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>> CHAIR: Ladies and gentlemen, please, we can start.

Good afternoon. And we can start the last plenary of this Council now. And as a first item, we have to conclude the last one of this morning that is the formally approve operation of the name of the Chairman of the UAE for the Council Working Group COP. We have heard this morning the proposal made by the Secretary‑General so I would invite you to approve the name proposed by UAE.

(Applause).

>> CHAIR: Thank you. Approved. And now we can go to the last Document of today that is C17/120 and I would invite the Chair to present the report, please.

>> ADM: Good afternoon, Chairman, and good afternoon, everyone. I would like to present Document C17/120. I will introduce the subject and the recommendation and if councilors have questions on the content of the text, we can address the text. But I will be asking for your approval and the recommendation. Recommendation is, statement of the CEB Council, I put to you for approval and it's also available on the Council web page. Item number two, draft budget of the Union for 2018 higher 2019 including Document C17/10 plus Addendum 1, C17DL/3 (Rev. 1) and C17/DT/7. I'm asking for the plenary to approve 2.3.2, the Council is asked to approve resolution and annex A to this report, that's pages 1‑8, and approve item 2.3.3. Council should remind conferences and assemblies of Article 34 provisions numbers 48 and 49 before adopting proposals or taking decisions with financial implications.

I present item number 2 for approval. Thank you.

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

>> MOROCCO: Thank you, Madame Chair, as recommendation 3 at the time 3.2, is it the Chair of the Council or the council that has to carry out this task? Thank you.

>> CHAIR: Please, Ms. Harris, for the reply.

>> ADM: Thank you, Chairman. So on 2.3.3 it was discussed during our group that Council should send a message to all of the conferences and assemblies regarding Article 34 numbers 48 and 49. I will ask through you the proper procedure, but it was the thinking of the admin committee that any future Conference and assembly should be made aware of these provisions. Thank you.

>> CHAIR: Thank you. Are there any comments? Okay. This part is approved. Ms. Harris, please, we can go ahead.

>> ADM: Chair, that also includes Annex A.

>> CHAIR: Morocco, you have the floor.

>> MOROCCO: Thank You, Madame Chair. If it is the Council that needs to implement this task, how is it going to proceed? Thank you.

>> CHAIR: Please.

>> ADM: I will ask Mr. Ba to address that question. Thank you.

>> MR. BA: Thank You, Madame Chair. Good afternoon, everyone. It is just a question of reminding these conferences and assemblies that when they adopt decisions or resolutions that have financial implications it is just the reminder that it is the council which approves the draft budget and to also take into account the framework of the financial plan which is established by the plenipotentiary Conference and the budgets which are presented to the Council take into account the aims or objectives set by the plenipotentiary Conference. Any resolution or decision which is not covered by the financial plan forecast as approved and which will have financial implications for the budget submitted to the Council for approval, when in that case, it's just important for the Council to remind those meetings that when they take decisions and resolutions there are financial limits to be considered in these adoptions. Thank you.

>> CHAIR: Thank you for your clarification. Ms. Harris, please, we can go over.

>> ADM: I'm just wondering if we now need to go to Annex A to have a look at the resolution here to approve it.

>> CHAIR: Are there any comments? USA.

>> UNITED STATES: In our review of Annex A we found some important differences between the further resolved nine in this Annex and the proposal we had made during the discussion. What we had proposed was additional text that read instruct the Secretary‑General to revise the budget as required to implement the applicable post adjustment multipliers as determined by the international civil service commission.

And what I see in further resolves 9 is to authorize the Secretary‑General to adjust the appropriations, and for us this seems to be different than what we had proposed. So we would like to return to the original text. Thank you, Madam Chair.

>> CHAIR: Are there any comments? Saudi Arabia, please.

>> SAUDI ARABIA: Thank you, Madam Chair. I wanted to remind ourselves that there were other proposals made to allow the Secretary‑General to amend and take into consideration as appropriate the implementation of the amplifications of the sent. Which were adopted recently as was identified by the ICSC. We respect the resolution of the ICSC but at the same time, we would like from the Secretary‑General to take into consideration and as necessary that there should not be any harm or negative impact in view of the very short time in which this decision of the ICSC was taken, and we do support Paragraph 9 as seen in the Annex. Thank you, Madame.

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

>> GERMANY: Thank you, Madam Chair. Well, this draft resolution is about approving the budget. In this context, Madam Chair, we believe that the further resource number 9 is not necessary at all. Why? It's obvious and it will be somewhere else in this report or in the report of the plenary that the ITU will implement the final ICSC decisions. By doing so, there will be savings achieved. How to deal with savings in the budget is already determined because it's, A, the Council based on the yearly financial operating report that will decide how to use the savings, and if there is no other decision, savings will automatically go to the reserve account.

So from our point of view, in the context of this draft resolution about approving the budget, the further resolves number 9 should be deleted. Thank you, Madam Chair.

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

>> CANADA: Thank you, Madam Chair. We would like to thank the Chair of the ADM. Madam Chair, in regards to results 9, we concur with the observations made by the United States and we believe that what is incumbent upon the Secretary‑General is to implement the decision as established by the International Civil Service Commission. Thank you.

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

>> SWITZERLAND: Madam Chair. We would like to congratulate Ms. Harris on the excellent work she has done over the past 10 days. Number 73 of the Convention provides that it is the competency of the Council to agree on the budget of the Union. Switzerland believes the Council does not need to delegate this authority entirely or partly to the Secretary‑General in order to allow him to revise the biennium budget for 2018‑2019 in light of decisions by the ICSC. In fact as far as we understand the situation, the implementation by the Secretary‑General of the decision of the ICSC will have a consequence of the budgetary credits allocated by the Council in the 2018‑2019 budget not being used entirely by the end of the financial period. The results of this implementation should give rise to subsequent surpluses. These according to the financial rules will be credited to the reserve account unless there is a different decision made by the Council.

That is why we support the proposal to delete the further resolved 9 of Annex A. Thank you.

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

>> UNITED ARAB EMIRATES: Thank you very much, Madam Chair. With regard to the subject which is being discussed which is to authorize the Secretary‑General to adjust the appropriations as required to implement recently modified post adjustment multiplier as determined by the ICSC, and we prefer to maintain the text as we find it in is this resolution thank you, Madam Chair.

>> CHAIR: Thank you. You have the floor.

>> Thank you, Madam Chair. I will be brief. I would like to support the positions expressed by the German and Swiss delegations for the reasons indicated by the delegations. We can accept, therefore, the deletion of 9 of Annex A. Thank you.

>> CHAIR: So after your intervention, there is this proposal to delete the number 9 in the Annex A. There is a general consensus about this. So I think we can delete number 9. Thank you. Deleted. Please. Ms. Harris.

>> ADM: Thank you Chairman. The next recommendation for Council consideration is item 3 contribution by the Russian Federation, the Republic of Romania and the Republic of Belarus, and we understand that there is a (rev 2) that added Kyrgyzstan to this list and we will upstate this throughout the Document. Proposals for the draft budget of the radiocommunications sector for 2018‑2019 prepared on the basis of analysis of financial and human resources and ITU‑R, 1969‑2017. I put for your approval. The committee recommends the Council take into account the proposals made in C17/80 (Rev. 1) during the finalization of the budget 2018‑2019, budget above and instruct the BR Director to take urgent measures to restore staffing levels in the BR especially in the space services department and in the unit responsible for software development. To the level needs for BR to carry out its mandate in full. To adopt measures to eliminate delays in the process and frequency of filings, to report on the undertaking measures and results at the 2018 session of the Council with the subsequent submission to the 2018 plenipotentiary conference. The committee recommends that ITU Secretariat management apply a balanced approach in the financing of ITU sector and the Secretariat in the future.

>> CHAIR: Thank you. The floor is open for comments. The section is approved. Next.

>> ADM: Thank you Chairman. The next item is item 4, contribution related to Document C17/82, again, we will update the references in this subject line to reflect the (rev 2). The committee recommends that the Council take note of the proposals to the general Secretariat in reviewing the plans and finalization of the draft 2018‑2019 budget as presented in Document C17/82 (Rev. 1) is presented for your consideration. Thank you.

>> CHAIR: Thank you. The floor is open for any comments item 4 is approved. Next.

>> ADM: Item 5 deals with C17/10, 5.5, the committee recommends that the Council take note of the proposal submitted in Document C17/10. This is on pages 10 and 11. I put this forward for your consideration. Thank you.

>> CHAIR: Thank you. The floor is open. Item 5 is approved. Next.

>> ADM: Thank you, Madam Chair. Item 6 deals with the conclusions of the Radio Communication Advisory Group and C17/11. We ask that the committee ‑‑ the committee recommends that Council note this report in Document C17/11. Thank you.

>> CHAIR: Please, UA.

>> UNITED ARAB EMIRATES: Thank you, Madam Chair, with regards to the previous item, we have been going through the items too quickly and I would like to take you back to the recommendation which is ‑‑ take note of the proposal in Document C17/110. We only would like to ask the Director to continue looking into two measures in order to generate new revenues for the secretary, and, therefore, we hope that the recommendation can be amended so we can take into consideration that request and not just for the Council to take note of the proposals. Thank you, Madam Chair.

>> CHAIR: Mr. Lee, do you want to give an answer, please?

>> Thank you, Madam Chair. The following comment from the UAE and those was asked to continue our study so if a meeting is agreeable, then it would be good that we may change this committee recommends that the TSB take into account the proposal submitted in C17/110 would be sufficient to adapt this. Thank you.

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

>> GERMANY: Thank you, Madam Chair. Well, if we agree to new measures for generating additional revenue for ITU‑T, I think this refers and I want the confirmation for this, to voluntary contribution to activities of the ITU‑T because otherwise if we generate revenue, it's revenue for the ITU as a whole. So could you confirm, please, our understanding that we are talking about generating revenue for specific activities of ITU‑T through voluntary contribution. Thank you, Madam Chair.

>> CHAIR: Thank you, can you answer and clarify, please.

>> Thank you, Chairman. Regarding Document C17/10, the ADM committee took into account this proposal and we allocated 671,000 additional budget for the ITU‑T. So we did take into account this proposal and I would have, and we have, we have UFIN and IIN have been incorporated into the budget as well. So I believe the ADM has adequately covered this item. Thank you.

>> CHAIR: UAE, you have the floor.

>> UNITED ARAB EMIRATES: Thank you, Madam Chair. The proposal made by Mr. Lee, the Chair of the standardisation Bureau is appropriate, but the comment made by the Honorable Delegate from Germany is also correct. So, therefore, we say the committee recommends that the Council take note of the proposal submitted in Document C17/110 and requests from the Director of the standardisation Bureau to look into new measures to generate additional revenues for the ITU and not for the standardisation sector only, but to generate additional revenues for the ITU, and that such studies be accommodated by detailed financial analysis for the many choices available to generate revenues with regards to every choice and the impact of this on the budget of the ITU. Thank you, Madam Chair.

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

>> SAUDI ARABIA: Thank you, Madam Chair. Very briefly, we wanted to refer to what was said by the Honorable Delegate. There was a Document and we request that what the Honorable Delegate from the UAE says be reflected in the minutes in addition to what was said by the Director of the Standardisation Bureau, and also what was taken in terms of resolutions at the WTSA. Thank you.

>> CHAIR: Thank you, Saudi Arabia. And now, according to this proposal, the floor is disagreed. Okay. It will be included. Thank you. Next.

>> ADM: Yes. Item number 7, C17/85, the committee recommends that the Council grant free online access to ITU publications including but not limited to reports, statistics and indicator databases to all Member States. We ask the Council to consider this. Thank you.

>> CHAIR: Yes, before I think we have to formalize the approval of item 6 because we were talking about the previous, as regards to item 6, there is ‑‑ agree? Okay. Item 6 approved. Now, as regards item 7, Morocco, you have the floor.

>> MOROCCO: Thank you, Madam Chair. I have the main remark as before, is it the cowboy criminal that has to fulfill this task or is it the Secretary‑General that has to carry it out? We need to specify this because otherwise we do risk having recommendations that cannot be implemented. Thank you.

>> CHAIR: Canada, you have the floor.

>> CANADA: Thank you, Madam Chair. I wonder if, because we are going at a very rapid pace. I wonder to the extent possible if we could have this text on the screens. Things are being discussed at a quite an efficient pace, but sometimes we tend to lose track of what's being discussed and what's being agreed. So I wonder if this is requested could be taken into consideration, or if we could lower the pace in which we can have a little bit more time to analyze what's being said and the decisions that are being taken. Thank you.

>> CHAIR: Thank you, Canada.

>> ADM: Thank you, Madam Chair. My understanding is Council is approving this and the Secretary‑General will implement decisions of the Council. I am in your hands as to how I should use this phrase, but this is the simple terminology we have used for past ADM reports and I see Mr. Araut shaking his head so we can ask the legal adviser but my understanding is that Council approves and the Secretary‑General implements. Thank you.

>> CHAIR: Morocco.

>> MOROCCO: I shall slowly read the recommendation. The committee recommends that Council grant free online access to ITU publications including but not limited to reports, statistics and indicator databases to all Member States. Is it Council who is going to grant this or is it going to instruct the Secretary‑General to grant it?

>> CHAIR: UAE, you have the floor.

>> UNITED ARAB EMIRATES: Thank you, Madam Chair. Our question is about the contribution on 6.7, rather 7.6. Committee recommends that Council grant free online access to ITU publications including but not limited to reports, statistics and indicates databases to all Member States. Now, the proposal from Poland refers to reports, statistics and indicator databases only, but here we are saying all ITU publications.

So could somebody explain which publications would be covered by this measure because the discussion was only about free online access to ITU publications related to statistics and indicator databases. We didn't refer at all to all ITU publications. Could this point please be clarified?

>> CHAIR: Thank you. And can the ADM clarify as regards recommendation 7.6.

>> ADM: When reviewing C17/85, there was a disconnect between the proposals, however, after speaking with the CMP Director, we could clarify. We could ask.

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

>> Thank you, Madam Chair. We share the same concern as Distinguished Delegates of UAE. Text is very dangerous and open‑ended. Our understanding is that it only refers to the two publications the statistics and indicators and with that we give the figure that's we are not losing much it's only 10,000 francs of loss so we can accommodate that, but if we open it to all ITU publications, then in our opinion, that would be a dangerous thing. We would like to limit it to restricted based on the request of the Poland Document to the two publications, the statistics and the indicators. Thank you, Madam Chair.

>> CHAIR: After your intervention, we can say that in recommendation 7.6, we can say that Council instruct the Secretary‑General to grant free online access. And only for statistic indicators and on database. Uganda, you have the floor.

>> UGANDA: Just for simple clarification, this to everybody or just to those members that are mentioned in the contribution by Poland, because Poland was a little bit restricted to those members that advertised it to everybody, just a clarification.

>> CHAIR: Thank you, ADM.

>> ADM: Thank you, Madam Chair. It was to all Member States. So statistics and indicator databases open to all Member States. Thank you.

>> CHAIR: Canada, please.

>> CANADA: Thank you, Madam Chair. I apologize for taking the floor again on the same issue that I addressed before. When we are accepting or approving the recommendations, it would be useful if we could see the text of what is being modified, because it's different to say, yes, we approve as we can read it on our screens. Another thing is approving a text that we can listen to, but we do not have a time to fully reflect on it. So if it is possible to see it on the screen, it would be much appreciated. Otherwise, if we could have the text read at dictation speed so we can carefully analyze what it is, and take a decision. Thank you.

>> CHAIR: Thank you. To obtain this, we can do a wait for some minutes, please. The Secretariat is finding it's possible to use the screen but at the moment as regards 7.6 I can read the new text slowly if all of you agree. The committee recommends that the Council instructs Secretary‑General to grant free online access to ITU publication of statistics and indicators to all Member States.

This is the new version. If you want, I can repeat. One moment, Mali, I repeat. The committee recommends that the council instructs Secretary‑General to grant free online access to ITU publication of statistic and indicators to all Member States. This is the last version. Mali, you have the floor.

>> MALI: Thank you, Madam Chair. The last version of that recommendation which you have just read out is perfect for us. It covers our concerns, thank you.

>> CHAIR: Thank you. Are there any comments about this? So we can approve it. Thank you very much. Now, ADM, please. One moment, there is Senegal, please, Senegal.

>> SENEGAL: Thank you, Madam Chair. As I understood it, it had to be limited to statistics and indicators databases, not all ITU publications. So it would be free online access to statistics and indicator databases as far as I have understood.

>> CHAIR: Yes, the text amended is exactly in this way. Only statistics and indicators. Okay. Thank you. ADM, please.

>> ADM: Item number 8, C17/info/2, the committee recommends Council take note of the report of the budget committee of WTSA16 in Document WTSA16/77, page 12 of the ADM report in English. Thank you.

>> CHAIR: Thank you. Any comments? Canada you, you have the floor.

>> CANADA: Thank you, Madam Chair. Again, my sincere apologies. Now that you have is this on the screen and you have been so kind to read the recommendations in dictation speed, would it be possible to go back to 5.5 and read the text of that recommendation, particularly in light of any modifications to the third bullet under 5.3. Thank you.

>> CHAIR: ADM, please.

>> ADM: Thank you, Madam Chair. We agree to take into account bullet 3 to request a TSB Director to continuing studying potential new measures for generating additional revenue for ITU and including in the study detailed financial analysis of possible options for generating revenue. Full stop.

>> CHAIR: Okay. And then as regards the next one, pages 12. Are there any comments? So approved. Next, please. ADM.

>> ADM: Thank you, Madam Chair. Are we going back to item 9 now? Okay. Item 9, proposal to increase revenue from International Numbering Resources, C17/43, the committee recommends the council note the Document C17/43 used as a basis to develop the proposed decisions for UIFN and IIN, pages 12 and 13.

>> CHAIR: Any comments? Item 9 is approved. Next.

>> ADM: Item 10.

>> CHAIR: One moment, Switzerland, please.

>> SWITZERLAND: Thank you, Madam Chair. For clarification, in Paragraph 9.2 should we not refer to Annexes B and C which include these decisions? That is my question.

>> CHAIR: ADM.

>> ADM: No. We take those under item 12. Thank you.

>> CHAIR: Thank you. Next is the 10.

>> ADM: Contribution by the United States, Document C17/92. 10.2, committee recommends that the Council note Document C17/92.

>> CHAIR: Any comments? Item 10 is approved. Next.

>> ADM: Item 11, contribution by the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia revenue generation from International Numbing Resources, Document C17/106 (Rev. 1) recommendation 11.2, the committee recommends that council note C17/106 (Rev. 1) as this was used in the basis for develop proposed decisions for UFN and IIN. Thank you.

>> CHAIR: Any comments? Saudi Arabia, please.

>> SAUDI ARABIA: Thank you, Madam Chair. We would simply like to confirm that during examination of the results of the ad hoc group Chaired by the distinguished delegate of Brazil, it was recalled that proposals given in this contribution from Saudi Arabia would be studied in the course of meetings or activities in the near future. We would like the text of the recommendation to refer to that follow‑up.

>> ADM: Thank you, Chairman. I do not see a problem with that text. That is included in Saudi Arabia's Document 106. So I have no problem. So the text as read by Saudi Arabia to include as a new recommendation 11.3, study in the course of meetings or activities in the near future of the ITU‑T based on proposals in Document 106. I need to slow down? Okay. Perhaps it's best if Saudi Arabia dictates their proposal. Thank you.

>> SAUDI ARABIA: Thank you, chairperson. What we have indicated is that some of the parts in our documents was not discussed and based on the report by the Chair of the ad hoc group from the Brazilian administration we indicated that Saudi Arabia looks forward to continuing the discussion on other possibilities that is in our Document that has not been discussed in the future. So we would like to reflect that in the recommendation.

>> CHAIR: ADM, please.

>> ADM: Thank you, Madam Chair. I have ‑‑ if the Council would like to include that text, I don't see ‑‑ there is no objection.

>> CHAIR: Please, Saudi Arabia, if you can say exactly the text so we ask open the floor about this.

>> SAUDI ARABIA: Okay. Madame Chairperson. I would say that since some parts of the proposal included in the contribution was not discussed at the ad hoc group meeting, it was decided or you can use the exact wordings or the appropriate word, it was decided that these proposals would be discussed in future meetings.

>> CHAIR: The floor is open for any comments with this proposal of Saudi Arabia, please.

>> SAUDI ARABIA: Thank you, Madam Chair. The proposal I have just submitted is a part of the Document submitted by the Chair of the ad hoc group DT/6, part of that Document. This text is already in Document DT/6, thank you.

>> CHAIR: Thank you for your clarification. Brazil.

>> BRAZIL: I'm sorry, Madam Chair. I was asking for the floor before the dictation from our delegate from Saudi Arabia excepting the direction of using DT6 to solve the problem of getting a phrase for this possible text. So it's done now. Thank you.

>> CHAIR: Thank you, Germany.

>> GERMANY: Thank you, Madam Chair with regard to this matter says Saudi Arabia expressed that part of the proposal included in their contribution C17/106 was not discussed at the ad hoc group meetings. Saudi Arabia looks forward to continue the discussion on other possibilities, sources to increase revenue for ITU in the ADM committee. So this is a text referring to Saudi Arabia and now we replace in principle Saudi Arabia by the Council.

I have some concerns doing so, but, of course, if there is agreement among all councilors, we would not object to it. Thank you very much.

>> CHAIR: Thank you Germany. USA, please.

>> UNITED STATES: Thank you, Madam Chair. I wish to raise the same point as Germany has just raised, and also say that within that proposed modification to the recommendation, I see no actual recommendation. So my preference would be not to increase the text because certainly we will consider any proposals that are brought into the next council meeting, whether they have to do with this subject or others. Thank you, Madam Chair.

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

>> AUSTRALIA: Thank you, Chair. For us, I think we would have to agree with the previous colleagues from Germany and the U.S.A. We think that this certainly was something that Saudi Arabia did say, but we would say it wasn't a recommendation of the ADM as such, and, therefore, we don't think it belongs there as a new recommendation. And as the U.S. has said, it's actually not structured in the way that you would structure a recommendation anyway. Thank you, Chair.

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

>> SAUDI ARABIA: Thank you, Madam Chair. We do understand absolutely the statement by the distinguished delegate of Germany. Maybe it might be better to take out this new proposal 11.3. It wouldn't be part of the box with the recommendation and then we could add it in in Paragraph 11.1 as part of the introduction.

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

>> UNITED ARAB EMIRATES: Thank you, Madam Chair. On this point, it is linked to .12 report of the ad hoc group on INS. Maybe the Distinguished Delegates of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia would agree to have the new text added under 12.1 rather than 11.1. We have no problem with this, but since we are referring to discussions held during the meetings, during the previous meetings we could refer to this issue under .12 which mentions all of the issues which haven't yet been discussed. The DT6 lists all of these issues.

Now, as to Saudi Arabia's request to continue examining this issue at future sessions of Council, this was not addressed in the text of .12, reports of the ad hoc group on INRs, so we could add that in there.

>> CHAIR: Saudi Arabia, please.

>> SAUDI ARABIA: Thank you, Madam Chair. That proposal from the distinguished delegate of United Arab Emirates is a good one. We could indeed add that text of ours to one of the Paragraphs before the recommendation in 12.8.

>> CHAIR: Okay. The Council agrees as regards the recommendation 11.2. Canada, please.

>> CANADA: Thank you, Madam Chair, just for clarification, so 11.3 has been deleted, but a new text will be moved to 12.1. The question is if the new text would basically say that some parts of the proposals were not discussed at the ad hoc meeting, but the question, the specific question was there any specific decision to the effect that this proposals would be discussed in future meetings? If such is the case, then, of course, it could be inserted in 12.1.

>> CHAIR: ADM, please.

>> ADM: Thank you, Madam Chair. Madam Chair, while this was introduced, there was no conclusion in the ADM Committee on further discussion of these proposals. So I do think the compromise is to have maybe not to include them under section 12, but to include them under the comment under the Paragraph that introduces Document 106. Thank you. And perhaps we could ask the Honorable Delegate from Saudi Arabia to provide text on that since it refers to his proposal. Thank you.

>> CHAIR: Saudi Arabia, please.

>> SAUDI ARABIA: Thank you, Madam Chair. The best place to put it is Paragraph 12. As an example, Paragraph 12.4 talks about a proposal coming from the United States of America. And likewise we could add our proposal by picking up on the same wording as in Document DT/6 of the drafting group. The proposal would be the following in English. At the end of the Paragraph, we take exactly the same wording from DT6 and reflect it as the new 12.5. So it is Saudi Arabia, it is not the ad hoc or the admin committee.

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

>> AUSTRALIA: Thank you, Madam Chair. I was just, I think 12.4 just for clarification, 12.4, I think, referred to comments by the United States of America during the ad hoc group. So I just wanted to confirm that by agreeing to this new text, we are agreeing to, we are noting that the proposal wasn't discussed. I think that that's been said here earlier, but that it was something that the Saudi Arabian delegation said during the ad hoc group, is that correct?

>> CHAIR: Saudi Arabia, please.

>> SAUDI ARABIA: Thank you, chairperson. What we are proposing is something that we proposed during the ad hoc group. Similar to 12.4 so what we request is to go to Document DT6 and copy the Paragraph that starts with Saudi Arabia expressed that, and we just paste it as 12.5 or any part before the recommendation. Thank you very much.

>> CHAIR: Thank you, Saudi Arabia. Are there any comments. ADM, please.

>> ADM: Thank you, Madam Chair. So if we start with the flow of the Document, I do believe if we are going to add that text that it should go after 12.3 as a new in between 12.3 and 12.4 because when you start to see the flow of the text, the 12.4 is talking about modifying the decisions and so we would, in order to keep the flow of the Document correctly, so you would add it before 12.4. Thank you.

>> CHAIR: Any objection? So we can approve the item 11 as it was, and this part is moved into Paragraph 12 as ADM proposed. Approved. Next.

>> ADM: Thank you, Madam Chair. And item 12 we need to take a look at ‑‑ this is the report of the ad hoc group on INRs, and the committee recommends that Council approve the new fee structure for IFIN and IIN by approving the new draft decisions and Annex B, and Annex C to this report. So we would need to go to Annex B and C to have a look at these decisions. I return it to you. Thank you.

>> CHAIR: Any comments? Item 12 is approved. Next.

>> CHAIR: Item 13, security Document C17/63, there are five recommendations here. In order to save time, I will not read them out. I would, if we could put them on the screen. So 13 ‑‑ okay. Until we get this back, 13.19, the committee recommends that cowboy criminal approve raising the security profile posture to align with neighboring UN agencies and to use the less expensive option approximately 1 million per year. 13.2, the committee recommends that Council approve the developments or the organizational resilience management system, framework for business continuity and disaster recovery for headquarters, regional and area offices, a cost of approximately 400,000 over the 12/17, 18, and 19 persons with disabilities. The committee recommends that Council approve the proposed funding model to pay for raising the security profile as well as developing an ORMS framework for 2017, 2018, 2019 as proposed by the Secretary‑General and take note that the recurring costs would have to be included in the 2020‑2023 regular budget. The installation of anti‑shatter resistant film at the ITU head quarter premises will be funded from 2016 savings as well as noting continuation of safety and security audits at the ITU regional and area offices. The committee endorsed the situation of discussions with the host country on an antipedestrian perimeter fence and incorporating mitigation measures and future design plans for the new headquarters. I submit these recommendations for your approval. Thank you.

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

>> MOROCCO: Thank you, Madam Chair. If I recall correctly during the discussions, it was said that the conditions should be in line with those used in institutions in the United Nations system, but in Switzerland, not those neighboring the ITU. Thank you.

>> CHAIR: ADM. Mr. Donovan.

>> ADM: Could Morocco please repeat the question or the comment, please?

>> CHAIR: Morocco, please, can you repeat?

>> MOROCCO: Thank you, Madam Chair. I wanted things to be very clear because during the discussion we talked about the security standards applied by United Nations system organisations which are headquartered in Switzerland, but not just those which are neighbors and here it says neighboring UN agencies we would like the correct phrase to be used here.

>> CHAIR: Please, for the reply.

>> ADN: On behalf of the Secretary‑General, the conditions we are using are referring to are the same as the UN system United Nations security management systems worldwide which do include these head quarter locations near to our premises in Geneva. Thank you.

>> CHAIR: Are there any comments? Morocco, please.

>> MOROCCO: Thank you, Madam Chair. In this case, we should delete the word neighboring.

>> CHAIR: Please for the reply.

>> It's agreed. Yes.

>> CHAIR: Other question, Morocco? Okay. Now, we can approve the item. Approved. Next one.

>> ADM: Improving stability and predictability of the financial base of the Union. It's agenda recommendation 14.11. And this can be found on the English Document 17‑18. I won't read it. It's on the screen. I present it to you for consideration.

>> CHAIR: Any comments? Saudi Arabia, please.

>> SAUDI ARABIA: Thank you, Madam Chair. Concerning 14.10, from what I remember after the meeting of the organisation committee, I think we have adopted the Document and Annex 2. I even remember that the distinguished delegate of Germany has taken the floor and he said that he has some ideas and some scenarios, but we didn't see anything. On this basis, I would like that we cancel or delete Paragraph 14.10. Please delete it from this Document. Thank you, Madame.

>> CHAIR: Germany, please.

>> GERMANY: Thank you, Madam Chair. In principle I agree with the distinguished delegate of Saudi Arabia that we raised an issue on this Annex 2, but we did not propose to approve it. Our issue was with regard to the first box, the area focus, market price for certain members and annual maintenance fee our reminder was that this does not concur with the conclusions of the INR group. Furthermore, in the action it speaks about among others country code telephone numbers, Madam Chair. This is not an ITU owned resource. The telephone numbers belong to the worldwide community, the ITU is only administering these numbers and it's absolutely impossible that ITU is charging market price for these numbers, otherwise or the other way around, the ITU has assessed contributions by Member States and sector members and these assessed contribution among others I used for the administration of telephone numbers, though I have three proposals with regard to this Annex 2.

The first proposal would be to send the entire matter of revenue generation to the Council Working Group on Financial and Human Resources for further deliberation. This is one proposal. And alternative would be to approve the Annex 2, but to delete completely the first box. And the third alternative would take a lot of time. That means that we discuss the appropriate text for the first box before we are going to approve this Annex 2. These are my three proposals, Madam Chair, and I'm in your hand or the Council is certainly in your hand what to do. Thank you, very much.

>> CHAIR: Canada, you have the floor.

>> CANADA: Thank you, Madam Chair and I would like to thank Germany for this very timely and useful intervention. In principle, we would concur with his option 1, but to that effect, I would also draw the attention of the plenary to the third bullet of 5.3 that requests the Director of the TSB to continue studying potential new measures for generating additional new revenue for ITU. It doesn't say ITU‑T. It says ITU. So there should be some consistency between that third bullet of 5.3 with 14.10 in light of the observations and recommendations made by Germany. Thank you.

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

>> SAUDI ARABIA: Thank you, Madam Chair. My first intervention was about the procedure that we are working upon here, and the admin committee, Annex 2 was introduced, and it was approved by the admin committee. And what I stated by what happened by our distinguished colleague from Germany, I didn't ask the questions why or what is the comments, but he requested the floor, and he stated that since this has been approved, then he did not provide his comments.

So even though we are thankful to hear these comments, but I'm talking about procedural point of view. We have approved Annex 2 and the admin, and what is reflected does not reflect what happened in the admin by putting 14.10. So with that, the Annex 2 came from the Council Working Group FHR without any square brackets I would say. Is there was a consensus on that has been any understanding and it has been presented and approved. Now, we see that in this report, 14.10 does not reflect what has been done in the meeting.

So our understanding that Annex 2 was approved and we would like to delete 14.10 from this item. Thank you.

>> CHAIR: Thank you, UAE.

>> UNITED ARAB EMIRATES: Thank you, Madam Chair. After listening to everything that has been said in the discussion and when you look at what has been reflected in 14.10, we also have participated in the meeting concerned. The Chair lady of the ADM committee has agreed on Annex 2 and everybody has agreed on Annex 2. I wish that we don't reopen the floor and reopen the discussion. The best is to delete 14.10. If we reopen the discussion, we have, we will have other remarks to make about what has been said by Germany. Thank you, Madame.

>> CHAIR: Thank you, UAE, pleads, Ms. Harris, you have the floor.

>> ADM: The text in 14.10 is correct. While I was moving quickly in the ADM committee, and I asked for approval, delegates took the floor and indicated I was moving too fast and they had comments on this Annex 2 and that there was no consensus on how to move forward. I indicated that I would take informal consultations and during any informal consultations I could not reach agreement with the proponents involved. So the text as written is correct. And it's my suggestion that we send this back to the Council Working Group on FHR for further work. I think that would be the easiest. Thank you.

>> CHAIR: Does the floor agree with the proposal of ADM? Saudi Arabia, please.

>> SAUDI ARABIA: Thank you, Madam Chair. We do not support this proposal made by the Chair lady. And 10.14 or 14.10 does not reflect exactly what was discussed. If there was no consensus as the Chair has already said, it should have been said in the Document. We have participated in the meeting and we think there was consensus and agreement Madame. Thank you.

>> CHAIR: Thank you, Canada, please.

>> CANADA: Thank you, Madame. Very briefly to thank the Chair of the ADM and could concur with her recommendation to send this back to the Council Working Group on finance and human resources. Thank you.

>> CHAIR: Thank you, UAE, please.

>> UNITED ARAB EMIRATES: Thank you, Madam Chair. As you have reopened the discussion about this topic, concerning the proposal made by the Chair lady of ADM, we do not support this idea, Madame. We have already said this before. As far as the proposal from Germany, who said we should delete sub Paragraph 1 and accept the other alternatives, this could be possible. But for the item number 1 or sub Paragraph 1, there should be consultations about number 1 for the future.

If this is agreed in this meeting, we can adopt Annex 2 and we can delete sub Paragraph 1. In sub Paragraph 1, things have to be clear. We have to say very clearly that this topic will be discussed in a later stage or in the next meeting for the Council. Thank you, Madame.

>> CHAIR: Please, can you repeat your proposal to change this Paragraph.

>> Thank you very much, Madame Chair. After hearing the information from the Distinguished Delegate from Germany and her second proposal that we approve Annex 2, but with regard to the first point which talks about the INR, this point we will indicate in the report that this will require further discussion in the future Councils, but for the rest of the Document, we approve the rest of the Document. So we take out that first point, but, and we approve the others and for that specific point as I have said, we will maintain, I mean, we will reflect in the report that this would require further consultation and discussion in the future. Thank you, Madam Chair, if that's acceptable to the Council. Thank you.

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

>> SAUDI ARABIA: Thank you, Madam Chair. If we can put it on the screen it will be clearer to my distinguished colleagues and other councilors. We have heard that a proposal to delete the first item from that table in Annex 2, and being in the discussion that took place, we know there was different opinions with respect to cost recovery or market price. So as a way forward, maybe we could delete, maintain the first row in Annex 2, but we delete the word market. So it would read price for certain numbers plus annual maintenance fee and the actions it would read complete analysis and we delete market. So I think this is a good way forward by deleting only the word market from the first row in the Annex.

>> CHAIR: Australia, you have the floor.

>> AUSTRALIA: Thank you, Madam Chair. I think I'm a little bit confused about what is actually happening at the moment because as far as I understand it, we are now going through looking at the report of the ADM committee and what actually happened at the ADM committee. So this should be purely factual. So as I understand it by the comments of the Chair of the ADM, Annex 2 was not approved at the ADM committee. So I'm not quite sure how we can then go back and in a sense rewrite history in terms of this ADM report. Thank you, Chair.

>> CHAIR: Please, ADM.

>> ADM: Annex 2, there was no agreement. We had discussions on deleting, on some delegates, some councilors wanted to maintain the first row, some councilors wanted to delete the first row. So I was moving really fast trying to complete our work, and I gaveled yes, and then several delegates came back in and did not agree with that. So my suggestion is to send the entire Annex to Council Working Group on Financial and Human Resources because I think if we start opening Annex 2 and having this discussion, we are going to have the same debates that we had in ADM. Thank you.

>> CHAIR: Does the floor agree with this proposal? Saudi Arabia, please.

>> SAUDI ARABIA: Thank you, Madam Chair. There is no need to send this Document again to the Working Group in charge of human resources and financial resources. On the basis of what has been done, the Annex has been adopted. It's true, things are not very clear and it was not reflect the properly in the report. Maybe the best way forward is to delete the word market from sub Paragraph number 1 in the table shown in Annex 2. I think it's useless to send again this Document to the Working Group of the Council, because the Working Group has sent it directly to you here, so there is no need to send it back, Madame.

>> GHANA: Thank you. The Chair said this much before as we all remember, there was gaveling of this Document. Obviously after that there was consent with the first row. That was the point. So if there was any consent, it is with the first row. Ghana has the problem with the first row everything back to elsewhere. So if there is consensus with the first row, that should be reflected as such, and if we are taking the next step of dealing with the first row, let's deal with the first row, because if there were any reservations it was with the first row of the Annex 2. So for this this is my recall of what happened and I don't think it would be fair to bundle everything in Annex 2 to elsewhere just because of the first row. Thank you, Madam Chair.

>> CHAIR: Thank you, Ghana. I would propose you 10 minutes of break with the coffee. And we can resume with the countries that want to take the floor. Thank you.

(Coffee break)

>> CHAIR: Please, we can start.

As regards this item, 14.10, Saudi Arabia, we request can have some agreement about this?

>> SAUDI ARABIA: Thank you, Madam Chair. We have attempted to carry out consultations with a number of honorable colleagues. We have not been able to come with a clear agreement in this context, however, during the last session of the Council, and in a spirit of cooperation in order to reach a consensus, maybe it might be appropriate that we delete the first part of Annex 2 and we refer to that as one of the Paragraphs that, of clarification before we come to a recommendation.

I think this is a solution which could gain consensus and that we do not refer the case back to the Working Group, could the Council on financial and human resources.

>> CHAIR: Thank you, Saudi Arabia. The floor agree with this proposal? USA.

>> UNITED STATES: It's been quite helpful to have the text on the screen, and for all propose apples to be reflected in edits to that text. For us, Annex 2 was not agreed and we had particular difficulty with the motion of continuing study and discussions on International Numbing Resources. It wasn't simply the matter of market price, but the whole concept as we clearly stated in our input Document to this meeting.

So deletion of the first row was something that we had presumed was the case in our discussion and we offered that idea, but actually that didn't happen during the meeting, and at the end of the day, we didn't all agree on Annex 2, but to move the concept of continued study on International Numbing Resources from a table to a Paragraph form would not meet our needs, Madam Chair. Thank you.

>> CHAIR: Can I propose to the floor the possibility to delete the 14.10? As a possible way forward? Does the floor agree? UAE, please?

>> UNITED ARAB EMIRATES: Thank you, Madam Chair. We do not have an objection, but if we delete this Paragraph, what will happen with regard to Annex 2? Could you provide us with some clarification, please? If we delete the Paragraph, this means we need clarifications with regards to the destiny of Annex 2. Are we discussing Annex 2? Please clarify, Madame, before we delete this Paragraph. Thank you.

>> CHAIR: I will propose you to stop the discussion about this 14 item and we go ahead to the next one and then we can come back after, if you agree. So if you can see, we have not so much time today, so we have a number of resolutions and recommendations to approve. So we can go to 15. You can read it on the screen. Do you agree on the text you can read on the screen? Item 15 approved. Thank you. 16. Do you agree with the 16.8 and 16.9 you can see as recommendation? Thank you, 16 item is approved. Next one is 17. Do you agree on the text? 17 is approved. 18? 18.2. Do you agree with this? 18 is approved. 19. Do you approve, 19 is approved. Thank you. 20., 20.7, do you approve the text? 20 is approved. 21? 20.9, Russia, you have the floor.

>> RUSSIAN FEDERATION: Thank you, Madam Chair. Very briefly, under 19 we sent an editorial amendment. We hope it will be taken into account.

>> CHAIR: ADM, please.

>> ADM: Yes, thank you Chairman. There is a (rev 2) to the Document, so we need to add the other countries that are listed in the Document C17/79 (rev 2) and we will do this in the rev. Thank you.

>> CHAIR: With this clarification, it's okay? It's approved. So 20.

21. 21.9. It's approved. 22. 22.8. Approved. 23.5. Approved. I'm sorry, 22.6. 24.2. Approved. 25.6. Approved. 26.7, approved. 27.13. Approved. 28.6. Approved. 29.2 and .3. Approved. 30.5. Approved. 31, Australia, you have the floor.

>> AUSTRALIA: Thank you, Chair. As you are aware, this section of the report addresses an issue of immense personal importance to the staff of the ITU, as expressed by many delegations yesterday we need to proceed very carefully and accurately on this matter due to its direct effect on staff here. This is also an item that has brought implications to the staff of the UN system at large, so it is our responsibility to insure that we avoid inadvertently being party to creating any inequities within the UN system as a whole. On this basis I have been asked by the delegations of Russia, U.K., U.S., Canada, Spain, Japan, Germany, Switzerland and France to put forward revised text for this section is that we believe accurately and clearly reflects the discussion of the ADM on this matter. This revised text we were extremely careful to insure that the concern expressed on the significant adjustment that would reach from the ICSC decision with particular with regard to the shortness of time frame that's been put forward for its implementation. We have confirmed the UN system approach it this matter noting the Secretary‑General's intention to work together with his colleagues to find a common system solution that the Secretary‑General indicated he would implement the decision of the ICSC and that Member States were also invited to bring these concerns to the ICSC separately.

I have sent the full text to the Secretariat and would appreciate if it would be displayed on the screen. Would you like me to read the text for the Council?

>> CHAIR: Can you read slowly the text, please.

>> AUSTRALIA: Extensive discussions took place in the committee regarding the decision taken by the International Civil Service Commission on the post adjustment index. Concerns were expressed by Council members and member state observers with regard to the significant adjustment that would result from the Israel CSC decision with particular regard to the short time line for implementation.

Document C17.118 was presented to the ADM but did not receive consensus. Some Council members and member state observers also affirmed the role of the ICSC to regulate and coordinate the conditions of the service of staff in the United Nations common system including on the matter of post adjustment. Some Council members and member state observers stressed the importance of avoiding decisions that could create disparities among different agencies of the UN common system.

Having stated clearly that the mandate of the ICSC under its statute was not challenged by ITU management, the Secretary‑General confirmed his intention to carry out due diligence on the final decision of the ICSC prior to its implementation taking account of its impact on existing staff to draw again the attention of the ICSC to all of the concerns already expressed, in particular with regard to the established measures and, therefore, to discuss with the ICSC at its 85th session in July 2017 in coordination with the other Geneva‑based organisations more long‑term measures to be implemented at a UN system wide level.

While noting the intention of the Secretary‑General in this regard, the committee stressed that any solution should be sought on a common system basis. The Secretary‑General indicated that he would implement the decision of the ICSC within the time lines established by the ICSC. Member states were also invited to bring these concerns to the ICSC. Thank you, Chair.

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

>> SAUDI ARABIA: Thank you, Madam Chair. In all truthfulness, the statement or the intervention was long and there were many changes and amendments. We hope that we can reflect in the original state this text and so that we can follow and track the changes brought about because the intervention was long and we lost track of the changes brought about to the original text as we say in English. I just wanted to clarify, Madam Chair, from what I have heard, it seems like this is a statement. If this is a statement, then you have to reflect in it the summary record of the plenary. I just wanted to clarify because it looks like a statement and it does not reflect the interventions that were made by all member states in the Council as though it is just a single statement in one direction, whereas in exchange there was a support for the original Document, 118 and there was a great support for it. And the current status of the text gives the impression that the Council has one opinion and that is incorrect.

And, therefore, we wanted that these amendments can be reflected in the text in a way that we can track the changes that have been brought about the original text. Thank you, Madame.

>> CHAIR: UAE, please.

>> UNITED ARAB EMIRATES: Thank you, Madam Chair. And having listened to the Honorable Delegate from Saudi Arabia, we support that this text has to be presented as a text from the countries that have formulated this Paragraph or this text. And this not be the result reflecting the discussions that took place at the Council. There was no coordination regarding this text, and, therefore, we would like it to be presented as a statement by those countries that formulated that particular text. Thank you, Madam Chair.

>> CHAIR: Thank you. Australia, can you clarify if it's statement or not, please.

>> AUSTRALIA: Thank you, Madam Chair. No, this is not a statement. This was our efforts to more accurately draw out the key elements of the discussion that we understood. Part of my reasoning for including the reference, this text is based on what had been prepared by the, that we have been provided by the Secretariat this morning that was in the Document, so it's adjusting the text that's already there. I'm happy to work with somebody with a laptop to do it and track changes if that's required. I can go do that on the side just now. We added in the reference to Document 118 because we wanted to make sure that it was recognized that that had received discussion, but it did not receive consensus.

I was just trying to be as factual as possible, but maybe we need to say it received support from some member states, but did not receive consensus. It's fine. I have no problem with adding that in. So I can be as helpful as is needed to be to help provide those changes if that's required.

>> CHAIR: Thank you, Australia. India. You have the floor.

>> INDIA: This particular text is not in accordance with the sentiments reflected by the member states, and I do endorse the statement made by Saudi Arabia in this regard. Thank you very much.

>> CHAIR: Thank you, India. Nigeria, you have the floor.

>> NIGERIA: Thank you, Madame Chair. This particular item received an extensive discussion during the admin committee meeting. Madam Chair, if you want to turn your plenary to a drafting group, I think you are going to have problem, and we will stay here until 12:00 midnight and we won't leave here. So I would advise that the text as it is presented by the Chair of the committee be adopted as it is, because it fairly captures what transpired during the discussion, and so I will advise that we take this text because it didn't capture all. It fairly captured, but not all. And so I would advise that we just take it as it is. If there is any of the vision or comment by any administration or any group, it should be captured as a statement in the minutes of the plenary, and not to start modifying this text as it is.

If we are to modify this text as it is, we also have concern and we have a lot of things that we want change on this particular text. So, Madame Chair, as a way forward, I would advise that we take this text as it is, as a promise position and not to start modifying anything. Thank you, Madam Chair.

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

>> CANADA: Thank you, Madam Chair. If it would make it easier, if it would be possible for us to postpone discussion on this item so we can put it in actual tracked changes because what we have done with Australia and other likeminded is to start from the stem that is here, but we do have some amendments. They are not a statement. They are meant to reflect accurately the discussions that we did have. And we will be happy to bring out the transcripts if it is necessary to convince the other members of the Council.

But perhaps that would be the easiest way for us to go forward is to give us, you know, five, ten minutes so that we can reconcile the original text and then put in the track changes so that everybody can see clearly what it is that we have done with this text. Thank you, very much, Madam Chair.

>> CHAIR: We have Kenya, Saudi Arabia, Ghana, please be brief. Kenya, you have the floor.

>> KENYA: Thank you, Madam Chair. At this very hour in your meeting, we can't blow hot and cold over the same set of facts. If something was not, if something has been agreed on by a set of countries and not what was generally discussed and agreed at the ADM, I don't think that at this late hour, Madam Chair, we can condone even a few minutes of giving certain countries to amend what was discussed a factual position that was discussed and agreed.

And so I do second and I would want to move that if indeed there are countries that have differences with what was recorded by the ADM committee, they can and the rules allow them to put their statement as part of your record, but I don't think at this late hour we can, you know, over this same set of facts say that if the consensus was not agreed at the ADM, then refine to another drafting group to sit on it and graft it for this meeting's consideration. I think it's too late in the day, Chair. I would encourage those countries to make those statement as part of your record, but not as part of what came from the ADM. Thank you, Madam Chair.

>> CHAIR: Saudi Arabia, please.

>> SAUDI ARABIA: Thank you, Madam Chair. We had requested to have some follow‑up on the various notifications introduced to reflect the proposals made in the statement read out by the distinguished delegate of Australia. These modifications mean that we will have a new text, an entirely different text from the previous version. It's a quite long proposal and we are also surprised by the intervention of the distinguished delegate of Canada who affirms that we can show the text and introduce the modifications at the same time. If we consider another Paragraph, what we wish to do was delete one word and some delegations reminded us at that time that this meeting could not become a drafting in the committee.

The wording of this text is unacceptable. It should have been coordinated with the other members of this down criminal before the statement was presented. This is a statement or declaration and not a Document reflecting the views which were expressed. Thank you.

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

>> GHANA: Thank you, Madam Chair. 31.1 really reflects that there was extensive discussions. The consensus that was raised where delegates has been captured so if we really want to go anywhere into the transcript and to bring all of these extensive discussions into this report, I don't think we will finish today even with 10 minutes or another full day on that. I think that the substance of this whole report reflects in 31.3 and especially 31.4 that whatever the decision of the ICSC and with the commitment of the Secretary‑General is supposed to implement that decision, and I think that moving forward we can leave with this summary as the ADM and proceed without taking any further time on this. Thank you, Madam Chair.

>> CHAIR: Thank you, Ghana. I will close the list. We have only Spain, Morocco, Philippines, and Australia. Spain, you have the floor.

>> SPAIN: Thank you, Madam Chair. I merely wish to align myself with Australia's request and that of Canada. To have five minutes to put the changes on the screen. You will see that it's not a statement or a declaration. It is practically the same text as we have, but we think that with almost a Paragraph and a half it could in fact better reflect the discussion that we had. It's an amendment which for questions of ease and ease of reading we have presented as a text. We think it could be approved because it is a few amendments that better reflect the discussion. So perhaps we could have those five minutes just to clarify this. Thank you.

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

>> MOROCCO: Thank you, Madam Chair. We support what was said by Saudi Arabia, India, Nigeria, Ghana, the UAE and others, thank you.

>> CHAIR: Please be brief, Philippines, you have the floor.

>> PHILIPPINES: Madam Chair, the late reading of that statement appears to me as a case of when we have to raise a point of order. I feel that the statement is an attempt to amend or in fact a motion to reconsider what was factually agreed upon. It is too late in the day and for that reason and considering that what was factually agreed upon was actually what transpired any late attempt to reconsider would be in the nature of a motion to amend or a motion for reconsideration, which under the rules should no longer be entertained, but I support the view that that statement being a reflection of the statements of the states. That should only be made as part of the record as the statement of those contributing states. Thank you.

>> CHAIR: Australia.

>> AUSTRALIA: Chair, perhaps I can wait for you to respond and then I can ‑‑ are you happy for us to put this into tracked changes to bring back in five minutes?

>> CHAIR: Secretary‑General, please.

>> HOULIN ZHAO: Thank you, Madam Chair. I think that this issue was quite concerned by our staff and also by our Council, and during the last few days we had intensive, extensive discussions and we, two days ago we even talked about possible decisions that we noted that there is some kind of possible time consuming process. So I discussed with my colleagues that I suggest that we should not look for decision because I noted that our Council really whether you support our Document or you have, you have not supported Document 118, but the Council expresses also a good understanding of this pay cut effective to our staff, and appreciate that this issue be brought up, and during my discussion with some of our colleagues immediately after the session, I was very much encouraged by those Member States who said they would not support 118, but they consider that there is indeed an issue for our staff and they would like to help us.

So they even told me that they will work at home to ask the administration to talk to ICSC in their bilateral engagement to encourage ICSC to listen carefully the expressions and concerns from Geneva‑based organisations and staff, and try to do something to help, you know, for example, the implementation process could be put at reasonable length rather than what we just got now. So I really appreciate that cooperation. So I was very pleased with that and I will try also to see the other UN agencies were working the same way.

As I said in my previous statement, you UN agencies based in Geneva do not challenge at all the authority of ICSC, and also UN agencies based in Geneva, the head of UN agencies base the in Geneva, and we would not like to do something this contrary to the UN systems. We don't suggest to move out under UN system, and we do not want to even consider this possibility.

But anyhow, we have to be careful with the possible consequences. If we implement it as the original was suggested that the time that will cause enormous trouble to our staff. So we would very much like to have a chance to discuss with ICSC, but, of course, we know that ICSC is not that kind of opportunity for us to have daily contact and easy contact. So sometimes they have their own procedures and it's not that easy for us to change their procedure. While our member states could have much more chance to convince them, so that I was pleased to hear that our member states would very much like to engage themselves to help us. So that is ‑‑ I think that so far to my knowledge, the text that we saw on the screen, I understand it's the text my deputy very much came with our team and with members to present this to the meeting as just a factual record.

I don't see any trouble with this text, but, of course, I also note that there is new text. With my short time, I do not have a chance to study those details, but anyhow, I would very much appreciate if you would trust us and we count on you, and if we work together, I think we will try to, you know, to do the maximum to help our staff and we will respect in any case, respect the authority of ICSC or implement their decisions as we indicated here.

So that I would very much hope that we would not take too much time for those awarding exchange here or there, but let's work together to ask our members, our UN agencies we all try to check the benefit of next two months from now until middle of July to see if we can have some good result by ICSC because that is absolutely critical to the UN organisations and in particular to the UN agencies in Geneva.

So Madame, that is what we would like to just state, but anyhow, we still have the issue on the agenda, so that is, Madam Chair, your leadership to guide us what we do exactly.

>> CHAIR: Thank you, Mr. Houlin Zhao. We have three other countries, Canada, please, you have the floor.

>> CANADA: Thank you, Madam Chair. What has been suggested and requested by Australia who took the floor on behalf of several administrations is the possibility of having five minutes to include some text in track changes that would improve section 31 to accurately and factually reflect the discussion on this item. That's all. Five minutes to improve the text. If we were able to do it on point number 5, I don't see why it cannot be allowed on point number 31. Thank you.

>> CHAIR: Nigeria, you have the floor.

>> NIGERIA: Thank you, Madam Chair. Madam Chair, we want to still emphasize our position that even a dot will not be accepted to be change the on this particular Document. And we stand by our position and we will not accept any break even if it is one minute to go and do any track changes. If there is any observation by any administration or group of administration, it should be added as an Addendum to your minutes. Thank you, Madam Chair.

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

>> CHINA: Thank you, Madam Chair. In our view, we think we should maintain the current text because it is a description of facts. Some countries' statement or rather some modifications from countries can be considered as a statement in the records. Thank you.

>> CHAIR: Thank you. Now, we have the last one, several member states, Iran, please.

>> ISLAMIC REPUBLIC OF IRAN: Thank you, Madam Chair. I think it's not a matter of 5 minutes. It may take 5 or 50 minutes. It is substantive issues. Chairman, those people who were enduring in 90‑24 there was situation when Mr. Toure was Secretary‑General. ITU made small changes for one year which was not fully consistent, but it was latitude given to Secretary‑General. And, he did that. Either Mr. Guio or the head of the personnel department could enlighten the people. Chairman, it is easy to cover this point. You add a small passage, a small Paragraph in the line when saying that Secretary‑General confirmed. You say that Secretary‑General while taking into account comment made in the Council 2017, then confirmed. Then you give this latitude to him to perform his due diligence, and that is nothing more than due diligence.

The decision of CICC was not put in question. The confirmation of UN system was not in question. A small latitude, a small flexibility given to perform due diligence, take into account the comment made during the Council, Chairman. I don't think that five minutes or ten minutes will resolve the matter because the problem is substance, and we have to have. If we approve this one, we put a lot of pressure and problem to the general Secretariat to deal with this staff during now and several months coming during this very, very critical period before PP and before the WRC and many other issues. Let us consider this as a very delegate and sensitive issue, and people should really be conscious of that, not make harsh decision, Chairman. Put that sentence that I suggested while taking into account comments made during the Council 2017 on the matter and continue confirm that. Thank you.

>> CHAIR: Thank you, Iran, now, we have the Vice Chair who want to propose you a possible way forward, please.

>> VICE CHAIR: Yes, if we take 31 and we say in the report that there is no ‑‑ there wouldn't be any 31 in the report, and just say there is no consensus. We have 40 minutes left. I do not really understand why we have spent 1.5 hours on this item.

>> That's the reaction.

>> CHAIR: Australia, please.

>> AUSTRALIA: Thank you, Madam Chair. I can answer that question. We have spent a lot of time on this because it's a very serious issue. It affects the personal lives of staff in the ITU Secretariat, and across Geneva, and possibly globally. It is a very important issue, and we want to get it right. I offer my apologies for not having provided these, this text in track changes. Perhaps that would have been much more helpful. I was limited by whatever iPad I have here to be able to do that as I worked in the cafeteria today, I now have that Document in track changes, and I can forward that to you if that would be of help.

>> CHAIR: Canada.

>> CANADA: Thank you, Madam Chair, the changes that are proposed in the text, of course, we cannot see them because they are in the track changes, but we now have reconciled the two text together. They reflect things that actually happened in our discussions. We were presented with decision, a proposal for a decision in Document 118. There was no consensus for adoption of this. This is not reflected in the Paragraphs that were proposed by the Secretariat in the report.

Many states mention the need for or reaffirm the role for the ICSC in terms of regulating and coordinating the conditions of service of staff in the UN system. This is not reflected in the report. So these changes are not a declaration. They are factual changes of things that were discussed during our session on the 23rd. Therefore, we will put them forward in track changes in a few moments if you have already received them, and we will be happy to go through them one by one. Thank you, Madam Chair.

>> CHAIR: Saudi Arabia, please.

>> SAUDI ARABIA: Thank you, Madam Chair. As regards the last intervention, we would like to reiterate what was already explained by a number of Distinguished Delegates. It is very difficult to prepare a statement to begin to introduce modifications, especially since we haven't had the opportunity to look at the text of this statement, no consultations were carried out. Therefore, it is not possible to come to an agreement on this statement, which is going to be presented with the track changes. Thank you.

>> CHAIR: Please, for the moment, I will propose to freeze this discussion. We have other items to approve until a few minutes. So I would propose for the moment to stop and go ahead.

>> CHAIR: We can consider the point 32. There is a consensus for this point as you can read on the screen. 32 is approved. 33. 33.2. There is the consensus. Approved. 34. 34.20, approved. 35.3, approved. 36.5, approved. 37.22, approved. 38.7, approved. 39.5, approved. 40.4, approved. 41.5, approved. Oh, sorry. Please, you have the floor. Germany.

>> GERMANY: One of the problems of a particular item that we still, is still open item 14 is exactly caused by the speeds of decision making. I have no problem to accept approving this kind of recommendation, but if a recommendation in this report refers to an Annex, we should at least be aware that there is an Annex and we should have also a look to the Annex. Thank you, Madam Chair.

>> CHAIR: The Annex was approved by ADM as regards to 40.4. 41.5. Approved. 42.3, approved. 43.8, approved. 44.3, approved. 45.4, approved. 46.3, approved. 47, approved. 48.2, approved. Annex A, approved. No. UAE, please.

>> UNITED ARAB EMIRATES: Thank you, Madam Chair. As regards the Annexes, these are documents which have already been adopted. They were adopted when we were adopting the recommendations. Do we need to adopt the Annexes?

>> CHAIR: Thank you. Please, ADM, you have the floor.

>> ADM: Thank you, Madam Chair. We did approve these in the ADM. My understanding of our work procedures that now we have to present them to the plenary to approve, but I think you can just say approval A‑K, and Annexes A‑K, and that should do it, but I recall we have already approved Annex A, B, C, already earlier. Thank you.

>> CHAIR: As said, the Annex A was approved before with the election of point 9, so now we can go to B, Annex B. And C. D. Italy.

>> ITALY: I'm sorry, I think Germany was referring when you approve a recommendation, the corresponding Annex so in this case it was not Annex A, it was Annex K, what is pretrial for these particular things. And the intervention of UAE say that this has also been endorsed approved at the admin level, so we are now looking at the last recommendation with Annex K.

>> CHAIR: Now, we have Annex K. Do you want to approve? Approved. As clarification we have approved all of the Annex until letter K. Well, before the final approval of this, we have to point, the first one is 14.10, and Saudi Arabia, can you speak about this?

>> SAUDI ARABIA: Thank you, Madam Chair. What would you like exactly from me, Madame, can you explain? Now that you have most of what we saw in the Document. What is your question, Madame, please? What's requested from Saudi Arabia, match, please?

>> CHAIR: 14.10 is possible and another solution about this?

>> SAUDI ARABIA: I would suggest to delete 14.10 and deleting the first row of Annex 2 and this is, I think, the possible extent promise that we offer on this topic. We heard that there was difficulties with the word market. We proposed to delete the word market. And now as a way of a compromise, we could stakeout the whole row along with 14.10. I hope this is acceptable.

>> CHAIR: Thank you. UAE.

>> UNITED ARAB EMIRATES: Thank you, Madam Chair. Now, I'm turning to English. Thank you very much Madam Chair and after hearing the dished delegate from Saudi Arabia and your proposal, we don't want to continue the discussion so I believe the last proposal from my distinguished colleague from Saudi Arabia is acceptable to us as well. Thank you, Madam Chair.

>> CHAIR: Thank you. US.

>> UNITED STATES: Thank you, Madam Chair. So we are back to discussing the nature of Document 67 and making revisions to it. It's not clear to us that we are approving Document 67. If that's what we are doing when we say consider and endorse the plan as the basis for improving the stability and predictability of the financial base and so on, I think that the recommendation right now is focused on Annex 1. So I'm not sure what value there is for editing Annex 2 when we are not taking any action on that in our recommendation. So until it becomes clear how Annex 2 plays a role in the recommendation, it's hard for us to judge what we are doing here, Madam Chair. Thank you.

>> CHAIR: Thank you. Germany.

>> GERMANY: Thank you, Madam Chair and I would like to thank the Distinguished Delegate from Saudi Arabia. His proposal with regard to the Annex 2 is one of my three alternatives and so far we agree to his proposal. Thank you.

>> CHAIR: Saudi Arabia?

>> SAUDI ARABIA: Thank you, Madam Chair. Just in response to my distinguished colleague from United States, the recommendation states that we endorse the plan. The plan includes Annex 1 and 2. So in order to include Annex 2, we request to delete 14.10 and to accommodate the concerns by the United States, we also requested to delete the first row as indicated by our distinguished colleague from Germany. I hope this clarifies. Thank you.

>> CHAIR: Thank you. U.S. Is that acceptable for you, this possibility?

>> UNITED STATES: Thank you, Madam Chair. It appears so, and then you would change the reference to Document 17/67 to 17/67 (Rev. 1). Thank you, Madam Chair.

>> CHAIR: Thank you. We can have the consensus with this. Saudi Arabia?

>> SAUDI ARABIA: Thank you, Madam Chair. C17/67 (Rev. 1), it won't include the deletion of the first row of Annex 2, so I just need ‑‑ I mean, to ‑‑

>> CHAIR: This is the proposal what you say. This is a proposal for a compromise. U.S. can you repeat, please?

>> UNITED STATES: If we are going to delete the first row of the table in Annex 2 in Document 67, we will need to produce a revision of Document 67 that will show that row struck out. And when we do that in order to take it into account in the recommendation, we will have to refer to Document 67, revision 1, and that will be the only change in the Document is that row will be deleted. Thank you, Madam Chair.

>> CHAIR: Saudi Arabia.

>> SAUDI ARABIA: Thank you, Madam Chair. I think we cannot change the input Document from the Secretariat. We amend that Document. So ‑‑

>> CHAIR: It's a revision. Mr. Ba.

>> MR. BA: Document C17/67 has not been revised. So if the proposal is to make modifications to Annex 2 of the Document, then it goes without saying that this will be Document C67/17 (Rev. 1) which will take account of this modification as proposed. Thank you.

>> CHAIR: Do you agree? Okay. UAE, please.

>> UNITED ARAB EMIRATES: Thank you, Madam Chair. Well, if we say Document 67 (Rev. 1) this might give an impression that the Secretariat modified the Document, not the meeting. So this will create confusion in the future. So the author of the Document, he revised the Document, but for the meeting, what we can mention in this Document, we can clarify with regards to Document 67 Annex 2, the first row was agreed by the meeting to be deleted, but amending the Document, this will give to the reader that the Secretariat modified the Document, not the meeting. If Mr. Ba can kindly clarify, thank you.

>> CHAIR: Mr. Ba, please.

>> MR. BA: Indeed it goes without saying that the Document of the Secretariat will be modified subsequent to a proposal from the Member States. Upon the proposal of the Member States, the Secretariat proposes to issue a new Document C17/67 (Rev. 1) in which Annex 2 will be revised taking in account the statements of Member States at this plenary session. Thank you.

>> CHAIR: Is acceptable, this proposal of the Secretariat to change the Document? Ghana, please.

>> GHANA: Thank you, Madam Chair. I understand the proposal from the U.S. and the response given by the Secretariat as to it being a modified Document, but to also reflect the response to the U.S. on the question of what are we doing here, and to reflect in the recommendation that Saudi Arabia said the plan is Annex 1 and Annex 2, but in the recommendation, we only see it as Annex 1. I don't know whether for clarity we could say as aligned in the Document. I don't know if that could give clarity for whoever may not be in this meeting to know what the plan really was. Thank you, Madam Chair.

>> CHAIR: Thank you. UAE?

>> UNITED ARAB EMIRATES: Thank you, Madam Chair, and we support the last intervention, and this was the agreement, actually, that we include both Annexes, but a question for clarification, Madam Chair. I'm not objecting with regard to this Document be revised or not, but if this was a contribution submitted Friday a member state, request the meeting revise a contribution from a member state? If you can clarify that procedural, is it possible? Maybe a ‑‑ needs to be created. If that's the objecting of the meeting and this is the ways forward, I'm not objecting, Madam Chair. Thank you.

>> CHAIR: Thank you, for the answer. Mr. Ba, please?

>> MR. BA: Perhaps we could find a compromise in 1410, if the plenary agrees we could say Annex 2 of Document C17/67 is modified in its Annex 2 and Annex 2 will be attached to this report taking account of this proposed modification requested by the plenary. Thank you. U.S.A.

>> UNITED STATES: Thank you, Madam Chair. For us the cleanest way to do this is produce a revision of Document 67. That way if someone looks at Document 67 and all of the documents of this meeting, they will see the revised Annex. With respect to the proposal of the distinguished delegate of Ghana, the reason why only Annex 1 is referenced in the last line of the recommendation is because Annex 1 is entitled principles for resource mobilization. Thank you, Madam Chair.

>> CHAIR: Thank you. Saudi Arabia.

>> SAUDI ARABIA: Thank you, Madam Chair. We support what has been said by Mr. Hasan Ba. We think the proposal by Mr. Ba reflects the facts and events and work we have carried out so things are clear in the future. We accept what has been said by Mr. Ba. Thank you, Madame.

>> CHAIR: So the item 14 as according to the proposal of the Secretariat, Mr. Ba, is acceptable for you? We can approve it? USA.

>> UNITED STATES: Thank you, Madam Chair. Then it will be necessary to edit what's on the screen for approval because it no longer reflects what was proposed. Thank you, Madam Chair.

>> CHAIR: The ADM, please.

>> ADM: Thank you, Madam Chair. I understand procedural delegates' concerns, so perhaps the way forward is ‑‑ I'm just reading the last sentence, consider the principles outlined in Annex 1, and the title of Annex 2, and you create a new temporary Document. So the next temporary Document, and that way you are not revising Document 67, but you are creating a new temporary Document because you have modified the original Document. Thank you.

>> CHAIR: Saudi Arabia, please.

>> SAUDI ARABIA: Thank you, Madam Chair. We think the proposal presented by the Secretariat is easiest and simplest. We can include something, consider the principles outlined in Annex 1 and Annex 2 as amended. And Document Number two, Annex 2 in the Document. And we need to delete 14.10.

>> CHAIR: US, considering the hour we are now, do you agree?

>> UNITED STATES: Madame Chair, I'm afraid the proposals need to be fleshed out on the screen, so in order to try to help, perhaps if where you see a semicolon you put a full stop in the recommendation, and say the committee recommends that the first row in Annex 2 of Document C17/67 be deleted, and that the principles outlined in Annex 1 of Document C17/67 be considered. So that way you capture it all in the recommendation. So I will say it against again. There is a semicolon at the end of the first line. Just put a full stop. Third line.

The committee recommends that the first row in the table in Annex 2 of Document C17/67 be deleted and that ‑‑ now delete and consider the principles outlined in Annex 1 of Document C17/67 be considered. Thank you, Madam Chair.

>> CHAIR: Thank you. Do you agree? So the Council will approve 14.11 as amended. Approved. Thank you very much.

Now we have the last one, 31, do you agree if we show the text on the screen? Canada.

>> CANADA: Thank you very much Madame Chair. Can very have the text, please. 31.1.

>> CHAIR: Saudi Arabia.

>> SAUDI ARABIA: Thank you, Madam Chair. I would like to remind you that there were many interventions from many member states. In order not to put a text which we haven't seen previously before this meeting, we don't think there was a chance or an opportunity for anybody to accept this text taking into account the time left to us, especially that no consultation was carried out with all of the member states and members of the Council. It's very difficult for us to include this text and we cannot start drafting it now and we cannot be turned into a drafting committee now. Thank you, Madame.

>> CHAIR: Thank you, Canada.

>> CANADA: Thank you very much, Madame Chair. I want the original 31.1, please. Thank you. So 31.1 we would like to add at the end of this Paragraph Document C17/118 was presented to the ADM for adoption but did not reach consensus. We would have liked to remove all of the numbers in that Paragraph because as you will notice lots of the signs here in the hallways talk about a 7.5% cut, but unfortunately this might be a bit too complicated of a discussion for this Council, therefore, we would like to add simply that one sentence at the end of the Paragraph. And if we can consider this first change, I will then come back and make other small changes to some of the other Paragraphs thank you, Madam Chair.

>> CHAIR: Nigeria.

>> NIGERIA: As we earlier said, we do not accept any changes to this particular Document and if it's not possible, then maybe we will suspend Document on this particular matter and refer it to the next Council. We will not accept any changes to this Document as far as our administration is concerned, and I believe I'm talking the position of so many administrations. We won't accept any changes and we wouldn't want any discussion on this particular Document to commence at this late hour. And if we insist or if there is insistence, then we should spend discussion and push it to the next Council meeting. Thank you, Madam Chair.

>> CHAIR: Yes, and before I have a question for the interpreters and the captioning services, we are at the end of the day, and so I will request you, your flexibility for ten minutes again. Of course, Madam Chair.

>> INTERPRETER: Yes, Madame Chair.

>> CHAIR: Now, I will close the list. We have UAE, Canada, Germany, Cuba. Canada twice.

China, Morocco, Uganda and Switzerland. UAE, please.

>> UNITED ARAB EMIRATES: Thank you, Madam Chair. As was said by other colleagues, I believe this exercise is time consuming. We are happy to go into this exercise, but given the time that we have, we would prefer if colleagues agree that we approve the current text that we have from the admin committee, and not to try to change this text. Some of the changes we might need to go back to our, I need to go back to my administration for approval of such new text, so it's really difficult, Madam Chair, to accept that many additions that was proposed by our dear colleagues on the text.

>> CHAIR: Canada.

>> CANADA: Just to read again the proposal, at the end of 31.1, a factual line to say Document C17/118 was presented to the ADM for approval, but did not receive consensus. This is for ‑‑

>> CHAIR: It is a point of order. Please. You can stop. Thank you. Kenya, you have requested, please.

>> KENYA: Thank you very much, Chairman. I think a procedural issue has been raised, a procedural and important procedural question has been raised. Now, before a resolution of the Chair's response to that procedural question, we have heard readings or interventions on the issue that is in contention. So could we kindly then have the Chair's ruling on is that procedural question before a delegation is allowed to intervene on that substantive issue. I think that's an important point for us before we then discuss the substance. Thank you.

>> CHAIR: Thank you, Kenya. Now, we made a little consultation with the Secretary‑General and the possible answer will be given by the Secretary‑General, please.

>> HOULIN ZHAO: Thank you, Madam Chair at this late hour, and coming to this very important point, I submit we have this kind of point of order and I think that as we discussed internally, that we heard that there is a group of countries who present their proposed text which is different from what we will see on the screen, and they also opinion that this could be considered as a group statement by this group of countries and to be included in the report that is proposal. And then there is another proposal that we, perhaps, consider changing the text to see what will happen. So that is what we heard so far. There is also a proposal that we should not at this late hour to discuss any change of text at all, that I think that Chairman tried to make things a little bit continued that we do not sure the text modified or stated by the group of countries, but now we just try to see if there is, you know, agreement on this. Of course, this group of countries consider that we will not like to have any changes.

And I think that it will be also possible that the issue is not covered closely yet, and if they have modifications are not that kind of intensive, they are just based on this text to do a little bit factual modification to see that if we can accept the first suggestions by Canada to say that this Document 118 was presented to the Council, there was not consensus. That is also the facts. These kinds of things, actually, in this Document, 31.1, because 31.1 is careful not to mention this 118 proposals, just to try to avoid lengthy debate what kind of language we can put there.

But anyhow, this kind of the first proposal modifications by Canada, you know, in my opinion was not that kind of substantial changes. And of course, we put that in the record of the meeting that could be another way to move forward, but anyhow. At this late hour, I really want you to help us to move this quickly, and as I repeated, ITU will not challenge and have not changed so far and will not challenge the competence of ICSC. We respectfully ICSC and we will implement ICSC's decisions and we also very much like our members to cooperate with us to take the next two months even less than two months to try to work with ICSC to find their final decisions be somehow in favor of the concerns of our staff.

And here I see that the ICSC is willing to consider this because originally they didn't want to consider, but now they express their wish to consider this in July. So we have some chance to see the final decision which might be different from the current decisions. And let's hope we will take best use of this, and, of course, once more again, I would repeat we have implemented respectfully implemented the decisions of ICSC. So Madame Chairman, I think now let you try to work with our Council members to move this quickly. Thank you.

>> CHAIR: First of all, Kenya, you are satisfied from the question of the point of order?

>> KENYA: Thank you very much, Madame Chair. I'm not quite sure I got a response. I think the point was that the issue of whether we could reopen discussions on the text from the ADM had been raised. And to my recollection, a number of delegations that have spoken against reopening discussions to amend it. Now, so that what is on the table currently in my understanding is whether or not to go with the record as is from the ADM committee, and that is the question that is squarely before the Chair so that the Chair would then have to make a ruling going with the record as comes from the ADM committee or I'm admitting allowing the meeting to discuss changes as proposed by certain delegations. So I think I'm not quite sure I have understood a response to that particular question, whether we are taking the record from the ADM as is or we admitting discussions on changes that have been proposed by certain delegations and to my recollection, that is the point of order before you thank you, Chair.

>> CHAIR: I pass the floor to the ADM, please.

>> ADM: Thank you, Madam Chair. Yes, this issue was discussed extensively, and the ADM committee, however, there was no consensus on a path forward on this Document. And that was stated in, at the closing of the meeting that there was no consensus. Thank you.

>> CHAIR: Yes, from a formal point of view, in Document is the report of the Chair of ADM, so it's according to the procedure that the Council can amend it. So we have a proposal of Canada so make an amendment to the original text of the report of the Chair. Then we can have the consensus or not, but from a legal point of view, this is the answer. Canada, do you want to read your sentence?

>> CANADA: Yes, thank you, Madam Chair. Therefore, at the end of Paragraph 3.1, it would read Document C17/118 was ‑‑ Document C17/118 was presented to the ADM but did not, I'm sorry, to the ADM for approval, but did not reach consensus.

>> CHAIR: Please, Canada, we have another point of order, please.

>> CANADA: Can you finish writing, but did not reach consensus, please.

>> CHAIR: It is a point of order, I'm sorry. Please, Cuba.

>> CUBA: Yes, thank you very much, Madame Chair. I'm sorry to interrupt the distinguished delegate of Canada. But for us it's very clear that we are very clear on what the distinguished councilor from Nigeria expressed. What was approved and supported by the distinguished delegate of Kenya through a point of order, we also support this, namely that there is no agreement to incorporate the amendment submit the by Canada at this point. The Delegation of Kenya requested you as Chair to adopt a ruling not to amend the Document as it currently stands and in addition to this, we have to bear in mind what was previously expressed by the Secretary‑General with regard to understanding the minutes of the meeting would include that the Delegation of Canada submitted at the plenary a proposed amendment to express that there was not agreement with regard to Document 118, but at this point we are not in agreement on including this amendment in the Document which we are currently looking at.

Therefore, we believe that the solution provided of including in the records of the meeting, summary records of the minutes what is happening now is the solution. I will explain why the Document that we have on the screen would not have any kind of modification, and the summary records or minutes of the meeting would describe what has happened in the ADM as well as the presentation of the proposal by Canada saying that there was no agreement on Document 118. If this option which is not modifying the text on the screen and including what is expressed by Canada in the minutes of the meeting, if this option is not viable, then we can move to a vote with regard to Canada's amendment.

We stand ready to vote. Thank you very much.

>> CHAIR: Thank you, Cuba, I think it's clear that there is no agreement on the original text, and on the possible amendment to the text, so we can only register all the way success today, and in the record and in the summary records and so I think there is no other way out. Canada.

>> CANADA: Thank you, Madame Chair, and we really appreciate your efforts and we really appreciate the interest of other Council Member States, but we want to ask a very simple question for clarification and hopefully the legal advisor can assist us. Do we Council Member States at the plenary are entitled to submit a request for amendments to the ADM report? Yes or no? Thank you.

>> CHAIR: Yes, the answer was that this on the table is the report of the Chair of ADM, and the Council can propose an amendment, but now we see that there is no consensus on the matter of the amendment. Canada.

>> CANADA: Thank you, Madame Chair. Apologies but my question is not whether the Council has to approve the amendment. The question is whether we have the right to see or suggested amendments on the screen, thank you?

>> CHAIR: My answer is yes. That is right, yes. So now, Australia, now another point of order, please. The interpreters, yes. Point of order, please. Philippines.

>> PHILIPPINES: In regard to the statement of the gentleman from Canada, that everyone here has a right to propose amendment in this case to the record at hand, but before we can do anything substantial, there is a procedural issue on whether or not we are supposed to amend or we need not amend. Therefore, there being no consensus on the issue as to whether we will amend procedural or we will not amend the report which we are now discussing, then as pointed out by the delegate from Cuba, indeed is there is no way for us to move forward or backward, there being no consensus. And the only way for us to have a consensus or a decision on whether we amend or not is if necessary to put this issue to a vote, and that is now the pending procedural issue, do we put this to a vote. The delegate from Cuba said he moves that we put this to a vote, and I am supporting that motion.

Second, the Secretary‑General had made it very clear that the declaration read by the delegate of Canada to the floor was a group statement. That being said, it being a group statement, to let that group statement be part of the record by way of amending what is on record is to make that group statement no longer a group statement, but a statement of the entire plenary now.

As we have said in difference in understanding to the group led by Canada, the only way for us to reflect that that statement is indeed a group statement as pointed out by the Secretary‑General is to put the entirety to quote verbatim that statement as part of the record or Annex that verbatim as Annex to the record, but right now we have this procedural dilemma. Do we amend or we do not? There is no consensus. If there is no consensus, we can neither move either way. Therefore, the only way for us to move now to cut all of this debate here is to put this to a vote. Thank you.

>> CHAIR: Thank you. From a properly point of view, I repeat, there is the right to amend from a member state a text, and this right has been expressed by Canada. Then from a factual point of view, I see and all of us can see that there is no consensus, so I ask to the Council to agree that we can register in the summary record all of the positions expressed now on this matter. Do you agree?

(Applause).

Please, considering the hour, we have Germany, Uganda and Australia and I kindly ask you to clear the list. We can close. Please, can you clear the list? All of you have clean the list? Germany, Australia, and China, please, can you clean the list? We have to close the plenary. Consider the position of the interpreters and all of us also. Germany, Australia, can clean the list? I will insist. Please, kindly can clean the list. Very, very brief, Germany.

>> GERMANY: I think I'm on the list for an hour and you made ping pong with Canada and others. I accept your ruling, but please take note that this kind of leading Council plenary is very critical, in particular this discussion because the time we spend on this procedure we would have had time to look at the text and by the way, the whole afternoon we did nothing else than amending and editing the text. Thank you, Madam Chair.

>> CHAIR: Thank you. Australia.

>> AUSTRALIA: I would agree with my colleague from Germany. This is a very short intervention, but what I would say is what's happened very unfortunately here this afternoon is that a member state of the Union has effectively has been gagged it has not been able to present its view to other member states and we consider that to be a great shame. Thank you.

>> CHAIR: Cuba, you are the last one ‑‑ China, I'm sorry.

>> CHINA: Thank you, Madam Chair. I really want to thank you for making such a ruling or decision. Actually the atmosphere just now was really not good under which in our view a consensus would be impossible to be reached. Therefore, I think you made a very timely ruling and we hope to see it seen more harmonious atmosphere in our discussions in future meetings. Thank you.

>> CHAIR: Thank you. Now, we are finished all of the items of today. And the Secretary‑General, please.

>> HOULIN ZHAO: Thank you, Madam Chair. For this issue, we have this kind of unfortunate situation, but, however, I still see that our Council unanimously understand the problems of this last decision by ICSC to have this salary cut. And you have tried very hard to help us to encourage the Secretary‑General to continue to work with other UN agencies and with the ICSC to try to get some solutions. And we also noted that the ICSC itself has shown its flexibility to have this be back on their agenda for the discussion in July. So that we still have two months to go, and I'm very, very much encouraged by our members that you try to have bilateral engagement contact with ICSC to help.

So that is I think basically I see that we all have this kind of understanding and action. And I would like to also assure you that as Secretary‑General for ITU, one of the UN Geneva‑based organisations, we have absolutely cautious about our steps because we are still negotiating with the ICSC and we don't know what could happen, but one thing is clear, we are staying with the UN. We are staying with UN family, and none of Geneva‑based UN agencies want to do anything alone.

So that we will keep a close connection among ourselves and keep close cooperation with our membership and to see how can we take the best of next two months to have some result being in favor of our staff. The expression by a group of countries that they are related discussions and I think we got the statement, and I see that basically they are still in the same line, and I also worry a little bit that if we continue to differ, we might need another one hour. So this kind of rulings by the Chair, I think it's good to say by the Council, all of us, but I would like to assure you that all for opinion, all for concerns for our members will be taken in due consideration and we will pay high extensive high attention to all of the opinions expressed by everybody, and we will be very careful to work with all partners concerned for the next two months to see how can we make things, you know, that forward. And we will come back to give you a report that we will not try to hide anything from you.

So we count on your understanding. We couldn't on your support. And we invite you to help us one way or another to encourage the ICSC to take good account of our concern and opinions. So, Madam Chair, that is what I would like to add at this moment. Thank you.

>> CHAIR: Thank you very much, Mr. Houlin Zhao. I would like to thank the interpreters and caption services for their patience and flexibility, but I must ask you some passion more for some time, the time enough to close this session of the Council, please.

>> INTERPRETER: Certainly, Madam Chair.

>> CHAIR: Thank you very much. Now, as we know, we have determined all of the agenda items for Council 17 and so I would now invite you to look at a nice movie prepared by the Secretariat for when, please, to the movie, yes. Okay. So we are good person, so no movie, and I can invite the Secretary‑General to deliver his closing remarks, please.

>> HOULIN ZHAO: Okay. It's very late in the day, so let me just start our closing plenary by my closing remarks. Excellencies, distinguished councilors, ladies and gentlemen, after several days of hard work I'm honored to take the stage one more time to thank all, to thank you all for your active participation. The debate has been lively and sometimes quite hot, and the results are here, and in my opinion they are good.

We can all be proud of the spirit of cooperation and the sense of family that have prevailed over the past weeks. We can be proud that this Council has been led by two distinguished leaders, two outstanding women, Dr. Eva Spina of Italy and Mrs. Vernita Harris of the USA who have shown true leadership. As we know, usually with a lady, there is always a man. I wish to thank three men, His Excellency, Mr. Rachid Ismailov of Russia, Vice Chair of Council. Mr. Abdourahmane Toure of Mali, and Mr. Dirk‑Olivier Von Der Emden of Switzerland for their support and contribution to Council 2017. I will point out that 28% of delegates at this year's Council session were women delegates. This is exactly like last year. I would encourage all delegations to make more efforts for next year.

Now, I'd like to take a moment to mention a few results of council 2017. I'll start with the approval of the draft budget of the Union for 2018‑2019. Council 2017 also approved the four‑year rolling operational plans for the three sectors and the general Secretariat for 2018‑2021.

And it established the Council Working Group on the elaboration of the strategic and financial plans for the Union for 2020‑2023.

I also want to mention your decision to improve the rollout of the ITU plenipotentiary Conference, the supreme organ of the union. To that end, I want to thank the UAE for hosting the upcoming PP‑18 in the City of Dubai. We will start our preparations for this important Conference very soon. Thank you to those of you who decided to increase your contributory unit to ITU by 2018. I appreciate and thank China for announcing that it will increase its contribution by an additional 6 contributory units. I now like to encourage all of our members to do the same if possible. Ladies and gentlemen, distinguished councilors, many more important decisions were taken during the Council. I won't list them all. It would take too much time, but I want to thank you for your understanding of what ITU staff is going through because of the projected pay cut, and for giving us full support to continue to work with ICSC.

I know many of you, especially those Member States who are members of ICSC will take this up bilateral and ITU staff and I count on all of you. As I mentioned, in our opinions, all proposals expressed during the debate and even reflected in the message delivered to us by a group of countries will be put in our high attention. We are very grateful to you for your recognition of our efforts and progress in the efficiency and effectiveness of the Union for the confidence that you continue to show in us. Rest assured that we will continue our efforts to implement the decisions and agreements adopted by Council 2017. We will continue to do our utmost to serve our membership.

In closing, I would like to extend my congratulations to Chairman Madame Eva Spina, of Italy. Madame Chair, your excellent understanding of the topics combined with the remarkable calm with which you've managed the debates are appreciated by all delegates. Your tact and leadership in conducting the complex business of this Council was instrumental in bringing it to a successful conclusion. In just a moment, I will present you with the ITU medal and certificate for your outstanding service to the Union. I want to thank all councilors and delegations for your active contribution and participation in Council 2017. My sincere thanks to all of the Chairs and Vice Chairs of the Council Working Groups for your efforts during this Council. Thank you to all administrations who hosted coffee breaks and receptions and to Switzerland for the wonderful excursion last weekend.

Finally, I would like to thank my colleagues, elected officials for their team spirit and cooperation, all ITU staff who have been involved with the Council, and who have worked tirelessly behind the scenes and all the interpreters and captioners who have made possible our interactions during the entire Council. And with that, I thank you all very much and I wish you all a very pleasant and safe journey home. So now, Madame Chair, I will would like to present ITU medal and certificate to you.

(Applause).

>> CHAIR: Thank you very much. Thank you very much, Mr. Houlin Zhao, for your words and now in my final remarks, it will be brief, I will highlight only three points, the first one is last year Julie said, and Julie I want to thank because you were a role model for me this year. And last year she said that it was a historical moment for the Council because there were two women on the Council podium, the Chair and the Vice Chair. And this is true. But this year we have two women again, the Chair of the Council and the Chair of the ADM, Ms. Harris, so I hope that these can, the female presence on the podium of the Council can be a new tradition of the Council, and not only a single moment. And as the Canadian councilor now he was not here, but as he said more times in these days, the gender equality is a priority. So you have this possibility in the future, and this is my last suggestion for the Council this year. And the second point, I want to highlight to thank all of you for your spirit of cooperation and your support, and thanks to this that we achieved a great number of results and objectives, not all, and today we see it, but a great number of objectives.

And so this is because of you and because of your goodwill. And then I will thank all of the Chair and Vice Chair of ADM, the Council Working Group, the expert group on ITR, and especially the ad hoc groups. They made a great job for all of us and to solve the problem raised during our discussions. And then I want to thank also the Vice Chair, Mr. Ismailov and Mr. Malcolm Johnson, the three Directors, Mr. Rancy, Mr. Lee, and Mr. Anu, and also the Secretary‑General Mr. Houlin Zhao, and all of the Secretariat.

All of them made a great job for us, and special remarks let me say is for Doreen Bogdan. She was at my side for all of the time, and with her continued support for me, so thank you very much, Doreen. And special remarks for the interpreters and the captioning services, especially today with their flexibility. Thank you very much.

The third point is this, I am Italian and I would like to close the Council with an Italian word. I know that Italian is not one of the official languages of the ITU, but I'm sure you can understand it, the word is Ciao.

Thank you very much.

(Applause).

Thank you very much. Now the floor is open. Please be believe for the interpreters, please. Before this, we have ‑‑ I have the pleasure to give the floor to the Minister kindly recognized to take the floor before the end of the council session 2017 for his closing remarks, please be brief.

>> MINISTER: Madame Chair, I need five minutes and if there is no consensus, I am more than willing to withdraw from talking tonight. The officers and personnel of the Union led by Secretary‑General Houlin Zhao and Mr. Johnson, the various members of the delegations from various sovereign states, my friends, ladies and gentlemen, gratitude, it is said is the mother of all virtues. Thus for the City of Geneva and its people, to the officers of the ITU, the Secretariat, thank you for giving us the comforts of home, away from home. We simply cannot thank you enough. To the delegates of the various sovereign states here present, thank you for the learnings and for the education we have had conversing and interacting with you in and out of sessions.

It pays that we are diverse, that we are different from one another. Indeed, our diversities even in our thoughts and ideas as what happened tonight complete us. Indeed our perfection lies in others in our constant search and drive, through our perfection and excellence we thank you who by interaction with us, even during this passionate divergent and sometimes conflicting discourse, make us complete, particularly in our search for the universal truth.

What does it profit us when we say thank you? When we say the simple phrase we praise the good Lord because God in his ways unfathomable have showed you his blessings through the interpretation of your fellow man. In our discourse in the heat of passion, some pains may have been caused albeit in good faith. We ask for your kind understanding that you forgive. Forgive not that you want to forget because the mind simply cannot let go immediate pains. Forgive because by the simple human act we bring internal peace to ourselves and to others.

As sovereign nations we have our goals and dreams, so also our Union. Do not give up our dreams for if we do, we die. In our pursuit of this lofty dreams to be of service to humanity, never regret things that we did not do because we should not, and, therefore, we must not. Rather we must regret every moment of things which should have been done but we did not.

A noted composer wrote, we had joy, we had fun, we had seasons in the sun. And my heart is saddened because it's parting time. Our session ends as you prepare for your bittersweet journey to home, bitter because of our parting, and sweet is where the home is where the heart always is may I read to you a prayer, a poem of free verse entitled an Irish blessing. And I quote this when you go back to your home. May the road rise to meet you. May the wind be always be at your back, may the sunshine warm upon your face, may the rains fall soft upon your fields. And until we meet again, may God hold you in the palm of your hand. On behalf of my country, the Philippines, on behalf of the Philippines, hasta lavista, until we meet again at Council 2018. Thank you for the friendship, and for all of the things that bind all of us. God bless us all. Thank you.

>> CHAIR: Thank you minister.

(Applause).

Saudi Arabia, please. You have the floor.

>> SAUDI ARABIA: Thank you, Madame Chair. On behalf of the group of Arab states and administrations, I would like to thank you warmly and thank the Vice Chair, Mr. Ismailov, for the excellent organisation of this session of Council. My thanks also go to Ms. Harris, Chair of the Standing Committee on Administration and Management, and the Vice Chairs of that committee. We also would like to thank Ms. Bogdan for her excellent help and Secretary‑General, Deputy Secretary‑General, all of the ITU elected officials, we thank them too.

And we thank all of the staff here at ITU who have made our mission easier for us and who have worked to help us to achieve our objectives. We also thank the interpreters and we thank them for their patience as well when our sessions exceeded the allotted time.

We hope we will see you again at the next Council session 2018. Thank you.

(Applause).

>> CHAIR: Thank you very much, Saudi Arabia. Russia, you have the floor.

>> RUSSIAN FEDERATION: Thank you, Madam Chair on behalf of the Russian Federation, we would like most sincerely to thank each and every person who has contributed to the successful work of this Council. Thank you.

>> CHAIR: Thank you very much. Kenya, you have the floor.

>> KENYA: Thank you very much, Madam Chair. Speaking on behalf of the African Group, I would like to particularly thank you, Chair, your Vice Chair. I must admit that when he headed our ad hoc group he was quite humorous, especially against the Russians, but on a more serious note, I want to thank you sincerely for the support that has been accorded to each and every delegations here in our contributions. We also want to thank the various Chairs of the ad hoc groups, the Council Working Groups, and the various that facilitated discussions here, of course, the very important ITU staff. As I have mentioned, the Chairs and the Vice Chairs of the various Council Working Groups, of course, the Chair of the ADM committee who is a personal friend, and her Vice Chairs. We certainly do not want, I had a problem with my staff and I want to recognize the valuable support that we received from the IT team here, certainly the interpreters and other team. We wish you bon voyage. (Speaking non‑English language).

>> CHAIR: Thank you very much, Kenya. Grazia is Italian.

>> UNITED STATES: Thank you very much, Madam Chair. Many thanks have gone around to all of the people on the podium and the interpreters and captioners, so on, I would simply like to return the compliment and say you made us all proud, you and Ms. Harris made us all proud. Thank you.

>> CHAIR: Thank you very much. We have no other comments so I will officially and formally declare the 2017 session of the Council closed.

(Applause).

(Concluded at 1823).