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>> CHAIR: Good morning. I'd like to call the 2017 session of the ITU Council to order. And to recognize the many Ministers and Ambassadors that we have here with us today. It is our honor to have you.

Excellencies, Distinguished Counselors, Secretary‑General Houlin Zhao, Deputy Secretary‑General Mr. Malcolm Johnson, directors of the Bureaus, Mr. Francois Rancy, Mr. Chaesub Lee and Mr. Brahima Sanou. It is my great honor to open the 2017 session of the ITU Council and to address you as the outgoing Chair. I would like to recognize the incoming Chair, Dr. Eva Spina from the administration of Italy. We shared the podium last year, the first time that the Chair and Vice‑Chair were women, a historic official. I have the utmost confidence in her leadership and wish her a very productive and successful meeting. The Council acts as the governing body of the Union in the interim between Plenipotentiary conferences.

Council provides direction on priorities, addresses strategic planning, exercises financial control, ensures the efficient coordination of the work and contributes to the development of telecommunications. Council 2016 approved a new ITU document access policy which came in to effect provisionally the 1st of January this year. As the ITU announcement noted better public access to information held, managed or generated by ITU facilitates transparency and accountability and contributes to a better understanding of ITU's unique mission.

Last year the Secretary‑General committed to implementing both the formal and informal recommendations of the joint inspection unit. Council 2016 also set in motion a process to enhance the functioning of the Plenipotentiary Conference and added the WTSA proceedings to the growing list of publications available for free online access. These important decisions demonstrate our commitment to improving the posture and prominence of the ITU.

Council 2016 made decisions about future conferences and meetings of the Union, confirming the city of Buenos Aires for the WTDC of this year and the city of Dubai for the 2018 Plenipotentiary and the World Telecommunication Conference whose venue will be a subject of further discussion at this Council.

Council 2016 established the expert's group on the review of the international telecommunication regulations and appointed Mr. Fernando Borjon from the administration of Mexico as the Chair. We also determined the future of the ITU's headquarters buildings, deciding to replace the Varembe building with new construction that would include the offices and tower and refurbish the Montbrilliant building.

Council 2016 launched a review of the gender mainstreaming policy and requested the Secretariat go deeper in to the reporting of the participation of men and women in ITU meetings and on Chairmanships and to make further efforts toward gender equality and staffing. We also improved the guiding principles for the creation, management and termination of Council Working Groups, taking in to account the competency of candidates with a view to promoting equitable geographical distribution and gender balance.

Our people are our most important resource. It is the staff of the ITU that make the Union what it is, and they deserve our appreciation and attention. We heard from the staff counsel and Delegations emphasize the need to maintain a motivated, well‑trained and efficient workforce with an open and constructive dialogue with management. We addressed compensation, health insurance, the pension fund, mandatory age of retirement and other matters that affect the active and retired workforce.

In closing I would like to thank the ITU staff for their wonderful assistance and support. With special thanks to Ms. Doreen Bogdan, Ms. Beatrice Pluchon as well as to the Secretary‑General, Deputy Secretary‑General and directors of the Bureau. I would like to give my thanks and gratitude to the 2016 Chair of the Standing Committee, administration and management and to all the Chairs of the Council Working Groups. And I wish to thank my administration and my region for giving me the opportunity to Chair the 2016 Council. Finally, I thank all of you for the goodwill and spirit of cooperation that you showed me and each other. I wish Dr. Spina and Council 2017 every success. Thank you very much.   
 (Applause.)

>> CHAIR: I now would like to turn the Chair over to Dr. Spina. Dr. Spina.

>> EVA SPINA: Thank you.

>> HOULIN ZHAO: Excellencies, head of Delegations, dear colleagues, good morning. Now I'd like to take this opportunity to express our sincere appreciation and thanks to the former Chairman of the Council, Madam Zoller for her wonderful leadership from last year to this morning at this moment. Of course, now we would like to welcome a new Chair. In line with ITU's commitment to gender equality and following the precedent set last year by Ms. Zoller I would like to propose that we now refer to Dr. Spina as Madam Chair. Madam Chair, the Chair is yours.   
 (Applause.)

>> CHAIR: Excellencies, Distinguished Counselor, Secretary‑General Mr. Houlin Zhao, Deputy Secretary‑General Mr. Malcolm Johnson, directors of the Bureaus, Mr. Francois Rancy, Mr. Chaesub Lee and Mr. Brahima Sanou, welcome to the 2017 session of the ITU Council. I would like to thank the 48 counselors who succeed me and the Vice‑Chair. We will work to respond to your trust. We are at the eve 28 of the Plenipotentiary Conference in which to make an assessment on the results achieved and to shape the activities for the coming years. The great spirit of collaboration between ITU memberships is the tooling to meet all of our goals. Last year with international collaboration the WTSA‑16 achieved a range of targets. And it showed the strategic direction and structure to support the development of the trusted ICT infrastructure essential to the success of IG systems, Internet of Things and smart sustainable cities. We are grateful to the Government of Tunisia and the Chair of the WTSA‑16 for the success of that Assembly.

I hope that the same spirit will be the base for the success of the next World Telecommunication Development Conference to be held later in the year in Buenos Aires for expected outcomes related to ICTs for Sustainable Development Goals and to set the priorities for the development sector. In this Council meeting we will make decisions on meaningful issues. Will be the adoption of the draft biennial budget of the Union for 2018‑2019 with resource allocation to the strategic goals and objectives of the Union and the ITU operational plan for the next four years. We will also hear about the progress towards the Connect 2020 global telecommunication ICT targets and the status of the implementation of the agenda in view of the 2018 Plenipotentiary Conference in order to strategically analyze, efforts should be focused and provide for the next Strategic Plan of the Union.

Important updates will be provided on the status of the preparation for the Plenipotentiary Conference, PP‑18 according to the proposal of the United Arab Emirates to be hosted in the city of Dubai and endorsement of the Council in the last year. Will be important to start the financial plans for the next period.

Significant ITU headquarters premises project will be presented with detailed specifications. We will examine the work performed by the performance group who have paved the way for this Council. And we could know from the expert group on ITU‑Rs the situation of the review of the international telecommunication regulations and the decision on the continuation of their work.

Distinguished Colleagues, the 2017 Council has much work to do. I count on your spirit of cooperation to obtain a productive discussion on the many, many important issues of this year and to decide the many decided goals. Thank you.   
 (Applause.)

>> CHAIR: The Secretary‑General has the floor.

>> HOULIN ZHAO: Thank you, Madam Chair. According to our procedure since our former Vice‑Chair now becomes the Chair of this session. And we need to elect a new Vice‑Chair. And with our practice with the distribution of regional representatives at this year the Vice‑Chair of the Council representing the region C East Europe region. So with that kind of rules in mind I am very pleased to propose Mr. Rashid Ismailov, Deputy Minister of Test and Communications of Russian Federal Republic, Federal Government to be our Vice‑Chair for this Council. So I submit his candidacy for your endorsement. Thank you.

I was informed that our Vice‑Chair is on the way to Geneva. So he will be here this afternoon because he may not have chance to get the news to speed up his plane. So he will be here this afternoon. Thank you.

>> CHAIR: Well, now we come to examine the approval of the agenda of the inaugural Plenary meeting, document C17/ADM/2 Rev 1. And I give the floor to the secretary of the Plenary to present the agenda of the inaugural meeting.

>> SECRETARY: Thank you very much. And good morning, Ladies and Gentlemen. It is my pleasure to introduce document ADM/2 Rev 1 which is the draft agenda for the inaugural meeting. In accordance with the rules of procedure of Council, Rule 12, the inaugural meeting will settle organizational matters. The items on the agenda include the agenda for Council, the allocation of documents, the time management plan for the 2017 session, and in accordance with past practice the Secretary‑General will address us on the State of the Union. We will also have an additional three documents that will be presented, the report on the implementation of the Strategic Plan and the activities of the Union for 2016‑2017. And that is contained in document 35. We will also have the report on Connect 2020 which is document 39. And finally, we will have document 13 which is the 110th anniversary of the ITU radio regulations. Thank you, Madam Chair.

>> CHAIR: Thank you. And on the basis of this remark, Distinguished Counselors, I request to approve this agenda. Okay. The agenda is approved.

(Gavel).

>> CHAIR: Then I will give the floor to the Secretary‑General.

>> HOULIN ZHAO: Thank you, Madam Chair. Dear counselors, now we are going to the next election. And we have as you are aware the Standing Committee on administration and management reviews the financial and administrative related issues facing the Union which is never an easy job, particularly during a budget year. Like 2015, this year is a budget year. It won't be an easy job. Who knows, it may be easy. This year I would like to propose that Ms. Fatima Harris who has faithfully served as Vice‑Chair of the Standing Committee for the past four years serve as Chair of the SC for the period from 2017 to 2018 Council sessions. So I submit her name for your endorsement. Of course, we have another Vice‑Chair, Abdourhamane Touré, he will continue to stay as Vice‑Chair.

So Madam Chair and Dear Counselors, I would like to invite you to consider my proposal of candidate for Fatima Harris as Chair of this Standing Committee for administration issues.   
 (Applause.)

>> HOULIN ZHAO: Thank you. Of course, with this endorsement the Vice‑Chair Touré are staying as Vice‑Chair. Thank you. A bit confused, but anyhow she asked me to propose another candidate for new Vice‑Chair because we have Vice‑Chair move to Chair and we have another Vice‑Chair stay there. We still have one vacancy of Vice‑Chair. So we need to find another to fill the vacant Vice‑Chair position. And now with this I would like to propose Mr. Dirk Olivier von der Emden from Switzerland to be our second Vice‑Chair of this Standing Committee. Now I propose his candidate for your endorsement.   
 (Applause.)

>> HOULIN ZHAO: Thank you very much.

>> CHAIR: And now I will invite the Secretary‑General for your address.

>> HOULIN ZHAO: I hope it works. I don't know where it works. It works? That's great. Madam Chair, Excellencies, Ministers, Vice Ministers, Ambassadors, Distinguished Counselors, Ladies and Gentlemen, Dear Colleagues, good morning. On behalf of my elected colleagues and the ITU staff I welcome you to this 2017 session of ITU Council. I want to present our special welcome to those of you who are attending the Council for the first time and to the Ministers and Vice Ministers who are with us today and during the week who made time in their busy schedule to be here with us. Your presence means a great deal to all of us.

Dear colleagues, we have seen tremendous progress in the area of information and telecommunication technologies in recent years. More people are connected, new technologies such as broadband, 4G services have been deployed. E‑commerce, e‑Health, e‑money and many more electronic services have reached more and more people around the world. I'm pleased to see that the role of ICTs in helping to achieve the Sustainable Development Goals is getting wide recognition. For example, ITU took part in the first ever meeting of the digital Minister Round Tables of G20 in Germany last month. We will join similar meetings of the BRIC countries and G7 countries later this year. Information technology and digital economy can transform the lives of buildings of men, women and children. The digital revolution can transform nation's entire continents. Look at what's happened in Africa. The Transform Africa Summit that was held last week is a great example of the transformation we are seeing on the continent as I was there to appreciate their initiative launched by Africans and presented to the conference that ITU stands ready to work with all of them to build a Smart Africa. Africa is very dynamic, not only presenting great opportunities for further development, but also showing leadership in some areas. For example, members of East Africa and members of ECOWis in the west part of Africa have already successfully eliminated roaming. We need to lead development of new technologies.

Our work on 5G Big Data, cloud computing, Internet of Things are already on the agenda. But we needed to catch up with the industry and address new frontier technologies like artificial intelligence. And I am very pleased to advise you that ITU will organize together with express the ‑‑ for good Summit from Geneva 7 to 9 June this year. And up 'til now 17 United Nations agencies happily joined us to support this event. This will be a great opportunity to consult with industry and academia and seek their opinion on how ITU and the United Nations can assist them, both with respect to innovation and development. When I make reference to UN, since I got a message from the Secretary‑General for the United Nations to ask me to take this opportunity to have good consultations with industries.

In this connection I'm very pleased to advise you that ITU has forged deep ties with the UN agencies since I spoke to you last year. Today ITU and WMO share the same common subjects such as ethics services and social welfare services. We just signed a joint statement with the UNDO. And we will sign an agreement with FAO after the Council. I have already strengthened, we have also strengthened our cooperation with the UNWOMEN and with WHO and the long‑standing cooperation between ITU and UNESCO and UNCTAD and UPU is moving to a high level. UNCTAD Secretary‑General Mr. Kituyi was in Bangkok at our Telecom 2016 to support our project to support ICT SMEs. I was in Shanghai November last year after Telecom for the World Health Conference organized by WHO and I was in Istanbul in October to join the UPU conference. The heads of UNESCO, UNDP, UNWOMEN and UPU and UNDO, five of them joined ITU's organized session, broadband commission, special session, ITU joined with the World Economic Forum in January. ITU has taken measures to increase our contacts with the Geneva based missions. Has provided technical briefings to the Geneva based diplomatic community on issues like 5G and artificial intelligence. It is very important for us to help this community get familiar with our work. We will continue our efforts in this direction.

ITU also looks to strengthen partnerships in cooperation with the other stakeholders. I'm very pleased to advise you that ITU received the whole team of ICANN board here at ITU headquarters on the 5th of May. It was a very productive meeting. Both the Chair of the board and the CU of ICANN highly appreciated that meeting.

Dear colleagues, ITU management will continue this important conversation and renew its efforts to reach out to all partners. We have worked hard to enhance the perception of ITU as a pure technical technology agency but also one with the abilities and capabilities to be a good partner in development. I have conveyed this message everywhere to encourage partnership for development. And just this morning I came from Beijing. I rushed from Geneva airport to my office one hour earlier. And Beijing, they had very big event, one road forum for international cooperation. Many heads of United Nations agencies were presented. This is another ‑‑ there is another perception, we need to address that ICT industry, in particular the telecom business is self‑sufficient, self‑sustainable. There is no need to worry about their investment but we have to be careful.

More than half of the popular ‑‑ world population is still offline. Those who are not yet connected offline often live in poor areas or in areas that are difficult to reach. To connect them we need and we have to make more efforts. Creating an attractive environment for investment in ICTs must be one of our top priorities. But I can tell you with my experiences to change this perception it is not that easy. But we need to help our industry with good investment to the ICT and telecom in the future.

Now you all knew that late last week a messy cyber attack, perhaps the biggest cyber attack in history caused major disruptions to companies and hospitals in nearly 100 countries, making a call for great cooperation around the world. At ITU in our role as the facilitator for cybersecurity WSIS action line C5 we are committed to making the Internet more secure, safe, safer and trustworthy for the benefit of all. We will try to honor our commitment and work with partners to address these important issues.

Excellencies, Distinguished Counselors, ITU has worked hard over the last year to implement the tasks identified by PP‑2014 by Councils 2015 and 2016 and by the members. The Deputy Secretary‑General will shortly present document 35 which focused on the progress made towards the goals and objectives of the Union and under the activities undertaken since the 2016 session of Council. I and my colleagues will be pleased to provide you clarifications if you wish to raise. You may need. A lot of important events took place over the year since our last meeting. Let me mention WTSA‑2016 which happens every four years. I thank you to all the participants who have further strengthened ITU's position in the world ICT standardization field. I will work with the TSB management team and staff to implement the resolutions and decisions adopted by the WTSA‑2016. And we will also pay attention to address the issues raised during the Assembly. Our goal is to continue to improve the ITU‑T environment to attract industry members and others to carry out the tasks with which you entrusted us.

Furthermore, last year we celebrated the 60th anniversary of ITU‑T CCITT and 100th anniversary of the radio regulations. This year we will celebrate the 90th anniversary of ITU‑R CCIR and the 25th anniversary of ITU‑D. We are very proud of our rich history and look to the future with confidence. Of course, later this year we will hold the World Telecommunication Development Conference, WTDC‑17 from 9th to 20th October in Buenos Aires, Argentina under the same ICTs for SDGs. My special thanks to Argentina for the generous offer to host this very important conference.

As Secretary‑General ensuring the most effective use of ITU's limited resources including human resources and financial resources is high on the list of my priorities. Thanks to my elected colleagues we worked diligently to present a balanced draft budget for 2016 and 2017 in 2015. In addition we have taken efficient measures during the budget implementation which made it possible further savings of 5.2 million Swiss francs in 2016. Although the budget was already approved in 2015 as we promised we will not stop there. We will try our best to save money where we can.

This year once again we have managed to present to you a balanced draft biennial budget for 2018 and 2019. Once more again we do not ask for withdraw from account and this is so‑called balanced budget without withdraw from account. I appreciate the excellent spirit of teamwork demonstrated by elected colleagues during the process of preparation. We sincerely hope that you will endorse it after your review. But I would like to say but as we face an ever increasing workload I invite members to consider more financial support to ITU. After discussing this issue with our members whenever I have had the chance and the response has been so far positive, even though many of you are facing financial difficulties at home.

I want to thank you for your understanding and your support. Thank you to those of you who have decided already to increase your contribution unit to ITU by 2018. I also wanted to take this opportunity to thank our staff for their support and dedication. ITU staff is one of our most valuable resources, the success of the Union cannot be achieved without ITU staff. I'm calling on you dear counselors to help us with those staff related issues to be reviewed by Council 2017. We highly value your support and in particular for those difficult issues that you will have to discuss at the following sessions.

Ladies and Gentlemen, the UN SDGs present a world in which there is no poverty, no hunger, where people live healthy lives. A world where everyone, everyone has access to quality education, to water and sanitation and to affordable and clean energy. A world where women use and SMEs are empowered by ICTs to tap in to social development opportunities. In this world everybody has further new opportunities. No one shall be left behind. We all wish to make that world a reality by 2030. The Sustainable Development Goals are an incredible opportunity for all of us and information and communication technologies will be essential. The world needs the SDGs and the SDGs need ICTs. As an UN specialized agency for ICTs, ITU must fulfill its mandate and responsibilities. I'm confident you will do your best to strengthen ITU. ITU will not disappoint you. I count on you. I wish you a successful and enjoyable Council 2017. Thank you.   
 (Applause.)

>> CHAIR: Thank you, Mr. Zhao. And now the floor is open for any comments or discussion. The first is Burkina Faso. You have the floor.

>> BURKINA FASO: Good morning. Madam Chair of the ITU Council, Ladies and Gentlemen, members of the Council, Secretary‑General, Deputy Secretary‑General, directors of the Bureau, Your Excellency Ambassador of Burkina Faso, Ambassadors, representatives, permanent representatives in the United Nations system in Geneva, counselors, Ladies and Gentlemen, it is a true pleasure and honor to take the floor in this 2017 session of the ITU Council. It offers me the pleasant occasion to commend the huge amount of work that has been done by this institution in order to build an inclusive Information Society which brings to us economic and social development. I would like to warmly congratulate Dr. Eva Spina from the administration of Italy upon her outstanding election to the Chairmanship of our Council.

Madam Chair, be assured of the support of the Delegation of Burkina Faso in the Council. I would like to thank Secretary‑General Houlin Zhao for his speech on the state of Union which indicates what actions have been undertaken since the last meeting. I would like to commend you upon the leadership of our institution, the Union. Deputy Secretary‑General, BDT directors, and all of the staff should be thanked for the work that they have done since the beginning of this cycle.

Distinguished Counselors, Distinguished Guests, Ladies and Gentlemen, ICTs and telecommunications are now indispensable tools to achieve the development of ambitions of our states and the Sustainable Development Goals. Burkina Faso, my country attaches great importance to the development of its digital economy in its development strategies in order to support its growth and to create the conditions for greater employability for its citizens, particularly for young people and to set the conditions for the empowerment of young girls and women.

In addition to this in order to guarantee access for greater number of people who high quality services the government has started a number of projects setting up infrastructure projects and others and also applications. The new strategic goals of my country contained in a new reference document the national economic and social development plan reaffirms the importance of ICTs and telecommunications as development factors. We have greater ambitions for the sector in the framework of a five‑year program, 2016‑2020 of the President of my country.

Honorable counselors, Ladies and Gentlemen, our sector which is the ‑‑ which directs the digital economy it is a turning point in its history where technological development, metadata, 3D printing, the Internet of Things and artificial intelligence open up immense opportunities for us, particularly for Developing Countries. I would like to thank the ITU for the initiative of organizing the Global Summit on Artificial Intelligence for good which will be held from the 7th to 9th of June.

Ladies and Gentlemen, recent events have shown us that cybersecurity remains a global problem which requires a harmonized solution on a global level. This also applies to ethical aspects of artificial intelligence. I remain certain that the ITU has its part to play and ITU should play the part in coordination with other actors in the ICT ecosystem. We believe in a strong ITU playing a role in the cutting edge to facilitate the use of technological developments in the service of human development.

This session, the penultimate of our Council gives me an opportunity to commend the members of the Council for the excellent atmosphere that prevails in the various sessions that we have.

Ladies and Gentlemen, I would to take this solemn occasion to inform you on behalf of the President of the Burkina Faso, His Excellency Mr. Roch Marc Christina Kabore as the decision of Burkina Faso to present the candidature of Mr. Brahima Sanou for the post of Deputy Secretary‑General of ITU during the elections that will take place during the next Plenipotentiary Conference to be held from the 29th October of 16th November in Dubai in the United Arab Emirates. I could conclude here because you already know the man. Mr. Brahima Sanou stands for work well done, impartially. He stands for loyalty, transparency, thoroughness and for performances and demands results and you have seen this during the six and a half years that he has worked as the director of the BDT.

Ladies and Gentlemen, Mr. Sanou is fully supported by the Government and the people of Burkina Faso on behalf of whom we request your support. We would also like to request the confidence of the Member States for new term for the Burkina Faso in the ITU Council. These decisions are based on the readiness and commitment of my country to contribute to the success of our Union to cooperate with all Member States with the next cycle 2019‑2022. I would like to wish you every success in your work. Long live the ITU and long live international cooperation. Thank you.   
 (Applause.)

>> CHAIR: Thank you, Madam Minister. So if there aren't any comments we can go to the next point which is the approval of the draft, C17.

>> SECRETARY: Thank you very much, Madam Chair. I'm pleased to introduce the draft agenda for the 2017 session of Council which is contained in document 1 and dated the 12th of May. In accordance with the ITU rules of procedure a preliminary draft agenda was sent to Council members on the 22nd of February. An updated version was circulated on the 18th of April and document 1 presents the latest version of the preliminary draft agenda. The draft agenda remains similar to previous years in terms of structure with reports being provided in the areas of general policy strategy and planning which is Plenary 1. ITU events, Plenary 2. Other reports for consideration by Council, Plenary 3. Other matters, Plenary 4. Administration and management issues, ADM. And finally information documents.

Regarding contributions from Member States to Council, as of today a total of 37 contributions were received from Member States which represents 35 proposals and two information documents. The list of these documents is visible on the screen. We have one joint contribution from Bulgaria, the Czech Republic, Lithuania, Netherlands, Portugal, Romania, Spain and Switzerland. And we have eight contributions from the Russian Federation, Armenia, and Belarus. We have one contribution from Poland. We have three contributions from India. Two contributions from China. Four contributions from the United States of America. Three contributions from Brazil. One joint contribution from Belarus, Armenia, Azerbaijan, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyz Republic, Russian Federation, Tajikistan, Turkmenistan and Uzbekistan.

We have two contributions from Argentina, five contributions from Saudi Arabia, three contributions from UAE and two information document, one from Switzerland and one from Argentina. And with that, Madam Chair, we submit this agenda for your approval.

>> CHAIR: Thank you. And now Distinguished Counselor, I invite you to review the agenda according to the information provided by the secretary of the meeting and the floor is open for any comments. Saudi Arabia has the floor.

>> SAUDI ARABIA: Thank you, Madam Chair. We congratulate you for presiding over this session of the ITU Council and we wish you success and we will provide you with all the support to ensure the success of this session.

Before I comment on the document, Madam Chair, and since this is the first time I'm participating in the ITU Council session without being with our honorable teacher, the engineer, Habib who had to ‑‑ who left after a long journey in the ITU I would like to present a few words and will now give him his due credit. We found in our teacher, the engineer, the love of his work and he gave his instructions from his heart. He was very modest. This forced us to respect his personality. Many good jobs that he had done. He was an equilibrated person and supporting us and encouraging us constantly. He was a great man. He is a great man and he has left his imprint in our hearts. And I wish him much success. And he may enjoy health as long as he lives.

As for my intervention Saudi Arabia has presented six contributions. The document states that there were five contributions only. Thank you, Madam Chair.

>> CHAIR: Thank you. And now the ‑‑ USA, you have the floor.

>> UNITED STATES: Thank you, Madam Chair. As we are at the point of approving the agenda I would like to propose that we add information document No. 6 to agenda item No. 2.7, the follow‑up report on possible improvements of the rollout of the Plenipotentiary Conference. Thank you, Madam Chair.

>> CHAIR: Now if there isn't any comments we can approve the agenda. Okay.

(Gavel).

>> CHAIR: Approved. And now we can go to the allocation of documents of the C17 session, document C17 DT1 and the secretary of the Plenary has the floor to present this document.

>> SECRETARY: Thank you very much, Madam Chair. I am pleased to introduce document DT1 dated the 12th of May which contains the list of documents received indicating in each case whether they are proposed for allocation to the Plenary or to the Standing Committee on administration and management. Thank you, Madam Chair.

>> CHAIR: Thank you. Any comments about this? No. Okay. And so this proposed allocation of this document is adopted.

(Gavel).

>> CHAIR: And then we can go to the draft time and management plan for the C17 session, document C17 DT2 and Rev 4 and the secretary of the Plenary has the floor to present this document, please.

>> SECRETARY: Thank you again, Madam Chair. I am pleased to present document DT2 Rev 4 dated the 12th of May which contains the time management plan for the 2017 session of Council. The Secretary‑General has prepared a draft time management plan for the work of Council proposing how the work should be allocated between Plenary and the Standing Committee. The time management plan lists all the meetings and gives details of subjects scheduled for discussion at each Plenary meeting as well as the relevant documents. The preliminary version of this time management plan has been sent to Member States in circular letter 15 on the 18th of April. Further updates were posted on the Council website on the 24th of April, the 5th of May and most recently on the 12th of May. The draft time management plan contained in DT2 Rev 3 has been updated to reflect the additional reports and contributions that we have received recently. The time management plan is intended to serve as a single agenda for all Plenary meetings. And it will be revised and updated if changes are required and as the work of Council progresses. I would also like to invite you to consult the online version of the time management plan which is accessible from the Council home page as it provides direct links to each of the documents. Thank you, Madam Chair.

>> CHAIR: Thank you. Yes, are there any comments? No. Okay. The draft time management plan is approved.

(Gavel).

>> CHAIR: And then we can go to the organizational matters and the secretary of the Plenary has the floor, please.

>> SECRETARY: Thank you, Madam Chair. The working hours of the Council are as usual from 9:30 to 12:30 and then 1430 to 1730 each day of the week except on Fridays when the morning session will run from 9 to 12. And the afternoon session will begin at 1430. Also Madam Chair, to accommodate the WTISD celebration on the 17th May, this Wednesday the afternoon session will begin at 15 o'clock, 3 o'clock p.m. exceptionally. Interpretation and documentation will be provided in the six official languages of the Union. And in accordance with past practice the Council proceedings will be Webcast. We will also have captioning in English in both Plenary and ADM meetings. And the captioning files will be published on the Council website. As was done last year an information document containing the decisions taken by Plenary will also be published. Taking in to consideration that Council proceedings and the conclusions of Council will be followed up through multiple means and due to the low traffic that the highlights page received last year a decision has been taken to discontinue the highlights. Like last year there will be no distribution of paper documents at this Council. All documents are available on the Council website and we would invite Delegates to download the sync application which I believe you are all familiar with. Additionally councillors who were not able to bring their own laptops who need a replacement they can contact the IS department and request a laptop. If you have any IT trouble our colleagues are in the room wearing the blue caps and we would invite you to contact them should you have any problems.

Also information concerning social events, information sessions, talks and side events will be announced on the Council website, and also on the screens throughout the ITU premises. We do have a number of side sessions, I believe seven in total starting with one this afternoon on the signing of the agreement on ITU telecom. And I would invite you to as I said consult the screens for other sessions.

And finally, Madam Chair, to showcase the real impact of ITU's work prior to the start of each Plenary session we will have a short video report which has been produced by the ITU communications team in close cooperation with a number of administrations and these video reports will help to show the human side of technology and how ICTs are indeed changing lives and how they are opening up incredible opportunities to people around the world to participate in the digital economy. Thank you, Madam Chair.

>> CHAIR: Thank you. Are there any comments? No. Okay. So these organizational issues are noted.

(Gavel).

>> CHAIR: And now, Distinguished Counselors, I will propose you to break for the photo group and for a coffee break. How many minutes? For the photo you have to go upstairs around the red doors outside. We will resume at 11 o'clock. Thank you.

(Break).

>> CHAIR: Please, can you enter, please? Please we can resume. So we can resume with the two documents, document C17/35 and document C17/39 and the Deputy Secretary‑General will present this document. Please, Mr. Johnson, you have the floor.

>> MALCOLM JOHNSON: Thank you, Madam Chair. And good morning, Excellencies, Distinguished Counselors, Ladies and Gentlemen. On behalf of the Secretary‑General it is a pleasure to introduce document 35, report on the implementation of the Strategic Plan and activities of the Union and document 39 on the progress and roadmap for the implementation of the Connect 2020 agenda which, of course, is the set of goals and targets to be achieved by 2020 in the areas of growth, inclusiveness, sustainability, and innovation and partnership in line with the Strategic Plan. Document 35, the ITU annual report for 2016 combines the annual activities report as required by Article 102 of the Convention and the report on the implementation of the Strategic Plan as required by Article 61 of the Convention and Resolution 71 of Busan.

The report focuses on the progress made towards the goals and objectives of the Union and the activities undertaken since Council met last year and the detailed information on the overall progress on Connect 2020 targets. Considerable effort has gone in to compiling this document so as to include all the relevant activity any results orientated evidence‑based way while keeping to a reasonable size of the document.

It is the second report on the implementation of the 2016‑2019 Strategic Plan adopted by PP‑14 in Busan and following the new ITU strategic framework. The structure of the report is intended to facilitate the quantitative evaluation of ITU's strategic goals of the Union. Five intersectoral objectives and five enablers of the General‑Secretariat the report includes more than 120 charts along with the corresponding performance indicators. Through the outcome key performance indicators which were agreed and endorsed by Member States in the three operational plans of the sectors and the plan of the General‑Secretariat the document reports on the progress achieved and through the overall targets the report on overall progress towards the strategic goals of the Union and impact of ITU's work in the targets of Connect 2020 agenda. The report is complimented by an online reporting dashboard tool which presents the results of the work of the Union in a more graphic fashion. This is available on the home page of the Council on the link identifying annual report for 2016. And we'll now run a short video introducing the online tool, which we believe will be helpful for you to get the best from this tool. So if we could run the video, please. Thank you.

(Video).

>> ITU annual progress report for 2016, showing progress towards the implementation of the Connect 2020 agenda and ITU strategic goals and targets. Highlighting the key achievements and the impact of the work of the ITU sectors. With data driven presentation, showing progress through key indicators, using state of the art business intelligent dashboards, demonstrating the quality of the services provided by the General‑Secretariat through key financial indicators, satisfaction surveys and membership engagement. The ITU actual progress report for 2016.

>> MALCOLM JOHNSON: Thank you. So turning to document 39, section 2 of the document summarizes the activities of the Secretariat since the previous report to Council in measuring reporting, raising awareness and accelerating the implementation of Connect 2020 agenda. Section 3 of the document introduces a roadmap for 2017 and the Secretariat will continue to report on the status of the Connect 2020 goals and targets as per the instructions of Resolution 200 and will elaborate the further review of the progress achieved in preparation for the 2018 Plenipotentiary Conference. Section 4 provides more information on the measurement and reporting mechanisms of the Connect 2020 targets. We remain at your disposal for any further information you would like to receive on these two reports either now or during the Council. And we'd also appreciate any suggestions you might have on how we might further improve the presentation of this information. Thank you very much, Madam Chair.

>> CHAIR: Thank you, Mr. Johnson. And now the floor is open for any comments. Canada, you have the floor.

>> CANADA: Thank you very much, Madam Chair. First of all, let me congratulate you on the nomination as the Chair of Council and to tell you that you can count on our full cooperation. I would like to thank also the elected officials, Mr. Johnson, for the presentation of document 35. One issue, Mr. Chairman, that we would like to highlight now but that we will return to during the Council is the one on gender which is of critical importance to Canada. And we will leave to all Member States. So that effect, Mr. Chairman, we will be again coming back to reflect upon the document 71 and particularly on the UN swap performance indicators and on the issues that the Union is facing on the implementation of gender equality and mainstreaming policy as it relates to the availability of budget.

We do hope, Mr. Chairman, that when this issue comes to the attention of the meeting we will come forward with some effective solutions to fully address the requirements of this very important initiative, other than by the request for voluntary contributions from Member States. Thank you.

>> CHAIR: Thank you Canada. Now the floor is for Korea.

>> REPUBLIC OF KOREA: Thank you, Madam Chair. First of all, let me congratulate Madam Chair on assuming the Chair of the 2017 ITU Council. The Connect 2020 agenda provides important standards and action plans in achieving the goals of the SDGs and WSIS. To achieving this agenda not only the ITU but entire world needs to work together. To this end it is important to raise awareness on the Connect 2020 agenda among various stakeholders and continue our efforts to further incorporate it in the global agenda. In addition the progresses and achievements of the Connect 2020 agenda should be considered when working on ITU's Strategic Plan for 2020 to 2024 so that we can make efforts in a consistent and continuous manner. I would like to ask for the support and participation of members in this regard and the Korean Government will also do its part. Thank you.

>> CHAIR: Thank you, Korea. Mr. Johnson, do you want to say any comments?

>> MALCOLM JOHNSON: Thank you, Madam Chair. Just to thank Canada and Korea for those comments. We will address the gender issue later in the Council. And we appreciate the importance to raise awareness of the Connect 2020 targets for humankind. In closing on the introduction to the document we would welcome any suggestions you might have on how this information can be better presented. There is a lot of information. We tried to keep the document 35 as short as possible but it is very difficult to do that. Thank you very much, Madam Chair.

>> CHAIR: Thank you, Mr. Johnson. And now if there isn't any comment we can approve the document C17/35. Oh, India. India, you have the floor.

>> INDIA: Thank you, Madam Chair. Are we seeking comment about document No. 39 as well or only 35? Yeah. Thank you very much. And first and foremost to begin with the Indian administration acknowledges the contribution of the previous Council Chair and we wish all the best for the current session. And we acknowledge the ITU Secretariat for its competent reporting and many of the trends for the Connect 2020 agenda and its monitoring report. I ‑‑ we completely acknowledge that one of the ambitious programs we have taken on to bridge the digital divide.

Coming to the report 39 with regard to the agenda what we have provided, with regard to target 1.3 and as well as few of the targets we have a few observations perhaps just only flag them here and in detail we will take up with respective ‑‑ I mean the statistics team later. With regard to this bridging the affordability gap we feel there needs more elaboration at the base here as well as the progress is happening. The same case with applicable to target 2.4 as well as target 2.5a. And with regard to gender parity it looks to be challenging. We should all see the ‑‑ think about how do we bridge the particular target. And with regard to target 2.5b with regard to accessibility, we have a session, Madam Chair, that we ‑‑ how with respect to ICT access we have got various indices and ideas we are having. How about we consider to have something called ICT accessibility index to highlight the need for bridging the accessibility divide. It may contain parameters in availability of policies and implementation on different accessibility parameters. Perhaps we could initiate a discussion in the coming days.

With regard to roadmap to e‑waste and sustainability targets it is mentioned that roadmaps are under development. We appreciate that. Perhaps we could come out with some timeline when we can start monitoring for these two important parameters and with considering the positive time here we could take details with the statistics division. Thanks very much. And we wish you all the best.

>> CHAIR: Thank you. Mr. Johnson, you have the floor.

>> MALCOLM JOHNSON: Thank you, Madam Chair. Thank you, India, for those comments. Certainly it is very important that the indicators do reflect reality. So we will be interested in any further discussion between India and our statisticians to make sure that we do that. Thank you very much.

>> CHAIR: Thank you, Mr. Johnson. And now if there isn't any other country, we can approve the document C17/35 and to note the document C ‑‑ I'm sorry. 35 ‑‑ document C17/35 approved and C17/39 is noted.

(Gavel).

>> CHAIR: And now we can to consider document C17/13 on the 110th anniversary of the ITU radio regulation and Mr. Maniewicz has the floor.

>> MARIO MANIEWICZ: Thank you, Madam Chair. Distinguished counselors, Ladies and Gentlemen, good morning. On behalf of the Secretary‑General I have the pleasure of presenting document C17/13, which is a report on the celebration of the 110th anniversary of the ITU radio regulations. As you all know the first international radio telegraph convention was signed in 1906. This first international treaty governing wireless telegraphy has been expanded and revised by numerous radio conferences and the ensuing regulations that govern the international views of radiofrequency spectrum and satellite orbits are known today as the radio regulations. As was informed the Council during last year's session during 2016 the ITU celebrated the 110th anniversary of the radio regulations.

The main celebrations took place on the 12th of September in CICG in conjunction with the World Radiocommunication seminar and they included two panel discussions. One about the impact on ICT industry and the second on the challenges, opportunities and future of the ITU radio regulations.

These celebrations were attended by over 540 Delegates from 106 countries and Radiocommunication Sector members as well as Radiocommunication associates and academic experts. Industry partners attending the ceremony panel discussions included representatives of GSMCA, GSA, OneWeb, Facebook and the BBC. And we also had the participation of the U.S. state department. Former and current officials of the Union, current and former members of the radio regulations board and former IFRB current Chairmen and Vice‑Chairmen of ITU‑R Study Groups and former CCIR Study Groups were also present during the celebrations. This document is an information document for the Council to note about the celebrations that happened last year regarding the 110th anniversary. Thank you very much.

>> CHAIR: Thank you. Now the floor is open for any comments. No? Okay. This document is noted.

(Gavel).

>> CHAIR: And now Distinguished Council, we made this part of this session quickly. So if you agree we can go to another point scheduled in the afternoon that is document C17/52, the report on GSS‑16 and WTSA‑16. It is true? It is good? Okay. So Mr. Scholl can present this document. You have the floor.

>> REINHARD SCHOLL: Thank you, Madam Chair. On behalf of the Secretary‑General I would like to present document 52 on the Global Standards Symposium and on the World Telecommunication Standardization Assembly. So first the Global Standards Symposium, it took place on 24th October 2016 in Hammamet, Tunisia at the kind invitation of the Government of Tunisia. The symposium brought together thought leaders to discuss how standards could integrate security, privacy and trust. The symposium encouraged policymakers, regulators and industry to promote adherence to privacy by design principles, privacy impact assessment and the development of privacy enhanced technologies.

The sharing of cyber threat intelligence among Government agencies and private sector players was highlighted as especially valuable in increasing cybersecurity capabilities. The standardization community was encouraged to adopt the privacy by design mindset. The symposium highlighted the value of open source software in addressing challenges to security, privacy and trust. And encouraged sustained effort to enable the exchange of work between open source and standardization communities to ensure high quality, high security software implementations.

Moving to the Assembly, the World Telecommunications Standardization Assembly was held last year in Hammamet, Tunisia at the kind invitation of the Government of Tunisia, 92 Member States and 45 other entities and a bit over 700 Delegates participated. The Assembly approved the mandates of 11 Study Groups and appointed Chairman and Vice‑Chairman of TDAG. Five new Study Group Chairmen and more than 110 Vice‑Chairmen were appointed coming from 34 countries including 24 Developing Countries.

The Assembly revised 31 Resolutions, set up in 16 new Resolutions and suppressed 6. Regarding the budget impact, the additional financial impact of WTSA Resolutions are not yet included in the draft ITU‑T budget for 2018‑2019, in particular our Resolution 44, I'm quoting, "invites the Council to increase the ITU‑T budgetary provisions of fellowship, interpretation and translation of documents for meetings of TSAG, ITU‑T Study Groups and regional groups of ITU‑T Study Groups" end of quote.

So Madam Chair, the Council is invited to note the report. Budget implications would be discussed under the budget agenda item. Thank you.

>> CHAIR: Thank you, Mr. Scholl. The floor is open for any comments. USA, you have the floor.

>> UNITED STATES: Thank you, Madam Chair. I understand that the budget implications can be discussed elsewhere. So let me simply say that the United States believes that we must prioritize between the various WTSA decisions and determine how the additional financial impact of Resolutions not included in the ITU‑T draft budget will be addressed. Thank you, Chair.

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

>> CANADA: Thank you, Madam Chair. And Chair, in light with the comments by the United States and, first of all, thanking the Secretariat for the submission of this report, this is an issue that we raised at the 22nd meeting of TDAG that finalized on Friday. It is in Canada's opinion critically important to remind ourselves that Articles 44, 48 and 89 of the Convention on the financial responsibilities of conferences invites us Member States before adopting Resolutions and decisions to analyze any financial implications. When we are looking towards a WTDC‑17 the issue that about 3.6 million Swiss francs would be the additional cost of implementing some Resolutions on WTSA is a matter of concern. Although this is an issue that would be further discussed in the relevant ADM meeting we would like to point out the importance of this issue at this particular time. Thank you.

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

>> UNITED ARAB EMIRATES: Thank you, Madam Chair. First, Madam Chair, we would like to congratulate you on your election on Chair of this Council. And we congratulate Ms. Julie Zoller from the U.S. administration for chairing the 2016 session of the Council.

Coming on now to this document, just presented by Mr. Scholl, who represented the TSB we would recall there is a contribution from the United Arab Emirates, contribution 110. We would like this issue to be discussed later. We think that all of the outcomes of WTSA are important to prioritize and such a priority ranking between the activities is an approach we do not support or encourage. We encourage ITU and Member States to consider the possibility of mobilizing additional resources. There is a further document from a group of Member States on this issue as well. I think we should have this discussion later. Thank you.

>> CHAIR: Thank you. Mr. Scholl, you have the floor.

>> REINHARD SCHOLL: Yeah. I don't have any comments. Thank you.

>> CHAIR: Okay. And now we can note this report, noting that section 2.5 and 2.13 will be discussed under the budget agenda item.

(Gavel).

>> CHAIR: Is noted. And now, Distinguished Counselors, we have more time. So if you agree we can examine the document C17/21 and 85, 111 about free online access to ITU publication. So I give the floor to Mr. Zaidi. I'm sorry, but there is a change. I would propose to examine document C17/12 and the floor is for Mr. Bayouli. The item is the CWG languages.

>> Thank you, Madam Chair. At the outset I would like to congratulate you for presiding over this Council. And I will present to you the report of the Working Group about the use of the six official languages of the ITU. The group met in February 2017 at the headquarters of the ITU and looked in to the Secretary‑General's report who presented the developments of the budget regarding to the languages since 2010. And the Working Group to the Council saw that it would be useful that future reports show the figures about the budget regarding three items which are the costs of translation, the costs of services related to translations and the overall costs and the group commended the Secretariat for the savings made during that period. Also the procedures adopted by other international organizations within the United Nations system and outside the United Nations system reviewed the costs of both translation and interpretation. And in this context the Working Group requested from the Secretariat to monitor the results of the negotiations that took place between the hands of the UNCB and the ‑‑ also the IEC with regards to the budget for the future and to present a report in the next meeting. With regard to the initiatives that were implemented by the Secretariat and the three Bureaus to reduce costs with regards to ‑‑ regarding 154 and 1372, the Working Group to the Council expressed its satisfaction with regards to the efforts undertaken in order to achieve possible savings and to encourage innovation in order to respond to Resolution 1372. Also the Working Group encouraged contributions to help the Secretariat to present the indicators that have to do with both translators and interpreters.

Regarding alternative procedures that can be adopted by the ITU with regards to translation, the Working Group mentioned that all efforts have to be undertaken in order to respect the number of pages that was approved which is a thousand pages every two years and to present a report on this topic regularly. And in order to achieve this objective the Working Group proposed that that proposal may be made about using savings made during past years to compliment the budget with regard to the alternative procedures in order to respect the number of pages which is a thousand pages every two years. The Working Group to the Council also expressed its appreciation to the efforts made and since the results are not final to carry out other trials and to see possibilities of interpretation, distance interpretation and also express its satisfaction with regards to see how effective such an approach would be and that the Secretariat carry out efforts in order to improve the quality of translations in order to avoid the ‑‑ having to increase the costs.

Also the achievements made with regards to the principles adopted by the Council in 2014 with regards to translation and interpretation services. And the use of languages on the electronic Web page of the ITU and commended the Secretariat's efforts and its swift response to the request by the Council and to present a report with regard to the implementation of the procedures that were approved in order to improve the website of the ITU so as to facilitate research made by the users of that website. The group also supported the concept of a unique approach in order to deal with terminology at the level of the ITU as a whole by combining the Working Group to the radio and the Working Group to the terminology or standardization terminology so that there would be one unified group. And this entity will include representatives from the Secretariat and consider that the Chair of that entity has to be different from that Working Group which is the CWG. Thank you.

>> CHAIR: Thank you. The floor is open for any comments. Russia, you have the floor.

>> RUSSIAN FEDERATION: Thank you, Madam Chair. Since I'm speaking for the first time let me congratulate you and wish all participants in Council success in their work. We fully support the activities carried out in this area. As we have frequently stated including at the meeting of the Council Working Group on languages there is an imbalance in online ‑‑ in translation of online versions of the ITU portal. A very simple example today if you go to the Russian link to the site to Council you find Council 2016, not 2017. Well, I would really like to stress this imbalance again. Thank you.

>> CHAIR: Thank you. And Mr. Chairman of the CWG languages has the floor.

>> Thank you, Madam Chair. Yes, this topic was discussed in the Working Group's meeting. And the Secretariat will avoid such a problem. Thank you.

>> CHAIR: Thank you. And there are no other comments. And so the document C17/12 is endorsed.

(Gavel).

>> CHAIR: Okay. And now we can examine the document C17/77. It is a contribution from the Russian Federation, Armenia and Belarus. And I invite the councils of these countries to have the floor. Russian Federation.

>> RUSSIAN FEDERATION: Thank you, Madam Chair. Distinguished Colleagues, as you know pursuant to the decision of Council in 2009 the TSB is required to ensure the translation under the alternative approval process. For the Russian language translation for the past four years only 55% of the recommendations on the list were translated. At the same time the Secretariat has reported considerable savings in the area of translation. Therefore we propose including in the draft four year rolling operational plan for the ITU‑T the requirement to ensure the translation of recommendations with appropriate financial resources within the limits defined in PP‑14 decision 5. Thank you.

>> CHAIR: Now I invite the TSB for any comments. Mr. Scholl.

>> REINHARD SCHOLL: Yeah. Thank you, Madam Chair. A similar contribution has been submitted by Russia to the meeting of our advisory group a couple weeks ago. And we had detailed discussions with the Russian Federation. And we understand and agree on all the numbers that have been presented. In the biennium 2014 and 2015 we translated 1300 plus pages. The Council decision says we have to translate up to 1000 pages for 2016 and 2017. We have translated so far 300 pages. There is a wish list from the language group and wish list from the Study Groups. And we have to balance the two. But we also agree with Russia and the others that 900 pages still need to be translated from the wish list of the Russian language group. And we will do our utmost that we are able to do it pretty much this year or perhaps maybe going a little bit in to the beginning of next year. The budget for translation is with the conference department, not with the TSB department. But extrapolating from the past we should be able to fulfill a request of Russia. Thank you.

>> CHAIR: Thank you, Mr. Scholl. The floor is open for any comments. Well, there isn't any comments. So we note the reply of the TSB, Mr. Scholl.

(Gavel).

>> CHAIR: And now we can go to the document C17/84, is another contribution from the Russian Federation, Armenia and Belarus. And I give the floor to the Russian Federation.

>> RUSSIAN FEDERATION: Thank you, Madam Chair. In recent years the successful practice has been developed of holding joint meetings of the ITU‑R coordination Committee for vocabulary and the ITU‑T standardization Committee for vocabulary and a single Chairmanship. Resolution 67 of WTSA invites Council to consider a review of Resolution of ‑‑ review of Resolution 154 to enable the feasibility of establishing within ITU a single working body to deal with issues of vocabulary. At its meetings of the RAG, TSAG and TDAG supported the establishment of a single body. Therefore we propose a new Council Resolution, ITU Coordination Committee for vocabulary. Thank you.

>> CHAIR: Thank you. The floor is open for any comments. USA, you have the floor.

>> UNITED STATES: Thank you very much, Madam Chair, and we wish to thank the Russian Federation for this contribution. It makes a lot of sense to consolidate the work of the vocabulary Committees. But our question is to whom would be the consolidated group report. And can Council make that decision since the formulation of these various groups on vocabulary came out of the individual sectors. Thank you, Madam Chair.

>> CHAIR: Thank you. And now the floor is to Mr. Rancy.

>> FRANCOIS RANCY: Thank you, Madam Chair. I just wanted to highlight that this issue is certainly a good thing to consider, but there may be some collateral implications that need to be addressed. Currently the CCV and the ITU‑R sector has normative power on the definitions of terms which in turn are used in various recommendations and in the radio regulations. So I think we need to make sure before we take any decision on the issue that we are not actually diluting the responsibilities of the CCV in terms of this normative power by the same process. So if we can maybe address that during the lunch break with the Russian Delegation, I would be happy to come back to this with an answer by this afternoon. Thank you very much.

>> CHAIR: Thank you. So this document will be discussed in the afternoon. Thank you. And now we can go to the document C17/108, and from UAE, you have the floor.

>> UNITED ARAB EMIRATES: Thank you very much, Madam Chair. It gives me great pleasure to present this contribution under the title Study and Evaluation of the Translation Procedures of the International Telecommunication Union. The UAE presented a proposal about the reevaluation of the translation procedures at the International Telecommunication Union to the Council in 2015. And the UAE is asking to look once again in to this question during this year's Council session. The Plenipotentiary adopted the amendments on decision 5 which was reviewed in Busan in 2014 with regards to the incomes and costs of the ITU from 2016 to 2019. And annex 2 of decision 5 with regards to the reduction of costs and amongst these procedures was to look in to the possibility of making some financial reduction costs. As for the ‑‑ without hampering the decision taken by the PP and to look in to alternative procedures for translation that may reduce the costs of translation while preserving the current quality and precise use of terminology or improving the procedure.

Also the PPE approved the decision 153 about the use of six official languages on equal footing at the ITU and which asks the Council to analyze the implementation of alternative procedures with regard to written translation. In order to reduce the costs of translation and the ‑‑ to preserve the budget and the quality of current translation and the proper use of terminology or improving the procedure. Now what is required as a proposal, Madam Chair, is that the Council study this topic comprehensively. And the UAE proposes that the Council establish an internal Committee or commission presided by the Vice Secretary‑General in collaboration with the directors and in collaboration to the Working Group in to the Council involved in the languages. And secondly that the Committee looks in to the best solutions from an economic point of view in order to provide translation services where the translation or interpretation and appropriate cost while preserving the quality of translation in general. And to study ‑‑ to use other centers in cooperation with the regional offices. To study the adopted procedures and other organizations that are part of the United Nations and to provide a report and recommendations to the Council in 2018 about the implementation of this proposal and to present a comprehensive report with recommendations and to refer this to the PP in 2018.

Madam Chair, as you are well aware the translation of documents is very costly. And it is about 5 to 6% of the ITU's budget annually. And the translation of one document in to the other five languages costs the ITU approximately 800 to 1,000 Swiss francs. And these are very costly. And therefore this proposal has to be presented to you in order for you to look in to it and to find solutions in order to reduce the costs of translation. And at the same time to preserve some resources so that we can carry out other activities at the level of the ITU. Thank you, Madam Chair.

>> CHAIR: Thank you. And the floor is open for any comments. Dutch land, you have the floor. Germany, sorry.

>> GERMANY: Thank you, Madam Chair. And I as this Delegation takes the floor for the first time we want to congratulate you for your challenging task. And we'd also like to thank your ‑‑ the last year's Chairperson for the challenging tasks she did successfully.

So now with regard to this contribution, there is, of course, a cost for quality and ITU a few years ago did attend for translation in particular, we received ‑‑ ITU received a lot of offers but could not retain that many because of the quality issue. It is a problem if we get a translation which is not very costly, but then you have to retranslate it because of a lot of errors. So we are very interested in innovative solutions and this group that is proposed to be established may be a way forward, but with the experience we do have we would say it is a very challenging task. And it is not sure whether there are solutions that will really save a lot of funds while maintaining the quality. This is the issue. Thank you, Madam Chair.

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

>> CANADA: Thank you, Madam Chair. And I would like to thank the Secretariat for the presentation of this document. Sorry, the United Arab Emirates for their contribution, apologies. It is a question in regards to the creation of a newer internal Committee. And we were wondering as to the extent to which that task is not already embedded in the terms of reference of the Council's Working Group on language and we would like to have a better understanding of what would be the benefits of creating a organizational layer to address the same issue which in Canada's view falls within the mandate of the Council's Working Group on languages as per Resolution 154. Thank you.

>> CHAIR: And the Secretary‑General ‑‑ Deputy Secretary‑General has the floor for any comments.

>> MALCOLM JOHNSON: Thank you, Madam Chair. And I would like to thank the UAE for this proposal addressing an issue which is of great concern to the full membership, that is the effective translation of documents in the best cost effective manner. And as you know we have been working on this issue for some time. As the counselor from Germany mentioned we have had some trials and we are continuing with these trials. And efforts are being made to ensure that we do have the sufficient quality from these trials to meet with the satisfaction of the membership. Clearly the quality required for Treaty text is somewhat different to the quality required for Web pages which have a very short lifetime. And that needs to be taken in to account.

So we are making every effort we can and we do have internal discussions and coordination on this issue in preparation, of course, for the Council Working Group on languages. And I see this proposal perhaps as making those internal discussions more formal and ensuring that there is a coordinated report presented to Council. And presumably this report would first be looked at in the Council working group on languages I assume. So with that understanding, Madam Chair, as far as the Secretariat is concerned we would be happy to implement this proposal. Thank you, Madam Chair.

>> CHAIR: Thank you, Mr. Johnson. Are there any comments? So we can say that this proposal of the internal committee can be reported in the CWG language ‑‑ Working Group.

Okay. Okay. Distinguished Counselors, now we are going to the document C17/21, free online access to the ITU publication. Before that is the Russia asking for the floor. Please.

>> RUSSIAN FEDERATION: Thank you, Madam Chair. It seems to me that the issue of forming some sort of internal body at the Secretariat is an issue for the level of the Council and not for the Council Working Groups. The Council can recommend that the Secretariat organize a particular group. But the Council Working Group cannot. Therefore, we do need to take some sort of decision here. If the Secretariat is ready to form such an internal group then we can instruct them to do so. And then give the Council Working Group its task. I don't think that CWGs have any rights to take this kind of decision. I think only the Council does. Thank you.

>> CHAIR: Thank you. Mr. Johnson, you have the floor.

>> MALCOLM JOHNSON: Thank you, Madam Chair. I understood that the Council was supporting the proposal from the UAE and that in the work of this group which we have now formalized it will input firstly to the Council Working Group a report which would then come to the Council. Thank you, Madam Chair.

>> CHAIR: Thank you, Mr. Johnson. And now UAE.

>> UNITED ARAB EMIRATES: Thank you, Madam Chair. After listening to the various explanations given by Mr. Johnson, this Working Group will give its report to the CWG, I would like to inform you that we would like to ask this group in charge of languages to present its recommendations directly to the Council for next year so that it will be examined in the PP of 2018. We are completely confident that the WTDC Secretary‑General will be chairing this group. When he was in charge of standardization he was also chairing the Working Group in charge of languages within standardization. And there were many attempts to find centers who would be in charge of translation in various parts of the world. We could through the various recommendations that would be presented by the Working Group we can look in to any mechanism that can reduce costs so that we can use the recommendations in a good manner so that we can use our savings within the ITU. Thank you.

>> ITALY: First I want to thank my friend from United Arab Emirates for the proposal. Definitely support the creation of this internal group. However we think that the results, the proposal that Mr. Johnson has made there is at least a first reporting to the Council Working Group will be wise in the sense not to bypass the Council Working Group with us all the expertise after the ‑‑ through the Council Working Group on language, the report can come to this Council is really accepting the proposal but making a way forward to recognize the way forward. Thank you.

>> CHAIR: Thank you, Italy. And now the floor is to Saudi Arabia.

>> SAUDI ARABIA: Thank you, Madam Chair. Good morning, everyone. Certainly, Madam Chair, we share the ideas presented by the UAE and would like to stress the fact that Resolution 144 which was adopted in WTSA which could ‑‑ which has been held in Hammamet, Tunisia. This Resolution says that you have to provide interpretation in all the meetings within TSAG. This will have an impact and in my opinion this would be one of the considerations to be looked at by the group to be formed under the Chairmanship of Mr. Malcolm Johnson. We support this proposal, Madam Chair, and we are looking forward to good results adopted so that we can achieve this objective and so that we can fill this gap which exists between Developing Countries and developed countries. Thank you madam.

>> CHAIR: Okay. If there isn't any comments, we can agree with the solution proposed. And so Malcolm Johnson will be the Chair of this group.

Okay. And now we can go to the document C17/21, free online access to ITU publication and the floor is for Mr. Zaidi.

>> FOUAD ZAIDI: Thank you, Madam Chair. Ladies and Gentlemen, Distinguished Delegates, it is my pleasure to introduce on behalf of the Secretary‑General C17/21. The document provides information requested in decision 12 under which the Plenipotentiary Conference instructed the Secretary‑General to prepare a report in an ongoing basis on sales and free downloads of ITU publications, software and databases and providing information on total annual sales and free download per year and comparison between sales of participator copies and free downloads of electronic copies and sales, free download to countries and member category and to present this report to the Council. As a result of continued sales development activities, publications, sales revenues in 2016 reached 19 million francs exceeding the budget by half a million. This meets the revenue on course to meeting the budget of 37 million.

Following Council‑2014 and PP‑14 approval to provide free download online to general public the new addition of radio regulations launched in December 2012 has been widely downloaded reaching over 23,000 downloads. The overall sales quantity of the 2012 edition has reduced by 3% and translating it in a loss of sales revenue of 132,000 francs. Registration mechanism for free downloads has been put in place to capture basic information on users. This information is now available in CRM to better serve the needs of ITU internal and external customers. The Council is invited to note this document. Thank you.

>> CHAIR: Thank you, Mr. Zaidi. The floor is open for any comments. Russia, you have the floor.

>> RUSSIAN FEDERATION: Thank you very much, Madam Chair. We note the success of the note of the Secretariat. I would like to note a large volume of publications, around 80% are circulated in three languages, English, French and Spanish. We would like some clarification on this, particularly Resolution 184. Thank you very much.

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

>> FOUAD ZAIDI: The question is why in three languages. Is that the ‑‑ I'll have to refer this to my chief of department who could maybe answer on this.

>> Thank you, Madam Chair. And thank you to the Distinguished Counselor from Russia. Actually they are all printed and available in six languages. What is shown here is how much is being sold in different languages, but all publications are available in the six official language of the Union. And I confirm to that. What (inaudible) was presenting is the sales of different language groups. So it was sold mostly in the three languages, English, French and Spanish but they are available in the six official languages of the Union. Thank you. I hope that satisfies the Distinguished Counselor.

>> CHAIR: If there aren't any comments, the document C17/21 is noted.

(Gavel).

>> CHAIR: Now we go to the document C17/111, conclusion of the RAG, paragraph 5 and Mr. Maniewicz has the floor.

>> MARIO MANIEWICZ: Thank you, Madam Chair. Distinguished Counselors, Ladies and Gentlemen, on behalf of the Secretary‑General it is my pleasure to introduce C17/111. This document contains the decisions or the RAG or recommendations of the RAG in various agenda items that the Council is considering in this session. As requested by the RAG the recommendations for each one of these agenda items will be introduced as they are discussed. I will be coming by om a short let's say period to introduce each one of them.

So in this particular one as the Chairman was saying regarding section 5 of this document which deals with the agenda item we are considering RAG not only noted with satisfaction that the free online access policy continues to provide a platform for a large dissemination of the ITU‑R recommendations but welcomed especially the director's initiative to extend this free access to all ITU‑R handbooks. So this is the case now in ITU‑R. All the handbooks that are produced by the Study Groups are available for free downloading by Member States for free.

>> CHAIR: Thank you. Any comments? The paragraph 5 of this report is noted.

(Gavel).

>> CHAIR: Now we go to document C17/85, contribution from Poland, free online access to ITU report, statistical indicators from Member States and the floor is for Poland.

>> POLAND: Hello, Dear Madam Chair, Honorable Delegates and Distinguished Colleagues. First of all, Madam Chair, I would like to congratulate you and wish you fruitful discussions in the upcoming days. Poland supports changes in the ITU access policy and congratulates the Secretariat for its implementation and efforts. However there are still some publications such as yearbook of statistics and indicators database which are subject to a fee. Poland believes that Member States contributing to ITU publications by sharing their relevant market data through questionnaires should be granted a free of charge online access to a final report. Granting such an access to a Member State will be an added value for the whole Union and may positively influence the quality of country's input. It should be noted that some ITU publications would not be developed without data collected from the Member States. Having said that Poland would like to ask all Member States to endorse the proposal and support our contribution. Thank you, Madam Chair.

>> CHAIR: Thank you, Poland. The floor is open for any comments. India, you have the floor.

>> INDIA: Thank you, Madam Chair. We acknowledge the important contribution from the Distinguished Delegate from Poland. It is important that especially the databases which involve some of the parameters from the Member States. Having access to this data to the Member States is going to forward, you know, giving some input to policies and also to have a compatible understanding with other countries how they are doing. So especially at least for the Member States these documents should be made available free. Thank you very much.

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

>> BRAZIL: Thank you, Madam Chair. Congratulations on your election. Good morning, everyone. The proposal from Poland seems very interesting. It is in line with some of our principles on free online access that we have been presenting over the last year's Council and at PP. However we should I think be mindful of the financial impacts because there are two trends that contradict this policy. And we would like some more information on the financial impacts. One trend is the reduction in Member States' contribution. We are asking for free access for Member States to this important work that is done by the ITU staff in the gathering information and transforming it in to data. It is an intelligence work. But Member States' contributions are decreasing, have been decreasing for awhile. And the ‑‑ as reported in document 21 revenues with ITU publications have been increasing. So we perhaps should discuss more of the financial impacts before approving a decision that will contradict both tendencies. So we need some more information. Perhaps we should discuss this at ADM or in Plenary. It is up to your decision. Thank you.

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

>> UNITED ARAB EMIRATES: Thank you, Madam Chair. We would like to thank Poland for this contribution. Madam Chair, concerning the database of the ITU and the yearly book that's published every year, these are very important documents. I consider them among the best and most important documents for the development sector and for the ITU generally speaking. Buying these documents is very successful. Therefore we share the opinion expressed by the Distinguished Delegate of Brazil. We should study the impact to know exactly what's the financial burden that would have to assume and what would be the results of this proposal presented by Poland. We would like to ask the Secretariat if they could provide us with an idea about costs, about the total amount of revenue this year and last year and maybe during the last years. But as was said by Poland we are not against the Polish proposal. We would like to know clearly what's the position before taking any decision concerning this issue as expressed by Brazil.

>> CHAIR: Saudi Arabia.

>> SAUDI ARABIA: Thank you, Madam Chair. We would like to thank the Polish administration for this excellent proposal. Madam Chair, when we discuss the free access to ITU publications we have to think about the budget. We would like to know the impact on the budget of the ITU. We would like to know the consequences of our acts. In the Plenipotentiary that was held in Busan in 2014 we discussed in a lengthy manner decision 12. In decision 12 we have agreed a number of publications. We decided that a number of publications be downloaded freely. Therefore, we agreed that we would have to learn from the outputs. And we would like to use the booklets published by the ITU. We decided that we would have to get free access to the databases. In the report presented a few minutes ago we discovered that the revenue made by publications, by the sale of publications is approximately 20 million. If we adopt the Polish proposal what would be the impact? That would be the impact of the Polish contribution. Brazil has said that revenue will go down. Is this a fact? I think that this proposal needs to be examined so that we know exactly the impact on the budget. How could we face this loss that we would get in this field? Thank you, Madam Chair.

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

>> RUSSIAN FEDERATION: Thank you, Madam Chair. For our part we would also like to support the contribution from Poland and say that we fully support the approach set forth in it. We also understand that any decision taken by us needs to take in to account the financial impact. Therefore we fully support the views expressed by previous speakers. Thank you.

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

>> SENEGAL: Thank you, Madam Chair. We would like to congratulate you and wish you every success in your work to benefit our Union. We support Poland's proposal. We believe it is a good proposal. It is true that as other speakers have said the financial impact should be considered. However, the fact that Member States can access data that they have provided can improve us to ‑‑ can help us to improve the ecosystem, ICT's ecosystem in the countries and on a global level. We do support this proposal.

>> CHAIR: Thank you.

>> UNITED STATES: Thank you, Madam Chair. We would like to support the proposal from Poland. As is pointed out the provision of good quality data by Member States often requires significant time and work on the part of those providing the data. And without having access to the results of its usage it may be discouraging to these Member States for providing that data in the future. Thank you, Madam Chair.

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

>> CANADA: Thank you, Madam Chair. And we would like to thank Poland for the contribution which we in principle support because it is in line also with the ITU's information and document access policy. To that effect, Madam Chair, it is very important to distinguish the issues which are associated with the policy itself of open access to ITU's documentation from the issues associated with the financial implications for the Union in terms of revenue that may be derived from that. So we would caution on anything related to opening or modifying the ITU's information and document access policy, support in principle the proposal by Poland and take due consideration of any financial implications that we could review under the ADM later today or during the rest of the week. Thank you.

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

>> TUNISIA: Thank you, Madam Chair. I'll be very brief. I'd like to support this proposal presented by Poland because it is going to be very useful for Developing Countries, Madam. Thank you.

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

>> GERMANY: Thank you. I would highlight the idea to get the impact of free online access checked before we decide and the impact on the budget as a whole. Thank you.

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

>> VENEZUELA: Thank you, Madam Chair. We would like to congratulate you upon your election and wish you success in your work. We support the contribution from Poland. We believe it is important for the development in our sectors. Thank you.

>> CHAIR: Thank you. And now the Secretary‑General has the floor.

>> HOULIN ZHAO: Thank you very much, Madam Chair. Dear colleagues, I am very pleased to hear these kind of discussions. I'd just like to remind you that as matter of fact before we reduce our free download access we had serious discussions and that was the reason why finally we presented to the Plenipotentiary Conference 2010 with sales of products in two groups. One is market price and one is membership price, if you would like to distinguish these two. Because in the past we fixed our price of products based on so‑called cost recovery for contribution from our members and then we lose that. The majority of market revenue from non-ITU members, from private sector because they found our products very valued. Then to sell our products to them with preferable price favorable to our members since it is not fair. So then I was very pleased to note that at the Plenipotentiary 2010 we agreed with introduction of two prices scheme. One price much lower for our Member States and another price, market price. If you check the market, need for market investment you will find that our market price is still much lower than the other private products.

Now here I just want to also like to invite you to consider to distinguish the need from Member States and the need to open this free access to our Member States compared with the open access to the public. I think that we have to keep this in our mind, that it is true a lot of contributions, data provided by our Member States. And it would be also natural logic that, you know, Member States ask us to provide them free access freely. I think we could look at this situation and try to make some arrangement. But if you really open all these valued documents or databases freely to anyone in the market, I'm afraid definitely we will have some consequences in our revenue. I think that Malcolm could offer you some further information to tell you with those revenues that we received so far how much we get from our Member States. I think that if we use this and also keep what I say in mind, that we ‑‑ I think that we could further discuss this at the relative sessions. And then we would be able to find a solution for me.

I would be in favor to provide free access to our Member States. And try to find some way to rank that but I'm very reluctant to see if we open this free to everybody to the market and I can tell you many private sectors want to get our products and it is not fair for our Member States to see that they have not contributed directly to these products and they get free access and why they have to buy similar products from the market from other places. That's what I would like to share with you. And perhaps Malcolm, you have some figures. Maybe you can help our Council to understand.

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

>> MALCOLM JOHNSON: Yes, thank you, Madam Chair. We have looked at the impact on this proposal with regard to revenue from Member States buying the two publications specifically mentioned in the proposal. We would lose around 10,000 a year from the current 90,000. So it would go from 90,000 to 80,000. We can provide more details if this is discussed in the ADM. Thank you, Madam Chair.

>> CHAIR: The floor is to the Chair of the ADM.

>> CHAIRMAN of ADM: Thank you.

>> CHAIR: The Chair of the ADM can review this proposal and then we can discuss in the Plenary meeting, okay? And now we can make a break for lunch. And for the program of the afternoon, I give the floor to the secretary of the Plenary.

>> SECRETARY: Thank you very much, Madam Chair. As we have made very good progress this morning, I just wanted to inform Delegates of the issues that we will take up this afternoon. So we will begin with the discussions on WTDC as a first agenda item. As the second point we will come back to the agenda on the report of languages and specifically we will come back on document 84 Rev 1. Then we will continue with the reports on ITU Telecom as our third agenda item for this afternoon. And then the next item would be the report on the new Varembe building. And finally the operational plans which were scheduled for tomorrow we will advance them to our discussions this afternoon. Thank you very much, Madam Chair.

>> CHAIR: Thank you. We can resume between two hours. Thank you.

(Session concluded at 12:36 p.m. CET)

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