

## RESOLUTION 145 (ANTALYA, 2006)

**Participation of observers in conferences, assemblies  
and meetings of the Union**

The Plenipotentiary Conference of the International Telecommunication Union (Antalya, 2006),

*considering*

- a) the long-standing practice of the Union to admit observers to its conferences, assemblies and meetings, including conferences which produce final acts, and to the Council;
- b) that the rights of participation accorded to observers under the basic texts and in practice vary depending upon the character of the organization or entity, its status within ITU, and the category of meeting<sup>1</sup>;
- c) the need expressed by Member States for enhanced transparency in the proceedings of ITU meetings and in their decision-making processes;
- d) the importance of ensuring the accountability of the Council to the Member States of the Union;
- e) the corresponding need for consistency in the application of the rules regarding the participation of observers throughout the decision-making processes at meetings of the Union,

*noting*

- a) the rights and obligations of Member States and Sector Members set out in Article 3 of the ITU Constitution and, in particular, that the right to vote in all ITU conferences, assemblies and meetings is strictly limited to Member States;

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<sup>1</sup> Conference, assembly or meeting, as appropriate.

b) the provisions of Article 33 of the ITU Convention regarding the obligation of Member States, Sector Members and other entities to share in defraying the expenses of ITU conferences, assemblies and meetings, and the associated Financial Regulations,

*taking into account*

the rights of observers specified in Resolution 6 (Kyoto, 1994) of the Plenipotentiary Conference, on the attendance of liberation organizations recognized by the United Nations at ITU conferences and meetings as observers, and Resolution 99 (Rev. Antalya, 2006) of this conference, on the status of Palestine in ITU, and the rights of the United Nations, as contained in the Agreement between the United Nations and ITU (Atlantic City, 1947) which is the legal basis for the relationship between the two organizations,

*recognizing*

a) that Member States may send observers to a regional radiocommunication conference (RRC) of a region other than that to which the said Member States belong in order to participate in a non-voting capacity;

b) that the provisions of the Convention identify the organizations, agencies and entities which may participate as observers in an advisory capacity in specific conferences, assemblies and meetings of the Union;

c) that other organizations and entities, as specified in the Convention, may send observers to conferences, assemblies and meetings of the Union;

d) that Member States which are not Member States of the Council may send observers to meetings of the Council and that, in accordance with No. 61B of the Convention, the Council adopts its own Rules of Procedure,

*recognizing further*

- a) the decision of the Plenipotentiary Conference (Marrakesh, 2002) concerning the participation of observers from the United Nations and the specialized agencies of the United Nations and the International Atomic Energy Agency in ITU radiocommunication conferences, which recognizes the long-standing practice of the Union to allow these organizations to submit information documents and provide advice to meetings on points relevant to their mandates;
- b) that important information may be provided to ITU conferences, assemblies and meetings by observers and that the results of these meetings may impose obligations on Member States;
- c) that the General Rules of conferences, assemblies and meetings of the Union, and in particular Nos 61 and 62 thereof, task the chairmen of such conferences, assemblies and meetings with the duty to protect the rights of delegations and to ensure the smooth functioning of meetings according to the Rules of Procedure of conferences, assemblies and meetings,

*resolves*

- 1 that Member States from outside the region of an RRC participate, in accordance with the Convention, in a non-voting capacity, as observer Member States, and that their participation shall be guided by the General Rules and, in addition, by the terms of Annex 1 to this resolution;
- 2 that the participation of organizations and entities which, in accordance with the Convention, participate as observers in an advisory capacity in specific conferences, assemblies and meetings of the Union shall be guided by the terms set out in Annex 2 to this resolution;
- 3 that the participation of other observers in conferences, assemblies and meetings of the Union shall be guided by the terms of Annex 3 to this resolution;
- 4 that the terms of the annexes referred to in *resolves* 1 to 3 above shall be without prejudice to the terms of Resolution 6 (Kyoto, 1994) and Resolution 99 (Rev. Antalya, 2006), as well as the provisions of the Agreement between the United Nations and ITU,

*instructs the Council*

1 to ensure that its Rules of Procedure are compatible with the provisions of the basic texts of the Union and, in particular, with the terms and principles of this resolution;

2 to ensure that its Rules of Procedure are consistently applied for all meetings of the Council, including its committees and any groups that may be established, unless participation beyond that of Member States of the Council is clearly set out in a specific decision of the Council,<sup>2</sup>

*instructs the Secretary-General and the Directors of the Bureaux*

to develop or revise, as appropriate, the necessary guidelines or administrative procedures in order to rationalize and facilitate the participation of observers on a basis consistent with the basic instruments, the General Rules and the terms of this resolution,

*further instructs the Secretary-General*

in consultation with the Directors of the Bureaux, to report to the Council on the implementation of this resolution, highlighting any difficulty that may be encountered.

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*(Antalya, 2006)*

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<sup>2</sup> The possibility for observers to attend, where appropriate, committees or groups of a Council session is provided by Council Decision 524 relating to observers from Member States and Decision 519 relating to observers from Sector Members. The Plenipotentiary Conference endorses the content of these decisions. Furthermore, past practice concerning participation in groups created by the Council beyond that of Member States of the Council has proven useful.

## ANNEX 1 TO RESOLUTION 145 (ANTALYA, 2006)

**Observers of Member States participating in a non-voting capacity at a regional radiocommunication conference  
(Article 24, No. 282 of the ITU Convention)**

Such observers:

- 1) are admitted to participate in plenary meetings;
- 2) are admitted to participate in committees and their subsidiary groups, with the exception of the steering, budget control, credentials and editorial committees;
- 3) are entitled to receive all conference documentation within any restrictions established for the number of copies distributed;
- 4) may submit information documents via the Secretary-General, which shall be made available to the conference in the ITU official language(s) in which they are submitted; these documents shall be clearly referenced as information documents on the appropriate meeting agendas;
- 5) may request the floor in order to provide advice or information concerning the interests of the Member States of other regions with respect to conference agenda items; such advice shall not include or be treated as proposals;
- 6) are to be given the floor by the chairman after the last Member State of the region on the list of speakers;
- 7) may be asked by the chairman during the course of a meeting to make a statement or to provide relevant information in order to assist the proceedings;
- 8) are to be registered in such a manner as to be identifiable by conference participants as Member State observers;
- 9) are to be seated in French alphabetical order after Member States of the region.

## ANNEX 2 TO RESOLUTION 145 (ANTALYA, 2006)

### **Observers which participate in an advisory capacity**

The following rights shall be conferred on the organizations, agencies and entities which are admitted to participate as observers in an advisory capacity in conferences, assemblies and meetings of the Union in accordance with relevant provisions of the ITU Convention:

#### **I Plenipotentiary conferences (Article 23, Nos 269A to 269D), radiocommunication conferences (Article 24, Nos 278 and 279) and world conferences on international telecommunications (Article 3, No. 49; Article 24, Nos 278 and 279)**

Such observers:

- 1) are admitted to participate in plenary meetings;
- 2) unless otherwise decided by the plenary meeting, may be admitted to participate in committees and their subsidiary groups, with the exception of the steering, budget control, credentials and editorial committees;
- 3) are entitled to receive all conference documentation within any restrictions established for the number of copies distributed;
- 4) may submit information documents via the Secretary-General, which shall be made available to the conference in the ITU official language(s) in which they are submitted; these documents shall be clearly referenced as information documents on the appropriate meeting agendas;
- 5) may request the floor in order to provide advice or information on points relevant to their mandates; such advice shall not include or be treated as proposals;
- 6) are to be given the floor by the chairman after the last Member State on the list of speakers;

- 7) may be asked by the chairman during the course of a meeting to make a statement or to provide relevant information in order to assist the proceedings;
- 8) are to be registered in such a manner as to be identifiable by conference participants as observers;
- 9) are to be seated in French alphabetical order after Member States and the observer pursuant to Resolution 99 (Rev. Antalya, 2006) of the Plenipotentiary Conference.

In the case of a radiocommunication conference or a world conference on international telecommunications, participants from those organizations that have both the status of Sector Member and that of observer in an advisory capacity must register and participate in a single category.

## **II Radiocommunication assemblies, world telecommunication standardization assemblies and telecommunication development conferences (Article 25, Nos 298A to 298E)<sup>3</sup>**

Such observers:

- 1) are admitted to participate in plenary meetings;
- 2) unless otherwise decided by the plenary meeting, may be admitted to participate in committees and their subsidiary groups, with the exception of the steering, budget control and editorial committees;
- 3) are entitled to receive all conference or assembly documentation within any restrictions established for the number of copies distributed;

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<sup>3</sup> Upon the entry into force of the amendments to the Convention, as adopted by the Plenipotentiary Conference (Antalya, 2006), the reference shall read "Article 25, Nos 297*bis* and 298C".

- 4) may submit information documents via the Secretary-General which shall be made available to the conference or assembly/in the ITU official language(s) in which they are submitted; these documents shall be clearly referenced as information documents on the appropriate meeting agendas;
- 5) may request the floor in these meetings in order to provide advice or information on points relevant to their mandates; such advice shall not include or be treated as proposals;
- 6) are to be given the floor by the chairman after the last Member State or Sector Member on the list of speakers;
- 7) may be asked by the chairman during the course of a meeting to make a statement or to provide relevant information in order to assist the proceedings;
- 8) are to be registered in such a manner as to be identifiable by conference or assembly participants as observers;
- 9) are to be seated in French alphabetical order after Member States, the observer pursuant to Resolution 99 (Rev. Antalya, 2006) and Sector Members.

Participants from an organization which may participate as an observer in an advisory capacity and which also has the status of ITU Sector Member in the relevant Sector must register either as an observer or as a representative of a Sector Member.

### **III Sector-level meetings**

Based on long-standing practice, the participation in ITU Sector meetings such as study groups or their subordinate groups by those organizations which have no status in ITU other than that of observers in an advisory capacity may include the submission of contributions and oral interventions in meetings.



## ANNEX 3 TO RESOLUTION 145 (ANTALYA, 2006)

### **Observers which do not participate in an advisory capacity**

The following rights shall be conferred on the organizations and entities which are admitted to participate as observers in conferences, assemblies and meetings of the Union, in accordance with the relevant provisions of the ITU Convention:

#### **I Plenipotentiary conferences (Article 23, No. 269E)**

Such observers:

- 1) are admitted to attend plenary meetings;
- 2) unless otherwise decided by the plenary meeting, may be admitted to attend committees and their subsidiary groups, with the exception of the steering, budget control, credentials and editorial committees;
- 3) are entitled to receive all conference documentation within any restrictions established for the number of copies distributed;
- 4) may be asked by the chairman during the course of a meeting in order to provide relevant information to assist the proceedings;
- 5) are to be seated in French alphabetical order after other participants.

#### **II Radiocommunication conferences (Article 24, No. 280) and world conferences on international telecommunications (Article 3, No. 49; Article 24, No. 280; Article 33, No. 476)**

Such observers:

- 1) are admitted to attend plenary meetings;
- 2) unless otherwise decided by the plenary meeting, may be admitted to attend committees and their subsidiary groups, with the exception of the steering, budget control, credentials and editorial committees;

- 3) are entitled to receive all conference documentation within any restrictions established for the number of copies distributed;
- 4) may be asked by the chairman during the course of a meeting to provide relevant information in order to assist the proceedings or to make a statement but shall not be authorized to participate in the debates;
- 5) are to be seated in French alphabetical order after other participants.