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EIGHTH MEETING OF COMMITTEE 5

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>> CHAIRMAN: Good afternoon, everybody. And welcome to this eighth meeting of Committee 5. We have a short meeting this afternoon, which will run to 4 p.m. at the latest, because after that other meetings of the plenary will be taking place towards the end of the day.

Guiding our work today, we have document 44, which I now ask you to take out. This is ADM/44. This, then, is our agenda. I suggest that we adopt this document unless there are any requests for the floor.

Kenya, you have the floor.

>> KENYA: Thank you very much, Chairman, and good afternoon to colleagues.

I really want to sincerely thank you for developing this agenda item. I just wanted your guidance on a matter which I think we did discuss at our second meeting, but was not concluded, and I'm hoping of course that because of the many groups that are meeting in parallel, I've not missed out on it.

There was an issue raised by, I think, if I remember well, the Brazilian Delegation regarding electoral processes for official -- elected officials in the ITU. And I'm just wondering whether informal discussions are still going on or whether -- what's happening in that matter, because I don't quite think it was concluded. And so that we don't lose track of, it. It may just be helpful to get your guidance, if at all there are informal discussions, the nature of those discussions.

Because I know I was on behalf of the African Group contacted initially, but that was all that came out of it.

Thank you very much, Chair.

>> CHAIRMAN: Thank you, Kenya.

Brazil was tasked with coordinating this matter which you are referring to, about electoral processes. The discussions haven't been concluded yet. We have still not received any feedback from the Chair of that Committee. So perhaps I could ask the African Group, Kenya, to make contact with the Brazilian Delegation and they can inform us of where we are at with these discussions. I think that would be the best course of action.

Thank you.

Iran, you have the floor.

>> ISLAMIC REPUBLIC OF IRAN: Thank you, Chairman. Good afternoon.

When I entered the room, my distinguished colleague from Mexico talked to me about something, yes. But I heard "This document is approved." Which document was approved? Thank you.

>> CHAIRMAN: No, Mr. Arasteh, we have not approved anything yet. I wanted to give you some information about this at the end of the meeting, but you seem very hungry for information so I'll give you the information now.

It seems that the group is being created about alternative calls. Egypt agreed to Chair that group and the group will begin meeting tomorrow. Its first report will be submitted to us on Monday.

Secondly, yesterday it was decided that a group would be created on access to documents. And our colleague from Mexico has kindly agreed to Chair that group. I'd ask you, then, to look at the screens to find out when that group on access to documents will meet under the Mexican Chairmanship.

That's the information which I had for you then about the Working Groups.

With that, let's go back to the agenda. Document 44. There are no further requests for the floor, so the agenda is adopted. Thank you very much.

On item 3 of the agenda, we have a draft new Resolution on outer space. This is DT/36. I'd ask whether the Chairman of the relevant group can introduce this document.

The UK, you have the floor.

>> UNITED KINGDOM: Thank you, Chairman, and good afternoon to all distinguished colleagues.

Mr. Chairman and distinguished colleagues, the Arab Group met for two sessions this week and was well attended with nearly 30 representatives from the different regions. The document from CEPT, document 80/80, was thoroughly discussed in the two informal sessions on Tuesday and Wednesday morning of this week. The result was basically document DT/36 in front of you today.

You will see in document DT/36 that there are a couple words added in tracked changes. These were proposed after our session yesterday by someone who could not attend the morning session, and were discussed and agreed by smaller group in the afternoon. And my hope is that these small changes can be accepted by everyone here.

The informal discussion was very cordial and forthcoming and it was recognized that there were disparate views in relation to the subject. After intense discussion on the objective of the new Resolution in front of you, document DT/36 represents a very well-balanced and delicate compromise and reflects well the views of the interested parties.

The proposal for a new Resolution, ITU Resolution, which responds to the UN General Assembly Resolution 68/50, "transparency and confidence-building measures in outer space activities," is the subject of DT/36. The document encourages organizations of the United Nations to coordinate as appropriate on matters related to the recommendations contained in the UN group of Government experts' report on the same subject.

Hence, DT/36's response to the UN General Assembly Resolution by encouraging the dissemination of information, capacity building and the sharing of the best practices in the use and development of the radiocommunication satellite networks/systems.

The ITU proposes actions in the ITU, with the objectives of bridging the digital divide and enhancing the reliability and availability of the array of telecommunication networks/systems.

There is more information that invites several ITU stakeholders to achieve this objective.

Hence, I want to re-emphasize that the document represents a delicate compromise achieved between the representatives of the various regions following detailed discussions this week. And my suggestion and plea to you, Mr. Chairman, is not to reopen the document for discussion but to approve it as it is. Otherwise, I fear that the compromise reached at our discussions may be broken.

And, finally, I'd like to thank all which contributed to this work of the DT/36 which engaged in the debate and their spirit of cooperation in drafting this document.

Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

>> CHAIRMAN: Thank you, United Kingdom, which introduced that document. And thank you to your group which worked hard to draft DT/36.

I call upon you then to adopt this document without opening any discussion, bearing in mind the delicate balance that we had to keep for this document.

Saudi Arabia, you insist?

>> SAUDIA ARABIA: Thank you, Chair. Good afternoon, everybody.

I'd like to thank Mr. Azzarelli of the United Kingdom who Chaired the informal meetings which were held on two consecutive days in this regard.

Having seen the new draft Resolution strengthening the role of ITU with regard to transparency and confidence building measures in outer space activities, a number of points warrant clarification.

In the first section, "Considering," we refer to "Reliable space radiocommunication services, such as earth exploration-satellite service, radiocommunication satellite services, radionavigation-satellite service and space research service."

Now, the Member States of the ITU depend not only on those services, there are other services, the space services, which we require fixed satellites, mobile satellites, and others. We suggest, then, in this paragraph that we add the words "Such as the ITU Member States rely, inter alia, on reliable space radiocommunication services, such as earth exploration-satellite service, radiocommunication satellite services," and so on.

We have another comment to make. And this is in the "Resolves." "Resolves to encourage" -- I beg your pardon. "Invites the Council to consider and review." We think these agreements shall be clarified. What parties do they concern? We should state that. Are these Member States administrations, for instance? The parties concerned by these cooperation agreements should be specified.

We would also like clarification of what we mean by the "strategic implications" of this. We know that there will be financial implications, but what do we mean by "strategic implications?"

In the "Instructs the Director of the Radiocommunication Bureau" section, paragraph 1, "To promote access to information ... related to satellite monitoring facilities." We believe that this first paragraph is unclearly drafted. We think that should be clarified.

And in the second paragraph, "To continue taking action to maintain a database on cases of harmful interference," what is the nature of this database?

We'd like the Director of the Radiocommunication Bureau to clarify this. Is there already a database and who will be tasked with maintaining the database? Who will have access to it? We'd like clarification about the content of the database, particularly where harmful interference is concerned.

In the fourth paragraph, it said that the Director of the Radiocommunication Bureau will report as appropriate. To whom will the Director of the BR be reporting? Thank you very much.

>> CHAIRMAN: Thank you, Saudi Arabia.

I'm sorry, but you're opening up this debate again with all of these questions. And I don't believe that that's what the room wants. The only thing I can say to it, sir, is that the first matter you raised is a translation issue. Because in the French version the "Such as" already exists.

On the other matters which you mentioned, I don't wish to reopen the debate. I'd like to simply ask whether any Delegation seconds Saudi Arabia's proposals. And if that's not the case, we will not pursue these discussions. We will simply try to adopt the document.

Iran. Iran?

>> ISLAMIC REPUBLIC OF IRAN: Thank you, Chairman.

We are in Plenipotentiary Conference at the earliest stage. We have mentioned that we are working under the Busan consensus environment and we continue to work under the Busan consensus environment. But if a colleague seeks points of clarification, it's good to clarify but not open discussion. The first clarification provided by yourself develops because of translations, the "such as."

Then I go to the last portion raised by the Distinguished Delegate of Saudi Arabia, to direct the radiocommunication director to report on the implementation of this solution as appropriate. Why we would not identify anybody? It depends on the nature, they could report to the Assembly, the director could report to the WRC, the director could report to the Council. We leave it to the director based on the circumstances and necessity to report as appropriate, because something may not need to go to other levels if it could be found a better way to treat that.

In case of the database, what it says, Chairman, is it should read paragraphs 1 and 2 together. Paragraph 1 talks of access to information and paragraph 2 goes to database. What is a database? If there are reports as worded here, reported in accordance with relevant provision of radiocommunications, that would be processed by the BR properly and put in the database and administrations or Member States or memberships would have to have access to that, and the BR facilitates access to that.

So I think, Chairman, these are things that have been discussed and have been cleared in order to facilitate the objectives of the Resolution. Once again, it has three objectives. One is capacity building. It is done.

What is access to the data? It is done.

And what is the agreement? Now, the Distinguished Delegate of Saudi Arabia agreed to the agreement. The agreement is for the use of the satellite network facilities. Sometimes our agreement between administration and the BR, memorandum of understanding, it was felt that Council should have a look to that one to see whether it complies with the criteria in the Convention with respect to the MOU, whether it has any financial implication. Whether or not it has anything.

Chairman, Council is the highest part of the Union, that's why it goes to that one. We could not spell out specifically which agreement, between what organizations. These are general issues that are required and it will be discussed at the Council.

So having said that, the AP was not in favor of any Resolution, but in the spirit of cooperation we spent time. And for your information, we were in room M, which you could not hear each other. You had to shout, unfortunately. And after that meeting, I was totally tired because I had to shout because other people didn't understand. People were standing up and putting their ears close to the mouth of the speakers. Was that a good room? No microphone and no sound. But we have done that and we believe we did our job. And let us, after this explanation and this collaboration, perhaps our distinguished colleagues of Saudi Arabia has received what he expected to receive.

And once again, I suggest that we do not open the debate and we do not go to the document. There might be many, many other ways to express that, but it's not the wish nor the efficiency of the work.

Thank you.

>> CHAIRMAN: Thank you, Mr. Arasteh. I think those explanations are very helpful.

I see there are no further requests for the floor, so I believe that we can adopt this document. It's so decided. And thanks to everyone, particularly the Working Group.

I've also noted, Mr. Arasteh, that you came close to losing your voice because of room M. I suggest then that we avoid giving room M to Working Group sessions, because it would be a shame for delegates to be unable to express themselves in the plenary. And if we provide spokespeople for delegates that wouldn't be helpful, either. So we have to talk to the Secretariat to make sure that rooms are provided where work can proceed in the normal fashion. Thank you very much.

I suggest that we move on to the next item, which is item 4. This is an oral report at this stage because the matter of the ITRs remains a sensitive one. I'll give the floor then to the Chairman of the Ad Hoc Group so that he can update us.

Cameroon, please update us on your discussions.

>> CAMEROON: Thank you, Chairman. And good afternoon to our colleagues.

The Ad Hoc Group on ITRs has met on three occasions. The first took place on Monday, the 27th, from 6:30 to 9:30. Before that, we compiled all the contributions in a group and we worked on that basis. We then worked the next day, Tuesday, the 28th, from 6 to 8 p.m. And on the Tuesday, since we weren't making much progress, we created an informal group under the leadership of Mr. Santiago of Canada. The informal group worked yesterday from 2:30 to 5:00 p.m. And it came up with a document. In this document, there is a summary of all contributions which have been made in this regard.

Now, today from 11 to 12:30 we worked on that particular document, but we didn't manage to finish it. We did agree, however, that that document will now form the basis of our work.

What we suggest, Chairman, where possible, is that we be allowed at some point to continue our work so that we can deliver something, where possible, bearing in mind, however, that the ITRs are something of an unwieldy topic. And in the past we know that we spent 24 years on this topic. So that's the situation.

>> CHAIRMAN: Thank you, Cameroon, for that summary. It's a difficult topic, this one. But it's good that you've even agreed to work on a single document and that you can be working on that.

Without meddling too much in your work, I would venture to say that perhaps the shorter the document is, the easier it will be to adopt. But I'll leave you and your group to be the Judges of that and move forward.

And there is a fable about things which move slowly, it's the Hare and the Tortoise. It seems that it's the Tortoise that wins that race. So don't despair.

>> ISLAMIC REPUBLIC OF IRAN: Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

We are grateful to our distinguished friend, the distinguished Chairman of the Council, and Chairman of the CPM and Chairman of many other groups and Chairman of this group. This is a confidence that we place on him to ask him to do the difficult task.

Mr. Chairman, we don't want to come back to the podium whether or not we need this political view. We are in hands of all Distinguished Delegates. If they decide that they would like to have a review, we are prepared to go ahead. However, we looked at Resolution, Chairman. We discussed it at APT. But I represent only Iran and the views of Iran from that APT meeting. It's not the views of APT. They are free to express whatever they wish.

Chairman, we consider that yes, the framework is good. But there is a lot of things to be done on these Resolutions.

One, Council is not referred to on these Resolutions, whereas the Council needs to look into the matter and give necessary blessing on the procedure on process, on which the Secretary-General is requested or invited to establish the group.

Two, the term of reference of the group needs to be established and to be established by the Council.

Three, Chairman, we understand that there are -- the meeting starts -- or the process in 2017 and a report in 2018. Perhaps we need to look at that one, how many meetings we need. I guess that maybe we need three to four meetings. And these meetings no doubt will need interpretations. And all of our colleagues, and no English is spoken. We previously asked for that. So we need to look at that one.

And moreover, importantly, many developing and Least Developed Countries are very interested in the topics and they need to be assisted by providing necessary fellowship and support to participate at the meetings, to be able to contribute to the matter.

Then another issue which may be resolved by this Plenipotentiary Conference is access to documentation of that group, whether the documentation is for the State Members or Sector Members and whether it will be open. These are the things that we need to make a cross-reference.

And last but not least, the way that the Resolution is drafted is not consistent with the standard and format and practice of ITU. We need to look at that one, put it properly, and follow the situation. We have resolved many of the issues at this meeting this morning, and try to remain general, not go to the detail and not decide on something which might have some impact on the authority of the Secretary-General. Hopefully it has been at least agreed that we would like to maintain that.

However, this Resolution requires more work, Chairman. I don't think that it is ready to be submitted to your group so early. So we need to work on that. Maybe at the points that we have raised, maybe other APT members or the distinguished colleagues may need to raise things that need to be taken into account. And the draft should be done and the Resolution put in the proper format and proper order, and so on and so forth. However, we need to involve counsel. There are many things. And, moreover, once it has been done, then the Resolution will go to Committee 3 and then go to the plenary for final approval. We believe that this should be done to shorten the intervention at your level and possibly no intervention at the level of the plenary.

So this is what we're suggesting, Chairman. It's up to yourself to kindly decide to what extent you take into account these comments.

Thank you.

>> CHAIRMAN: Thank you, Mr. Arasteh. I'm not going to open the debate here, because the Working Group has not yet completed its work. We have all taken note of this matter, which is still being discussed at the level of the Working Group, chaired by Cameroon, whom I'm placing a great deal of trust that he will be in a position to arrive at a consensus. I know that, sir, it's a very delicate issue. I took part in the WCIT conference myself and I'm aware of its nature. So I'm wishing a great deal of bravery and perseverance from this group.

Russian Federation, you asked for the floor. Go ahead, Russian Federation.

>> RUSSIAN FEDERATION: Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Well, there is a whole host of issues which were raised by Mr. Arasteh in his intervention. They clearly need to be addressed. A part of those questions were we haven't as yet managed to consider the Council is mentioned in the draft documents, but at the same time we agree that additional work is needed on that draft.

What is most important, sir, that we have been in a position to achieve today is that there is a clear desire to reach a consensus. One of the indicators of that desire is the fact that representatives of four regional organizations were able to draft a document and achieve a certain degree of consensus, which doesn't rule out, of course, that certain other countries are not going to suggest further amendments.

The terms of reference issue can be resolved either when the document -- as the document is drafted, or we can task it to the Council, depending on what a majority believes to be advisable. But I'm quite optimistic. And so I'm confident -- I hope that we will be able to complete the development of this document and submit it for your consideration, followed by the consideration by the plenary.

Thank you.

>> CHAIRMAN: Thank you, Russian Federation, for this additional information. I think it has been helpful to hear from you, so that everybody knows where we are with regard to that document and so everybody's aware, even those who did not take part in the Working Group on this very challenging issue. So I hope that the group would find some common sense to achieve a conclusion and compromise. I think first steps have been made and others will follow, I hope.

So we are waiting by Monday on your report from that group. And so we hope that by Monday we will have a document which will be possible to adopt. So thank you to the entire group. And for Cameroon, good luck with the rest of it.

Now, let's move on to item 5, Resolution 166, number of Chairs and Vice Chairs of groups. We have so far two documents that have been submitted. One from the CITEL region, the Americas. It's 34R1-A1/15. 34A-1/15. I'm going to ask the representatives of CITEL to present this document. Resolution 166. And it's Argentina who is going to take the floor.

>> ARGENTINA: Thank you very much, Chairman.

On behalf of CITEL, Argentina would like to mention the need to present this update of Resolution 166, taking into account some very positive experiences which have arisen over the course of the past four years. Our intention is to stress the importance of fair geographical distribution and for this to be transposed into adequate representation of Chairs and Vice Chairs coming from Developing Countries.

We also believe it's necessary to stress the need to foster efficient participation from Vice Chairs, which should be involved in and committed to the work of the respective groups and Committees. The group has therefore been given some information in this regard.

We also proposed in the "resolves" to look at the practice which was given at the last WTDC to look at a list from each region, and this is to be submitted two months prior to the relevant Assemblies.

In the "Invites Member States" section, elected candidates are invited to complete their work and encourage participation of women in the advisory groups.

Thank you.

>> CHAIRMAN: Thank you, Argentina, for this presentation.

We also have one more document from the Arab States -- from the United Arab Emirates. I stand corrected.

So number 86. United Arab Emirates, you have the floor.

>> UNITED ARAB EMIRATES: Yes, thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Before I present this document, I wanted to clarify that this document has received the support of a number of Arab countries, and that's why it is presented on behalf of the Arab Group. Last week we submitted a group of States supporting this document to the Secretariat, but it appears that the Secretariat did not incorporate the names of these Delegations.

Mr. Chairman, with regard to Resolution 166 we would like to offer a small number of amendments on behalf of the group of Arab States to 166, in "Considering" b), where it says that a representative of a certain country may occupy more than one post in the three sectors. I think it's in 18 B, in 18 B. No. It's not.

About the equitable geographic representation, I think we need to include the language to the effect that we should invite more representatives from Developing Countries.

And in "Resolves" after the directors have been elected, in 4, we suggest adding at the end of the paragraph, 4 stipulates that we need to take into account the regional ... advisory groups, study groups, and groups of the sector, so it may be to occupy more than one post of a vice chair of a group.

In sector -- so that's they couldn't... do that with the exception of certain special cases, and we would also like to emphasize to meet the needs of each region or the post of Chair in one of the three sectors. So if that nomination is brought forward by a region, it needs to be taken into account.

So in the preceding paragraph, "Considering" we believe that the principle of an equitable geographic representation does not apply or is not linked to the fact that a region with certain -- that a representative of certain States couldn't occupy two different parts. So we suggest deleting the end of that paragraph, 18 B, and with regards to the fact that -- or the suggestion that one person could occupy two persons for two different sectors, that shouldn't run contrary to equitable geographic representation. But there could be different countries from the same region nominating people to two different groups, two advisory groups or Study Groups.

Thank you.

>> CHAIRMAN: Thank you for this explanation of the amendments to be brought in to 166.

So we have two proposals to supplement this Resolution.

I'm opening the discussion with regard to this document.

Iran, you have the floor.

>> ISLAMIC REPUBLIC OF IRAN: I thank you, Chairman.

If you recall the Resolution came from APT through Guadalajara after lengthy discussions, and it was approved at Guadalajara with some objections. No doubt there is no perfection in that.

Because distribution of the regions in various aspects has different arrangements, the UN has some distributions of countries, regions. ICANN has another distribution of countries, regions. ITU in relation with the Conference has another distribution. But never we achieve this equitable access. Some regions have 40 countries, another region has 20 countries, another region has 12 countries, and you never could achieve this as equitable. So what we should put in the Resolution is not as a right, but as objectives. You can't say that the region with 20 countries has the same rights as a region with 40 countries or 12 countries. Because it is not balanced. But we don’t want to come to that, What is in Resolution 58, having not more than one position for an individual was to allow other people to also engage in the activities of ITU, to make -- not to make. -- to building up the succession, Chairman. If people try to have several positions, after some time we have this succession difficulty and so on and so forth. It's good that we allow the young people or the people or the countries to participate and be trained and so on and so forth. That is an objective and should not try to, sorry, leave it to one criteria. We should take all criteria into account.

And so I think by way of suggesting to delete something, we may lose or lose the objectives of the Resolutions. We should be very careful about that, Chairman.

We don't want that if under the current practice an individual has two posts, we deny that, we leave it as it is. We say the ITU says grandfathering the existing arrangements. But we don't want that to be a precedent for the future. We should allow the people to have.

And then still, Chairman, we are not very much convinced that so many number of Vice Chairman are required. Sometimes you see ten or twelve people sitting on the podium and so on. But we should be looking for the more effectiveness. So less modification or improvement in the positive direction, not improvement on the rights. Because we could not establish these rights.

I don't want to get into ITU, but I give you that in another organization there are five regions. One region has 75 countries and another region 3 countries. Then we say okay, having the representatives of each region. How is possible? It's not ITU. But I just want to give an example.

So let us look at this matter quite carefully and treat everything not as a right, but as a good will collaboration, cooperation, satisfying everybody. Looking to the succession process and looking into the new blood, into the way of the ITU. So that is that. But we have no objections for any proposal. We just want, because we have drafted that proposal to Guadalajara and we would like to maintain the main objectives and purpose of that document.

Thank you.

>> CHAIRMAN: Thank you, Iran.

The United Arab Emirates, followed by China.

The UAE, you have the floor.

>> UNITED ARAB EMIRATES: Thank you very much, Mr. Chairman.

Mr. Chairman, I have listened closely to the intervention by Mr. Arasteh, the representative of Iran. And having listened to him, I believe that we could leave the text of "Recognizing" b) without any changes. But we also need to take into account that we have to recognize the needs of each region, as Mr. Arasteh emphasized. The needs of one region are different from the needs of another. And when one region believes that one individual is adequate to occupy the post of a Chairman or a Vice Chairman, that region may put forth his nomination. And so we should respect that need to put forth nominations.

In the text of the Resolution perhaps we could stipulate that there shouldn't be more than two persons, two individuals per region. Not more than two posts. Not more than two posts per region, rather.

With respect to the CITEL text, I have a brief comment to make. With respect to paragraph

>> INTERPRETER: The speaker is looking for the place in the relevant document.–

>> UNITED ARAB EMIRATES: At the end of 5, where we have a text about the list of candidates based on a consensus by experienced professionals, that needs to be submitted preferably three months prior to, but at least two weeks before the opening of the RA, WTSA and WTDC respectfully. Well, I suggest that we delete it for the following reasons, because -- or we have the Committee for credentials and the Assembly needs to give its agreement.

And during the WTDC that was also a proposal to increase the number of Vice Chairs from one to two. The Conference agreed and two candidates were agreed on during the Conference.

So we have this precedent and that's why I suggest we delete the end of paragraph 5, the end of the phrase. And we would consider that explicit enough, because we have already an agreed time prior to the Conference when the nominations need to be submitted.

>> CHAIRMAN: China followed by the Russian Federation.

China, you have the floor.

>> CHINA: Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

>> INTERPRETER: I'm sorry, we are having a little problem with interpretation.

Excuse me China, but we have a technical problem with interpretation. Can we make sure...

>> CHINA: (Technical difficulty)

The first paragraph of the IAP Resolution, "Resolves" 5. This is to encourage to submit a candidate list for the regions. And at the WTSA and WTDC time, I think for this proposal we have the following opinions. In common practice we assume that if we submit a list, that means that the WTDC -- that doesn't mean that the WTDC or WTSA will accept it.

Furthermore, and RM -- the RM Department will have its Resolution. They will have recommendations about the Chairman and the Vice Chairman.

The competent authorities will have their own rights to approve the current proposal, and there are some meetings for at least the Chairman and Vice Chairman.

If we add a new point, the original organizations to submit three months or two weeks, otherwise I think this is inconsistent with the current Resolution. I think that this is a real factor and will block the rights of the competent authorities. So it's not possible for us to accept it.

Another point to instruct the RAG, the TSAG, the paragraph 2, the paragraph 2. Sorry, wait a minute.

About the RAG, TSAG and TDAG, the first point we know that the initiative is to play the role of the Vice Chairmanship. In fact, ITU-R as an example, SG 1, the vice chairman for SG 1 and ITU-R, and the chairmen have borne and played the role of Vice Chairman.

And the other SG have their own consideration and have their practices. So if we clearly stipulate here, I don't think it's a wise way.

As for the role of Vice Chairman to be played, I think it's up to the SG to decide.

Thank you.

>> CHAIRMAN: Thank you, China.

Russian Federation, followed by Argentina.

Russian Federation, you have the floor.

>> RUSSIAN FEDERATION: Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Mr. Chairman, I do have a certain amount of experience in terms of Vice Chairmanship and Chairmanship. So I believe that what is most important when discussing the role played by Vice-Chairs is not even the actual person, although that is important, but what is important is that Vice Chairs are tasked, that they have specific duties, attends all of the meetings, and play certain functions, that they are not only nominated on paper.

So what really matters is that the nominating countries, the countries supported by regional organizations, would approach their nominations responsibly. That is the crux of the matter, in my view, that they are actually functional. Whether it's going to be one person in different places when there is a country or a region puts forth and a certain Working Group, certain -- and a certain body accepts that. That's less important.

But I concur with my colleagues that equitable geographic distribution is important. And I understand that various regions have different numbers of countries, so there can be exceptions. One study group may have three Vice Chairs from one region and one from another. But what is important is that they are actually functional.

I also share the views expressed by the UAE and China. I think that we are not in a position to restrict the rights of States to put forth their candidates. We could perhaps agree on the maximum number being two or three from a major region. But if you are to spell it out, then we would take away the -- take away sovereign rights from States.

I think that's what we need to do is to set up a small Ad Hoc Group which will begin to consolidate these proposals and report to us at our next meeting.

Thank you.

>> CHAIRMAN: Thank you. Argentina followed by Saudi Arabia.

Argentina, you have the floor.

>> ARGENTINA: Thank you very much, Chairman.

We would like firstly to express our thanks for the comments which have been put to us for the CITEL proposal.

Initially, we would like to clarify that the intention is to have a consensual list. The text says "encourages the regions." There is no imposition here. It was conceived on the basis of the experience which we had at the last WTDC, when we were setting up the group and we wanted to avoid the deliberations from taking place at the actual conference, we wanted the regions to debate that separately. And we thought that that was a very successful experience. Because we discussed this in the regions, we came to the conference with agreed upon candidates, and we avoided those discussions from taking place in the conference. And then we could concentrate on the text which we had to work on.

It's just a suggestion, though, and our intention here isn't in any way to constrain individual countries' rights to present candidates.

Concerning the comments which were made about the possibility of having a deadline for the presentation of candidates, I don't want to venture to take a stance on this. But if I'm not mistaken, at the last WRC there was some kind of time limits on the presentation of candidates to allow the RAG to be set up. We would have to look at other sectors' resolutions to see whether there is anything similar there. But it could be something that we could discuss and see whether we could reach a consensual text. The intention is to try to have the work done before the Conference rather than having it be done during the Conference.

Concerning inclusion of this mention of clear functions for Vice Chairs, Professor Minkin referred to this, and we have some experience in this regard in the D Sector. What we want is that when a person takes on a Vice Chair's role -- we know that the Chairs have very clear functions. But when someone takes on the role of Vice Chair, we want that to involve a commitment to the task. And we want the job to actually involve something. Active collaboration, maybe some reporting has to be handed to that Vice Chair by the Chair, as an official task. Whatever the task is, we do think that this needs to be established. Otherwise, we don't really know what the Vice Chairs' position is. And I think that runs counter to the work which is trying to be done.

I think that if a candidate is going to be presented to this, they need to be committed to a certain number of tasks. We're obviously open to modifications to what drafting we have done, but we think that this should be included in the text. If we can reach consensus, that would be great, and we're not against the creation of an Ad Hoc Group to deal with the issues that we have been looking at, either.

>> CHAIRMAN: Thank you, Argentina.

I have Saudi Arabia and Brazil on the list. With that, I'd like to conclude, so that we have a bit of time for a break. Because the plenary is going to resume at 4 p.m.

So Saudi Arabia, Brazil, and Iran. Iran will be the last speaker on the list.

Saudi Arabia, please.

>> SAUDIA ARABIA: Thank you very much, Chairman. Greetings to all of you.

We extend our thanks to the delegates who have made proposals on this. We believe that the representative of the United Arab Emirates has made some very appropriate proposals, particularly concerning the number of Vice Chairs. One person can occupy more than one position, given that people are chosen by their regions.

Thank you.

>> CHAIRMAN: Thank you.

Brazil, please.

>> BRAZIL: Thank you, Chairman.

I just wanted to support the proposal made by CITEL. Brazil believes that it's pivotal for Vice Chairs to have a clearly established function or task that will allow them to participate and work and help. They might be Chairs of an advisory group, they might be Vice Chairs of a Study Group, but they need to have a particular task.

We agree that we could create an Ad Hoc Group and we think that we can work towards a consensus on this. Thank you.

>> CHAIRMAN: Iran, the last speaker.

>> ISLAMIC REPUBLIC OF IRAN: Thank you, Chairman.

Chairman, we don't have any specific interest in this issue. It's just because as the author of the Resolution in 2010, should there be any group that you're about to establish, two things should be added to the Resolution. One, the Director of the Sector should -- of the bureau, not Sector, the director of the bureau should report to the respective advisory group of the implementation of this Resolution.

Number two, similarly, a list of the candidate -- not candidate. A list of the colleagues or representatives of Member States, sector members occupying or taking or having the post should be provided to the entity who selects or designates the Study Group. Because they should know what is that? The Sectors. Sometimes there are people in the Sectors -- in all three Sectors, one person. And when one Sector discusses it, they may not have any information about what is going on in the other two Sectors. This needs to be made available.

The third thing that we need to have is in entities selecting or designating the Chairman and Vice Chairman need to give priority to the countries which were not represented sufficiently. So we should take that into account here. That is only one criteria. There are many other criteria. So we should allow other countries. So these three elements should be added to this Resolution. And that's all.

Thank you.

>> CHAIRMAN: Thank you, Iran. We have noted those comments.

As has been said and requested, I think we can create a small Working Group on the basis of the documents which we have got, particularly from CITEL and the UAE.

On a number of occasions we have heard about an approach, a region by region approach to preparing for these meetings. We also know that it's difficult to constrain countries in their rights to present candidates. We have heard that Vice Chairs shouldn't be puppet vice-chairs. They should have actual tasks to accomplish. And that they should facilitate the work of the Committees, study groups, and so on.

I believe the idea here, then, is that we need to find a balance between regional representation and individual competencies as well as fair gender representation as well.

I can tell you that in a Federal state such as mine, this can sometimes be quite a headache. It's quite a headache to have a fair representation of the different regions, fair representations of the linguistic groups. You know, we have three main language regions in my country, and have professional competencies. So I think we need to find a balance there and find an appropriate solution in the Working Group.

I think we could entrust the Chairmanship of that group to Argentina, because CITEL produced a fairly exhaustive document on this matter. And Argentina's already said that it would be willing to hear the different views and proposals. So I suggest that we create this small group which would be open to participate under the Chairmanship of Argentina, and we will have a report on Monday regarding this Resolution 166.

I see no requests for the floor, and it's therefore so decided. I thank you all very much and wish that Working Group every success.

I will adjourn the meeting now. And that will give us time for a short coffee break or tea break and we will resume our work tomorrow. I wish you a successful afternoon and the session is done. Adjourned.

(End of session 15:43)

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