

DECISION 11 (REV. BUCHAREST, 2022)

Creation and management of Council working groups

The Plenipotentiary Conference of the International Telecommunication Union (Bucharest, 2022),

considering

- a) that the purposes of the Union are set out in Article 1 of the ITU Constitution;
- b) that Article 7 of the Constitution states that the ITU Council acts on behalf of the Plenipotentiary Conference;
- c) that Article 10 of the Constitution states that, in the interval between plenipotentiary conferences, the Council shall act, as governing body of the Union, on behalf of the Plenipotentiary Conference within the limits of the powers delegated to it by the latter;
- d) that Resolution 71 (Rev. Bucharest, 2022) of this conference, on the strategic plan for the Union for 2024-2027, identifies key issues, goals, strategies and priorities for the Union;
- e) that the Council creates Council working groups (CWGs) in order to prepare recommendations regarding its activities;
- f) that Annex 2 to Decision 5 (Rev. Bucharest, 2022) of this conference, on options for reducing expenses, includes, *inter alia*, reduction of the number of CWGs to the absolute minimum necessary and reduction, to the extent possible, of the number and duration of physical meetings of CWGs;
- g) Resolution 70 (Rev. Bucharest, 2022) of this conference, on mainstreaming a gender perspective in ITU and promoting gender equality and the empowerment of women and girls through telecommunications/information and communication technologies,

considering further

- a) that the current Council and CWG schedule has caused considerable strain on Member State and Sector Member resources;

b) the growing demands placed on the activities of the Union and the limited resources available from Member States and Sector Members;

c) that there is an urgent need to seek innovative ways to rationalize internal costs, optimize resources and improve efficiency,

recognizing

that the Council has consistently appointed competent and qualified candidates for the leadership of CWGs, but that there remains a need to further promote and enhance equitable geographical distribution and gender balance,

decides

1 that the decision to create, continue or terminate CWGs is taken by the Plenipotentiary Conference or by the Council, as appropriate;

2 that the Council shall decide to create CWGs based on decisions of the Plenipotentiary Conference and/or for resolving key issues, achieving goals and implementing strategies and priorities identified in Resolution 71 (Rev. Bucharest, 2022)¹;

3 that the Council shall decide on the CWG mandates and working procedures consistent with the Rules of Procedure of the Council;

4 that the Council shall examine CWG activities, including progress on the implementation of their mandates, taking into account the decisions of the Plenipotentiary Conference;

5 that, based on the results of the review carried out in accordance with *decides* 4 above, the Council shall:

- i) maintain, terminate or establish CWGs; and
- ii) modify or establish the terms of reference (ToRs) of CWGs,

as appropriate, and in accordance with relevant decisions of the Plenipotentiary Conference, as applicable;

6 that the Council shall decide on the leadership of CWGs, taking into account *recognizing* above, with a view to promoting and enhancing, *inter alia*, equitable geographical distribution and gender balance;

¹ Taking into account the decisions of the Plenipotentiary Conference.

7 that the Council, when creating a CWG and defining the ToRs in line with *decides* 3 above, shall avoid duplication of activities among CWGs, as well as between CWGs and study groups, advisory groups and other groups of the ITU Sectors;

8 that CWG chairmen and vice-chairmen can serve up to two successive terms of office where a term of office is the interval between two consecutive plenipotentiary conferences, that a period in office in one CWG does not count towards a period in office in another CWG, and that steps shall be taken to provide some continuity between CWG chairmen and vice-chairmen;

9 that if a CWG chairman is unable to remain in office, a new chairman shall, as a rule, be appointed from among the current vice-chairmen of that CWG, in which case the "partial" term of office shall not be taken into account in any appointment for the subsequent term;

10 that, to the extent possible, the Council shall merge existing CWGs with a view to reducing their number and the number and duration of their meetings, and with the aim of avoiding duplication of effort, and minimizing budgetary impacts;

11 that, to the extent possible, the Council shall integrate CWG meetings into the agenda and time allocation of the annual sessions of the Council;

12 that, if it is not possible to fulfil *decides* 11 above, the meetings of various CWGs shall be collocated in order to hold them in sequence or back to back in a cluster;

13 that meetings of CWGs shall not be held during major conferences and assemblies of the Union, or during meetings of the Sector advisory groups;

14 that the Council, at its ordinary session before the plenipotentiary conference, shall consider the four-year reports of CWGs and submit recommendations to the plenipotentiary conference on the need to maintain, modify, terminate or establish CWGs for the next period.