone, any of the Councillors to agree to this. We recognize that you all need to go back to capital to get guidance. So with that in mind, do we still need ... do Councillors still need the floor on Document 118? If you do not need the floor for Document 118, with the understanding that we are not asking for approval today. It is merely just to bring it to your attention so that you can seek guidance. We apologize for not providing that information earlier.

 I have four countries asking, four Councillors still asking for the floor. You need the floor? India.

 >> INDIA: Thank you, Madam Chair. And thanks for your advice, but seeing the contribution as well as the interpreters involved in that India feels it is necessary to bring certain items to your consideration. During the break, Madam Chair, I was going through small statistics about what is happening in inflation as well as the price index in Switzerland. It is interesting, the Swiss inflation rate is highest since June 2011. Swiss tries increased 6 percent year on year through 2017 following .3 percent gain in the previous month. It says it was the highest inflation rate since June 2011, mainly due to rising prices of transportation, food and clothing. Here we are speaking about 7 to 8 percent, perhaps we cannot even think about that. India's submission, Madam Chair, that the contribution also mentions there is no difference in the total budget. Taking this into account and acknowledging the needs of the specialized agency, India supports the proposal of the Secretariat to provide personal transitional elements if the mitigation measures are not addressed during the conversations with the ICSC. This is responsible for the morale and we hope to see the smile of the ITU staff. Thank you, Madam Chair.

 >> CHAIR: Thank you. Russian Federation?

 >> RUSSIAN FEDERATION: Thank you, Madam Chair. We would like to note the importance of this document. We would like a clarification. Is this indeed an information document? The text of the document contains proposals, the proposal to support a given approach. In conclusion, I would like to associate myself with preceding speakers in noting that we require time to study this document and we would like to revisit it next week.

 >> CHAIR: Nigeria, you have the floor.

 U.S., you have the floor.

 >> UNITED STATES: Thank you, Madam Chair. Just to join with other speakers to say that we require additional time to consider this document so that we can consult with capital on the issues raised therein. Thank you, Madam Chair.

 >> CHAIR: Thank you, U.S. I now give the floor to South Africa. You have the floor.

 >> SOUTH AFRICA: Thank you kindly, Chair worm, for recognizing South Africa as an observer. Just to briefly comment, we also believe that these issues are extremely sensitivity and will require very careful consideration by the counselors. So we would also agree that perhaps we should be given the opportunity next week to discuss them further after we have had time to analyze the issues more carefully. Thank you.

 >> CHAIR: I now give the floor to the Deputy Secretary General Johnson, thank you.

 >> MALCOLM JOHNSON: Thank you, Madam Chair. I would like to thank Councillors for their comments on this document. Perhaps I must have been clearer in the introduction. We weren't expecting any decision to be taken this afternoon on this. We recognize that Councillors need time to consider this document and come back to it next week.

 But we felt it necessary to draw your attention to it, the situation before the weekend.

 Just to explain again that we are not suggesting that ITU would no longer adhere to the common system. What we are suggesting is that we would apply whatever the post adjustment is that is determined. But then we would compensate existing staff so affected to provide a longer transition in the reduction in salary over a period of time to account for the fact that many of our staff have severe financial implications in Geneva, such as the cost of education and college and price of property, mortgages, such as to ameliorate the impact on staff and make sure that we maintain good morale. We recognize that this is something that needs to be agreed amongst the U.N. specialized agencies in Geneva that ITU shouldn't be out of line with other agencies. But we are just bringing Council's attention to the fact that WMO Council this week did agree to this method of ameliorating the situation for existing staff and that it could be possible common approach that ITU could join. Thank you, Madam Chair.

 >> CHAIR: Thank you very much. With that, I would like to defer consideration of Document 54 and 118 until next week, until next Tuesday.

 (Pause.)

 >> CHAIR: We will defer discussion of 118. With that, can we, unless I see objections, I move the Admin Committee approve the annex in Document 54.

 Okay. The annex in Document 54 is approved.

 Mr. Dalhen, if you would do your oral presentation for Agenda Item 18, please?

 >> ERIC DALHEN: Thank you, Madam Chair. I don't want to take up too much of your time. It's late. This is an oral report we present every year on the ITU staff pension Committee. This Committee with fry par tight membership has representations of the ITU management, the staff affiliated to the pension fund and members of Council. The session of Council after the Busan Plenipotentiary adopted resolution 1326, 1371, which has the following membership for the Committee: Bulgaria, Canada and Italy. Substitute members, Burkina Faso, India and Mexico. The staff pension Committee can be invited to take decisions if any of these representative members titular or substitute has to be replaced. This is not the case today. So the membership remains as stated in this resolution. No action is required at this stage. Thank you.

 >> CHAIR: Thank you, Mr. Dalhen. Any comments on Mr. Dalhen’s oral presentation? All right, with that, thank you very much.

 We now move to Agenda Item 19. We will now review Document 60, TIES email service. I would like to invite Mr. Chris Clark from the Secretariat to present the document.

 >> CHRIS CLARK: Thank you, Madam Chair. Distinguished Councillors, ladies and gentlemen, on behalf of the Secretary General I'm pleased to present Document 60 on TIES email, proposed next steps for consideration. I would like to start by first clarifying that this document is only about TIES email service. So it is not at all related to TIES accounts, the ID that Delegates use in order to access protected documents or other ITU services. It is only the email service.

 TIES email service was created in the 1990s to facilitate work of Delegates at the time when alternatives were not available. As various alternative and mostly free services such as Gmail or hot mail were introduced in the market, the number of TIES email users has dropped quite significantly. To better understand how our Members are using TIES email we analyzed user data and conducted a survey. We received over 2,000 responses. Based on the outcomes of this consultation and analysis we prepared several documents in Document 60 which we presented to the Council Working Group in February. In summary we found that few members are using TIES email. Among those who are, many are simply forwarding messages to other addresses or using it as a second address for ITU related correspondence. In fact we found 6 percent of those surveyed use it daily and 9 percent weekly.

 Now, while about half of the users who responded to the survey said that they prefer that we maintain the users, no users were willing to pay even a small amount per month to maintain it. 1 percent said they were willing to pay ten francs per month for the charge if we were to charge on a cost recovery basis. This means it would be very difficult to maintain TIES on a cost recovery basis. There is not a business model to support it. A budget item would be required for us to have such a service in house or externally hosted.

 Now, TIES email hasn't been sufficiently updated over time. The interface, as you would notice yourself, is not really up to today's expectations in terms of usability, but more importantly is the issue of security. Madam Chair, if I could at this moment before discussing options suggest that my colleague from the IS Department provide Councillors with items regarding the security aspects.

 >> CHAIR: Thank you. Yes, sir, you have the floor.

 >> INTERNET SECURITY DEPARTMENT: Dear Councillors, as my colleague pointed out the platform supporting TIES email is about 25 years old. Using software tools of the mid '90s. This platform is inherently insecure by design because of the fact that the software development at that time didn't take into consideration information security, which was not an issue at that time.

 For instance, one of the major vulnerabilities of the platform is extremely weak authentication procedures which is based on clear text passwords. It puts the entire TIES system at risk but also the ITU digital infrastructure since its straightforward exercise to capture this password using tools that are freely available to anyone on the Internet.

 Currently to mitigate the risk, we are mainly using lifting solutions which informatically are not efficient in blocking cyber threats that are becoming more and more complex.

 Many security incidents have occurred over the last few years. They are not happening -- now happening more frequently. Recently we noticed thousands of malicious files coming from TIES emails. Some of these email accounts got compromised and were even used to spread and infect our main account in ITU and over the Internet as well as those administrations using TIES emails. In the beginning of this year cyber attackers built a fake ITU TIES website with a fake ITU logo and with malware to steal the user names and passwords of all TIES email accountings. These cyber attackers were sending spam emails to statute and Delegate also and inviting them to come to the fake website by presenting their credentials. If left unaddressed the current TIES email structure will continue to put the entire ITU digital network at big risk. Madam Chair, I will be happy to provide any additional information or respond to questions. Thank you.

 >> CHAIR: Mr. Clark?

 >> CHRIS CLARK: Thank you, Madam Chair. We have on the screen, I hope shortly -- great -- we have on the screen a summary of options for consideration. So following the Council Working Group meeting we have done further investigation with regard to U.N. hosting by UNICC. We have details here including two variations of Option 2. We had three options in the document but we've given you another option under Option 2 which is a lighter version, lower cost version.

 To summarize, Option 1 is to maintain the service in house and to -- now, this is something I wanted to highlight that maybe wasn't clear in the document. When we talk about maintain and modernize we really mean buying a new platform. You can't update the current platform. It is too old. This involves us getting a new system which is quite costly and support is a challenge. We don't offer 24 hour support. If you're a Delegate traveling or in a regional office, the window for support is quite limited and our ability to provide.

 Next item is Option 2 which is external hosting. At UNICC, for example, in Geneva, we could have a ITU branded service similar to what we are doing for ITU email for staff. And this would allow for 24-hour service. It would be lower cost than internal hosting but it would still imply a pretty significant cost. As well, users would probably have to in many cases up wear their software on their devices in order to take full advantage of the service which is why we came up with Option 2 Bis which is also external hosting but a lighter version which is essentially web mail that would allow the Delegates to maintain the service at a lower cost and you'll see that cost in the table, eight francs per urine Stead of ten.

 The last option is to discontinue the service and for us to support users in the transition. This would be absorbed into existing resources and to reiterate, shutting down the TIES email would have no impact on other ITU services. It is not in any way related to the TIES account for ID or document access. Thank you, Madam Chair.

 >> CHAIR: Thank you, Mr. Clark. This document is open for discussion. Councillors? Deputy Secretary General? No? Okay.

 I would like to open this document for discussion. We have some options before us, taking into account what the Secretariat has just said that the current TIES email platform cannot be updated. It cannot be modified. If we were to maintain in house, it would be 600,000 minimum. Or go with Option 3 and discontinue.

 In any event, if we choose options 1, 2, or 2 Bis we will need to find that amount, add this amount to our parking lot as an unfunded mandate. So we are in your hands. How would you like to proceed? Thank you.

 As I see that no one has taken the floor unless I see the objections I move that we discontinue the TIES email. I see no one asking for the floor. So we will discontinue the TIES email, Option 3. Thank you very much.

 (Pause.)

 >> CHAIR: Now, thank you for that. We now turn to item 20. And we will ask Mr. Dietmar Plesse, who Chaired the Council Working Group on Financial and Human Resources. Sorry, he's the Vice Chair. I ask that he present the report. Thank you very much.

 >> DIETMAR PLESSE: Thank you, Madam Chair. At this late hour, it is my duty to present the 22 pages report. I will try to be brief. Also taking into account that some of the issues raised in the report had already been discussed or are at present discussed, for example in ad hoc groups. I would further propose that I go chapter by chapter. Whenever there is a decision needed by the Council, you take the floor, Madam Chair, and ask the Council whether they want to take such a decision.

 The Council Working Group on Financial and Human Resources held its last meeting from the 30th of January to the 1st of February 2017 here in Geneva under the able chairmanship of Mr. Frederic Riehl from Switzerland. He is retired. Therefore, it is my duty at the moment to present this report.

 With regard to the current mandate and possible overlap between Council Working Group and other bodies, the group reviewed its terms of reference. In particular, we discussed that we should include into our deliberations all the joint inspection unit, JIU recommendations worldwide. Not only those affecting the financial and human resource management of the Union directly. In Annex 1 of the document, page 18 and 19, English text, you find the revised terms of reference. The revision is relatively easy. It is in Item 2, 4, where the sentence is included "and those addressed to the U.N. legislative bodies are considered. It is a slight amendment of the existing terms of reference. The recommendation of the Council Working Group, Madam Chair, is that the Council is invited to approve the revised amendment to item 2, 4 of the terms of reference of the Council Working Group FHR in Annex 1 of this report. Thank you.

 >> CHAIR: So thank you very much. I put before you recommendation to approve the Council Working Group on financial and human resources terms of reference, Annex 1. I hear no objection. I recommend that Admin Committee approve these revised terms of reference.

 Approved.

 Mr. Plesse?

 >> DIETMAR PLESSE: Thank you, Madam Chair. The Council Working Group also discussed a document concerning ITU publications. And we concluded that the decision to sell or to give away free publications should be under the authority of ITU in general and not under the authority of the Bureaus. The recommendation of the group is that the Council is invited to approve this approach. Thank you, Madam Chair.

 >> CHAIR: Thank you, Mr. Plesse.

 I put before you the, unless I hear objection, we will approve as recommended by the FHR. Approved. Mr. Plesse?

 >> DIETMAR PLESSE: Well, I get a little bit into difficulties because the agenda and the numbering of the Agenda was changed. During this week he also discussed the review of the current methodologies and developing of the future vision of participation of sector members, associates, academia in the membership of the ITU. There were several documents presented to our group. We developed an Annex 2 to our report with some guidelines that should be taken into account when deciding about this issue.

 I note that under the same Agenda Item as this report we have two documents, Document 97 and Document 100. One from Brazil, the other one from Argentina, dealing with this issue. I think that these documents will be discussed later. So I propose that the recommendation by the group is obsolete at this stage because we will discuss the issue after presenting the report.

 The next topic that was discussed by the group were documents from the United States of America and from Saudi Arabia with regard to ITU's participation in MOUs with financial and/or strategic implications. This topic, Madam Chair, will be discussed later on your agenda. At the moment it is Agenda Item 22. After the intense discussions at the Council Working Group, and in the absence of consensus, the Chairman requested the group to further discuss the issue and find a solution which is acceptable to everyone. As a consequence of the absence of consensus, this item will be discussed in this Committee under Agenda Item 22. I think again there is no need for us at this stage to decide upon the recommendation. By the Council Working Group.

 The next document we looked at was a draft budget for the Union 2018-2019. As you know, this is under ongoing discussion. At the time of the presentation and after intense discussion and dialogue with the Secretariat for clarification, there was a recommendation to the Council to approve the budget. This recommendation still stands, of course, because we have to approve the budget at one stage. But it is in the process to be revised. And I think we will not leave this Council prior to approval of the budget.

 The next topic that was dealt by the group were the efficiency measures. This was Document 45 presented to this Council under previous Agenda Item, and this has been done. The Council took note of the efficiency measures as enumerated in Document 45. So there is no further decision needed from the Council at this stage based on the report.

 The same, Madam Chair is true for the security issue that we discussed. It was Document 33 discussed at this Council under previous Agenda Item. We at this Council decided upon the option to be chosen for improving the security of ITU staff and Delegates. There is no need for a decision pursuant to the report.

 A further item, number 5, discussed by the group were the outcomes of WTSA-16 with financial implications. We have this as an info document. This has been presented. It is done. And the financial implications are under consideration when the draft budget is, the revised draft budget will be discussed next week.

 Again with regard to this item, there is no need for a decision at this stage.

 Six. We discussed the report and follow-up of the recommendation of the External Auditor. This is Document 40, if I'm not mistaken, in front of the Council. It will be discussed under Agenda Item 23.

 The Council is invited to take note of the status of the follow-up on the recommends of the External Auditor, but I think this decision will only be taken by the Council after we have discussed the document at the moment there is no need for a decision.

 Seven, a similar matter. The report and follow-up of the recommendations of the Independent Management Advisory Committee, IMAC. This is Document 22. And it is, will be dealt under Agenda Item 26 of this Committee at a later stage.

 Further, under item 8 of the group, we looked at the implementation of systematic risk management in ITU. There are a number of documents, two documents. Document 73 and Document 74 which will be dealt at a later stage in your Committee under Agenda Item 29. So we believe or I believe that once these documents will be discussed, the Council can take the appropriate decision. There is no need for taking a decision now.

 The same, the group addressed the JIU recommendation. Again there is, I think, two documents under Agenda Item 30 which I'm not sure. It is my note from yesterday. Now there is a new agenda, but it's Document 64 and Document 20, that will be looked at later stage in your Committee, Madam Chair.

 Then we looked at improving the stability and predictability of the financial base of the Union. This was Document 67. The Council already dealt with this document under Agenda Item 5 of your Committee. That means that the rather long debate we had on this particular matter in the Council Working Group on financial and human resources need not to be reflected here because the Council already took a decision on this document.

 We further looked at a contribution by the United States, which dealt with the International Numbering Resources. This matter is under discussion in an ad hoc group at present. It is my pleasure to announce on behalf of my Brazilian friend that the group is supposed to meet at 6:00 o'clock again this evening for one hour. However, there is no action needed at present by Council.

 We looked at a number of other issues, for example, at the result also of the consultation on the Plenipotentiary modernization. Now I'm not so sure but I think this has been dealt with in the Plenary already. Respective documents have been discussed. And conclusions and recommends by the Council have been taken.

 The next subjects for discussion by the Council Working Group on Finances and Human Resources relate to the topic of human resources that we dealt with earlier before the coffee break. In so far, there is no further need to discuss it except, of course, a new document that we had not seen, Document 118, which we will hopefully come to a conclusion next week after further consultation of the Delegations with capitals.

 We also looked at ITU's gender policy review. Again this has been dealt with in Plenary. I think yesterday morning. We have all acknowledged the progress made by ITU in this regard. And there is no need for us at this time pursuant to this report to take any further decision or make any further recommendations.

 We also discussed the document before on the TIES email. The decision has been taken by your Committee to discontinue this service. So far, no further decision is needed, Madam Chair.

 We discussed at length in the group the progress and the update at that time, that means in January-February of this year, of the ITU headquarters building project. This has been discussed in Plenary. There was Document 7 and Document 99, and part of Document 111. There is no need to take any decision pursuant to this report now.

 We also got an older presentation on the need of renewal of the mandate of the External Auditor. This is Document 58 which will be dealt in your Committee at a later stage. And the appropriate decision will be made by Council.

 The group invited the Council to take note of this document and approve the further renewal of the mandate of the External Auditor from Italy for another two years, from 1st of July 2018 to 30th of June 2020.

 But this will be discussed in detail at a later stage in your Committee.

 Finally, Madam Chair, we had a contribution from the Russian Federation about the joint Coordination Committee for vocabulary. As you know, Madam Chair, a similar document was presented to this Council and an ad hoc group was created. There is a Draft Resolution, Temporary Document 4 available for further discussion with regard to this topic. That means also that at present time in this group, there is no need for a decision. Of course, we will discuss certainly this Draft Resolution later.

 With this, Madam Chair, I am sorry to take that much time. As you know, many, many issues in the past have been shifted into this Council Working Group. I end the presentation of the report and I am available for any clarification if needed. Thank you.

 >> CHAIR: Thank you, Mr. Plesse for stepping in for Mr. Riehl who has retired.

 Can I come back to you on page 2 of the report? Section 1.7? 1.8 and 1.9, and the will recommendation here.

 There is an Annex 2 that Council is requested to adopt. My understanding from you is that you believe there was a link to Document 97 and 100. But I believe those are dealing with two different subjects. But I will is I my understanding we should discuss Annex 2 when we discuss document 197? Thank you.

 >> DIETMAR PLESSE: Well, Madam Chair, my recollection is that the administration, the members when making proposals for Council, they should take into account this Annex 2 and the criteria therein. The group wanted the criterias in Annex 2 will be considered by those administration that make relevant proposals to Council. Thank you.

 >> CHAIR: Thank you, Mr. Plesse.

 We have taken note of a number of items in the report already. We've approved those issues that we needed to approve. So unless I see objections I move that the admin note the document taking into account decisions that already have been made. As far as sections 1.7, 1.8 and 1.9, we will come back to those to that section when we deal with documents 97 and 100, per your suggestion.

 Any objections to that approach? Great.

 We have 15 minutes left. And with those 15 minutes I would like to try to introduce the documents from section 22. So I'm proposing to move contributions 97 and 100 to next Tuesday.

 Okay. I see no objection to that.

 I would also like to thank the Swiss Delegation. If you could send, get a message to Mr. Riehl. He has retired. He kind of snuck away in the night.

 (Laughter.)

 >> CHAIR: If you could give him a big thank you from the Admin Committee. He retired earlier, I believe in March. So I would like to give him a big hand and if the Swiss Delegation could pass this message on to him. Thank you.

 (Applause.)

 >> CHAIR: I give the floor to the Secretary General.

 >> HOULIN ZHAO: Thank you, Madam Chair. My intervention will be very short. I would like to add my personal appreciation to Ambassador Riehl for his wonderful contribution to this particular group but also for his long time services to help ITU for many, many different areas and for many, many years. We wish him a good retirement and I think we hope from time to time we may have a chance to see him and wish him all the best. Thank you.

 >> CHAIR: Thank you, Secretary General.

 With that, can I have item 22? And Document 48. Mr. Guyot? You have the floor.

 >> MR. GUYOT: Thank you, Madam Chair. Madam Chair, on behalf of the Secretary General, it is my pleasure to introduce Document 48. This document is something of a regular document submitted to the Council following the Plenipotentiary conference. It contains a list of memoranda of understanding or agreements signed by the ITU since the last Council session having financial and/or strategic implications for the Union. Even if the Council has not yet to date adopted criteria or guidelines on the participation of the ITU, a memorandum of understanding of this ICANN in establishing this list, the ITU staff worked on the basis of guidelines which are currently being discussed.

 >> CHAIR: Thank you, Mr. Guyot.

 >> INTERPRETER: Is the English channel audible?

 >> CHAIR: Sorry. Switzerland, you have the floor.

 >> SWITZERLAND: Yes. Thank you, Madam Chair. I'm sorry, we didn't want to interrupt Mr. Guyot in his explanations. We would simply like to thank him, Madam Chair, and the Secretary General and the ITU as a whole for their warm thanks and kind words for Frederic Riehl. I wanted to say that we are going to convey all of these kind words to him as warmly as possible and tell him that he is welcome at the ITU as you indicated. Thank you very much. I'm so sorry for having interrupted Mr. Guyot. Thanks.

 >> CHAIR: Thank you, Switzerland. I'm sorry we missed you on the board.

 Mr. Guyot, please continue.

 >> MR. GUYOT: Thank you, Madam Chair. No problem.

 As I was saying, despite the fact that to date the Council has not yet formally approved criteria and guidelines, the Secretariat was inspired by the criteria and guidelines which currently being discussed within the various different fora in compiling this list. As was previously mentioned during the interventions in the work of the Council Working Group on Financial and Human Resources, the respective text of these memoranda of understanding and agreements are reproduced completely in the annexes to Document 48. I would just like to highlight, perhaps as a reminder, that an agreement of this kind adopted in 2015 was brought to the attention of the Council in 2015 in the document from the Secretariat. The Bureau responsible for the implementation of these agreements, that is the BR, is identified in the table on page 2 of Document 48. So I would like to invite any of our Councillors if you have any questions in this regard to speak to the Director. Thank you.

 >> CHAIR: Thank you, Mr. Guyot. The next item on my list for this Agenda Item is 93. United States.

 >> UNITED STATES: Thank you, Madam Chair. Resolution 192 of the Plenipotentiary conference instructs Council to formulate criteria and guidelines for ITU consideration and participation in MOUs that have financial and/or strategic implications. The criteria should ultimately closely link activities to be performed under an MOU to the strategic objectives and results established in the strategic and operational plans.

 The Secretary General submitted several MOUs to each Council since 2014 that he believed had strategic or financial consequences. He did so in the absence of any criteria and, as Mr. Guyot just stated, we see three more MOUs at this Council. We appreciate this response.

 The goal of resolution 192 is for Council to receive such MOUs earlier in their development before they are signed so it can provide guidance. This would enhance transparency and establish a partnership between ITU management and the Council. The goal is to have Council involved only in those few MOUs that meet this threshold and give the Secretary General the flexibility to conclude MOUs that don't meet these thresholds.

 From last Council and through the Council Working Group on Financial and Human Resources, we have worked diligently. Great progress has been made on the proposed criteria and guidelines. The U.S. contribution highlights the valuable input from the ITU legal and management personnel and the agreement to all of those suggestions by consensus.

 The U.S. also expresses its willingness to agree to the suggestions to adopt the criteria and guidelines as a Council resolution in the spirit of compromise, and provides a Draft Resolution and a clean version of the criteria and guidelines for this purpose.

 We encourage Council adoption as required by Plenipotentiary resolution 192 of the proposed criteria and guidelines in the Draft Resolution so the ITU and all members can begin to gain experience with the application of these criteria in advance of Plenipot 18. Thank you, Madam Chair.

 >> CHAIR: Thank you, U.S. May I invite Saudi Arabia to introduce their document, 104?

 >> SAUDI ARABIA: Thank you, Madam Chair. Without in I doubt the memorandum of agreement is a topic that has to be studied very seriously. It has an impact on the ITU. Many discussions, many exhaustive discussions took place in order to put criteria and guiding principles related to memoranda of understanding. The Council in 2016 decided to return this topic to the Working Group in charge of human resources and financial resources in order to re-examine and revisit the memorandum of understanding. The Working Group has discussed the matter in its meeting that was held in February 2017. The Chairman of the Working Group decided to continue discussing the matter in order to reach an acceptable agreement for everybody. In the light of the discussions that took place during the meetings of the Council in 2016 and taking into account of the fact that the Council meetings take place one time a year and because the Council has to respond very quickly and follow the various orientations and the progress, it is very clear that postponing the discussion of the memorandum of understanding until the decision is taken by the Council until the Council grows is not practical. It is not very good in order to advance quickly.

 As no memorandum of understanding had an impact on the financial and human resources, the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia proposes to the Council in this Council, 2017, to inform the Plenipotentiary conference of 2018 of this conclusion reached. We would like to ask from the Plenipotentiary to take the right decisions about resolution 192 because we do not need to put criteria or guiding principles for the time being.

 If in the future there is need to put criteria and guiding principles, the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia would propose that Annex 1 of this document should be the basis of any future discussions on this topic. And this would include a priority to memoranda of agreement that would have an impact on increasing the resources of the ITU and would serve the interests of Developing Countries in order to reinforce the development of information technology. Thank you, Madam.

 >> CHAIR: Thank you, Saudi Arabia. Councillors, I'm in your hands. This has been discussed in the Council Working Group since 2015. It was discussed at Plenipotentiary. I don't see a way forward. There is no consensus on developing guidelines or criteria for MOUs.

 I can send this to a Drafting Group or just informal consultations, with the aim of hoping to come back with a different resolution. I would note, however, that the Council Working Group asked Member States to consult. And we are back in Council again. I don't see a way forward.

 Canada, you have the floor.

 >> CANADA: Thank you, Madam floor. We would like to thank the United States and Saudi Arabia for their respective contributions.

 Madam Chair, let me refresh your memory. To a very important decision that the Secretary General took in regards to another MOU which is the one with Interpol. It was a very sensible and wise decision of the Secretary General bring the MOU to the attention of Council. As a result of which there has been substantive discussions that have resulted in the modification of the original MOU that was to be signed by the Secretary General with Interpol. We believe with due consideration to the need not to micromanage the ITU, with due consideration of all the confidence that we have in the elected officials, the adoption of guidelines would certainly facilitate the decision making process by which the Secretary General would sign an MOU.

 I believe that these guidelines will further strengthen the accountability and transparency of the Union, would strengthen our collective work and would facilitate the exercise of the work entrusted to the Union. We strongly support, as we did in the past, that the adoption of these guidelines is a positive step in that direction. Thank you.

 >> CHAIR: Thank you, Canada. I would like to ask the interpreters if we could have ten minutes, if we can stop at 5:42?

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

 >> CHAIR: Thank you.

 U.S., you have the floor.

 >> UNITED STATES: Thank you, Madam Chair. As you observed, we have been discussing this issue for some time. I looked back at the October 2015 summary record of the meeting of the Council Working Group on Financial and Human Resources. Perhaps it was the Chair's report. I note that intervention by the Deputy Secretary General on this matter when he said that the Secretariat's highest priority is to maintain the full trust of the membership, and that the criteria and guidelines before us would do that consistent with resolution 192, and the ITU legal and management agree.

 So we made every change that has been discussed and requested. We've changed from a modification to the financial regulations to a resolution because colleagues thought that was a better approach. We have been extremely flexible on this issue. We would like to fulfill the tasks begin to Council in resolution 192, and adopt this resolution at this point in time.

 My understanding is that the will management team here is comfortable with it, but if I misunderstand that I would like to be so informed at this time. Thank you, Chair.

 >> CHAIR: Thank you, United States. UAE, you have the floor.

 >> UNITED ARAB EMIRATES: Thank you very much, Madam Chair. And we would like to thank the United States of America and Saudi Arabia for their proposals with regard to this topic.

 Madam Chair, we believe very modestly that the criteria that were set up require a deep study. And since this topic resides in decision 192, we think this should be referred to the Plenipotentiary conference in view of its importance. And in such a way that the topic will be discussed by all Member States and not just at the level of the Council.

 As you know, we have attempted in many meetings to come up with an agreement, as you have mentioned. But we were unable to do so. Therefore, we hope that this group can delay or postpone looking into this topic until the holding of the PP to take a decision. We believe that adopting detailed criteria might hinder the work of the Secretary General. Therefore, we have certain reservations with regard to the criteria that were set down. We prefer that this topic be discussed at the level of the Plenipotentiary conference where all the Member States will be present and it will be possible for the conference to take a decision on this topic.

 Thank you, Madam Chair.

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

 >> CHINA: Thank you, Madam Chair. We would also like to thank you and the U.S. and Saudi Arabia for their proposals. Resolution 192 is to make the Union more cautious in Financial and Human Resource levels so that the Union can have more efficient collaborations with other agencies to fulfill its mandate. As the U.S. and the UAE correctly mentioned, based on this topic we have numerous discussions we failed to agree on. We even have no discussions on the guidelines. Therefore, we think we should not rush into hasty decisions in making a decision in this topic.

 As for Saudi Arabia, we believe they proposed a very wise and constructive option which we would like to further elaborate on. Thank you.

 >> CHAIR: Thank you, China. I have Australia, Russia and Rwanda. I would like to close the list because we have five minutes left.

 Tunisia, USA, the list is closed. Thank you. Australia.

 >> AUSTRALIA: Thank you, Chair. Australia would note that the Council and the Council Working Group has worked very hard since the resolution 192 was determined in Busan in 2014 to provide the ITU with a tool, with something that would be useful for it in determining a policy with regard to MOUs and the approach to them.

 We note that this has been a long but constructive process. It has involved a lot of negotiation and compromise. We think that the outcome in the document presented to us in the U.S. contribution is a good one. We are quite proud of the result of all of the work that most of us, I think, all of us have put into this process.

 For that reason we would support the adoption of this resolution, Draft Resolution. Thank you, Chair.

 >> CHAIR: Thank you, Australia. Russia, you have the floor.

 >> RUSSIAN FEDERATION: Thank you, Madam Chair. We would like to thank the administration of the USA and Saudi Arabia for the work they've done and the documents they've presented. We would like to point out that resolution 192 clearly instructs the formulation of criteria and guidelines which in our view is very clearly reflected in the contribution from Saudi Arabia. We support the proposal of the United Arab Emirates and China to transfer the discussion to postpone the discussion to the Plenipotentiary conference. Thank you.

 >> CHAIR: Thank you, Russia. I have Rwanda. You have the floor.

 >> RWANDA: Thank you, Madam Chair. Rwanda also supports the proposal that we note at the time of making a decision on this very important topic. We appreciate all the hard work that has gone into it and the waiting list on all parties to come to some sort of compromise. But given the implications of what such a decision would make in terms of the future functioning and ability of the Secretariat to be able to execute its mandate. We also feel that we are not at the time of making such a decision even at the level of the Council Working Group there is no agreement on this. So we would also like to add our voice to defer this decision either to the Plenipotentiary conference or if there is room for coming up with an agreeable solution to all parties between now and the Plenipotentiary conference, that could also be considered. Thank you, Madam Chair.

 >> CHAIR: Thank you, Rwanda. Tunisia, you have the floor.

 >> TUNISIA: Thank you, Madam Chair. I would like to thank, first of all, Saudi Arabia and the USA for the two documents that they have presented. Of course, we would like to thank them for their efforts in trying to find criteria for this topic.

 I do not want to be lengthy. Since there has been no agreement on this topic so far, I believe that we should postpone taking a final decision either at the Plenipotentiary or, as my colleague said from Rwanda, if possible and if there is an agreement before the holding of the Plenipotentiary conference. Thank you.

 >> CHAIR: Thank you, Tunisia. U.S., you have the floor.

 >> UNITED STATES: Thank you, Madam Chair. Just simply to say that the Document 48, the MOUs on satellite monitoring are completely different subject. That we would have some comments on when you resume your meeting next week. Thank you, Chair.

 >> CHAIR: Thank you, U.S. We have to close. And so I would request that we pick this up again on Tuesday. Thank you. Have a nice weekend.

 Sorry, Mr. Ba would like the floor.

 >> ALASSANE BA: Thank you, Madam Chair. I would like to announce there is a Steering Committee meeting in room A immediately after this session. Also the AIR will meet in G1, third floor of the Varembe building. A document already has been posted on this subject. I don't know if the Swiss Delegation would like to take the floor about Sunday expedition.

 >> CHAIR: Thank you. Have a nice week end.

 (The session concluded at 1745 CET.)

 (CART provider signing off.)

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