

Address by the Secretary-General at the Extraordinary session

- Our best wishes to our new Chair, Dr El Sayed Azzouz of the Arab Republic of Egypt. I am pleased to welcome the Vice-Chair from Region E.
- Congratulations to all members that have been re-elected to the ITU Council. And welcome to our new members: the Bahamas, Côte d'Ivoire, the Czech Republic, El Salvador (elected for the very first time), Hungary, Iran, and South Africa – who will refresh the family.
- Council's role is to ensure that the Union's activities, policies, and strategies fully respond to our fast-changing ICT environment.
- We have a lot to do in the next four years.
- We will implement our new strategic and financial plans for 2020-2023.
- We will facilitate the implementation of the resolutions and decisions adopted at PP-18.
- We will look at issues like ITU's future headquarters.
- A new Expert Group on ITRs is to be created during the ordinary session of Council 2019.
- We also have a Council working group on ITU's role in implementing the WSIS outcomes and the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, which reflects the alignment between the WSIS process and the SDGs.
- Saudi Arabia, Poland, Switzerland and ICANN have confirmed their sponsorship of the WSIS Forum 2019 during PP-18. I encourage you to join them!
- We have a new management team that is committed to working with Council Members to better serve the needs of all our members and build a stronger, more open, and more efficient ITU.
- I am very grateful for the new set of tools and guidelines that we have received from PP-18.
- My message to all of you this morning is simple: let's get to work!
- I look forward to seeing you for the Council working group meetings at the end of January, and in June for the ordinary session of Council!