

RESOLUTION 144 (REV. BUSAN, 2014)

Availability of model host-country agreements in advance for conferences and assemblies of the Union held away from Geneva

The Plenipotentiary Conference of the International Telecommunication Union (Busan, 2014),

recalling

a) the relevant provisions of the General Rules of conferences, assemblies and meetings of the Union, particularly:

- sections 1, 2 and 3 of Chapter I thereof concerning the holding of conferences and assemblies when there is an inviting government; and
- section 12 of Chapter II thereof concerning the setting up of committees;

b) the relevant provisions of Article 5 of the ITU Convention concerning duties and responsibilities of the General Secretariat, and particularly No. 97, which provides that the Secretary-General shall provide, where appropriate in cooperation with the inviting government, the secretariat of conferences of the Union;

c) Resolution 5 (Kyoto, 1994) of the Plenipotentiary Conference, which considers that there are advantages in holding certain conferences and meetings in countries other than the headquarters country;

d) that Resolution 5 (Kyoto, 1994) resolves that invitations to hold conferences and assemblies of the Union away from Geneva should not be accepted unless the host government agrees to defray the additional expenditure involved;

e) that Resolution 5 (Kyoto, 1994) resolves that invitations to hold development conferences and meetings of the study groups of the Sectors away from Geneva should not be accepted unless the host government provides at least adequate premises and the necessary furniture and equipment free of charge, except that in the case of developing countries¹ equipment need not necessarily be provided free of charge by the host government, if the government so requests;

f) that Resolution 175 (Rev. Busan, 2014) of this conference resolves to take account of persons with disabilities in the work of ITU,

considering

a) that the conferences and assemblies of the Union have high importance due to the powers conferred on them and the effects they have;

b) that it is important to remove barriers that limit the participation of persons with disabilities;

c) that webcasting and captioning are invaluable tools, which benefit persons with disabilities and specific needs;

d) that the precise place and exact dates of conferences and assemblies must be fixed in accordance with the provisions of Articles 1 and 3 of the Convention, following consultations with the inviting government;

e) that the decision to accept an invitation to hold a conference or assembly of the Union away from Geneva is usually taken by the ITU Council;

f) that preparations for conferences and assemblies require extensive work, which includes various installations and facilities as well as the planning and organization of logistic services in a timely fashion for the smooth functioning of the conference or assembly;

g) that, when there is an inviting government, the General Secretariat defines the conditions and requirements of the conference or assembly in a host-country agreement and annexes thereto,

¹ These include the least developed countries, small island developing states, landlocked developing countries and countries with economies in transition.

considering, however

- a) that past and current experience demonstrates that host-country agreements show significant variations not only from one conference or assembly to another, but also for different host countries;
- b) that host-country agreements and their annexes require the inviting government to deploy the necessary financial and human resources for the preparatory work;
- c) that requirements for the inviting governments usually differ from the facilities provided by ITU for conferences and assemblies held and organized by ITU in Geneva, resulting in additional effort and expenditures;
- d) that the conditions attached to host-country agreements and annexes thereto are of significance in the decision-making process of a government considering whether to invite and host a conference or assembly of the Union;
- e) that the availability of the texts of the host-country agreement and annexes thereto well in advance of a conference or assembly will not only increase transparency but also will serve as a measure for the Union to accept the invitation and for the governments to take a decision on an invitation to hold a conference or assembly;
- f) that, as things stand at present, finalization of the complete text of the host-country agreement and its annexes takes a long time, which in turn leaves the inviting government very little time to not only complete the domestic ratification procedures but also fulfil all the commitments and requirements laid down in the above-mentioned texts,

recognizing

national sovereignty and the different national laws of the Member States,

resolves

that model host-country agreements and the annexes thereto, including the requirements in terms of basic infrastructure, taking into account the needs of persons with disabilities and persons with specific needs, including accessible facilities, arrangements for webcasting facilities and captioning (including transcripts of the captioning), when convening conferences, assemblies and meetings of the Union, as articulated in Chapter II, Section 12 ("Setting up of committees") of the General Rules of conferences, assemblies and meetings of the Union, considering the financial and technical limitations, shall be provided at least two years before the proposed date of any conference or assembly, in order to facilitate the work of Member States wishing to offer to host the conference or assembly under well-defined conditions,

instructs the Secretary-General

- 1 to prepare model host-country agreements and the annexes thereto, including the requirements in terms of basic infrastructure, for each of the conferences and assemblies of the Union, at least two years before the proposed date of the conference or assembly;
- 2 to submit the model of host-country agreements and the annexes thereto to the Council, for consideration and adoption of any measures that may be appropriate;
- 3 to provide the model host-country agreements and the annexes thereto, including the requirements in terms of basic infrastructure, to the Member States before any decision is taken concerning the selection of the host country for the conference or assembly,

instructs the Council

to review and adopt, at its first session after they have been made available, model host-country agreements and the annexes thereto, including the requirements in terms of basic infrastructure and arrangements for webcasting facilities and captioning (including transcripts of the captioning) for each of the conferences and assemblies of the Union, and to adopt any measures that may be appropriate.