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>> CHAIR: Good afternoon, ladies and gentlemen. And I hope you had a pleasant weekend. And now I'd like to thank Switzerland for hosting much a nice discussion. According to version 9 we can start with C17/55. That is the list of candidature for Chairman and Vice Chairman. Secretary‑General, please.

>> HOULIN ZHAO: Good afternoon. Dear colleagues, yes, like our Chair I would like to extend my personal thanks on behalf of the wonderful excursion yesterday by the Swiss host, and we thank the Director, Philip Metzger and the whole team doing a wonderful job to make this excursion a very, very nice one and they managed to get very good weather. Thank you very much. Madame Chair, I'm pleased to inform you about the result of the consultations. We have quite intensive consultations because there are so many kinds of Working Groups so we needed to add the Vice Chairs there and also the candidate for Chair.

So over the last few days we get very good consultation, and in the end we have the list in document 55 which to my knowledge is just posted on the Web, so you can access to the Web to find this document 55 and it's 55 revision one or 55, revision 1, so please check that document 55 revision 1. You will find the names of candidates for your consideration as Vice Chairman or Chairman of seven different groups. So, Madame Chair, that document is presented to you for your consideration and for your approval. Thank you.

>> CHAIR: So we can open the floor for any comments. UAE, you have the floor.

>> UNITED ARAB EMIRATES: Thank you, Madame Chair. Madame Chair, as regards the Council working group on WSIS, the Arab group would like to indicate the name has changed as the person to be nominated, Mr. Mazied, Saudi Arabia. The name actually is Mansarel Kujari, that's the nominee from Saudi Arabia. Now, secondly with regard to the Council Working Group for Financial and Human Resources, and the Council Working Group on the plans. We have names for these groups. We will submit them before the closure of the session. Thank you.

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

>> UNITED STATES: Thank you, Madame Chair, and thank you for the update to document 55. We had earlier nominated Ms. Vernita Harris for the Council Working Group on Financial and Human Resources, and her name is shown under the Council Working Group for Strategic and Financial Plans. So that should be moved editorially. Thank you, Madame Chair.

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

>> RUSSIAN FEDERATION: Thank You, Madame Chair. We would like to clarify something. Have we understood correctly that all of the current candidates for the post of Chair and Vice Chair are defined for the period up to the plenipot and as a consequence might be pushed forward for the next four year period? We believe that previously there was a distribution between regional organizations and not regions. We would like to return to that previous practice. Thank you.

>> CHAIR: Kenya, you have the floor.

>> KENYA: Thank you very much, Chair. Quite apart from the question raised by the Distinguished Delegate from Russia, and not that I have anything for my region, not that I have anything against one, I know for sure consultations have gone into this, but I see, I see that all of the Vice Chairs from that region for three Working Groups. From Rwanda, I said earlier I have no doubt in the ability of my neighbor, Rwanda to carry the flag of that region, but I suspect that there may be a bit more consultations that are necessary in that regard. Thank you, Chair.

>> CHAIR: Thank you, Kenya. Secretary‑General, please.

>> HOULIN ZHAO: I think that we need further consultation to cover those points. There is one thing quite urgent because tomorrow we will start our strategic Council Working Group and strategic planning and financial planning and there we have Mario as our candidate for the Chairman. And if we can get the agreement to at least confirm this nomination so that he could be Chairman to start the consultation. So can I have your agreement or?

(Applause).

Thank you. We will come back to you perhaps later tomorrow afternoon to have another paper for your consideration.

>> CHAIR: Thank you. Secretary General. Now, before to pass to another document according to the draft management plan, the Council of Philippines wants to take the floor. So, please, Philippines, you have the floor.

>> PHILIPPINES: There were procedural incidents that happened last week during Council which prompts me now to exercise a privilege in the nature of point of clarification. I hope that by raising this we will be able to better conduct procedural conduct of our Council meetings. This is a plea for clarity and reason. This is a plea for substance of a procedure in a plea for the good of the Union. The great Martin Luther King Junior who shocked the world with his I have a dream oration once said the problem in our universe starts when we choose to remain silent on things that matter.

Ecclesiastical preaches that there is a time for everything and a season for every activity under heaven. Yesterday, Sunday, I joined the cruise on the water of Lake Geneva. Beneath the veneer, the surface of a happy face, I was troubled. I was bothered by my concern for our Union. Today I break my peace. I break my silence on one thing that matters most. Even as I now unburden myself to all of you, but I do so with malice towards none and with charity to all.

This is a plea for clarity and reason, a plea for substance over procedure technicality. This is about us and our Council's inability to make a decision or to make action and proposals or contributions made on the floor by involving the lack of consensus rule. No doubt, and I want to be very clear on this, no doubt the rule on consensus or the lack of it is a necessary diplomatic tool to reserve harmony and to avoid discord and division of any organization all for the good of every organization. On this I fully agree.

But if the rule, or any other rule for that matter, desserts the rationale and purpose of its creation, the rule must be re‑examined. I'm not saying that the rule must be taken away. The rule must be re‑examined and examined well. For instance, if in an organization one or two say no or express reservation and then the remaining 98 or 99 in any organization say yes, I ask the question I am not going to make a categorical answer. May we invoke lack of consensus as to negate the wish of the 98 or 99 and paralyze an organization by an inaction? Remember that no decision or action is no better than a decision though imperfect the latter may be.

There is such a thing as learning from a mistake, if mistake there may be, so we can move forward for the better rather than be paralyzed and stagnant by an action. In any event, in the end, what matters the most is the ultimate good of the union, is it an action or decision due to lack of consensus absolute or irremediable. Somewhere in the general rules of conferences, assemblies and meetings of the Union at rule 19, Paragraph 2 is a rule that its proposal should be submitted for decision if necessary by a vote. Let me emphasize this, if necessary and if necessary is a phrase which is addressed to resound judgment, not discretion of the Chair.

If there is reservation that a strong objection on a course of action or proposal which is otherwise good for the Union, may we not just make the reservation as part of the record or report of the case or simply footnote the reservation. Besides rules or laws must be understood and put into action, not by the strict letter of the law, but by the spirit of the law which give it life. Rules or laws cannot be interpreted as to lead to absurd result. All of this consistent with the universal and time honored principle that the interpretation or application of a rule or law, technicality or procedure must yield substance.

Again, this is a simple plea for order and clarity, a plea for reason, for substance over technicality or for the good of the Union. We simply must be discriminating and selective when we involve the no consensus rule particularly where there are got and better alternatives for arriving at decisions or planned course of action. I am resting my case. I expect nor response nor do I request, not now, not tomorrow because by our external actions henceforth in the way we will conduct the affairs of our union, you and I will know. I expect no response now because this plea is addressed to the goodwill in your hearts, to the privacy of your thoughts and conscience, and to the better angels of your nature. Again with malice towards none, with charity to all, cheers for a better union. Thank you for the time and the opportunity to be transparent in sharing my thoughts with you. All I wish is the best for the Union. Thank you.

>> CHAIR: Thank you, Philippines. Your consideration about consensus would be important for all of us, and your statement will be recorded in the summary records. And now, we can pass to the document C17/18 and Ms. Bogdan, can you present this document, please?

>> DOREEN BOGDAN: Thank you very much, Madame Chair. Good afternoon. Ladies and gentlemen, on behalf of the Secretary‑General, it is my pleasure to introduce document 18 on ITU's activities in strengthening the role of ITU and building confidence and security in the use of ICTs. This report summarizes ITU's activities and initiatives in relation to the 2014 ITU plenipotentiary resolution 130. ITU's role as sole facilitator for the WSIS action line C5, and other decisions by the membership on the role of ITU in building confidence and security in the use of ICTs.

As highlighted in section 1 of this document, it is organized around the five pillars of the global cyber security agenda, the GCA and it shows the complimentary nature of existing ITU work programs and facilitates the implementation of BDT, TSB and BR activities in this domain. Section 2 lists activities on assistance on legal measures being carried out as part of objective three of the Dubai Action Plan and taking into account the work of ITU‑D Study Group question 3/2.

In the area of legal measures, ITU collaborates very closely with partners such as UNODC and others that may have expertise in this area. Section 3 lists activities under technical and procedural measures. It includes work by ITU‑T Study Group 17 on topics such as Cloud Computing security, access control, encryption for IoT among others. It also includes work by ITU‑R on recommendations on security issues in network management architecture for digital satellite systems.

Section 4 on organizational structures includes ITU activities related to ITU's work with Member States to provide assistance in their establishment of organizational structures to deal with cyber incidents. ITU has undertaken technical assessments to evaluate the preparedness for the establishment of computer incident response teams, CERTs in 68 countries and we are continuing with the necessary follow‑up actions. We continue to conduct cyber drills with partner countries to enhance communication and incidence response capabilities.

So far ITU has conducted 16 cyber drills in more than 100 countries. A national cybersecurity toolkit is also under development as a multistakeholder effort facilitated by ITU. Section 5 of this document highlights capacity building efforts by the ITU often done in collaboration with partners. These include organising regional cybersecurity fora for all ITU regions, information workshops and trainings. Section 6 on international cooperation highlights ITU's activities in contributing to international cooperation among all stakeholders.

In its role as lead facilitator for WSIS action line C5, ITU organized several events at the WSIS Forum 2016 that facilitated sharing of experiences among stakeholder groups in an effort towards building confidence and security in the use of ICTs. And finally, Madame Chair, section 7 covers ITU activities on the Child Online Protection initiative which was established by ITU in 2008 within the framework of the global cyber security agenda.

Child Online Protection initiative is an international collaborative network for action to promote Child Online Protection worldwide. ITU and its partners continue to work closely in order to advance the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals and in this case particularly SDG goal 16.2 to end abuse, exploitation, trafficking, and all forms of violence against and torture of children. With that, Madame Chair, Council is invited to note the activities of this report. Thank you very much.

>> CHAIR: Thank you, Ms. Bogdan. The floor is open for comments. Brazil, you have the floor.

>> BRAZIL: Thank you, Madame Chair. I'm sorry to bring us to the previous agenda issue, but it's very quick. First, I would like to thank you for the support for Chairing the strategic plan group and to inform you that I have been working with the Secretariat towards our first meeting tomorrow, and I would like to bring you up to date on what we are going to discuss.

We are going to discuss resolution 13/84 that created the group. We are going to make a presentation to align our knowledge on the previous strategic plan and to present the schedule of meetings and the schedule of work. We are going to be reviewing the structure of the strategic plan, and we are going to be viewing the contributions by the advisory groups, RAG, TDAG and TSAG, and we are going to discuss the subject of the first public consultation on what all of the stakeholders wish for the ITU in the period 2020, 2023. So just to inform people that tomorrow we have this meeting at 12:30, I don't know the room yet, but please come ready to discuss these issues that I have just presented. And thank you again.

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

>> ALGERIA: Thank you, Madame Chair. We thank the Secretary‑General for this exhaustive report. We would like to have an explanation with regard to 147, resolution 147 based on 2014. We haven't asked this resolution. Specifically regarding the tools on cyber security under 44, we would also like to emphasize protecting ourselves from cyber attacks and also everything regarding agreements established in this regard. Thank you very much.

>> CHAIR: Pakistan, you have the floor.

>> PAKISTAN: Thank You, Madame Chair. Let me first appreciate activities that ITU has taken with regard to WSIS C5 and effort that has been put into formulating this. What is the criteria of selecting a particular country for technical assessment with regard to establishment of CERTs? Thank you.

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

>> AZERBAIJAN: Thank you, Madame Chair. First of all, we would like to express our gratitude for the extensive report, and we also have several questions, first of which you have pointed out that the ITU together with UN UNDC has implemented legal measures we would like to know what exact legal measures we are talking about and also during the reporting period there have been several cybersecurity capacity reviews in different countries as well as cyber drills and we would like to know the criteria for selecting certain countries for those activities. Thank you.

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

>> UNITED STATES: Thank you, Madame Chair. And thank you Ms. Bogdan‑Martin for the report. We are supportive of the ITU, the cybersecurity capacity building efforts and raising awareness and disseminating best practices for child online safety among Member States and sector members and we commend all of those who worked to produce these results. We would ask that the report to Council 2018 and beyond also include planned future activities in this area. Thank You, Madame Chair.

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

>> UGANDA: Thank you, Madame Chair. We really want to thank the Secretariat for a wonderful report. We have a small request, when we were coming here there was an incident relating to some malware that was going around hitting 99 countries. I want to know if ITU has any statements or want to see whether the things that we have put in place were able to deal with sort of situation that we have. Thank you.

>> CHAIR: Thank you. Are there any comments? Turkey, you have the floor.

>> TURKEY: Thank you, Madame Chair. Although cyber security is a very private issue and the related security solutions are most of the time locally developed international cooperation should also be duly respected and recognized. In this regard, ITU's coordination is valued by Turkish delegation, with special emphasis on the development of some methods that should bring deterrence for Developing Countries especially to acquire the ability to protect themselves from cybercrimes. ITU should develop mechanisms at least training programs should be carried out for the cyber security experts of those countries. Moreover, maybe the best practice could be created by the knowledge and experience can be shared.

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

>> UNITED ARAB EMIRATES: Thank you, Madame Chair. We thank the Secretariat for presenting this report which is quite detailed. Madame Chair, we would like in the future to see a more detailed report with regard to the standardisation sector at the ITU, and especially the committees that are concerned especially Study Group 17 and other Study Groups that are working on such topics. On the other hand, and before the holding of the Assembly that the WTDC in Tunisia and we would like to see the results of the symposium that took place at the same time. Thank you, Madame Chair.

>> CHAIR: Are there any comments from the floor? No. So for the reply, Ms. Bogdan, please.

>> MS. BOGDAN‑MARTIN: Thank You, Madame Chair, and thank you, Distinguished Delegates for the comments. Perhaps I can start and if I can pass the floor to my colleagues in BDT. In response to the points raised by both United States and UAE, we take good note of that, and we will be sure to include more details in the report coming to this Council next year. In response to the point raised by Algeria I believe you were referring to Resolution 174. I was listening in English and I think it came across 147, so I think it was resolution 174, and perhaps for the report next year we could make it clear that we are specifically implementing activities in response to this resolution.

Specifically as part of our capacity building work we are routinely collecting best practices on security, sharing it with our membership, and, of course, we are working closely with other agencies in the UN system each contributing with their areas of mandate and expertise. Pakistan, Azerbaijan, Uganda, Turk had specific questions related to activities carried out by the BDT and if I may pass the floor to my colleague, Kemal, he can answer that. Thank you.

>> CHAIR: We have Cuba who want to take the floor. Cuba.

>> CUBA: Thank you very much, Madame Chair. We would like to thank the Secretariat for the report they introduced. We take note of this report under resolution 130 adopted in plenipotentiary Conference in 2014. We reaffirm the function of the ITU is the only facility of action line C5 of WSIS and on other activities and strengthening the role of the ITU and strengthening the use of ICTs. Madame Chair, the absence of international regulation on the Internet and information security in a multilateral development seriously affects the peaceful use and development of ICTs particularly in countries of the south.

Therefore, we believe it's important to develop legal instruments and compliment to international law for the regulation of activities in cyberspace including the adoption of a common terminology applicable to cyber security. The multiplication of cyber attacks on a global scale constitutes a serious threat which the ITU should pay more attention to. We are concerned by the potential organization of space and increased use of ICTs for purposes of political coercion used to subvert constitutional order which has been established in each country. The principle of sovereign equality, territorial integrity and non‑involvement in internal or domestic affairs of states as enshrined in the United Nations should be applicable to cyberspace.

Therefore, Cuba believes that the use of cyberspace bore provoking conflicts in others. We also note that there is a great danger of a cyber attack by one state on another. There is a need to adopt counter measures including those which could involve the use of and these could include conventional weapons and weapons of mass destruction so we need to look at international multilateral solutions and not constitute limits. In order to deal with this threat, we need to work together, and the role of ITU is crucial.

Madame Chair, cyberspace and access to the Internet should be considered as strategic resources in the common good of humanity. It is crucial to remove obstacles for access to new technologies by Developing Countries. We should address the lack of infrastructure and capacity of countries in the south in order to deal with the challenge of cyber attacks and to strengthen information security and technology transfer for Developing Countries.

There is a need to insure that the benefits of new technologies, particularly information and communication technologies need to be available to everyone, but this needs to be done in a secure way and without any conditions placed on the use of these ICTs by the export and import countries. There is a need to work together to insure that the ITU is a place of peace and prosperity. Thank you very much.

>> CHAIR: Thank you Cuba. And now Mr. Huseinovic you have the floor.

>> KEMAL HUSEINOVIC: Thank you, Madame Chair. ITU continues to help building capacity at regional and international levels and we take technical assessments to the computer incident response teams in 68 countries. As my colleague, Doreen, already mentioned and is continuing with necessary follow up actions. National CERT establishment and improvement is currently under way in Burundi, Kenya, Cyprus after the successful completion of related activities in 12 countries. ITU partnered with the global cyber security capacity centre at the Oxford Martin School and jointly performed cyber security capacity review in Thailand, Sierra Leone and Madagascar. The other question was also about the cyber drills. So let me just to add that ITU continues to conduct cyber drills for its partner countries to enhance the communication and incident response capabilities of participating teams and to strengthen national and international cooperation against cyber threats.

So far, ITU has conducted 16 cyber drills involving more than 100 countries. In the current reporting period international cyber drills were held in Ecuador for June 1st to July 2016, in Tunis, Tunisia for the Arab region 23‑27 May, 2016, and in Mauritius for the Africa region. So maybe I can now pass the floor to my colleague who can give more details about the criterias for this.

>> Thank you, Madame Chair, counselors, in terms of the CERT assessment the process is quite simple. We have actually implemented four phases to our programme to support the establishment of national CERTs. The first phase was assessment as mentioned followed by design and then the actual establishment and possible improvements. The assessment takes a questionnaire as a first step and then possibly a visit to the country to elaborate consists mostly of awareness raising explaining our process for the establishment of the CERT making sure all of the stakeholders in the country are well aware of what a national CERT's role is and how we will implement it.

In terms of the selection of countries to host regional cyber drill, that is an open process that usually follows a drill that took place in the region where countries are invited to ask if they can host the drill, and it's followed by negotiation on the most appropriate place to hold a drill where it will be convenient for all other countries in the region to attend, and it's a discussion depending on the level of support the country can provide about the regional distribution and the dates that are possible as well in view of all of the other events from the ITU and within the region and then we find a suitable candidate through this discussion.

I think there was also a question on, by Uganda on the recent attacks that have made the news. In terms of reporting, we, of course, discussed within the CERTs that we have established the situation, I think it's the responsibility of the CERTs, the national CERTs to take on these matters. They have the ability to analyze the situation, to rapidly see within their country how this will affect them and to take action within their constituency to deal with these issues both from a preventive when the first warning signs emerge, from the preventive perspective as well as the responding to whatever damages may have been inflicted and recovering those damages.

And as part of our programme, we spend a considerable effort in insuring that the CERT teams are joining associations both regional and international through which they can exchange information and also help themselves better prepare for these, for further response to these incidents. I hope this answers the question. Thank you very much.

>> CHAIR: Thank you for your clarification. And now, Venezuela, you have the floor.

>> BOLIVARIAN REPUBLIC OF VENEZUELA: Good afternoon, Madame Chair. And thank you for having given us the floor. The Bolivarian Government of the Republic of Venezuela is interested in continuing to participate in the initiatives undertaken by the ITU to develop policies and plans with the aim of providing recommendations to states on the creative safe use of the ICTs which allow us to create the knowledge society while respecting sovereignty of states. Our Government has been developing an important normative framework to favor the creation of confidence and security in the use of information and communication technologies with a view to the protection of the people of Venezuela and its citizens as a whole. Finally we will align ourselves with what was said by the Republic of Cuba. Thank you very much, Madame Chair.

>> CHAIR: Thank you, Venezuela. Now, Mr. Norsker you have the floor to the answer to Uganda, please.

>> ANDERS NORSKER: Thank you, Madame Chair. To the question for Uganda how the ITU was affected by the recent cyber attack, I want to state that it was a relatively well advanced notice we have got. We had been patching, all of our systems had been up to date. The other advice was have your virus protection in place on all of your devices and advice from the public and private sector is please be careful with email attachments. As I mentioned in my instruction this morning about strategy, we have spent a significant amount in detection and prevention facilities.

We are probably able today to say that we can detect instead of from months and weeks to detect within minutes when things are infecting our networks. We had four incidents which were detected, but without any major damage to ITU. We are working in collaboration within the UN, with regional CERTs, national CERTs, and with the private sector, and we are receiving information every minute. Thank you very much, Madame Chair.

>> CHAIR: Thank you. And now we will propose you to note this rapporteur with all of your comments and I think after the clarification received by the Secretariat and BDT it's possible to note. Okay. Document C17/18 is noted. And now we can pass to the document C17/87, contribution from India, Nigeria, Tunisia, Uganda, Bangladesh, and I will invite the counselor from India to present the document, please. India, you have the floor.

>> INDIA: Madame Chair, thank you very much for giving us this opportunity. We would like to present the contribution from India entitled proposal on Israel IMEI implementation in mobile phone handsets to address security challenges. On behalf of Bangladesh, Nigeria, Tunisia, Uganda, the Indian administration acknowledges the efforts and role played by ITU in building confidence and security in the use of ICTs, referring PP resolution 130 and with regard to international public policy issues relating to the risk of elicit use of ICTs resolution 174.

This proposal aims to escalate the important policy issue on misuse of international mobile equipment identity that is Israel IMEI numbers set in mobile handsets leading to serious security threats. IMEI is uniquely identifying handsets to commit misuse and also to combat counterfeiting, cloning, et cetera, but in reality, Madame Chair, Member States report that it is child's play to reprogramme the change of IMEI code and in a mobile handset in the field. The proposal highlights the need to flag this issue of IMEI integrity, non‑compliance and necessity of monitoring to the GSMA to make IMEI's non‑programmable as per the existing standards.

Noncompliance of IMEI standards in mobile phone handsets is creating vulnerability, counterfeiting and most importantly an issue of security threat for law enforcement agencies. This has become a policy, law enforcement and security issue. Implementation of IMEI in the handset in the factory new would be such that changing the IMEI of the mobile equipment unviable, that is if IMEI is tampered with, as per the existing standard. IMEI shall be unique and shall not be changed after the IME's final production process. It shall reduce tampering, that is manipulation and change by any means which could be physical, electrical, or software.

According to GSMA as IMEI issuing authority has issued its guidelines and entering into bilateral agreements with manufacturers who have to insure that IMEI are secure and have integrity. I have an input officially conveyed from GSMA, Madame Chair, that GSMA retained authority of a security company to track on the IMEI companies, however, it was discontinues. GSMA agreed that good IMEI security is dependent on both compliance as well as monitoring. In India we have instances where several handsets are found with the same IMEI posing the issue of law and order.

Now, how ITU could play a role in this issue? With PP Resolution 174, the Member States have recognized that global cooperation and collaboration between Member States, international organizations and all of the stakeholders are necessary in order to address and prevent elicit use of ICTs. ITU has a moderating and facilitating role under action line C5. The resolution 174 also notes the vulnerability of critical national infrastructures, their increasing dependence on ICTs and the threats resulting from the elicit use of ICTs. It resolves to instruct the SG to continue to raise awareness of the need to mitigate the risks and related threats posed by elicit use of ICTs and continue to promote cooperation amongst appropriate international and regional organizations.

PP Resolution 130 on strengthening the role of ITU in building confidence and security in the use of information and communication technologies stresses that the ITU has a fundamental role to play in building confidence as well as security in the use of ICTs, that as an intergovernmental organization with private sector participation, ITU is well positioned to play an important role together with relevant international bodies and organizations in addressing threats and vulnerabilities which affect efforts to build confidence and security in the use of ICTs.

Madame Chair, the resolution also resolves to continue to work closely with other relevant bodies and agencies within the United Nations and other relevant international bodies taking into account the specific mandates and areas of expertise of the different agencies.

Now, coming to the proposal, proposal A's implementation of the relevant specifications is essential in making the unique IMEI numbers non‑tamperable after production phase. It is imperative to bring the issue for the attention of the stakeholders involved and other international organizations responsible on the subject. Secondly, ITU is requested to flag the issue to GSMA as per its mandate for compliance and monitoring. Considering ITUs role in building confidence and security in the use of ICTs as per PP resolution 130 deputy to security implications involved. Next, Member States are kindly invited and encouraged to take necessary measures to address the programmability of IMEI in the field by taking up the issue with service providers and mobile manufacturers through necessary policy frameworks to mitigate the misuse.

And lastly, Telecommunication Standards Bureau of ITU may continue to study the issue to address the challenges of implementation of 3G PP technical specification and provide necessary guidance in the matter. Madame Chair, the matter has been discussed with ITU Secretariat at length and it has been agreed that a letter to GSMA may be sent by Director TSB preferably rather than Secretariat once the proposal is discussed and agreed in the Council. Thank you, Madame Chair.

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

>> BANGLADESH: Thank you, Madame Chair. We jointly submitted the contributions 1787 with India and others as the problem regarding IMEI is becoming a severe concern in our country like other countries. The counterfeit mobile handsets are creating losses and problems for all stakeholders of the value chain except for the criminals, terrorists and persons involved in illegal business. Government is losing revenue due to nonpayment of custom duties, sales taxes. It is a threat to the public security as phones with invalid IMEI or no IMEI number are potentially attracted for criminal activity and terrorism possible link to funding terror activities.

Manufacturers and contributors are facing unfair competition, loss of sales as price is affected, copyright and trademark infringement, adverse effect on value. Counterfeit sets are lower QRS of mobile telecommunication services through causing laws in data capacity, data transmitting speeds and reduced coverage. And finally, the user faces numerous problems. They face performance degradation, high percentage of dropped calls, access values and other problems. Concerns like reliability, failed warranty, and technical support potential hazard to health like use of hazardous substance, battery explosion, et cetera, are growing.

There are security and privacy issues in the case of counterfeit sets. In case of stolen phone, it is difficult to track the phone invalid IMEI or no IMEI number. Government of Bangladesh is considering implementation of identity register that is EIR in the network by performing other actions on consumer awareness enforcement measures and appropriate legislation changes at the national level, but we think that the issue of maintaining authenticity of maintaining IMEI requires global consensus. We consider the Council to construct the ESP in order to explode the opportunities to coordinate GSMA, GPP and other relevant organizations to insure non‑programmable IMEI numbers in the mobile phone handsets. Thank you, Madame Chair.

>> CHAIR: Thank you, Bangladesh. Philippines, you have the floor.

>> PHILIPPINES: Once again, the Philippines believes that the goals of cyber security can best be achieved by all states acting nationally and cooperating internationally to enhance the security of their own critical infrastructures. Each state must establish a national cyber security programme that effectively criminalizes misuse or abuse of information technology. In this connection, we request the ITU to give importance to the approaches contained in the UNGA resolutions 55/63, and 55/121 entitled combating the criminal misuse of information technologies. An Action Plan may be built premised on information dissemination to inform and spread cyber security principles that members may have already adapted.

Such activities can be amplified and strengthened by recent multilateral efforts to enhance regional cyber security such as those in the telecommunications Forum. Further, the Philippines concurs to the proposal of India, et al, embedded in document C17/87E regarding the international mobile equipment ID or IMEI, and mobile phone handsets to address security challenges.

Indeed IME Israel must be fixed and must not be reprogrammed after its programme because the changeability of the IMEI will create security problems for individuals and any countries national's defense and security. The Philippines reiterates the need for a unique non‑tamperable IMEI for mobile device. This must apply to the network interface card of computers, Internet of Things and other connected devices.

In relation to recent massive cyber attacks through malware and ransomware, IMEI forgery is one of those techniques that a criminal uses to hide his real identity in the commission of cybercrimes. The Philippines proposes in addition to India's proposal to institute measures to protect this IMEIs from forgery and their unauthorized access and use. Cyber attacks are of three general kinds, those which negate the availability of cyber service, those which impairs the confidentiality of data and information, and those which compromise the integrity of data, cyber processes, programs, and systems. Fighting cyber attacks includes building cyber defense walls, intrusions monitoring, and other preventive systems programme.

Criminal cyber forensics collectively is both a preventive and remedial measures to combat cybercrimes. It operates on the premise that crime does pay, that cybercrimes and cyber criminals are traceable and because they are traceable, the criminal must be held responsible and accountable and thus must be punished. India's proposal should be made part of cyber security. It is all about criminal cyber forensics. It aims at preventing and curing IMEI forgeries and the ill effects of its criminal access and use. India's proposal introduces traceability of and the subsequent punishment for criminals who commit cybercrimes. A word of caution though, cybersecurity is meant to protect specific Human Rights such as, one, digital freedom of expression, two, a right to communicate or telecommunicate as an incident of the freedom of expression, under the 1948 UN General Assembly's Universal Declaration on Human Rights and the 2012 UN Council declaration that the right to communicate or telecommunicate is a basic Human Right, and number four, the sometimes conflicting right to privacy.

Ironically, cybersecurity if seriously pursued may, however, stifle and prevent the exercise of this basic Human Right, hence the need for a reasoned and delicate balancing between cyber security and the Human Rights the former seeks to protect. Thus, in the end, the need for us to listen and understand well the advice of Ali Gross in his book Industries of the Future, when summarily he said liberty, our human liberty without security is fragile, while all security without liberty is oppression. Thank you.

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

>> NIGERIA: Thank you, Madame Chair. First of all, we would like to at this point in time thank the Secretariat for the report in their document C17/18. We would also like to commend the administration of India for taking the leading role of C17/87 which Nigeria has graciously endorsed. We also like to thank those administrations that have endorsed this particular document making it a joint contribution. Madame Chair, Nigeria administration notes the zero security implication of changing IMEI numbers of mobile devices after manufacture, and the danger this poses to lives and property, especially with increased cases of terrorism and violence across the globe.

It is our belief that if implementation of IMEI numbers in mobile devices in the factory is such that the changing or tampering with the number renders the mobile device unviable, it will surely go a long way in addressing some of the global security challenges we presently have as well as address and prevent the elicit use of ICTs. Madame Chair, it is in this respect that Nigeria administration endorses and supports the proposals of document C17/87 as outlined in section 10‑13 with particular emphasis on proposal number 11 which is requesting ITU to take up this matter with GSMA and other relevant organizations on the issue of implementing the guidelines due to its security implication in view of the matter to make this number not changeable after the mobile device final production.

Once this particular number is tampered with, it will render the equipment unusable and we note that this tampering should not be done either physically, electrically or even through software. Madame Chair, we would like to also adhere to the Secretary‑General report to the next Council 2018 on the level of collaboration with these organizations as well as any other progress made in this regard. Once more, Madame Chair, I thank you for this opportunity.

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

>> SAUDI ARABIA: I thank you, Madame Chair. Good afternoon to you all. We are grateful to the contributor states of document 87. We would like to associate ourselves with that initiative. Certain number of IMEI numbers are being abused, which gives rise to a security or to a grave security challenge, and it’s incumbent on us to offer recommendations.

First of all, among the principle reasons why the manufacturers don't follow appropriate procedures is the raised cost of attributing an IMEI number following the rules of the existing technology, to the tune of about 2,000 American dollars for a single number. Well, the answer potential costs for manufacturers could be up to $30,000 per handset. In order to encourage countries to follow good practice in IMEI series numbers and in order to promote this practice among manufacturers even in Developing Countries, and so that these exorbitant costs do not incident occasions of abuse. We are calling on the Director to study this group with the GSMA group in order to try and lower the prices, particularly which apply to manufacturers in Developing Countries and to ask to the next session of the Council for a progress report potentially the discussion of the GSMA.

We are also asking the TSB Director to also work alongside with GSMA in order to cut short the instances of abuse. It's not enough to adopt guidelines links to this question. Thirdly, we would recommend to the TSB director to submit a report to Study Group 11 on the manner which would allow Member States to make use of the best available technologies in order to fight the instances of abuse pertaining to IMEI ICC risk numbers.

>> CHAIR: Thank you, Saudi Arabia. And I would propose you to close the list of the countries. We have a long list. USA, Tanzania, Pakistan, Burkina Faso, Tunisia, Egypt. USA, you have the floor.

>> UNITED STATES: Thank you, Madame Chair. And we thank India for presenting contribution 87. The United States agrees that mobile device theft and misuse is a significant problem and should be dealt with on a global basis. Industry groups have made great strides in the last several years in addressing security issues associated with mobile devices. We would suggest leveraging this work by implementing the following in national policies, service providers to implement reporting and blocking of stolen devices through the GSMA IMEI database. Second, device vendors to implement the relevant standard and GSMA IMEI security technical design principles addressing IMEI hardening, and participate in the GSMA IMEI security weakness and reporting correction process.

Third, Member States to make unauthorized tampering of an IMEI a criminal offense. Fourth, industry stakeholders to increase global awareness and participation in Smart Phone antitheft measures and finally, the wireless industries to initiate the proposed GSMA lost/stolen device tracking patterns project. Thank you, Madame Chair.

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

>> TANZANIA: Thank you, Madame Chair. Tanzania is also supporting the proposal by India and other administrations to make IMEI non‑programmable, but after the mobile equipment's final production process. This, indeed, will restrict IMEI tampering, that is manipulation and change by any means as it has been said by physical, electrical, or software. In addition, Tanzania is proposing further study on the matter to establish the mechanism that we will differentiate phones with genuine non‑programmable IMEI from ones with copied IMEI to control cloned phones.

Sharing the experience in Tanzania like in other countries, Tanzania has established a central identification registry through a legal framework which requires all mobile operators EIR's to be connected to it. The regulatory body in Tanzania started public awareness campaigns in November 2015, and it is continuous to all parts of the country. The purpose is to educate the public and enable them to verify all of the mobile devices in use, but to also customize and verify the new phones they want to buy using an assigned USSD card or online. All mobile devices with unrecognized IMEI in Tanzania were switched off on 16th, June 2016 and new mobile phones with IMEIs that are not recognized by GSMA are automatically denied in the networks.

As of 12 May this year, a total of 1.5 IMEIs have been switched off or black listed in the country. The is quickly updated by IMEI that are being updated by GSMA every week. The mobile devices with duplicated IMEI identified and switched off every two weeks. The authority that is the sector regulator in cooperation with other key stakeholders do carry out surveillance and field inspections to insure that IMEI reprogramming activities of the mobile devices are not taking place, hence, reduce the replication of IMEIs and this is a continuous activity, however, this has got a lot of challenges in the field.

So the implementation of Sierra in the country has witnessed some good results. For example, reduction of mobile phone thefts, increased security as no substandard devices, that is with invalid IMEIs are allowed to be connected in the mobile networks, eliminated the use of substandard mobile phones in the country and, of course, with general devices, the subscribers can receive good signals from the networks. Once again, Chair, Tanzania supports the move to have at least a non‑programmable IMEIs from the manufacturer or production processes. Thank you very much.

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

>> PAKISTAN: Thank you, Madame Chair, as we are moving further into ICT and our dependence on ICTs is increasing exponentially. Therefore, it calls for every step we can take to make our transactions with ICT services more secure and reliable. In this regard, identity of a user is critically important. We have had this problem of programmable IMEIs and we have seen related security implications as well. Also from the perspective of implementing cyber laws in countries where they exist and where certain activities are declared as criminal and recognizable offenses we need to make sure that real offenders are caught which underscores importance of real identity of which IMEIs are critical part and are used for cyber forensics. Madame Chair, Pakistan has made it illegal to tamper with IMEIs through cyber criminal law enacted last year, and telecom policy 2015 has made it imperative for mobile operators to put in place a central database of IMEIs with lengthy prescription.

However, the matter required global treatment. Therefore, we would also urge ITU to take steps including coordination and discussion with relevant organizations of possible mitigation of the issue that is a solution for non‑tamperable IMEIs. We also understand ITU and capacity of sole facilitator of C5 can have impactful and retention.

>> CHAIR: Thank you, Pakistan. Ghana, you have the floor.

>> GHANA: Thank you, Madame Chair. Allow me to appreciate Switzerland for the treat. I can speculate that it has lightened the mood for our meeting and given us progress today. Also to thank the Secretary‑General for C17/18, this report on building confidence in ICTs, and also to India and other administrations for C17/87. Madame Chair, indeed WTSA16, resolution 96 instructed Study Group 11 of ITU‑T to study combating counterfeits on telecommunication information and communication technology devices and we say that the work has started.

The various contributions we received were received on the subject of confirmed that the IMEI duplication has serious negative impacts on cyber related trade counterfeit in ICT devices, tax evasion, quality of service delivery, issues on the environment, network harm, among others. And also a study that was conducted in Africa which with Ghana included shows IMEI duplication has contributed to mast number of counterfeit mobile phones, cybersecurity related, electronic waste issues our Governments have to deal with. For Ghana it is estimated that about 40% of mobile phones connected to the networks are counterfeit.

These devices unique identities cannot be detected by the networks and there are reports of some of these devices being used to commit mobile money fraud and cyber related tricks. Here the challenge is would you want to disconnect 40% of these mobile phones even though you have the equipment identities register because sometimes for the industry you are getting certain amount of income from all of these devices. Tracking these devices for law enforcement has become increasingly elusive as the technical harm to, and the financial harm to the industry continues. Madame Chair, if I may indulge you, with the help of this tampered devices, sometimes which ‑‑ my presence in Geneva today is in doubt if I make a call from Switzerland using a Swiss number to Ghana because the call is received in Ghana with a local Ghanaian call.

Further, to the proposals that were in the submissions of India supported by other administrations, Ghana submits that country Council may tend to instruct through TSB Director or the Secretary‑General to Study Group 11 of ITU‑T to continue their studies of these counterfeit devices. This, we believe, will enhance confidence in the use of ICTs, improve security, and quality of service of telecom devices. Thank you very much, Madame Chair.

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

>> SENEGAL: Thank you, Madame Chair. We thank the Secretary‑General for the report, and we also thank India for document 87. Cyber security is one of the issues we are confronted with. And it's one of the most concerning issues of our time. The non‑alteration of IMEI numbers is one of the important points of cyber security, and the fight against counterfeiting. That is why Senegal supports the proposal made by India and the previous interventions like that one made by the Philippines, particularly as regards studies in this area in the TSB, and looking at possibilities of collaboration to be begun in this regard. Thank you.

>> CHAIR: Thank you. Burkina Faso, you have the floor.

>> BURKINA FASO: Thank you very much, Madame Chair. For our part, we would like to thank the administration of India and other countries for their contribution which is focused on building confidence and security in the use of information and communication technologies, in particularly as regards making IMEI numbers more secure. Madame Chair, some practices on a global level underline the fact that cyber security is a global concern which requires concerted global action. That is why we are in favor of the proposals contained in this contribution submitted to the council for consideration with a view to international consensus in this area. Thank you very much.

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

>> TUNISIA: Thank you, Madame Chair. As part of gender equality, I'm going to represent the administration of Tunisia. I would like to thank Mr. Fizok who represented Mr. Tunisia last week. I would also like to thank the ITU Secretariat for all of their efforts. As regards IMEI numbers, these numbers should be unique and belong to only one mobile handset. This is a crucial issue in Tunisia since in February we began a coordination with all of our operators and next September, we are going to introduce a measure banning any modification of these numbers.

Therefore, we support this contribution made by India. Thank you.

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

>> EGYPT: Thank you, Madame Chair. Good afternoon, Distinguished Delegates. Well, Madame Chair, international mobile equipment identity is a crucial issue. All countries are facing difficulties and challenges in counteracting counterfeiting or reuse of IMEI numbers. There are thousands of handsets using the same series numbers. And, therefore, this causes a number of security and commercial problems. It has economic effects. This is a problem for trademark holders too. Therefore, Madame Chair, it is a crucial issue and all countries are facing the same difficulty. I would also like to thank the administration of India for submitting this contribution. I would also like to thank the cosponsors of this contribution.

I support the interventions made by the Philippines and Saudi Arabia with regard to the necessary practical measures to be taken to work with the various international organizations in this area, particularly GSMA to identify difficulties and to come up with solutions involving manufacturers and operators so that we can insure that we have non‑reprogrammable series numbers which can, therefore, not be counterfeited. Study Group 11 of the T sector could play a crucial role in developing guidelines and offering all of its assistance to Member States as far as to deal with this issue. Thank you.

>> CHAIR: Thank you. This is the last country, so I can recap. I think that there is a good support for sending this note to GSMA from the BDT Directors and I think ‑‑ TSB, TSB Director, and as said by UAE it's important to have a coordination between him and as said from some countries, India and other countries can bring this issue to the Study Group 11 to study this important issue. So I think that we can note this and invite the Directors to send this note to GSMA and to report to the next Council next year.

India, you have the floor.

>> INDIA: First of all, I must thank all of the countries who have supported this, and I'm sure it will go a long way to support and make the use of mobile in a confident and secure manner. I would just like to highlight here that the purpose of Study Group 11 and this is slightly different. Here what we are discussing and talking about the monitoring effort, the enforcement effort making certain policies at national level and at the international collaboration level.

So this is more to do with the policy decisions and its enforcement rather than the technological possibility of implementing which I think is in place as well as the cost reduction as well. The cost is not really as GSMA informs me, I believe the cost is not really one of the key considerations. So here this is more of a policy monitoring enforcement decision which are required to be taken. Thank you so much. Thank you, Chair.

>> CHAIR: Thank you, India, for your clarification. And now we have the pleasure to give the floor to the Ambassador of Lithuania, please, you have the floor.

>> LITHUANIA: Thank you very much, Madame Chair, Secretary‑General, Deputy Secretary‑General, Directors of the Bureaus, ministers and heads of missions, distinguished counselors, Excellencies, ladies and gentlemen, thank you for giving me the opportunity to speak. I'm honored to address the 2017 session of the ITU Council. In Lithuania we passionately believe that ICT are at the forefront and cutting edge of the global technological progress that provides tangible benefits for our lives. On behalf of my Government I would like to thank and praise the ITU elected officials and the Secretariat for their diligent elaboration and execution of the strategies and plans of the Union.

At the ITU plenipotentiary Conference next year, we will together elect ITU management team for the next period as well as new Council members. It is essential that the Union continue to benefit from strong and effective management. I take the floor today to announce the decision of the Government of Lithuania to present its candidature for reelection to the ITU council for the period of 2018‑2022.

At the same time, I have the privilege to present the Lithuania candidate to the post of Director of the ITU‑R Bureau, Dr. Mindaugas Zilinskas, who I will introduce. He is here with us so please do not hesitate to meet and talk to him in person. This is the first time Lithuania nominates a candidate for such a high position within the ITU structure. Those of you who work in the radiocommunications sector may already know Dr. Zilinskas. He was closely involved in the ITU‑R matters when he served as a member, Chair and Vice Chair of the Radio Regulations Board, and was Lithuania's main negotiator at the World Radiocommunications Conference, or you may simply have met him as a colleague.

Currently he is Deputy Director at the communications regulatory authority of Lithuania. Most of his education and career to date lies in the area of physics and radio frequencies. He's well known within the scientific community. He has more than 30 years of experience in radiocommunications and over 20 years of experience in ITU affairs in the radiocommunications sector. To sum up, Mindaugas combines science and theory with expensive high level practical experience on the R sector issues. It makes us certain that Dr. Zilinskas is fully capable of carrying out the Bureau Director responsibilities in an impartial and effective manner in full compliance with the traditions, legal regulations and procedures of the Union.

May I respectfully request those of you present as well as your authorities in the national capitals to support his candidacy. Madame Chair, I thank you for giving me the floor for this intervention amid the busy agenda of the council.

>> CHAIR: Thank you. Before the break, I will give the floor to Mr. Lee, please.

>> Thank You, Madame Chair. Good afternoon, everyone, carefully listening to what counselors have addressed on this mobile device issues, I just reminded at the beginning of year 2015 we started this new collaboration with the GSMA. That was, it took quite a time, almost 1.5 years we couldn't make good progress. By listening to your comments during Council we recognize the time is coming. I'm very delighted to deliver this message to the GSMA to strengthen our collaborations to find out how this can address to try to mitigate this IMEI issue.

The final comment from India, it is operational matter should be discussed with the GSMA, but if we can seek this further announcement of this IMEI, we should definitely collaborate with PP and we will strengthen of our internal study like study 11 and Study Group 17 for the time being because of this identification is very important to subject. So with your proposal discussion this afternoon, I will convey this to GSMA and to CDPP to strengthen our collaboration to strengthen that and strengthen international study.

>> CHAIR: Thank you, Mr. Lee. We can break for coffee and I would propose that we resume? 15 minutes.

Thank you. (Break).

>> CHAIR: Please, dear colleagues, can we start? Can you enter? Now, we have an important issue as regards the possible improvement to PP and we have six documents to examine now, and the two do you means are C17/4 and info doc 6. I will invite Ms. Glusan to present these two documents first, please.

>> INDIA: You, Madame, we had certain discussions during the cough Friday break, and members are very excited about the possibilities of what we discussed, however, as I stated, while the group 11 will provide the ways to implement in the device how this can be done, how this non‑tamperable IMEI can be incorporated in the device, but subsequent to that there have to be ways and means so that will be enforced upon the manufacturers and the countries and the countries amongst themselves will make the laws so at the national, global, regional level how it should be implemented so this can be enforced upon.

And for that, as you stated, I would ask that if a Council resolution or some kind of separate requirement can be done that will probably happen. This is about 87, Document 87, IMEI. So if a Council resolution can be had, it will help us to insure that it goes through. Thank you.

>> CHAIR: Thank you, India. I think that this can be recorded in summary record if you agree. Thank you. So, Ms. Glusan, please.

>> Thank you, Madame Chair. On behalf of the Secretary‑General, I have the pleasure to present to you Document C17/4 (Rev. 1) entitled full on report on possible improvements of the rollouts of the plenipotentiary Conference to which several documents are attached. You would recall that during the last Council session, the council considered the Document C16/4, possible improvements of the rollout of the plenipotentiary Conference as well as C16/100 from the UAE on electronic voting. Following the discussion it was agreed that the Secretary‑General would carry out a consultation with Member States and report back to the 2017 session of the Council.

You will find in Document N6, replies received from 17 Member States within the framework of this consultation. The first version was already presented at the Council Working Group on Financial and Human Resources. Madame Chair, for each area where improvements are being proposed, the documents list the improvements proposed in the report to the 2016 Council session, review them and put forth new proposals.

I propose numbering these proposals. The first area, improvement in or for the preparatory at regional level, it has been proposed on the basis of replies received first of all, that the Secretariat attend and support ITU preparatory meetings. It's also been proposed to give increased support to new delegates published on line and presented by ITU staff taking a part in preparatory regional meetings. Secondly, on the basis of 2014, practice to have two remote meetings in Geneva a year, the second area reaffirm the role of the plenipotentiary as the Union's highest policy making body.

Given the comments by Member States, it's been proposed that the Council invites the delegates to limit policy statements to three minutes maximum, and to make them fully focused on ITU objectives. If all information could be posted on the relevant web page to recommend secondly to PPA team to set the deadline to announce definitive choice of contribution by midnight of the third day just as what happens during 2018, we had certain deadline to announce the definitive choice.

It was done by the midnight of the 13 according to the Constitution. The third area improving the electoral processes on the basis of replies received by Member States, five proposals have been brought forth. The Council is, the Council would invite candidates to submit a vision statement along with their CV. Their vision for the sector or for the Union that the delegates or the plenipotentiary exercise the maximum possible economy of paper. The Secretariat would make sure that there is enough space on the Web pages PDF documents, nominations, et cetera. Thirdly, to provide a platform for candidates to prevent themselves and their vision for the Union if they so wish.

Fourthly, to reduce the time between rounds of elections to implement the decisions of the previous plenipotentiary, the Council recommends the documents to limit the time of the vote to the hilt with regards to that particular proposal my colleague will present the four documents.

The fourth area to make use of state of the art methods of management so that the existing technical means will be further improved and that the plenipotentiary website will be optimized for the use of mobile devices. It has also been suggested that PP‑18 is the most economical as possible in paper and so no paper copies of finalized documents are published. There are only eInvites and the paper brochures are discouraged. Final point eliminating underutilized interpretation services it has been proposed on replies received to maintain interpretation services to committees 2 and 3.

The Council is invited to study these proposals and make their views known. Thank you.

>> CHAIR: Thank you. Now, Ambassador to Document C17/7 seeks revision 1. I will invite the delegate from Lithuania to present the Document, please.

>> LITHUANIA: Thank you, Madame Chair. I'm ready to present the multicountry proposal submitted by Lithuania, Bulgaria, Netherlands, Poland, Portugal, Spain, Switzerland, Czech Republic and Romania. This proposal is nothing new. This idea was already discussed in previous meetings. This multicountry proposal for an improvement of ITU election process. We would like to introduce hearings of the candidates for the ITU post of elected officials prior to the elections in PP‑18.

At this moment, I would like to briefly talk about the practice of international organizations in their election systems. For example, in United Nations, during the last elections candidate for the SG participated in a three‑day hearing for question and answer session at the General Assembly. World Health Organization holds an open Forum which is webcasted with all candidates one year before the election. World Trade Organization, Canada make a presentation to the general Council, answer questions and speak to the press four months before the formal consultation on Member States and the final appointment.

International labor organization, can make hearings presentations at the beginning of the Governing Body session. World Bank, recently had its truly contested election where candidates participated in an official open debate held outside the World Bank. This multiple, multicountry proposal has guidelines to the ITU Secretary‑General to submit and final a proposal on hearings of candidates, elected officials of the ITU to the ordinary session of the ITU Council 2018.

So we ask for the following guidelines to be introduced. Our wish is to outline a concept definition of a hearing, to have details that would allow to implement hearings and practice like setting a maximum type of a hearing per candidate including presentation on candidate's vision and question and answer session. Also we want to outline the basic principles for candidates to answer random questions during the hearings, to insure that ITU members have a possibility to attend those hearings or follow it by electronic means. To propose appropriate date and meeting for such a hearing prior to PP‑18. Also to propose possibility to reimburse translation, room rental or other cost occurred by the ITU related to the hearing.

Also we think it would be useful for ITU to create, to create a dedicated online space for campaign materials like PDT files, video, et cetera, so that the stakeholders could access information about candidates electronically. We truly believe if implemented this improvement could positively influence transparency and improve value for ITU members. In general, transparency and openness of the ITU and it would also be of value to ITU members in making an informed decision about the candidates. Thank you, Madame Chair.

>> CHAIR: Thank you, Lithuania. Now, we have the Document C17/7/8 revision 1 and we will invite the Russian delegate to present this Document, please. You have the floor.

>> RUSSIAN FEDERATION: Thank you, Madame Chair. I would like to note that like all of the other contributions introduced by us at this meeting, this Document was developed together with other administrations, and on their behalf, we are introducing this joint contribution. The Secretariat of the regional Commonwealth on the field of communication prepared this Document on improving the rollout of the plenipotentiary Conference. Some of the main proposed actions in it are aimed at five particular areas, and practical actions are described in the Document which could be taken for each one of the five main areas for improvement.

I would like to talk about some of them. At the final stage preparing for the PP12 months before the start of the Conference, preparatory meetings of the telecommunication as organization should be held in preparation for the plenipotentiary Conference as should interregional coordination meetings with the same of reaching possible convergence of regional views on major issues.

We are also proposing that the definitive upper limit of the amount of contributory unit shall be approved on the first day of the plenipotentiary and established the third day of the plenipotentiary as the day on which the ITU Member States announce their definitive choice of class of contribution. And we also are proposing that there should be publication of the classes of the contribution definitively chosen by the ITU Member States before the end of the third day of the plenipot, that is before the start of the elections.

Separately, I would also like to say at this stage that Russia does not support holding eVoting. We are also proposing that we should recommend that there be a time limit for the publication of the agenda of the meetings of the committees and all groups of the PP, which allows delegates to prepare for the meeting. In addition to this, in order to clarify the strategic goals and tasks of the Union in order to reflect the interest of the members of the ITU, in the strategic plan of the Union, we would like to invite leaders representing Member States of the ITU in their policy statements to indicate their main views and their main view of the aims and goals of the Union. We also would like to note that the issue of eliminating interpretation services, underutilized interpretation services that is one which needs to be further worked on and considered.

Particularly the provision of interpretation for committees 2 and 3 may reduce the participation of non‑anglophone states in their work and may have negative impact on the quality and results of the work of these very important committees. In addition to this, this might create difficulties for delegates who are using the Web cast of the meetings at these committees. Thank you, Madame Chair.

>> CHAIR: Thank you for your presentation. Now, we can pass to Document C17/96. I will invite Brazil to present this Document, please.

>> BRAZIL: Thank you, Madame Chair. Brazil would like to present Document 96 for the establishment of interactive hearings for the candidates to elect to official posts in ITU. As you all know, Brazil presented at PP 14, Document 75, which was a draft resolution of procedures for the election of the Secretary‑General, Deputy Secretary‑General and directors of the Bureau. The PP decided to instruct the ITU Council. Brazil is aware of the contribution from Bulgaria, Czech Republic, Lithuania, Poland, Portugal, Romania and others presented at discussion in the Document 76. We fully support the principles therein presented but we propose furthermore additionally the following guidelines, the interactive panels should be held one day before the ordinary session of the Council in the same year of the PP.

In this case, on April 17th, 2018. This would allow Member States more time to assess each candidacy and decide on their votes. Each candidate should have a time slot for the presentation of his candidacy with an equal amount of time designated for question and answer with Member States present during the panel. The press could be allowed to observe the panel and interact with candidates offline. Chair of Council should moderate interactive panel and read questions asked remotely through the Web cast.

Interactive panels should be openly accessible and transmitted live on the ITU website without the need of a task protected account. ITU should update as soon as possible the PP‑18 elections website to allow for posting and campaign material produced by each candidate. Each candidate go have an offline Forum with discussions from general public moderated by the candidate asked and responded, taking into account the potential impacts of these initiatives and staff regulations and in the budget of the Union, Brazil proposes the following.

Council, that this Council discuss the feasibility and make decision on holding the first interactive panel for candidates for ITU elected official posts on April 17, one day before the session of the Council in the PP, the Council in the next year.

PP18 debate impacts on staff regulations of allowing ITU staff candidates to announce their candidacy to elected official posts and participate in the hearings without taking the mandatory leave of absence. That Council 17 debate the financial implications established in the hearings and decide who should bear the costs of holding the hearings. That Council 17 discusses a proven resolution or decision on the issue taking into account the draft news resolution contained in Document DT66. Madame Chair, when we first introduced the proposed improvements for the ITU election during PP‑14, many suggestions were received and duly considered in the negotiations. New valuable ideas were incorporated into the regional proposal and in fact made it a better proposal resolution receiving support from many Member States. The mainstream continues the same in this contribution to the Council to initiate I modernization of the elections bringing candidates nearer to the interests and preoccupations of ITU members.

Furthermore, the proposed measures though simple in its scope are ambitious and put ITU at par with other international organizations such as WTO and the Secretariat election itself in the UN candidates are invited to present views in written which are then posted in the organization's website and besides it was implemented a two hour session for each individual candidate Chaired by the President of the General Assembly. When candidates had 10 minutes for opening statement followed by almost two hours of questions, limited to two minutes each we for Member States, and also from representatives from Civil Society. The system adopted by the United Nations General Assembly is detailed in the Annex of a letter from the President of the UN General Assembly dated February 25 last year.

It tells as another example a similar process occurred and was very useful for members to understand candidates' views, projects and skills. Our final decision at the end was certainly solid and mature. Besides, dear colleagues, it's common the realization of many interviews in the market as an important procedure to verify candidates' talents and intangible abilities not easily acknowledged on rigid CV texts and brochure.

Brazil understands that the proposed novelties in a traditional and established process normally brings legitimate concerns which these contributions propose to solve as well as such as the necessary of alteration of staff regulations and staff regulation 12.2. All through the understanding that the hearings are an informal activity enabling staff candidates to participate. Some other concerns that may arise for this new procedure shall not impede us to construe a process to ameliorate ITU elections through transparent, and balanced opportunities for all candidates. Thank You, Madame Chair.

>> CHAIR: Thank you, Brazil for your presentation. The floor is open for comments. Philippines, you have the floor.

>> PHILIPPINES: Thank you, Madame Chair, and good day to all. We would like to thank the secretariat and the CWGFHR for putting together Document 17/4. The Philippines notes and endorses proposed measures to improve the rollout of the PP all while addressing the five main areas for action contained in Document 16/4. Madame Chair, after having reviewed the Document as well as additional contributions on the possible improvements of the rollout of the PP, Philippines would like to express its support and endorsement of the following measures.

Among others, the holding of the physical preparatory and regional meetings with remote participation facilities for as long as they do not or could be held without any budgetary impact., to insure more participation and support of ITU Secretariat in regional preparatory meetings organized by the regional telecommunications organizations or ITOs and to provide more support for new delegates a development of a training package published on line and presented by the ITU staff attending the ITO regional preparatory meetings.

We also would like to support the time developed policy statements and such policy statements should reflect each Member States' goals and objectives or a vision statement for the Union. To make PP‑18 a paper smart as possible by having a paperless Conference and to adopt an electronic method of distribution of invites or e-invites to social events and by encouraging the elimination of paper campaign brochures by utilizing the above mentioned electronic alternatives.

And finally, Madame Chair, the Philippines would also like to associate with other Member States in proposing to maintain and streamline the plenipotentiary conferences and to maintain the interpretation services to committees 2 and 3. Thank you, Madame Chair.

>> CHAIR: Thank you Philippines. And now as a general clarification for your comments, I will please do not consider the eVoting because there is another Document about this issue. Thank you. Cuba, you have the floor.

>> CUBA: Thank you very much, Madame Chair. We are grateful for the introduction of the report in the Document C17/4 on the better development of or rollout of the plenipotentiary Conference. We take note of it. We believe it is crucial to strengthen the preparatory activities in each region and on an interregional level. In the case of the region of Latin America and the Caribbean, the ITU office needs to play a crucial role in involving countries in the region in this process which could allow them to participate in the plenipotentiary Conference with a joint view of the matter. We believe it is important to hold the meeting of the next Council in April 2018 in order to be able to have adequate preparation before the holding of the plenipotentiary Conference. It seems to us to be a good idea for the interregional meetings to be held in Geneva and for there to be appropriate representation of each region represented at each one of these meetings held in Geneva. It is crucial for regional telecommunication organizations to be involved in the preparation for the PP. We are going to make a separate intervention on the subject of eVoting later on in this Council. Thank you very much.

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

>> UNITED STATES: Thank you, Madame Chair. I would like to begin by thanking the administrations who submitted the documents with respect to candidate hearings and say that we support this concept. The principles expressed by the submitting countries allow for a fair comparison of all candidates. The United States believes that selecting the best possible leaders for the Union assures the vitality of the organization and that selecting the best leaders depends upon having useful information prior to the selection.

We agree that the issue of cost, timing and procedures require discussion at this Council. In addition to the proposals presented, the United States believes that the dedicated online space for campaign material so that candidates could access information electronically or stakeholders could access information about the candidates electronically should be expanded to include candidates for the radio regulation board. Madame Chair, I would ask are you going to take each of the suggestions and the Secretariat Document individually or should we provide all of our comments at once? Thank you, Madame Chair.

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

>> CANADA: Thank you, Madame Chair, we would also like to thank all of the administrations that have submitted contributions to the issue we are discussing. We would like to Canada already contributed to the first set of responses, and in response to a circular note in 2016. But we would like to focus our intervention, Madame Chair, on the issue of the hearings which we believe is a very good idea. We support in particular the intervention of Brazil to that effect. But on that note, Madame Chair, we would like to have the advice of the Secretariat on the issue of the appointed staff of the Union that are running for elected positions because if I heard correctly in the intervention from our friend from Brazil, those candidates which hold positions which in this staff would be able to participate in the hearings without taking leave of absence. It is very clear that regulation 12.2 of the staff regulation establishes that there has to be a leave of absence following the date of submission of his or her hand date candidature to the Secretary‑General.

Of course, at no point will we question the staff's ability to fully comply with any ethical issues associated with the interpretation of existing procedures, but it would be very interesting to hear more views, particularly as it relates to the right of any individual who is a staff member whose member state decides to post his or her candidacies to an elected position but then we have the issue of the statutory rules that clearly indicate that that nomination becomes official only in response to a call by the Secretary‑General.

That, of course, creates the challenge of when that happens, how much time would that individual be allowed to have to campaign rightly so. So there is a little bit of an issue that we should tackle very, very diligently, first, to insure that all of the efforts that the Union has undertaken to insure full transparency and accountability and particularly other than any ethical considerations be taken into account.

This is very important because we need to insure that we continue on the right track. So I more specific question is would it make any sense in moving back the date of the official submission of a candid date tur as reflected in the contribution of Brazil so that prior to or during Council 2018 we could have the option of having those hearings. That, of course, will imply that any member state who wishes to advance the candidacy of someone who is currently under a staff position would have to do so before that hearing takes place. Otherwise, that individual would not be able to participate in the hearings.

So we believe that both on the legal interpretation of the existing rules and on any ethical issues associated with this issue should be a matter for further discussion, and clarification. Thank you.

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

>> KENYA: Thank you very much, Madame Chair, and certainly I would like to add to the voices that have thanked members of these countries that have contributed to the documents that are before us for debate. We start from the point that has been ablely, I suggest, made by Canada that has been in the past part of the bone of contention in this regard, which is that I think in principle, and, again, I say this in principle, we see no harm as expressed in the Secretariat Document in having a portal where candidates for various positions would express themselves, answer questions on social media and interact with the constituency that they wish to serve. In particular, the view that the candidates would be sort of paraded before this Council possibly if the Document from Brazil is accepted and I want to thank Brazil for sustaining the momentum on this particular issue.

It would in our view as the rules currently stand, seriously prejudice a staff who are, you know, intending to contest for various positions, and so we would reserve the right to come back on that particular issue depending on the decision that will have been made on that. But I think for now in principle it gives us some unease that we would have candidates paraded before Council because that in our view is a bit intrusive and prescribes overly in terms of how Member States would campaign for their candidates.

We do recognize and we made this point before, that the Council is but a small portion of the membership of this Union. The Council is but a small portion of the membership of this Union, and so to parade counsels before this Council and for interview and not at the Plenipot presents us with challenges and we think in particular is prejudices candidates that are staff of this Union.

In general, Chair, we do support the views expressed by the Secretariat in Document 4. We think that the interregional meetings where dialogue is facilitated between regions and within regions and speaking for the African region, this has been facilitated by the African region been a constructive way of reaching dialogue among of the us between us and certain regions and it is a measure we would propose is strengthened so that we minimize on Conference time. Thank you very much, Madame Chair.

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

>> CHINA: Thank you, Madame Chair. We would like to thank the Secretariat and Russia, Bulgaria and Brazil for their proposal. We would like to highlight several issues. First of all, the Secretariat during the PP should take no about the note about the contributions amount as soon as possible. This is very important. Therefore, China supports Russia's contribution in particular with regard to the contribution and the announcement rules. This does also comply with the ITU's Convention and Constitution. Secondly, the income from the contribution is the core to the stability of ITU's budget, and in the meantime, it is also what we need to implement the strategic plan as well as to support all of the activities at ITU and it guarantees all of these activities.

Therefore, we would like to call on all Member States in order to guarantee the basic stability of ITU's budget to make contribution as much as possible within the capacity so that they can support ITU's activities. Thirdly, although with regard to the modification of PP's procedures, China has some comments, however ‑‑ I'm sorry, I would like to first of all touch upon the hearing issue, and our views. In this regard, we hope that the hearings results is to help all parties to know better the candidates. The principle of ITU is that to take advantage of experience of the previous PP to communicate with Member States and to exchange views.

This kind of effect is quite useful. The campaign has been organized at ITU for many years. There is probably no need to use this method to enhance the understanding of the candidates so we might need to think more about the hearing method. Otherwise, ITU is quite technical with regard to comparing to other international organizations, ITU is more demanding on technical background of candidates. Therefore, hearing might not be enough to showcase the technical expertise or knowledge of the candidates, but to put the actions on the el consequence or speaking skills of the candidates. So, therefore, we think that the focus should be on the experience and the technical demands.

This is the view from China about hearing. Regarding to the modification of PP's procedures, in our view, this is a very serious issue. We would like to suggest to send it to PP‑18 for approval and maybe we could implement, implement it starting from PP2022. Thank you Madame Chairperson.

>> CHAIR: Thank you, China. USA, you want to complete your comments about the Document, please you have the floor.

>> UNITED STATES: Thank you, Madame Chair. For Document for revision 1, on the matter of strengthening regional and interregional preparations, we support the recommendation as long as the interregional meetings remain informal and there is no budgetary impact. We also support the ITU Secretariat developing an online training webinar and we think it would be quite useful if that could be done and presented at Council next year so we can have a trial run. On reaffirming the role of the plenipot as the Union's highest policy making body, we support limiting policy statements to three minutes.

On the matter of improving the electoral process as I already indicated, we support the candidates Forum, and we believe that campaign material if Member States wish to provide it in paper copy, that that should be left up to the individual Member States. On utilizing up to date and integrated Conference management tools, we support the continued use of the Conference proposal interface which has really worked fantastically well at all of the major conferences. But, again, we wouldn't support limiting paper invitations to social events or paper campaign brochures. And on eliminated underutilized interpretation services, we would not support in eliminating interpretation for committees 2 and 3. Thank you, Madame Chair.

>> CHAIR: Thank you, U.S. Now, we have a long list of requests. I will propose you to close the list. We have UAE, Switzerland, Russian Federation, Mali, Saudi Arabia, Egypt, Portugal and Bulgaria. UAE, you have the floor.

>> UNITED ARAB EMIRATES: Thank you very much, Madame Chair. There is a certain number of questions we would like to raise. I suggest that we take a decision by and by with regards to the strengthening of regional and interregional preparations and the presentation of documents by the Secretariat. We are in favor of holding a preparatory meetings of the six regions of the Union always bearing in mind that a number of countries or Member States are united in situations which do not represent the entire region to preparatory meetings need to be held at the level of each region.

On the other hand, when it comes to interregionals, there should be a single meeting here in Geneva after the regional preparatory meetings. We don't need two preparatory meetings with the participation of the whole of regions. A single meeting here in Geneva would be sufficient. With respect to meetings, Madame Chair, we don't need to authorize remote meetings, but it's important to issue ‑‑ to countries to enable tomorrow them to take part in these preparatory meetings and as hand pointed out is it would seem to us that regional offices could step up their role in preparatory process. This preparatory process needs to be conducted by regional offices. With respect to general political statements, such statements need to be limited to 3 to 5 minutes. PP is very different from WTSA. PP is a political Conference and so three minutes might prove insufficient. That's why we suggest three to five minutes for general policy statements.

With regards to interpretation for committees 2 and 3, we don't have any issue. In Council interpretation of such meetings but as we have heard, some Member States have already spoken in favor of retaining these services, but as far as our country is concerned, we wouldn't have any objections if interpretation were eliminated for committees 2 and 3. Which would enable us to couldn't down our costs. Interpretation is not absolutely necessary. Now, with respect to the contributory unit, that's a statement on contributory unit should be made before the holding of elections. Now, with regard to reducing the duration of the Conference, that's an approach we do not support because a number of delegations take part with very limited delegations and there is a whole number of working parties and committees which have been held in parallel and if you were to reduce the overall duration of the plenipotentiary, that would stretch certain delegations and we are not in favor of that proposal.

Now, with regard to the postings for various candidates we support the contribution by China and we believe that the existing procedure for various nominations are exemplary already, so, therefore, we don't need to introduce new procedures. As has already been emphasized, these hearings are not the only, they are not the unique opportunity to evaluate candidates with regard to eVote, we will make a separate statement later. Thank you.

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

>> SWITZERLAND: Thank you, Madame Chair. We thank the general Secretariat as well as Member States who have contributed to the reflection on approach to possible improvements in the holding of the plenipotentiary Conference, which have paramount importance. In foray, one of the objectives of this reflection is to reduce costs, and to reduce the duration of the plenipotentiary Conference.

We would be appreciative to the Secretariat if they clarified how this proposal in Document four, revision one, would lead to such a reduction in the duration and the plenipotentiary would make sense to organize a discussion of this subject. With regard to eVote, we are in favor to procedure of eVote in PP‑18 in order to acquire the experience of possibly applying it fully in 2022, but eVote only during the elections. We would not wish that the essential role of taking decisions on the basis of consensus in the Union be undermined. We would be appreciative of the Secretariat if they are already in a position to give us a rough cost estimate for such a test, to give us an idea of how much it might cost.

The proposal to put an upper limit on the size of the contributory unit on the first day and to designate the third day where the Member States are supposed to declare their definitive choice of contribution needs further study, but it is a worthy proposal. Finally, we would support retaining interpretation at committees 2 and 3 and other plenary Working Groups during the plenipotentiary.

Thank you, Madame Chair.

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

>> RUSSIAN FEDERATION: Thank you, Madame Chair. For our part, we do not support the idea of holding public hearings, and we fully share the fears expressed by the Canadian administration. Also we would like to add that such hostings may place candidates in unequal positions. We would also like to point out that oratory skills and technical knowledge professionally do not always go hand in hand, so we would not be advised to move in that direction. Thank you.

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

>> MALI: Thank you, Madame Chair. We thank the general Secretariat for the presentation of Document C17/4, and the contributor countries. We have note the various improvements proposed by Bulgaria in its contribution, but among these proposals, there is one which is quite alarming to us to be honest in Annex A, Bulgaria proposes the possibility of reimbursing the interpretation costs in the rooms booked by the ITU for public hearings of candidates.

In adopting such a proposal, we believe that all candidates need to be given an equality opportunity. With regards to the Brazilian contribution, Brazil proposes discussion of possible consequences of the staff statute when an annual leave is involved. We move that Secretariat looks into the reasons why the candidates would take leave during that period of time, and how would that help to improve our practice. Thank you.

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

>> SAUDI ARABIA: Thank you, Madame Chair. Good afternoon to all of the distinguished dwell gates. First of all, we would like to extend our gratitude to the contributor states and I'm going to make a few observations with regard to the Russian contribution on behalf of Russia, Belarus and Armenia, we support the proposal in that contribution to improve the organization of the next PP in 2018 and we are urging the counselors adopt recommendations contained in this Document with regard to the contribution relative to the holding of hostings of candidates for elected positions. We believe that in choosing the most competent persons, we would be able to ensure the prospering of this organization, but it would introduce a note of caution that these new procedures should in no case lead to a misbalance in terms of the opportunities extended to each candidate.

These hostings need to be held on the basis of their competencies and not on the basis of financial considerations, therefore, such hostings would, could be re‑examined at the next plenipotentiary or the whole issue could be exampled and we support the UAE delegate and the delegate of China to the extent that this question needs to be further studied in much more detail, particularly bearing in mind possible repercussions of delegates from Developing Countries.

Thank you.

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

>> EGYPT: Thank you, Madame Chair. First of all, we would like to extend our gratitude to the Secretariat and to all of the contributor states. We would like to remind you that the Egyptian Arab Republic would spare no efforts to improve the organization of the plenipotentiary Conference. Nevertheless, we believe that certainly proposals need to be studied further because they would not lead to the immediate enhancement of efficiency. We have listened very closely to the interventions by various delegates on the issue of a certain misbalance in terms of the equality of opportunities among candidates. The proposal by Brazil foresees the holding of such hostings are in the margins of Council session one year held over the plenipotentiary, but as we know the Council does not represent all of the Member States or all of the members. So not all of them would be able to take part, and the same goes to remote participation. Certain countries, Developing Countries would experience issues in terms of infrastructure in telecommunications and so that would not enable candidates from those countries to take an efficient part in hostings given the quality of the infrastructure in their countries. So this issue needs to be further studied. This proposal would not make it possible for us to obtain our objectives. We share the Saudi view that this issue could be submitted to the next plenipotentiary Conference to be discussed among all of the Member States. Thank you.

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

>> BULGARIA: Thank you very much, Madame Chair. Madame Chair, first, I would like to come back to some very well-known principles. The Council is mandated to govern the Union between two plenipotentiary conferences, but in no way it is replacing the plenipotentiary Conference. If we have a hearing prior to the Council, that means that we are not approaching correctly all of the ITU membership.

The second point is that if you want to have this hearing prior to the Council, then we would have be having a lot of implications. For example, elected officials which is postulating or within to postulate for the second term in accordance with the staff rules they have to be on leave without pay. This is starting prior to the Council next year, and then a plenipotentiary, they have to make some sort of suffering to work voluntarily afterward.

Anyway, in my own view, and probably everybody knows elected officials are well known to the ITU membership. They have been seeing and hearing them on in occasions during the current term. So that they would be not in an equal position as compared to the new candidates. Perhaps it's true for the new candidates, but I would go a little bit further on some other principles. So once we have a political debate for elections in a given country, normally this is done by the national television channel, there is nominated person who is asking the questions and then the candidates they are given time to reply to them.

>> So my question is if you want to have a hearing then how is this is going to be conducted? Who is going to guide this? What kind of questions are to be submitted to the eventual candidates so that they will be prepared and they will articulate on them? The second point is, if in the political world it's fine that you articulate and you speak very fine, perhaps in our own highly sophisticated technological environment, we may not get always the best person who speaks best out of others. So there are many issues which are to be looked at very carefully.

Then the other issue is that if we want to make the things open, perhaps it will be fair enough to have on the ITU website special deligates, easily accessible place where everyone can find out what the programs, strategies and declarations of candidates are. Of course, we have to think what kind of let's say of content should be there so that the candidates will develop it as they deem appropriate, but this, perhaps, is to be done by the Council somehow that we have something, something common to compare afterward. I'm saying all of this because on the globe, if you have a hearing here in Geneva then there are people which will be in the early morning hours, some others in the very late hours and all of this. They will not be able to participate in this fully.

And we have to do hearing for all electorate. Therefore, for me, from practical point of view, it doesn't seem very much nice to just to take it out from the TV practice in a given country and to spread it all over. Website could be good enough. Inside we can have programs strategies, promises, commitments in a relatively defined framework which afterward the candidates could develop and they could be available for every administration of interested personality, press. Now, there is one more question which I would like to share with you. I fully support the idea that not only the elected five should be subject to approval which the procedure which way we are going to pray and perhaps to agree here, but it should be applicable also to RRB, the elects members of the radio relations board.. They are elected personally personalities. This opportunity should be given to them as well.

And finally, I think that if a candidate wishes to have on paper their own supplemental, therefore, put you at discussing and describing here, as an idea, then they have to do it, they have to be free to do it, but on their own, at their own expense, at their own facility. So they come up with their own CVs or programs on paper, they distribute as they deem fit, but no burden to ITU, so it's up to them to decide on that.

The same thing is valid for the invitations, receptions and the like. So paper is welcome, but on the account of the invited party. Having said all of that, Madame Chair, I would like to excuse myself if I have disappointed my neighbors from my right side, but I thought that it's good to share and to speak openly in front of everybody. Thank you.

>> CHAIR: Thank you, Bulgaria. Now, we ask to the interpreters and the captioning service if it's possible to continue for another ten minutes, please.

>> INTERPRETER: Yes, Madame Chair.

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

>> NIGERIA: Thank you, Madame Chair. We thank the Secretariat for its report on possible improvement of the PP as well as those administrations that made contribution on the matter. Madame Chair, we have listened to the discussion on the matter. We have no keen interest, but what we have to say have been said by most administrations, however, Madame Chair, for emphasis of stressing the point, Nigeria would like to add some customs with regard to candidates appearing before Council. As earlier mentioned by other delegates, we know that the ITU membership is not only made up of Council members alone. So if candidates are made to appear before Council, what happens to those administrations that are not Council members?

Secondly, they would not have the opportunity to assess the candidates. Secondly, staff members contesting will be a disadvantage as they are required by the staff to take leave of absence. And so, Madame Chair, because of these lapses, Nigeria would want to suggest that further studies on this issue be carried out to ascertain appropriate measures that will provide level playing field to all candidate contesting for any elective position. Thank you, Madame Chair.

>> CHAIR: Thank you. Tunisia, you have the floor, and I will ask to all of the remaining countries to be brief, please. Thank you.

>> TUNISIA: Thank you, Madame Chair. There is a need to take into account representatives and candidates of developing countries, and the financial limitations these countries face, therefore, we would like to ask that measures be taken in this regard. It is also important to be aware that we need to get to know the candidates sufficiently. Thank you.

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

>> BRAZIL: Thank you very much, Madame Chair. Brazil would like to appreciate all of the comments and suggestions received. They are all very valuable, valid for us. First regarding the comments regarding staff regulations, it's quite on the career, Brazil is very concerned about the participation of staff, and the rules that we propose here are exactly on the way in which staff regulation can fully participate in the process, maybe even changing this hearing into a formal, informal hearing so that they can participate in a formal session, not in a formal session.

Those are some kinds of alternatives that we can discuss. The con countries suggest change the rules that harm the staff issuing a clear message to FHR who has the mandate to change the rule. We will pursue change of rules. We appreciate valuable comments from China because actually their comments reinforce that there is a lack of information regarding the candidates. For an important election like this in ITU, we must analyze many aspects of the candidates. Technical capabilities maybe assessed through CV and the candidate's previous posts. The hearing is a valuable opportunity to discuss skills necessary for an ITU representative including its capacity to speak and to answer to questions.

The hearing is one more, only one more opportunity candidates have, much better in our opinion than brochures and speeches given in social events. As we expressed before, the hearings in fact can equilibrate candidates from the developed and candidates from Developing Countries reminding that many international trips are necessary for a successful campaign, a resource that many Developing Countries don't have.

Many colleagues expressed that the Council would not be the best place, but we use the Council to present candidacies. And even host lunches and dinners to present candidates. Moreover, our proposal is to make the hearing fully open and accessible to the Internet so that everyone, even outside ITU can access this session. The process can also be executed in other ITU events as well not only in the ITU Council.

This is just a good opportunity to meet 48 important members of ITU. And last, I would invite colleagues to access the United Nations website so we can all see the requirements last year for the Secretary‑General of the United Nations. Thank you, Madame Chair.

>> CHAIR: Thank you, Brazil. Now, we have two observer Member States, Portugal and Belarus. I will ask you to be very, very brief. Thank you. Portugal, you have the floor.

>> PORTUGAL: Thank you, Madame Chair. Good afternoon to all of you. I will try to be brief. Thank you for taking contributions to this point of the agenda and to the ITU Secretariat for submitting the Document on PP improvements. As noted by each venue during the presentation of Document 76 (Rev. 1) on the hearings which is also subscribed by Portugal and others, we would like to note that it is important to reinforce the transparency and openness of the ITU elections. That's why we are proposing to done duct these hearings for elected the positions at PP‑18. As previously mentioned by some counselors, increasing the transparency of the election process is a trend that is a reality in several UN organizations including for the post of the UN Secretary‑General.

We do keep in mind Portugal believes that the concept of the hearings of the candidates running for elections positioned in PP‑18 as proposed in Document 17/76 (Rev. 1) by several Member States should be accepted. Portugal also believes that this is the best way to make sure we choose the best candidates. Please note that we are very flexible in the way to implement this concept as we don't want to create any sort of unintended consequences as those mentioned, for example, by Canada. That's why we are proposing that the framework under which these hearings are conducted should be finalized in the session, Council session 2018. Thank you very much.

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

>> BELARUS: The position of Belarus with regard to improving the plenipotentiary Conference was introduced by the Russian Federation, however, I would like to talk about the contribution made by Brazil. Belarus supports the idea of holding hearings or hostings. We think it allows to get to know the candidates better. Having heard the arguments of other delegations, we would like to support the reasoning stating that this issue needs further discussion. A possible resolution to this idea might be to provide an opportunity to organize interactive online dialogues or debates with the candidates on a special site which would be created for elections at the proposal of the Secretariat.

It might give an opportunity a few months before the beginning of the plenipot to ask questions to candidates and then on the basis of the responses provided to take a decision on voting at the plenipot. This system is in place one of the stages of voting at the WHO in fact.

Thank you.

>> CHAIR: Thank you. I can ask to the interpreters to continue for another two more minutes.

>> INTERPRETER: Two minutes, Madame Chair.

>> CHAIR: I am optimistic. S and G. You have the floor.

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>> Thank you very much, Madame Chair, I would like to add a few words on this important issue. I think the public hearing is definitely a very good means of for our members to see the candidate better, in addition to those materials they will receive. This afternoon we heard a lot that the other UN agencies have these public hearings quite successfully. But I don't know whether you know that associated with these public hearings like WHO they have elimination process, so it is a part of their procedure, so that, you know, after hearings, they eliminate some candidate and (They present next week out of other candidates originally announced during the public hearing and they only present the three candidates to the WHO for election.

And the same is true for United Nations, Secretary‑General. We have more than ten candidates announced and then after public hearings, they eliminate two times and finally represent a short list to the General Assembly for endorsement. So this, what I'm saying is that this is a part of the procedure, publicly announced earlier, that the public hearing is part of procedure after public hearings they have discussions, they have reductions. So first, I think that we all see the value of public hearings at PP‑18. If we all agree that it could be part of that new procedures.

But, of course, we hold these public hearings before PP‑18 that is the issue now, and that is issue that I think we also have some kind of concern from delegates. I like to remind you that for ITU's procedure, we allowed anyone who presented their candidate 28 working days before plenipotentiary Conference started, which means that after our next Council meeting we still maybe have possible candidates presented by members and how can we address those issues? And I'm not talking about the staff who, you know, will be candidate. We already got some staff for candidate. How can we make sure that they are not factor by some restrictions that we have problems?

I'm not saying that I'm supporting or against because that is up to the Council to make decisions for this PP‑18. And for the ‑‑ I would like to say we can create a porter to post all of the candidates from candidate but we also have problems that we need some of your guidelines what kind of materials and how many of each we can present because sometimes one candidate may accuse we are not fair to them because the other post a lot of materials, and for some reason we cannot post that much. So this kind of situation we should also like to follow.

And for your information, the past in 2014 ITU news always ask editors to interview the candidate before the election and we prepare some kind of collection of the interview answers for all candidates for elected position not for RV members but for all positions that is the kind of thing that we can continue to do that and that material could be also posted as well.

So Madame, I think that I'm not intending to say yes or no and that is you have time to debate and just offer the information for your consideration. Thank you.

>> CHAIR: Thank you, Mr. Houlin Zhao. And as a recap, we have heard a great number of point of view about the Secretariat Document and the other proposal and your view compresses different opinions so can I suggest you to create a group to consolidate all of these different opinions, and can I have a volunteer as a Chair of this ad hoc group? Ismailov, do you want to be a volunteer for this duty?

>> RACHID ISMAILOV: I'm not really keen, but necessary is necessary. So I will present myself.

>> CHAIR: Thank you. We have enough people volunteer for this duty. Thank you very much. And now before the closing, Ms. Doreen Bogdan has to do some announcement, please.

>> DOREEN BOGDAN: Thank you very much. We will have a steering committee meeting just now, to revisit the time management plan, also, Madame Chair, we will announce early tomorrow morning the time and the room for our Vice Chair's ad hoc group just created. And finally just to inform delegates a bit ahead on Thursday it is a public holiday so just to let you know, Thursday is a public holiday in Switzerland and in France which means stores and restaurants are close the but also public transportation is affected so public transportation runs on the Sunday schedule. Thank you very much, and have a good evening. And steering committee will meet now. Thank you.

>> CHAIR: Thank you very much.

(Adjourned at 1747).

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