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FIRST MEETING OF COMMITTEE 6

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 >> Good afternoon, everyone. We will start. So if you could take your seats. Thank you.

 >> CHAIRMAN: Good afternoon, everyone. And welcome to this, the first of our meetings for Com 6. My name is Caroline Greenway and I'll be the Chair of this Committee, together with Mr. Alassane Ba, who will be the Secretariat.

 So the first document to look at is ADM/7, which is the draft agenda for this first Committee meeting. Now, I'd just like to advise everybody that wasn't already aware of it that plenary this morning confirmed that the contributory unit will remain at 318,000 Swiss francs. Now, the deadline for Member States to nominate their definitive choice in contributory units will be the 26th of October. Now, at Geneva time, that would be 23:59, 11:59. And in Busan time that's 7:59 a.m. So because of that time lag, there will be a delay for this Committee considering important aspects of the financial plan and proving a financial plan to go to plenary. So we won't have any discussion for the remainder of this week on substantive issues that would relate to the financial plan.

 Now, I'll also just take you quickly through the terms of reference and the working methods for the Committee that are in document DT/9. So the terms of reference are to "Consider the draft Strategic Plan and other reports and proposals relating to the Strategic Plan, examine relevant reports and proposals on the general management of the Union, in particular those relating to financial and human resources and relevant parts of the reports submitted by other Committees and Working Groups; to prepare draft financial policies and a draft financial plan for 2016 to 2019 and to recommend to the Plenary all appropriate decisions related to the management of the Union's activities; transmit to Committee 5 matters requiring amendments to the Constitution, Convention, and the general rules."

 Now, we also have a number of vice chairmen for our Committee. We have Ms. Laviza Iskhakova from Uzbekistan. Mr. Abraham Djekou, from Cote d'Ivoire. And Mario Canazza from Brazil. And Nasser Al Marzouqi from the UAE.

 So if we could commence our consideration with document -- sorry. Document DT/6 will indicate the documents that at the moment have been referred to Committee 6, and we will start our consideration this afternoon with four proposals to amend decision 12. Free online access to ITU publications. We have a proposal from the African Group, from the RCC, from the Arab Group, and an inter-American proposal.

 So if I could start off with asking a representative from the African Group to introduce document 69A1/4.

 >> EGYPT: Honorable Chair and Distinguished Delegates, a very good afternoon to everyone. On behalf of the African Group, I'd like to propose the amendments and modifications that we are proposing to decision 12.

 So as just mentioned, the African Group, the administration is pleased to introduce the following modifications to decision 12 on free online access to ITU publications. To open the study of the issues related to free online access to ITU documents to all ITU members and to submit a report to the next ITU Plenipotentiary conference.

 Prepare a report on the effect of the free online access policy to the ITU publications on the sales of ITU publications and to present this to the Plenipotentiary conference.

 Moreover, the current policy on free online access to ITU-R recommendations, there was a step towards embedding the principles of transparency and work of the ITU.

 Consequently, and out of the conviction that the Union and Member States should take further steps to be entrenched fundamentally, I'm glad to introduce the following in "considering." Council Decision 571, which was modified in 2014, on the free online access to the Rules of Procedures, Council Resolution and Decisions and other publications of the Union;

 Results of Council Working Group on human resources according to Council Resolution 563 of 2012 to address the free access to the Union's publications emphasized in document CWG-FHR-3/15 which concluded that the ITU does not follow the same policy followed by other UN agencies in regard to access to their other publications;

 And then document C13/81, which States that during the open free online access trial period, the income from sales of the Regulations in paper and DVD format in 2012 increased by more than 60 percent comparing with sales in all formats, including online purchases, during the same interval in 2008.

 And the last part of this section, the fact that free online access to the Radio Regulations to the general public, as indicated in C13/21, C13/81 and C14/21, had no negative financial impact in 2012 and 2013.

 Second, we would like to propose the following in the "decides" section that the free online access to the ITU documents and publications be on a permanent basis.

 Second, add the Administrative Regulations and Rules of Procedures, the ITU-R handbooks on radio-frequency spectrum management and ITU publications concerning the use of telecommunications/ICTs for ensuring disaster preparedness, early warning, rescue, mitigation, relief and response;

 Third, free online access to IT Regulations to the general public on a permanent basis;

 To Council Resolutions and Decisions;

 Four, Rules of Procedures;

 Five, ITU-R handbooks on radio-frequency spectrum management;

 And, finally, ITU publications concerning the use of telecommunications/ICTs for disaster preparedness and early warning investigation, relief and response.

 Before I conclude, we also are proposing to establish a new Council Working Group, open to all memberships -- to all ITU memberships -- to consider the issue of free online access to those documents and to other documents.

 So this was just on behalf of all the African Group. And we will be happy to listen to other suggestions and to all insights from other Delegations. Thank you.

 >> CHAIRMAN: Thank you, Egypt.

 Now, if I could ask for the representative from the RCC to introduce their document. RCC/73A1/7.

 Could somebody assist the Russian Federation, please.

 >> RUSSIAN FEDERATION: I'd like to extend our sincere congratulations with your appointment as Chair of Committee 6. On behalf of the RCC, I would like to wish you all the success in your work and we are confident that you will successfully commit yourself to all the objectives of the Committee.

 PP 10 expanded the area of online access to ITU documents and publications, having incorporated in particular recommendations and reports of the R Sector from 2010 until 2014. The Council has adopted a number of decisions targeting free online access to administrative Regulations of the ITU, Radio Regs in particular, and the International Regulations, as well as the final act of the WRC rules of procedure and a number of reference materials from the Radio Sector.

 The policies conducted by the ITU in terms of free online access actually contributes to the accomplishments of ITU's strategic objectives and reinforces the standing of ITU in its capacity as a global radio communication ICT body. Expanding on the free online access hasn't had any significant financial implications. In certain cases, particularly when it comes to the Radio Regs, it has been noted that the volume of sales and financial income has increased, have increased. Because of that, the RCC suggests to incorporate in decision 12 the existing policy of free online access to ITU documents on a permanent basis. Having analyzed the proposals by regional organizations, to amend decision 12, we can indicate that our position is -- that our positions are very close in spirit.

 And at the same time, the RCC believes that ITU would do well to further expand the policy of free online access to ITU documents and publications.

 That is why we have incorporated in our proposal free online access to final acts by world and regional conferences of radio communication conferences based on the documents suggesting putting forth amendment of the Radio Regs and that have the status of International Treaty. We are hopeful that our initiative will be supported by others and that in the course of this conference we will be in a position to consolidate the Council's decision on a permanent basis.

 Thank you, Madam Chair.

 >> CHAIRMAN: And thank you.

 If I could ask for a representative from the Arab Group to introduce their document 79A2/1.

 >> EGYPT: Thank you. We're going to speak about the documents. We decided to provide free access to the public since the Guadalajara 2010 for all considerations concerning the Radio, the Union, and the final decisions of the plenipotentiaries.

 We also confirmed free access to all information for all standardization sectors, and concerning full transparency in the Union, because publics should be able to freely access all documents of the organization. The decision 571 confirms precisely this, and Egypt in the name of the Arabic Group would like to amend decision number 12. And in this area we should indicate that 571 in Geneva concerning free access to Regulations, all Council decisions and other publications, and the results of the Working Group concerning human resources and the meeting number 12 decision 563 also confirms free access to all documents.

 And in 16/15 it is indicated that the principle stipulated by other agencies of the United Nations also reinforces free access.

 C13/81 indicates that documents be they in paper form, online or CD, has always been fully accessible. And this has increased by over 60 percent throughout the period since 2008 -- in excess of 60 percent throughout the period since 2008.

Having free access to all Radio Regulations in C13/81 has had no negative influence for the period 2012 to '13.

 Therefore, we suggest that the following be amended. The proposing free access for the following documents: General documents, Council decisions, publications of ITU concerning use of technology and ICTs, and for any emergency measure to be taken in case of catastrophes. This should be available to all members for the discussion of subjects concerning free access to other documents.

 Thank you, Madam Chair.

 >> CHAIRMAN: Thank you. And if I could call on a representative from CITEL to introduce document 34R1-A1/26.

 >> BRAZIL: Thank you. It's my pleasure to be Vice Chairman and I'll help you in any way to make this a successful Committee.

 This serves three main purposes. The first one is to confirm free online access to some publications that were approved in the Council level.

 Second is to recognize the success of this policy in increasing the awareness of the work of the ITU, across the board, and with a minimum of financial implication, which is a plus to that.

 And the third one is to approve free online access to the Radio Regulations on a permanent basis for the general public.

 So I would like to go to -- straight to the "decides" section, which is the most important section. We are proposing that decision 12 provide free online access to ITU-R, D, and T recommendations and reports, ITU-R handbooks on radio-frequency spectrum management, ITU publications concerning the use of telecommunications/ICTs in ensuring disaster preparedness, early warning, rescue, mitigation, relief and response. ITU-R Regulations, the Radio Regulations, the rules of procedure, the basic texts of the Union, which are the Constitution, the Convention, General Rules of conferences, assemblies and meetings of the Union, and all the Decisions and Resolutions and Recommendations in that publication called basic text. Plus the final acts of the plenipotentiary conference, the final words of WTDC conferences and ITU Council Resolutions and Decisions to the general public on a permanent basis.

 So in summary, this is our proposal. I think all proposals from the four regions, they are complementary. So I think we can -- we will, in the end, reach a very good decision 12.

 Thank you.

 >> CHAIRMAN: Thank you, and I share that optimism.

 Now I'll open the floor for any comments on the four proposals. I don't have any requests for the floor. So I'll just ask the Secretariat for any comment.

 >> SECRETARIAT: Following the decision 571 and 574, as the Distinguished Delegates mentioned, was implemented, and certainly they are right in saying that the -- except for the Radio Regulation, which has so far shown a growth in quantity, that is due to pricing, costing and pricing increase and shipments to resellers, there is certainly a growth of almost 900,000 Swiss francs. And the other seven publications that were added following the two decisions had insignificant impact of less than 3,000 francs loss of sales because of making them free online.

 So I just wanted to add that indeed the Radio Regulations still is a four-year publications and we will know exactly at the end of four years. But so far, the information is absolutely correct that we are up by almost 900,000 over the previous information.

 >> CHAIRMAN: Thank you.

 Now I think that the four documents are in fact quite close and I think they are very similar in spirit. So I must ask Mr. Varlamov (?) if he would mind conducting a drafting group of those four proponents to come together and look at a way to take into account everybody's views and come back to Com 6 with a revised draft. And -- the Secretariat will be able to provide a room for that to take place.

 We're trying to limit of number of actual formal ad hoc groups or Working Groups as much as possible, and to exercise more informal drafting groups where we can. Is that acceptable? You just need to hit the button on the right with the face and the...

 >> RUSSIAN FEDERATION: Thank you, Madam Chair. Clearly I stand ready to justify this high trust placed in me. And before this document is submitted, I suggest that those interested approach me and leave their coordinates, so that we will be in a position to do the drafting through e-mail. Thank you, Madam Chair.

 >> CHAIRMAN: Thank you, Mr. Varlamov. And the Secretariat proposed Mr. Shavcot (?) to be the Assistant Secretariat of that group.

 Thank you. Now we will go on to number 7 on our agenda, monitoring mechanism on ITU programmes and projects. This is document 81/1. And if I could ask a representative of Belgium, the Czech Republic or Great Britain to present. I think the Czech Republic is ready.

 >> CZECH REPUBLIC: Thank you, Mrs. Chairman, and good afternoon to all delegates.

 Madam Chairperson, Distinguished Delegates, the Czech Republic was in kind support of the United Kingdom and Belgium proposing the enhancement of a monitoring mechanism on the ITU programmes and projects. This step would significantly contribute to an overall awareness about an enhanced management of those crucial activities within the ITU in line with the good governance principles, including transparency, efficiency, and accountability.

 We propose that the Council is being informed about the ongoing outprogrammes and projects on a regular basis, starting next year, in order to support this approach.

 We believe that the existing database should be upgraded and opened to all interested.

 Furthermore, the programmes and projects costs should be clearly reflected in the relevant budget related to the comments. We note that the management of the ITU programmes and projects and its financing should be efficient and transparent. Principles of a results-based budget should be taken into account, and programmes and projects should be approved with due diligence.

 Secretary-General of the ITU should report on a regular basis to the Council on the programmes and projects advancement, with a clear statement on the progress and results, sustainability, accountability and responsibility, to ensure that the financial resources are spent effectively.

 We would like to invite all Member States to join this initiative, this proposal of a new decision to contribute to the financial sustainability and transparency of the Union.

 Thank you very much.

 >> CHAIRMAN: Thank you. Now I invite any comments on the proposal. Russian Federation, please.

 >> RUSSIAN FEDERATION: Madam Chair.

 We support this proposal. We believe that the introduction of such a monitoring mechanism would be conducive to using up resources more efficiently and making ITU's work more transparent.

 Thank you.

 >> CHAIRMAN: Netherlands, please.

 >> NETHERLANDS: Thank you. I thought the button would change color. It does not.

 So I'll just, again, to support the proposal, Madam Chair, we also believe that it would improve the transparency of the whole organization and improve the internal governance. So to support. Thank you.

 >> CHAIRMAN: Thank you.

 Saudi Arabia, please.

 >> SAUDIA ARABIA: Thank you, Madam Chair.

 First of all, I'd like to congratulate you on having been elected to Chair this important Committee. We are already quite used to your guidance in deliberating for national matters at Council meetings, so we wish you all the success.

 I had asked for the floor when we were -- when the document on decision 12 was being presented, but perhaps we had certain technical difficulties because we were not recognized. We had two comments to make with regard to decision 12, which we will, nevertheless, be able to do within -- at the small Working Group chaired by Russia. Thank you.

 >> CHAIRMAN: Thank you, Saudi Arabia. And yes, I'm sorry. We didn't see that you had asked for the floor.

 Could I ask the UAE, please.

 >> UNITED ARAB EMIRATES: Thanks very much, Madam Chair.

 I welcome all the participants. We congratulate you on your election as Chair of Committee 6. We are gratified that this felicitous choice has been made and we will all support you in your work in guiding this Committee.

 Madam Chair, we had asked for the floor when you had already closed the discussion on decision 12, but we were not given the floor while we did want to make a comment.

 But with regards to this new proposal by Belgium, the Czech Republic, and the United Kingdom, we have one single comment to make, which also speaks to decision 12, charging the Secretary-General to update the ITU database on existing projects and improving the follow-up, and to ensure free access to that database to all stakeholders. With regard to that paragraph 1, that text also enables free access to stakeholders to that database.

 With regards to the aspects we have already discussed on decision 12, perhaps we need to put that particular paragraph in brackets until that matter has been considered by Committee 5. So that all the stakeholders would have free access to that database.

 Thank you, Madam Chair.

 >> CHAIRMAN: Thank you, UAE. Again, I apologize that we were not able to recognize your request to the floor. If it happens to anyone else, perhaps you could raise your country nameplate. That would help us. And, yes, we would welcome also your input into the drafting group on decision 12.

 If I could ask for Mali, please.

 >> MALI: Thank you, Madam Chair. My sincere congratulations with your election as Chair.

 With regards to the matter in hand, Mali, just as the previous speakers, would simple like to draw attention to the fact that in order to implement that decision, it might be desirable that the Council would also be involved or at least be aware.

 Secondly, the access to the database, I think all the measures need to be taken to ensure that access and to render it as easy as possible so that there are no barriers in that sense.

 Without wanting to go into details on this, I'd like to refer to the question of languages, and what languages this provision will be made available.

 Thank you.

 >> CHAIRMAN: Thank you, Mali.

 Australia, please.

 >> AUSTRALIA: Thank you, Chair.

 We would -- Australia would also like to thank Belgium, the Czech Republic, and the UK for this proposal. We strongly support efforts to increase the transparency and efficiency of the ITU, in particular this proposal regarding information on the projects and programmes that the ITU is undertaking. We do, however, have a few comments that we might like to provide to try and provide some clarity and strengthen some of the text in the Resolution if that opportunity is available.

 Thank you, Chair.

 >> CHAIRMAN: Thank you.

 Portugal, please.

 >> PORTUGAL: Thank you Madam Chair.

 Portugal, as the previous speakers, is also very supportive of this proposal. We are always in support of increased transparency and information being provided to the membership. And therefore we are in support of the proposal. Thank you.

 >> CHAIRMAN: Thank you.

 Norway, please.

 >> NORWAY: Thank you, Madam Chair. And congratulations on your appointment as Chair of Committee 6.

 I shall be brief. And on behalf of Norway, I would voice some strong support for this proposal in order to increase the transparency of the Union.

 Thank you.

 >> CHAIRMAN: Thank you, Norway.

 Now I'll ask the Secretariat if they have any comments.

 Sorry, Zambia.

 >> ZAMBIA: To add its voice to the many other countries that strongly support this proposal, we are for transparency and any effort to help the Union disseminate information any better would be most encouraged. Thank you.

 >> CHAIRMAN: Thank you, Zambia.

 If I could now ask the Secretariat for any comments.

 >> SECRETARIAT: Thank you, Madam Chair. And thank you to the Distinguished Delegates who have spoken on this matter; which is clearly important.

 Well, we have to recognize all of that and I would like to point out that in the past the Secretariat was supposed to supply some financial information in the financial management report, which was verified by the external auditor, but my BDT colleagues also pointed out that in terms of the implementing the ICT Plus or the Telecom Plus project, that mention of that needs to be made. So I'd like to ask my BDT colleagues where to insert this, with regard to the draft decision, we spoke about the regular budgets of the Union or whether they were referring to the extra budgetary fund document. Because as you know the Secretariat provides the support to the implementation of projects. Its staff take charge of the implementation of this project, try to finance them out of the regular budget. But nevertheless, when it comes to budgets financed by external sources, we use a system which is called administrative costs, to which we apply a rate of .7 percent of administrative costs. But it's clear that there is -- that these administrative costs do not cover all of the personnel costs, because we have an entire division of the BDT level which is in charge of implementation and in terms of concluding of agreements with external sources of finance to help Developing Countries. All of this is help -- all of these are helpful suggestions, but I hope perhaps my BDT colleague would like to make some additional comments.

 Thank you, Chair.

 >> CHAIRMAN: Thank you.

 BDT, please.

 >> BDT: I would like to comment on the issue of projects and programmes, and just to say that you may recall that this issue was raised during the WTDC in Dubai, and the issue was the key element to the last WTDC that was held in Dubai, and just to say for the record that if you visit the website of ITU now you will find all the projects available and they are easily accessible. But the point has been taken that maybe we should continue to upgrade the database that we have. But all the basic information is available and detailed information that relates to financials would need you to log in through a TIES account. And some of the information may be privy to the party's consent, because some parties insisted that they didn't want their information to be posted for public viewing. But of course the membership can always make a request and that information will be made available.

 With respect to the issue of AOS, that is to offer the administrative cost, the minimum of PP 10 Resolution is a minimum of 7 percent, and we have been able to negotiate to get up to about 10 or 11 percent, as management costs and also the cost of recovery increases. So I would say also from the Development Sector point of view, the directors also started to provide to the membership quarterly reports with all the financial information provided, and this was the case also during TDAG. But if there is a need of course to tighten other elements, we are ready to do that.

 Thank you, Ms. Chairman.

 >> CHAIRMAN: Thank you.

 I might ask if Australia can provide its comments directly to the Czech Republic, and that the Czech Republic could incorporate that into a revised draft that would also take account of the comments from the UAE to put -- and to grant an open access to the stakeholders and instructs the Secretary-General, one, in square brackets at this stage because that would be a determination of Com 5.

 Thank you.

 I should ask the Czech Republic if they are agreeable to that proposal.

 >> CZECH REPUBLIC: Of course we are ready and we are very pleased with the directions and ready to cooperate with those who wish to upgrade this proposal.

 Thank you very much.

 >> CHAIRMAN: And thank you for that.

 We will now move on to agenda item 8, which is consideration of Resolution 157, strengthening of the project execution function in the ITU. We have two contributions. One from the USA and one from CITEL. If I could ask the USA to introduce their document 27A2/2. U.S.

 Sorry. Could I ask CITEL, then, to introduce their document, 34R1-A1/43.

 >> UNITED STATES OF AMERICA: Madam Chair, I'm sorry. Anyway, the United States has joined the CITEL common proposal, the IAP, so we defer introducing our document.

 And thank you.

 >> CHAIRMAN: Thank you, US. You are making our work very easy this afternoon.

 So then could I ask CITEL to please introduce their document. CITEL.

 >> CITEL: Thank you, Chair.

 Yes, as you have indicated, this is a proposal from the InterAmerican Group. And we don't have amongst us the person who had been assigned to introduce this document, unfortunately, but we can replace him and coordinate the work.

 Now, this proposal is number 43, and refers to a modification of the Resolutions 157, strengthening of the execution functioning or implementation functioning of the ITU.

 And in order to be able to summarize this proposal, and not be too lengthy, what I would like to do is to perhaps speak a bit about the background. And the purpose of it has to do with strengthening the role played by the Union concerning telecommunications and ICTs. And as you know in our last meeting in Dubai, we had a modification of 17, which had to do with national, regional, inter-regional and worldwide changes to those decisions, and how important they would be for development of telecommunication. And as ITU has to play a very important role in implementing everything that -- within the system of the United Nations concerning this, we would also not only have to make determinations concerning implementation, but also find a source of financing both private and public for telecommunications, for ICT in general.

And we think that there are a variety of different financing possibilities, and this is going to therefore strengthen our search to go forward and to be able to reinforce the implementation of these projects.

 It also has to do with the basis of these proposals, and you're going to see in the text that within the resolves, where we request that the Secretary-General in close cooperation with the head of the BDT be able to implement and then an agreement with what it is that I have just previously stipulated.

 Thank you very much.

 >> CHAIRMAN: Thank you.

 Now I open the floor for any comments on the proposal.

 Canada, please.

 >> CANADA: Thank you, Madam Chair, and good afternoon. And first and foremost, allow me to congratulate you once again for your designation as of Chair of Com 6. It is of course a pleasure to have you there, and a certainty of a very effective and efficient management of this Committee.

 Madam Chair, as one of the signatories to this InterAmerican Proposal, Canada would like to again thank our colleagues from the region and stress the importance of ensuring that the concept of public/private partnerships is embedded in this initiative. Because as you very well know, Madam Chair, when we have regional initiatives identified or potential projects identified, if you cross those projects, potential projects, with the availability of resources, we certainly have a big gap to fill.

 So, again, in supporting the modifications to this Resolution, we would like to stress the fact of ensuring that we actively work in the development of public/private partnerships.

 Thank you, Madam Chair.

 >> CHAIRMAN: Thank you, Canada. I could now ask the UAE for its view, thank you.

 >> UNITED ARAB EMIRATES: (No English translation)

 >> CHAIRMAN: Is anybody else not getting any translation from the Arabic?

 >> INTERPRETER: Can you hear the English interpretation? Can you hear? Can you hear interpretation, both into French and into English?

Can you hear the interpretation?

 >> CHAIRMAN: Could you begin again.

 >> UNITED ARAB EMIRATES: Thank you. I would like to thank the CITEL countries for their proposal. This is annex two to the proposal modifying the Guadalajara Resolution proposing that there be close cooperation to the different parties in order to decrease the costs. I have gone over the texts, but as it appears in part 3 of annex 2 of section 5 in the "decides," it requests the Secretary-General to provide the necessary support in order to ensure financing to be able to carry forward the activities and to have full cooperation with all of the countries and all of the regional organizations.

 I wonder what is meant by "regional organizations?" Would these be the six affiliated with ITU? I think it should be indicated. And there should be a footnote that explains what is meant exactly here.

 In addition, Madam Chair, there should be also cooperation with the pertinent International agencies and organizations in order to be able to avoid multiplying and overlapping efforts. I think that perhaps that hasn't been indicated clearly enough, at least in the Arab version. And I would suggest that we take point 2 of decision 5, so that we can ensure that there is an adequate distribution of resources and therefore avoid overlap.

 Thank you.

 >> CHAIRMAN: Thank you.

 Saudi Arabia, please.

 >> SAUDIA ARABIA: Thank you, Madam Chair.

 So we would like to thank the CITEL group for its proposal. And we would like to make a comment concerning the section where they speak about cooperation and finances shared with the agencies and International organizations.

 And in the same section mention is made of avoiding all overlapping or loss of resources because of overlapping. And, in fact, that the ITU activities should be reinforced in order to not be redundant and that there should be an overlap between ITU and the other organizations, be it at regional or International level, within the Council.

 The four-year Strategic Plan, the future four-year Strategic Plan, in that section it seems that this mention has been taken out, to avoid loss because of overlap.

 In "Decides" 265 in the French text, we propose that in E that section be taken out, in French. In Arabic it is "esjawea," (?) which means redundancy, so all redundancy should be avoided. This is the text that has to be taken out.

 >> CHAIRMAN: The Russian Federation, please.

 >> RUSSIAN FEDERATION: Thank you, Chair.

 Had it not been for CITEL we wouldn't have been able to sign and to support these proposals. But we are fully endorsing the changes that they propose. Taking into account the comments that were made by the UAE, and taking into account, therefore, that has been proposed and those comments, we can support it.

 Thank you.

 >> CHAIRMAN: Thank you.

 Now I have no more requests for the floor. If there are -- if you could make them now. Saudi Arabia, please.

 >> SAUDIA ARABIA: Thank you, Madam Chair.

 I think I wasn't clear in my first intervention. As my colleagues said, maybe the point was not -- got maybe to the meaning. The word is to "avoid duplications." It's not "redundancy." And that is the expression that we believe should be deleted from this item.

 Thank you, Madam Chair.

 >> CHAIRMAN: If I could ask the BDT to comment, please.

 >> BDT: A few comments to make.

 I think this is in line with the current practice and we still could strengthen the effort that we are making. We have got an arm which is dealing with the resource mobilization. As you are aware, our resources do not come only from the regular budget, but we also have funds in trust, constituting quite a big chunk of our financing, and also we have got a lot of co-financing activities coming from either the UN agencies, Member States, or the private Sector.

 And with respect to the regional organizations, of course we go beyond the traditional statutory regional telecommunication organizations and we also take into account even nonSector Members or nonassociates who come and would like to partner with us, with the same way of optimizing on the utilization of the resources that we have. And we have been forging such partnerships, and as I said in the database, you also find the names of the partners that we have been cooperating with. And every time when we have got regional preparatory meetings leading to WTDC, we also have just the day before the regional development forums, which are forums that are open to all organizations and entities, including foundations and development banks, that could co-finance as a way of augmenting the finances that we have. So this is important. And we have been doing our best to ensure that we increase the finances that are available for project implementation and to work with other organizations in order to avoid of course duplication of effort and also for resources.

 Thank you.

 >> CHAIRMAN: Thank you, BDT.

 Thank you everyone. So this proposal has significant support. So I was going to ask CITEL whether it would be willing to work with UAE and Saudi Arabia to incorporate the comments that they had, and to provide us with a new text with the support from the Secretariat.

 CITEL?

 >> CITEL: Thank you, Madam Chair. I was precisely asking for the floor in order to say what you have just proposed. First of all, I wanted to thank the comments of the Canadian administration for having supported this proposal and also thanks to the ITU and thanks to the Russian Delegation. This is definitely something that will help improve activities that we're already carrying out and therefore optimize what we do.

 We would certainly like to thank the comments of the UAR, and Saudi Arabia because we think that those comments are very pertinent and they will allow us to improve the text. Therefore, if they would like to meet I would do so with pleasure in order to be able to include their comments and to have a final consolidated version of the document.

 Thank you.

 >> CHAIRMAN: Thank you very much for offering to do that.

 The Secretariat will be in contact in regard to actually doing the drafting. Thank you.

 We will now move on to agenda item number 9, which is consideration of Resolution 11 on ITU Telecom events. This is document 86/1. And I would ask the UAE if they could introduce the document, please.

 >> UNITED ARAB EMIRATES: Thank you very much for this document. I would simply like to say that there is a variety of Arabic countries that have adopted this decision, but we haven't had the time to coordinate. So I would be grateful if you could simply indicate that the proposal is made by several Arab countries, not only by us.

 Now, concerning 11, we proposed certain amendments concerning this Resolution 11 related to Telecom, and that there should be an event every two years. And we would like to underline the fact that it's important for the Union as an organization to have a clear statement about whether it is annual or every two years.

 And we should also indicate that in 2012 in Dubai, in 2013 in Hong Kong, the meetings were thoroughly successful. And we have a version in Arabic. The version in English we find doesn't fully reflect what is contained in the Arabic version. So it should state in fact they were crowned by success were or fully successful, and that would be very much appreciated.

 And we find that this should also be taken into account when there is a determination of the human resources in ITU and that there is -- and that host countries shouldn't have to incur costs concerning ITU personnel other than the -- when it is in the host country, the specific expenses within that country.

 Now, in the section "Resolves 3" or rather moving down further into 6.1, an open and transparent bidding process based on the host country agreement as approved by the Council, and I think the rest of the sentence is missing. That was 6.1. And now 5.6 of "Decides."

 The specific location should be decided in 5.6, "Decides." The specific location should be decided on the basis of the usual rotation between regions. In order to not necessarily specify the location for one time, we have to be able to be flexible, and that's why we have taken out the rest of the sentence. >> INTERPRETER: In fact, it is not 5.6. Correction of the interpreting, it's 6.5.

 >> UNITED ARAB EMIRATES: That selection is based on the principle of rotation between regions and between Member States within regions, and then should request that of the Secretary-General. We have taken out "to establish a mechanism" and instead we propose that for 2015 the session of the Council have a mechanism, and then it would be according to point 2, resolves 5. We have modified this paragraph to say it should be every two years, and taking into account the need to ensure that it doesn't coincide with another important conference or meeting. And the contracts -- and then it will have to go on and specify the country and so on.

 And in 6 we have taken out the old text. We have added a new text that indicates that if the event takes place during the same year as a Plenipot, it should preferably take place before the PP conference. In English.

 In the English version we find that there is a first translation concerning revision of the independent report. And in English it says "Future."

 And where it says "requests the Secretary-General," there is another modification stipulating that concerning future events it has to take into account the mechanisms stipulated in point 7. And to review the agreement as possible.

 The countries that usually welcome such an event have to face steep expenses, and it is the country, the host country, that has to cover all the costs. Therefore, sometimes those countries have serious difficulties. There are different Arab countries that have supported these proposals, and we are in favor of such an event taking place every two years so that there may be a waiting period that is sufficient between the events. Otherwise, it is quite difficult for the staff and for the country to organize such events.

 This is what we are proposing.

 Thank you, Madam Chair.

 >> CHAIRMAN: Thank you, UAE. I'll open the floor for comments and I have Brazil.

 >> BRAZIL: Thank you, Madam Chair. First, I would like to thank UAE for this contribution. And also for hosting the ITU Telecom, a very successful event in Dubai as well.

 Well, first I'd like to express our agreement with some items that is expressed in this important document. First agreement would be on the fact that a noncoincidence with major ITU conferences is very important. That would split the audience. We would have to put more resources for International travels. And coinciding important events of ITU is not good for anyone in the membership.

 We also agree on the fact that putting a Plenipotentiary conference and ITU Telecom is not good. So we would be in favor of putting the ITU Telecom before the Plenipot. We also agree with the fact that the staff should be subject to human resource management system. That is very important in terms of transparency and clarity for us, especially countries in the Council to manage, to observe and to approve the accounts of the ITU Telecom.

 And we are aware of how difficult it is for a country to bear the costs of the event. The event is very expensive. But -- and we agreed many times before that for ITU Telecoms to continue to occur, the ITU telecoms must be a profitable event.

 But if I may, Madam Chair, I would like to ask some clarity from the Delegation of the UAE. Because in "emphasizing" a) it said that ITU should continue to organize an annual or biennial.

 Then in "resolves" 4 there is again this indication, "every year or two years."

 So there are some references on annual, year by year, and then on biennial. And I would like to iterate in the "resolves" we had a huge discussion in the Council regarding the predictability and if it would be due to have ITU Telecoms held year by year, biannually, or even in four years. And by the explanation that we received from the ITU Secretariat, especially the manager of ITU Telecoms, they said -- it was said to us that it would be very difficult and even more costly to ITU if the event would be taken biannually. And that it would be better for the industry to have this event year by year, annually.

 So I would like to ask UAE whether its preference is to have the event every year or every two years, because the document seems to me a bit contradictory. And maybe someone from the Secretariat could clarify for us in terms of the future events, the possibility, especially regarding the predictability of the event, what would be better for the Union in terms of costs and profits for the event.

 Thank you, Madam Chair.

 >> CHAIRMAN: Thank you very much, Brazil. Now, on my list I have the Russian Federation, Mali and Uganda. But I've just been informed that we have been requested to take a break for coffee at the same time as plenary, which is now.

 So -- no. The coffee break has been kindly presented by Tunesia. So we thank them for that. So we want to break now and resume our conversation in about 20 minutes. Thank you very much.

 (Break until 16:15)

 >> CHAIRMAN: Welcome back, everyone. We have been advised that our meeting today will have to conclude at 5:00 p.m., because plenary will be having the launch of the 150 anniversary of the ITU. So if we conclude at 5:00 then we can all join the plenary session. That would be great.

 I also just have a clarification. The contributory unit has been confirmed at 318 Swiss francs rather than the 315,000 that I said mistakenly.

 Now, if we can start again our discussion on Resolution 11. On my list I had the Russian Federation, Mali, Uganda, and China. So if I could ask the Russian Federation to speak, thank you.

 >> RUSSIAN FEDERATION: Thank you, Madam Chair.

 The Russian Federation will try to be brief. For our part, we also wanted to extend our gratitude to the UAE administration for having developed the contribution, because this issue was discussed at several Council sessions. The matter on optimizing and streamlining of the holding of ITU Telecom exhibitions, and in conjunction with that we support the proposal by the UAE in terms of specifying whether it's going to be once a year or every other year. I think we could leave it for the Council to rule. But we are closer to suggesting every other year, which has also been proposed and discussed.

 Clearly, we are aware that there may be a certain conflict in financial terms in terms of gaining profit and supporting ITU Telecom staff as well as enhancing the efficiency of the events themselves. As well as obtaining the strategic objectives of the Union at such exhibitions, which might be seen as showcasing the ITU activities and ascertaining our strategic goals.

 So I think that with regard to enhancing the efficiency of the events themselves, it should be seen as a weightier, a worthier goal as maximizing profits. That is why we completely concur with the proposal by the UAE and suggest amending Resolution 11 accordingly.

 Thank you.

 >> CHAIRMAN: Thank you, Russian Federation.

 Mali, please.

 >> MALI: Thank you, Madam Chair.

 And I would like to thank the UAE for their proposal. We would like to join Russia concerning the choice of two years. Because, yes, when it is said one or two years, then who is going to decide? What are the criterias? And who is going to decide whether it's going to be next year or every two years and so on. So therefore I think we should really discuss this further. And we think that at this point we should above all be flexible and perhaps allow Council to decide:

 When we peruse the text, if I look at item 7, concerning 2015 for the Council, we find that there is a contradiction with 5 of "Decides" because it says to have a financially viable plan for each, and then we don't think then that we need to specify what is in 7.

 Also, concerning certain other issues, when we speak about changing Council, there are proposals concerning which we need certain clarification, because in French "Examine" is replaced by "a’ revoir.” So this is a problem, in any case, in French. Is it something that we really need to rexamine, aurevoir or not?

 We would like to, via you, Madam Chair, request that the Secretariat at this Telecom clarify these issues in this, in the report, whether the advantages and the disadvantages, and based on that perhaps it would be easier to make a decision.

 Thank you.

 >> CHAIRMAN: Thank you, Mali.

 Uganda, please.

 >> UGANDA: Thank you, Madam Chair. And allow me start by congratulating you and your appointment as Chair of this Committee. And I also would like to thank the UAE and the Arab partners who developed this proposal.

 In the interest of time, I won't repeat some of the other concerns and questions that have been raised, especially by Brazil in terms of clarification. However, I would like to clarify -- to seek clarification on the mention about ITU Telecom staff. Although the document only mentioned ITU Telecom board, possibly some clarification can be provided on which staff these are that we are referring to.

 And then under 10 of "Instructs the Secretary-General" the proposal to have -- if a Telecom event is held in the same year as a Plenipotentiary conference, the ITU should take place before the Plenipotentiary conference. We would like to propose that this is actually clarified to mean back to back rather than just happening sometime before that. Because as has already been explained, this would improve on the costs of participation. We associate ourselves with the sentiments expressed by some of the other delegates, in terms of clarification on whether it's annual or biannual, and the need for that to be clarified.

 Thank you.

 >> CHAIRMAN: Thank you very much, Uganda.

 China, please.

 >> CHINA: Thank you, Madam Chair.

 First of all, I'd like to congratulate you on your appointment as the Chair of Committee 6. I believe under your leadership the work of the Committee 6 can be completed successfully.

 I would also like to thank UAE for developing this proposal. This is a very detailed improvement and optimization of Resolution 11. In the 2014 Council meeting, we have also made a proposal concerning the ITU Telecom event. We think that the ITU Telecom market competition is very intense. The ITU Telecom event should be improved on a continuous basis, so we support the amendment to the Resolution of Brazil, Russia, Uganda and UAE has also some suggestions and we would like to work with the above mentioned countries to participate in the discussions so as to make further improvement on the relevant Resolutions.

 >> CHAIRMAN: Thank you, China.

 United States, please.

 >> UNITED STATES OF AMERICA: Thank you, Chairman. And congratulations on your appointment to Chair Committee 6.

 Actually, a number of the points have already been made by previous speakers, and so the US will not expand on those.

 However, I do have one Question for you. We have a contribution on future conferences of the Union that has -- that would have a bearing on the Resolution 11, especially the holding of forums and seminars and high level events.

 So I'm just wondering through you how we would propose to deal with that issue. And perhaps I would suggest -- are we going to have a drafting group to look at some of the improvements that were suggested here on Resolution 11?

 Thank you.

 >> CHAIRMAN: Thank you, United States. I have China asking for the floor.

 New Zealand, please.

 >> NEW ZEALAND: Thank you, Madam Chair, our congratulations to you as well.

 Madam Chair, we think it's important that we should not be too prescriptive in the drafting of this Resolution. We think there are a number of situations which we foresee might occur, but I don't think it's desirable to lock these in as absolute requirements. I think we need to keep flexibility. The Council will need to face these questions in lighter circumstances, which we sometimes cannot actually predict.

 I think it might be difficult to have the Plenipotentiary associated with the Telecom event. Because if they are going to be associated they have to be in the same country. And they are both set by different processes, so we should avoid being proscriptive and allow Council to make the best decisions based on the circumstances that they face at the time.

 Thank you, Madam Chair.

 >> CHAIRMAN: Thank you, New Zealand.

 I'll ask the Secretariat for their comments on the proposal and the questions people have asked. Mr. Ba.

 >> SECRETARIAT: Thank you, Madam Chair.

 With your permission, I would like to respond with some clarification or further explanation before giving the floor to my colleague from the Secretariat.

 As you know, previously this activity had a deficit because the activity of Telecom was one that had the activity itself producing what was needed in order to be able to finance the event itself.

 And in the past, the event took place every two years and it was found that the cost of the Secretariat for Telecom increased enormously, and those that organized the event two years later then had a negative impact. It was because of that that it was then proposed that we have a yearly event, and in 2011 during the Plenipot in Guadalajara, based on the results of Telecom 2009, and then the 2011 which had a deficit because in 2010 there was another event that was initially scheduled but then cancelled, so the cost for 2010 went into the 2011 event. And since the costs are distributed proportionately according to the events, then here it was added in. And the Secretariat recommended that there be an annual event. That is why we were able to achieve good results for 2012. Again, repeated and confirmed in 2013. And as you may know, in 2013 Telecom had more than a million 9. And, in addition, the host countries 2012 UAE, 2013 the Kingdom of Thailand also had a share. And if we look at in paragraph 2, where it resolves, says resolves 2, the ITU staff should be subject, et cetera, we find that there is no distinction between staff for Telecom and the usual ITU staff. And I think that here there should be clarification.

 Now, concerning the activity itself, it is based on the support provided by Secretariat with financial assistance also and the forums, and there is given personnel for that.

 Now, since 1975 until today, this is how this was dealt with, and it was -- it fell outside of the usual budget of the Union. And it was the positive results that were what led to the fund for development of telecommunication in order to assist Developing Countries so as to be able to decrease the gap between developing and developed countries. And this is how, based on these decisions -- and since then the Secretariat has functioned in that way.

 Now, if we are including the Telecom staff in the ordinary budget, we may have difficulty concerning the budget itself. As you know, we had serious difficulty when we had been requested to present a balanced budget. And if we now include the Telecom staff, this is going to probably increase a deficit for 2016-2019. So this is -- these are the additional explanations I wanted to provide.

 And now we can give the floor, with your permission, Madam Chair, to my colleague and Secretariat for additional responses.

 >> ITU: Thank you, Chair. Good afternoon. I'm from the Telecom. On behalf of the Telecom manager, Mr. Blaze, and others, I would appreciate UAE provided the proposal and also the comments from delegates.

 In addition to Mr. Ba's comments, I have two points I would like to provide. First about the annual or biannual event. Telecom is a unique influential global leading platform for public and private sectors to have high level networking and communications. In order to keep up with the industry evaluation, it would be good for us to have an annual event. That's the first point.

 Second is for the event organized before PP or concurrently with the PP. We think to organize our event together with PP, maybe we have some conflict with some side events organized by the host country. As you know, during these days Korea organized an ICT expo in the same venue. If we organize our Telecom event, so we'd have some competition with the host country. So that's the case. Thank you.

 >> CHAIRMAN: Thank you.

 UAE, you also have requested the floor.

 >> UNITED ARAB EMIRATES: Thank you, Madam Chair. We would like to thank all the administrations for their comments and also to thank the Russian administration and the Chinese administration for their support concerning our proposal.

 First of all, Madam Chair, I would like to say that I have submitted the text in Arabic and in Arabic it was suggested that this event, this Telecom ITU event, take place during the Plenipot year, but before that conference and not alongside it. So it should be one or two months before the Plenipot conference. And this, in those years where they coincide, it seems that the text has been not rendered adequately into English.

 Now, concerning the issue of biannual, biennial, versus yearly, and concerning staff, that is ITU, their salaries and so on, the event could take place every two years. But if that Telecom staff is not included in the human resource of the ITU itself, then it is the fact that it would have to be organized on a yearly basis. This is why we haven't been clear or further precise concerning this specific issue, because the Conference should make the decision.

 Now, Mr. Ba has indicated that previously this event was organized on a yearly basis, that is true. But also there were regional Telecom events that were yearly. And so this event should now be organized every two years. And our proposal is that therefore it take place every two years so that the personnel can be assimilated and included as ITU human resources.

 And other comments simply regarding the drafting of the text, because in some cases we find that the Arabic text wasn't adequately translated into English or into the other languages. I am not going to criticize the translators, because the ITU has received more than 700 documents and there has been very little time to do an adequate job. But what I do suggest is that we have a drafting group that takes care of ensuring that we have adequate drafting.

 Thank you.

 >> CHAIRMAN: Thank you, UAE.

 I have the United States and then Mr. Ba would like to make a comment. US, please.

 >> UNITED STATES OF AMERICA: Thank you, Chairman.

 Just a follow-up question. In Resolution 11 it says, in number 7, under "Instructs the Council," on page 216 of the Constitution and Convention, request the Council to report on the future events of the next Plenipotentiary conference, including proposals. Can you tell me where we could find that report that Council submitted to the Plenipotentiary? I think that would be helpful as we deliberate this issue.

 Thank you.

 >> CHAIRMAN: Thank you U.S.

 Mr. Ba, please.

 >> SECRETARIAT: Thank you, Madam Chair.

 I just wanted to further provide some explanation after what has been said by the Distinguished Delegate of the UAE, and during the Conference of the Plenipot and the organizing of it, as you know during that year ITU has two significant events. The World Conference of Telecom Development, or Development of the Telecom, and there is March and April and we have the Council in May. And then we have also organized WSIS+10 this year in June. And then we have the vacation of -- in June, July, in preparations for the Plenipot. There was at no point any specific time that really would have been available to do something other than the Plenipot. The agreement between States has not yet been signed, which is why there isn't a Director of Telecom at this conference, because right now he is in Doha in order to make the final arrangements for the meeting with the host country.

 Now, concerning the staff of the ITU, this has to do with the Regulations and the financing itself. And we find that there is an ordinary budget for the ITU which covers the usual ITU staff. But the Telecom staff has a specific Telecom budget. So there is the ordinary budget and we submit this along with the Telecom budget, simply as additional information. But it is that given Telecom budget that has to cover all the expenses that exist because of the Telecom itself.

 So as all the staff of the ITU, they are mentioned, but their financing itself is covered with extra budgetary funds, not the ordinary budget. So this is what I wanted to indicate here.

 Now, concerning the U.S. Delegate, we could discuss those elements directly with her afterwards because I need to get further information and I will then be able to provide some answers.

 Thank you.

 >> CHAIRMAN: Thank you everyone.

 Because we do have a requirement to join plenary for the launch, I'll postpone the discussion at the moment. Mr. Ba also does have to find some further information.

 I have requesting the floor the UAE, Ireland, Mali, and Zimbabwe. So we will take a note of that and we will try to have some discussions tomorrow with interested members in order to get an advance on this before we resume our discussion on Thursday.

 So those who are interested in advancing discussions in advance of Thursday's meeting, they can contact Mr. Ba directly at room number 49.

 So I just would also give the floor to the UAE to give us some information quickly about their event this evening.

 UAE.

 >> UNITED ARAB EMIRATES: Thank you. Madam Chair.

 Before I make my announcement of the forthcoming event, I just wanted to say to Mr. Ba that there is a proposal originating with the Arab States group as well as the United States with respect to the World Telecom Development Conference. This conference will be held in the year which will precede the next Plenipotentiary. That scenario would enable us to have sufficient time for the Telecom event.

 With regard to other resources, financial resources for the Telecom event, they could be assumed by some states, and we will try to resolve all the outstanding difficulties.

 I apologize, but I also would like to point out that -- well, now, to make the announcement. At 5:30 there is a reception given by the United Arab Emirates at 17:30 tonight, in room 3B.

 Thank you, Madam Chair. And we look forward to seeing you all at our reception.

 Thank you.

 >> CHAIRMAN: And thank you, UAE. And we will see you all on Thursday.

 Thank you.

 (End of session 17:05)

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