



Summary Report of the 33rd IMAC meeting

Present: Mr Kamlesh Vikamsey (Chair), Mr Honore Ndoko (Vice-Chair), Mr Henrique Schneider (remote participation), Ms. Sarah Hammer (remote participation in one session)

Absent: Mr Alexander Narukavnikov

1 Introduction

- 1.1 The thirty-third IMAC meeting was held in a hybrid set-up, from 2 to 4 November 2022.
- 1.2 In this summary report the terms IMAC and Committee are used interchangeably.

2 Declaration of absence of any conflicts of interest

- 2.1 Three (3) members of IMAC signed in from the beginning of the meeting, 2 physically present in Geneva and 1 participating remotely.
- 2.2 Members of IMAC declared the absence of any conflicts of interests during the internal IMAC session at the beginning of the meeting.

3 Chairman's participation at the Final Session of 2022 Council

- 3.1 The Chair of IMAC briefed the group on his participation at the final meeting of the 2022 Session of Council that took place at the beginning of the 2022 ITU Plenipotentiary Conference (PP-22) in Bucharest, Romania. The summary record of the meeting has been available at the Council website ([C22/107](#)).

4 Amendments to the IMAC Terms of Reference by PP-22

- 4.1 The Committee reviewed and discussed at length the revisions to its Terms of Reference (Res. 162, Rev. Bucharest, 2022) agreed by Member States at PP-22.
- 4.2 IMAC expressed their satisfaction that the proposed amendments by the Committee were fully endorsed and approved by the ITU Members States.
- 4.3 Following the additional agreed revisions by the Member States at PP-22, the Committee suggested that a dedicated session on IT and IT security best practices be arranged to discuss the new topic added to the IMAC Terms of Reference. IMAC members discussed the need to receive an update on the topic at least on a yearly basis.
- 4.4 The Member States decision at PP-22 to revise and increase the composition of the IMAC from five to six members was duly noted.

5 IMAC Self-Assessment

5.1 The Committee agreed to use the proposed form, then post the self-assessment questionnaire on MS Forms with the support of the secretariat and invited all committee members to respond and have a collective look at the next IMAC meeting.

5.2 Following the completion of the assessment internally, the members of the Committee also agreed on the need to collect stakeholders' feedback via a short, proposed questionnaire that will follow-up and that will be shared with all the key stakeholders.

6 Participation at the 7th meeting of UN Oversight Committees

6.1 IMAC reconfirmed the importance and value from the participation of the Chair at the annual meeting of the Chairs of the UN System Oversight Committees, which took place on 6-7 of December 2022 in New York.

6.2 The Committee was pleased with the confirmation of participation of the Chairman, and shall discuss the outcomes of the discussions at its next meeting.

7 Overall status of IMAC Recommendations

7.1 In keeping with its standard practice, the Committee reviewed the follow-up of actions taken in response to IMAC's recommendations, reviewing the implementation status.

7.2 Up to the 33rd IMAC meeting, more than 90% of the IMAC recommendations have been implemented (56 out of 62 recommendations), while 6 recommendations (less than 10%) remain in progress with the Secretariat.

8 Update on PP-22 overall outcomes

8.1 IMAC received a detailed briefing of the outcomes of the ITU Plenipotentiary Conference, which took place from 26 September to 14 October 2022. The ITU secretariat summarized the Decisions and Resolutions adopted by the conference, as well as the results of the elections for the new senior management team.

8.2 The Committee commended the smooth running of the conference and thanked the ITU management team for the briefing.

8.3 IMAC was concerned about the financial gaps and reiterated the need for ITU to be disciplined on expenditures, aiming to make savings but also considering possible ways for revenue generation. The need for close monitoring of expenses and revenue was also highlighted, as well as the need for additional efforts on resource mobilization.

8.4 As an overall comment, and a key point looking forward, the members of the Committee highlighted that in a world that is dramatically changing, ITU would need to make all the efforts to catch up with the developments in its field, in order to continue to be relevant.

9 Update on Financial Management issues

9.1 IMAC received a briefing from the Financial Resources Management Dept. (FRMD) on the key financial management issues.

9.2 The secretariat provided details on their engagement with the External Auditors, towards the conclusion of their report on the 2021 financial statements.

9.3 The challenges related to the budget implementation were also discussed, which had resulted in the need to request from the ITU Council a withdraw from the reserve account. The focus from the secretariat shall be to reduce the expenses side, but also focus on revenue generation.

9.4 The Committee congratulated the secretariat on the successful closing of the accounts for 2021, which eventually did not result in a qualified audit opinion.

10 Session with BDT Director/Chair of Working Group on Internal Controls & Secretary-General-elect

10.1 The newly elected ITU Secretary-General Ms. Doreen Bogdan-Martin joined the IMAC meeting and had a productive and open discussion with the Committee on her strategic priorities and the main challenges the organization will be facing during the next four year cycle.

10.2 In particular topics discussed included: the construction project for the new ITU HQ building, the financial situation of the organization, the availability of timely financial management information, and the need to strengthen the concept of working as One ITU.

10.3 The SG-elect had also the opportunity to provide more information on the ongoing visioning exercise conducted by a cross-sectoral ITU team, focusing on the three main pillars around: thought leadership, strategic engagement and partnerships, and organizational excellence.

10.4 The members of the Committee welcomed the engagement of the new Secretary-General and expressed their eagerness to working with her in her new role.

11 Update from Internal Audit

11.1 IMAC received a briefing from the Head of the Internal Audit Unit, on the current status of work of Internal Audit.

11.2 The Committee discussed the findings of the Internal Audit Report on the Working Group on Internal Controls' (WGIC) actions. The key takeaways from that report, demonstrated that if an Elected Official is especially keen on the follow-up on the implementation of the specific recommendations, then the overall governance and internal controls can be significantly enhanced, and senior managers are held accountable. Also, the importance of the role of internal audit in following-up on the effectiveness of the controls was also highlighted.

11.3 IMAC also reviewed the Management letters on administrative and financial reporting to donors, as well as the proposed updates to the Internal Audit Charter, implementing the corresponding External Auditors' recommendations.

11.4 The Committee commended the work and the contribution of IAU in the work of the WGIC, and invited IAU to continue to work on ensuring the alignment of the risk management exercise with the audit plan. IMAC invited IAU to participate with the whole team at the upcoming IMAC meeting.

12 Update on the HQ building construction project

12.1 A detailed update was provided on the progress of the HQ building construction project, and the related outcomes of the PP-22.

12.2 The Committee reiterated the previous recommendation to strengthen the technical expertise at the governance level of the project.

13 Update from the External Auditors (UK National Audit Office)

13.1 IMAC received a briefing from the UK National Audit Office (External Auditors), in particular on the 2022 audit planning, the process and the schedule, the proposed approach, the areas of focus, and the focus on performance audit topics.

13.2 The Committee welcomed the approach of the new External Auditors and looked forward to the next IMAC meeting to start engaging on the audit findings.

13.3 Members of IMAC echoed the conversation on the management of the risks and the need to focus on the overall approach to risk management in the organization.

13.4 IMAC had also a closed confidential session with the External Auditors.

14 Update from the Investigation Unit

14.1 The Head of the Investigation Unit briefed the Committee on the ongoing investigation cases and the progress on the development of the investigation charter.

14.2 The Committee was also informed on the internal group working to review the internal justice system.

14.3 The relation between IMAC and the Investigation Unit, in particular in view of the revised IMAC ToRs that include the investigation function under the responsibilities of the group, would need to be further clarified. The Investigation Unit would further communicate with the Committee on the new investigation guidelines.

14.4 IMAC is looking forward at its next meeting to have a common session with Legal Affairs, Human Resources, Investigation, Internal Audit and Ethics to start discussing among other topics, how to line out the roles and responsibilities, standard operating procedures, and respective Charters.

15 Update from the Ethics Office

15.1 IMAC received a regular briefing from the Ethics Officer and discussed the developments and progress of work. The Ethics Officer discussed the need to implement the Action Plan presented at Council, in particular on the mandatory ethics training, the declaration of interest policy and the need to raise awareness on the new harassment policy. Finally, the topic of mental health, which is becoming increasingly important was also underlined in the discussion.

15.2 The Committee highlighted the need for ethics training on an annual basis, the required focus on financial fraud prevention, the need for training for the managers in identifying and handling sensitive cases, but also the need to look into the overall framework of the legal unit, IAU, ethics and investigation.

16 Update on Human Resources issues

16.1 IMAC received a briefing from the Chief of the Human Resources Management Dept. (HRMD). The briefing focused on the role of data analytics and the new tool developed by HRMD, and the need to start using the data analytics available in a meaningful manner for the future of the organization.

16.2 Regarding the implementation of the various oversight bodies' recommendations, the Committee noted that a lot of work has been done, but also recognized the need to prioritize and close those recommendations.

16.3 IMAC and the Chief of HRMD also discussed: the need to have a meaningful policy to build a younger effective workforce in terms of addressing the rapidly changing environment; and the new eRecruit system: which provides online, real-time verification, enables connection with the overall UN database, and provides the possibility of creating potential synergies.

16.4 IMAC will continue to engage with HRMD, in particular on the implementation of the high-priority open recommendations, but also on other important issues, such as succession planning and talent management.

17 Next meeting of the IMAC

17.1 The Committee's 34th Meeting will be on 15-17 of March 2023, and the following meetings in 2023 are preliminary planned for 5-7 June 2023, and 30 October to 1 November 2023.

17.2 The Committee would like to convey many thanks to all the participants for their contributions and to the IMAC Secretariat for the helpful support during the 33rd meeting.

18 Any other business

18.1 The members of the Committee expressed their renewed appreciation and compliments to the outgoing Secretary-General Mr. Houlin Zhao for the quality of his leadership on oversight matters and his active engagement with IMAC.
