FINAL COPY

ITU PLENIPOTENTIARY CONFERENCE 2014

BUSAN, KOREA

 27 OCTOBER 2014

ROOM B

FOURTH MEETING OF COMMITTEE 6

11:30

CAPTIONING PROVIDED BY:

CAPTION FIRST, INC.

P.O. BOX 3066

MONUMENT, CO 80132

1‑877‑825‑5234

+001‑719‑481‑9835

[www.captionfirst.com](http://www.captionfirst.com)

\*\*\*

This is being provided in a rough‑draft format. Communication Access Realtime Translation (CART) is provided in order to facilitate communication accessibility and may not be a totally verbatim record of the proceedings.

\*\*\*

>> CHAIRMAN: Good morning, everyone. If you can take your seats, we are about to start. Just to advise at 12:30 the Plenary will be recommencing with the election results.

Good morning, everyone. I have one further announcement and that is that the Ad Hoc Group that was to meet at 5:30 this afternoon will now be meeting at 8 a.m. tomorrow in Room F.

And that was to consider Resolutions 77, 111 and 153.

Now if we could start with the consideration of the agenda, which is document ADM/20 Rev 1, I have had one request for a change. And that is to remove the discussion of assistance to Iraq that was agenda item No. 12 to tomorrow.

I see no comments. So the agenda is approved. If we could move on to agenda item No. 2, which is the proposed revision to Resolution 144, document DT/14.

I think for this one I might ask CITEL if they would be able to introduce the document.

>> CHAIRMAN: United States, please.

>> UNITED STATES: Thank you. Yes, document DT/14 contains Resolution 144. And at our previous session we agreed that there would be minor changes from the Arab region and we have received those changes this morning that were made to the DT. We have not had a chance, an opportunity to take these back to the CITEL. However I do think that they would be okay. But could we move this document until our next meeting, until we have an opportunity to consult with our CITEL colleagues on the new edit? Thank you very much.

>> CHAIRMAN: Thank you, U.S. I have Brazil asking for the floor. Brazil.

>> BRAZIL: Thank you, Madam Chairman. This is to present the DT on Resolution 25. We met last week when the proposals from CITEL and APT were presented. There were some comments made on the floor. And this Delegation's participated on the small drafting group. We also had a lot of participation from the regional directors of the ITU. So a thank you is in order because they were there and they clarified a lot of questions that we had.

So this is the result of the drafting group that we held last week. You see on DT/15 draft amendments to Resolution 25. Thank you.

>> CHAIRMAN: Thank you, Brazil. We will postpone discussion of Resolution 144 until later in our programme. And I now open the floor for any comments on Resolution 25, DT/15. The floor is open.

United Arab Emirates.

>> UNITED ARAB EMIRATES: Thank you very much, Madam Chair. And good morning to all colleagues. Unfortunately, Madam Chair, we were not able to participate in the small drafting group which was led by Mr. Canazza from Brazil. However, we had an intervention during the discussion of this Resolution, Resolution 25. The reporting of the regional directors should go to the three ‑‑ sorry, the reporting of the regional offices should go to all three directors, not only BDT. The mandate of the regional goals has been expanded to include all ITU activities. So I did not participate as I said. So perhaps if the text was not there in the amendments to this Resolution, perhaps we can add some text to go in line with the ‑‑ with what I have said, that the reporting of the regional directors should go to the three directors, BDT, BR and TSB directors. Thank you, Madam Chair.

>> CHAIRMAN: Thank you, UAE. Could I ask you exactly where in the Resolution you would like that text to go?

>> UNITED ARAB EMIRATES: Thank you very much, Madam Chair. Perhaps if you give us some time I will discuss it with Mr. Canazza and see where to put this text and come back to you perhaps after the coffee break or in the next meeting of Com 6. I apologize for that.

>> CHAIRMAN: Thank you, UAE. That's fine. We will proceed like that. Next item up for discussion is number DT/20, which is the proposed revision to Resolution 71, and we follow that to the proposed revision to Resolution 72 which is DT/21. I will ask Mr. Canazza to introduce the document. Could somebody please assist Brazil with the microphone?

>> BRAZIL: Thank you. As you recall last week I offered myself to include all the proposals on the Strategic Plan that were presented on the floor of Com 6. We had an InterAmerican proposal which endorsed without change the work of the Council Working Group and the Council. And we had a proposal from the United States with some changes and they presented ‑‑ they reduced the number of changes that they wanted to include in the Strategic Plan to only three.

And I offered myself to include them in this DT. Plus we had some proposal from Korea regarding the ITU‑T objectives. And it was announced that the TSAG and RAG had discussed some minor editorial changes on the objectives, on the respective sectors. So document 20 contains all of that for your consideration. And I would like also to introduce document 21, DT/21 which is on Resolution 72 on the linkage between the strategic, financial and operational planning. We had two proposals. One of them was an InterAmerican proposal which endorsed without change the outcomes from the Council. And we had a proposal from the CPT that requested a change in the Resolution.

So I prepared the DT, DT/21 which contains both for your consideration. Thank you very much.

>> CHAIRMAN: Thank you, Brazil. And thank you, Mr. Canazza, for all the work that you have continued to do on this particular issue and to everyone who has participated in the drafting group. I now open the floor for any comments.

I see none. So I take it that we are able to endorse the changes to Resolution 71 and 72 and to send them to the Editorial Committee. So that's great work. And thank you again, Mr. Canazza.

I think that deserves a gavel.

(Gavel)

 (Applause.)

>> CHAIRMAN: Okay. We are moving on now to agenda item No. 6, which is the implementation of results‑based management in the ITU, Resolution 151. And on this we have an InterAmerican proposal, 34R1‑A1/18. So if I could ask somebody from CITEL. Canada, please.

>> CANADA: Yes. Thank you, Madam Chair. And good morning to you and to all colleagues. Yes, Madam Chair, this is an InterAmerican proposal to a modified revised Resolution 151 on the implementation of results‑based management in the ITU. Madam Chair, this is a relatively short Resolution, but the modifications suggested by CITEL aim precisely at strengthening the concept and application of results‑based management in the ITU.

We have eliminated some of the considerings that we believe may not be necessary based on recent developments. And we have included in the resolves to instruct the Secretary‑General that the directors of the three bureaus be included as well. We also believe in the results that they need to continue to develop comprehensive ITU results framework in order to support the implementation of the Strategic Plan and as we have expressed through other InterAmerican proposals the importance of linking the strategic, financial and operational plans of the Union.

This, Madam Chair, is complimented by the need to develop comprehensive performance, monitoring and evaluation framework to support in turn the ITU's results framework. We also want to express the need to further integrate the risk management framework at the ITU level in the context of, of course, results‑based management.

And finally, Madam Chair, our InterAmerican proposal in the first instructs the Council to continue to review the proposed measures and take appropriate action to ensure further development and appropriate implementation of results‑based budgeting and results‑based management at the ITU. With this, Madam Chair, I conclude the presentation of the InterAmerican proposal. Thank you.

>> CHAIRMAN: Thank you, Canada. I now open the floor for any comments.

It seems there are none. So we can also I suggest endorse this Resolution and send it to the Editorial Committee. So thank you all.

Our next item is strengthening the ITU capabilities for electronic meetings and means to advance the work of the Union, Resolution 167. And we have three proposals and one report.

So if I could ask the African Group to introduce their proposal, 69A1/11.

>> EGYPT: Thank you, Madam Chair. On behalf of the African Group Egypt has the pleasure to propose some modifications to Resolution 167 on strengthening ITU capabilities for electronic meetings and means to advance the work of the Union.

Believing in the importance of facilitating the process of participation of all Member States in ITU meetings, workshops and seminars and being deeply concerned with the obstacles that a number of countries and individuals could face which leads to hindering the participation, the African Group is totally convinced that ITU electronic meeting capabilities should be developed.

Accordingly we are proposing to the Plenipotentiary to resolve the following: ITU should further develop its facilities and capabilities to facilitate the participation of People with Disabilities remotely in ITU meetings. The Ad Hoc Working Group that has been established by the Secretariat to further study the impact of remote participation on existing working rules of procedures, the TSB in collaboration with BDT should provide facilities and capabilities for electronic working methods at ITU meetings, workshops and training courses and encourage participation of Developing Countries which waiving any expenses for those participants other than the local call or Internet charges. In addition we impose to instruct the Secretary‑General in collaboration with the directors of the three bureaus to maintain the electronic working method actions and to address financial implications of increasing the electronic working methods of ITU. Thank you very much, Madam Chair and Distinguished Colleagues and ITU.

>> CHAIRMAN: Thank you. I would like to ask a member of the Arab Group to introduce their document, 79A2/9. Egypt.

>> EGYPT: Thank you, Madam. On behalf of the Arab Group Egypt would like to present its proposal to amend Resolution 167 on strengthening and developing ITU capabilities for electronic meetings and means to advance the work of the Union. It goes without saying that a number of Developing Countries and Least Developed Countries face many difficulties in participating in the Union's meetings.

In addition to that Persons with Disabilities experience difficulties participating in meetings. Given that we believe that everyone including disabled persons have the right to participate in the Union's work, the Arab Group wanted to present the following proposals to amend this Resolution. We suggest then that we take in to account all Resolutions which stress the importance of strengthening electronic meetings. We also acknowledge that current conditions for participating remotely in meetings require a number of features which aren't always available. And this sometimes prevents participation in decision making. We suggest that a number of points be adopted to the decides which will encourage the ITU to promote electronic means, adding to the "resolves" section, I beg your pardon, to allow disabled persons to participate in ITU meetings remotely.

These are special texts then for those with visual disabilities and the hard‑of‑hearing and relates to the holding of meetings over the Internet and making these available to those with certain disabilities as well as other arrangements.

We also suggest that the Union and particularly the ITU‑T bureau working with ITU‑D have access to the necessary means to ensure that electronic work can be carried out in the ITU as well as in ITU workshops. We also want to encourage the participation of Developing Countries without fees being charged apart from the charges relating to local telephone calls and Internet connection charges within the constraints of the credit which the Council authorizes.

Thank you, Chair.

>> CHAIRMAN: Thank you, Egypt. And if I could ask a representative from CITEL to introduce their document, 34R1A1/34. Brazil, please.

>> BRAZIL: Thank you, Madam Chair. This document proposed some amendments, editorial amendments highlighting the successful implementation of the remote participation and importance of increasing the number of participations in the work of ITU and the savings in calls related to many Delegates participating remotely. CITEL believes that the electronic meetings managed by the regional office can facilitate regional coordination. The InterAmerican proposal also recognized some difficulties of this process, such as time zone, cost of infrastructure, legal status of participants and Chairman, infrastructure limitations in some countries and the necessity of increased accessibility.

In this sense the document instructs the Secretary‑General in collaboration with the bureaus according to budgetary availability to increase the infrastructure at the corners and regional office to support and participate in e‑participation, extend ITU interpretation service to e‑participation, establish guidelines for e‑participation, reveal current policies and practice and legal issues, implement ‑‑ and also implementation of collections of statistics across all sectors so as to track trending in e‑participation. Thank you, Madam Chair.

>> CHAIRMAN: Thank you very much, Brazil. And if I could ask the Secretariat to present their document, No. 55. Secretariat please.

>> SECRETARY: Thank you, Madam Chairperson. On behalf of the Secretary‑General it is my pleasure to introduce document PP14/55. It is to provide a detailed report to PP‑14 on the legal, technical and financial challenges of continuing with remote participation pilot phase and the procedural changes that would be required in order to institutionalize the remote participation service. It also reports on how remote participation has improved accessibility for people with special needs or disabilities and issues related to equal use of languages.

Document 55 can be summarized as follows: Paragraphs 1 to 5 provide the background for the document, noting that the pilot is now in its fourth year at ITU. Paragraph 6 lists two major technical challenges and issues, the potential consequences and the related ‑‑ related legal issues. These issues are quality of voice and sound using public infrastructure to connect remote participants as an infrastructure is not under the control of ITU. And secondly, the failure of communication. Paragraphs 7 and 8 explains how remote participation has facilitated the inclusion of people with special needs and improving accessibility.

Paragraphs 9 and 10 detail the cost, both capital and operational, that have been previously approved by Council and predicted amount of additional budgetary implications for the 2016‑2019 budget. Paragraph 11 indicates the recommended way forward. Thank you, Madam Chairperson.

>> CHAIRMAN: Thank you. I open the floor for any comments on the proposals. Japan, please.

>> JAPAN: Thank you, Madam Chair. And good morning, everyone. So Japan has one comment. Japan thinks that remote participation to the ITU meeting is important to facilitate participation to ITU meetings. But however, in my understanding, so ITU is the worst organization in terms of negative asset in organization in Geneva. So we need to carefully consider the current budget status of ITU. And Japan thinks that it is important to conduct cost benefit analysis and focus on its implementation to important ITU meetings based on the cost analysis. Thank you very much.

>> CHAIRMAN: Thank you, Japan. Mali, please.

>> MALI: Thank you, Madam Chair. We'd like to thank the regions which have put proposals forward. In general we agree with their content. So we suggest in the interest of speed that we establish a small drafting committee which will try to fuse these proposals together. They all go in a similar direction. So that's our suggestion. Thank you.

>> CHAIRMAN: Thank you, Mali. It is a good suggestion. United States, please.

>> UNITED STATES: Thank you, Chairman. In general the U.S. supports strengthening the ITU capabilities for electronic meetings as a means to advancing the work of the Union. We would however like to ask though you regarding the deletion of "Resolves B" from the InterAmerican proposal. During Council 2008 there was an extended discussion on the use of hyperlinks in documents and it was this Delegation's understanding that we would not use hyper links to approve documents. So if you ‑‑ we also understand that during this meeting the legal advisor provided a written statement to this effect. If we could ask the Secretariat to provide this to the meeting, it would be helpful in furthering our work. However we would have concerns with removing "Resolves B". Thank you.

>> CHAIRMAN: Thank you, U.S. Russian Federation, please.

>> RUSSIAN FEDERATION: Thank you, Madam Chair. The Russian Federation also supports the proposal, proposals which were done about electronic meetings. But we do have a few clarifications. We would suggest that we include wording on regional and national administrations. And also we support what was said by the Distinguished Delegate of Japan about financing being provided with ‑‑ within budget limitations.

We also think it would be useful that we should add to this text several elements which would determine requirements for such meetings and the holding of such meetings, including the procedural aspects. In the same way we think it would be useful for us to unify the programme facilities for electronic meetings and also show the materials and the modalities for the practical aspect of how this would be provided. Thank you, Madam.

>> CHAIRMAN: Thank you, RCC. The UK, please.

>> UNITED KINGDOM: Thank you, Madam Chair. The UK believes that electronic working is important, but we do agree with Japan that cost‑based analysis should be undertaken given the financial situation the ITU finds themselves in. We request that any new costs are provided in the near future. Thank you.

>> CHAIRMAN: Thank you, UK. Brazil, please.

>> BRAZIL: Thank you, Madam Chair. Regarding the InterAmerican proposal for deleting "Resolves B", it is our understanding that this issue is not related to this issue. But any clarification on the need for maintaining this "resolves" in the Resolution could be taken at this drafting group that Mali has suggested that we create. Also take note of the Japanese proposal and, of course, we must have an eye on the financial limitations. And this is in the InterAmerican proposal when it instructs the director of the Telecommunication Development Bureau to take on necessary measures according to budgetary availability. So I think everything can be clarified at this drafting group. Thank you.

>> CHAIRMAN: Thank you, Brazil. And China, please.

>> CHINA: Thank you, Mr. Chair. We think that strengthening the capacity of ITU in holding the electronic meeting it is very meaningful and very significant. We like to thank the authors and countries and regions for putting forward these proposals as well as countries making suggestions. We are very happy to see that countries have mentioned we need to have a plan of action for the electronic meeting. I see that the American region already has a very detailed action plan.

And in the future implementation of this action plan ‑‑ this action plan is to be further improved. We also recommend ITU to conduct the result after holding the electronic meeting, including the cost evaluations. We also need to take in to account the interpretation services for the electronic meetings. Thank you.

>> CHAIRMAN: Thank you, China. I will now ask the Secretariat to respond to the questions that were raised. Secretariat.

>> SECRETARY: Thank you very much, Madam Chair. I absolutely appreciate very much the comments from all the Delegates and also the issue of the budget situation we are in right now and the need for cost benefit analysis.

I do believe that when I see the various proposals coming from the regions that it would be possible to consolidate them in a drafting group relatively easy. To some of the questions which was raised about costs of participation I would say until today the ITU have borne the costs for Delegates calling in to the meetings. Whether that is possible in the future with expansions we will have to consider considering the financial situation.

Concerning the question from the United States about deleting "Resolves B," I think that would be best resolved in the drafting group as well. With that I would like to conclude my introduction here.

>> CHAIRMAN: Thank you very much. I might call upon Egypt as they presented two of the contributions that we had on this to see whether they would be agreeable to chairing that drafting group. Egypt.

>> EGYPT: Thank you, Madam Chair. Yes. Thank you so much.

>> CHAIRMAN: Thank you very much. So we will be posting the room and the time for that work to continue. And I agree that there was a lot of commonality in the proposals put forward. Thank you.

Now our next item is No. 8 on our agenda which is dealing with Resolution 175 about accessibility for Persons with Disabilities, including age‑related disabilities. We have a number of proposals here. So I would ask a representative from the Arab Group to introduce their document 79A2/10. Is there a representative from the Arab Group?

>> EGYPT: Thank you, Madam Chair. It is an honor, Madam Chair, to present this proposal on behalf of the Arab Group. The Arab Group believes that it is necessary to update and amend Resolution 175. This is on telecommunication/information and communication technology accessibility for Persons with Disabilities and persons with specific needs, including age‑related disabilities.

The amendments which the Arab Group proposes aim to update this Resolution with the aim of allowing it to move in step with the other updates which have been made relating to Persons with Disabilities and persons with specific needs.

And this is to help those persons have easy access to telecommunications and ICTs. We wanted to flag up that 80% of Persons with Disabilities live in Developing Countries according to the United Nations Development Program, UNDP.

Women and girls with disabilities suffer from many other types of deprivation because they are excluded on the basis of their gender and disability. We also suggest that we use the term "and persons with specific needs" after Persons with Disabilities.

Furthermore, we suggest adding two points to the section "instructs Secretary‑General" in consultation with the directors of the bureau. This relates to collecting information about Persons with Disabilities and persons with specific needs. So the number of those people and the type of disability, and this would allow us to identify their needs and adopt future strategies to allow them to have more abilities.

We also suggest suppressing the bit about bureau and offices in regional areas. So regional offices. But we want to encourage electronic means and the use of ICTs in those developing areas. Where possible the Union should offer its services and provide its programmes to Persons with Disabilities, particularly those who are hard‑of‑hearing and those with visual disabilities and those with motor‑related disabilities. Thank you very much.

>> CHAIRMAN: Thank you very much, Egypt. If I can ask a representative from the USA to introduce their contribution, 27R1A2/3.

>> UNITED STATES: Thank you. The United States has joined the CITEL proposal and we don't need to take the floor for this. Thank you very much.

>> CHAIRMAN: Thank you. If I can ask for a representative from CITEL to introduce their document. CITEL, please.

>> ARGENTINA: Thank you, Chair. Good morning, everyone. Argentina on behalf of CITEL would like to present their amendments ICTs for Persons with Disabilities Resolution 175. The members of the ITU along with policymakers have a significant role to play to ensure that ICTs in their countries can be accessible for Persons with Disabilities to overcome the barriers to access to ICTs. In light of this the ITU has continued to work tirelessly in this regard along with other UN family bodies. This amendment to Resolution 175 updates the standards to continue to help access and particularly to ensure that information is available and access to culture are available to ensure ‑‑ is available to ensure that Persons with Disabilities enjoy access to culture and other such aspects. The following amendments are being put forward then: In the "resolves" we are modifying Paragraph 1 and specific needs and I refer you to the text. This relates to a collaboration with other bodies. This relates to the CMDTs, the WCIT's Resolution 58 from 2012.

We also have an amendment to the "instructs Secretary‑General" section to ensure that a dialogue is fostered to ensure that Persons with Disabilities have more information and data to compile and analyze at the national level of what's going on in reference to international standards. And we also seek to bolster cooperation with regional and international organizations dealing with the needs of Persons with Disabilities to ensure that accessibility to ICTs can be included in their agendas and bear in mind the cross‑cutting nature of these issues with other matters.

Finally we'd like to call for the maximum possible use for Internet‑based dissemination methods as well as subtitles and particularly bearing in mind the financial constraints of the Union offering material in the six official languages, before, during and after each meeting. And this is expressed in chapter 2, section 12 of the general regulations on meetings, conferences and assemblies.

We'd like to submit this amended Resolution to the room and consideration for your support. Thank you.

>> CHAIRMAN: Thank you very much, Argentina. If I could now ask for a representative from the African Group to introduce their proposal, 69A1/12. Egypt again. Thank you.

>> EGYPT: Thank you, Madam Chair. It is our pleasure to present on behalf of the African Group suggested modifications to this Resolution. The suggested modifications are updating references mentioned in the Resolution in addition to confirming the importance of providing access to Persons with Disabilities.

We would like to refer under the considering section that 80% of Persons with Disabilities live in Developing Countries, and this is according to the programme of the United Nations Development. And that women and girls with disabilities suffer from multiple manifestations of deprivation where they are excluded on the basis of their gender and disability.

Finally, we are asking that the SG in consultation with the directors of the three bureaus and directors of regional offices in light of their available resources to organize regional competitions for the development of assistive technologies to enable Persons with Disabilities and to develop an information system that provides database indicating the total number and needs for people with disabilities in each Member State as much as possible to enable both ITU and Member States to take these needs in to consideration within the future plans aiming at giving the required support to People with Disabilities, especially in Developing Countries in collaboration with relevant international agencies. Thank you very much.

>> CHAIRMAN: Thank you again, Egypt. And if we could have a representative from the RCC to introduce their document 73A1/24. RCC, please. Kazakhstan.

>> KAZAKHSTAN: Thank you, Madam Chair, for giving us the floor. On behalf of the RCC administrations, may I present RCC 73A1/24 on Resolution 175 on accessibility to ICTs for Persons with Disabilities. Recently there is a lot of attention being paid for training people with ICTs in the RCC area if we look, for instance, at the recent Resolutions and several regional initiatives on this subject. Of course, the growing need for mechanisms for international cooperation within the ITU for access for Persons with Disabilities is a growing subject. And for this reason we propose several changes to Resolution 175. For instance, some of our suggestions are to update the references to various previous documents, including ITU documents. Then to develop mobile capabilities for People with Disabilities which will be useful not only for training and teaching but also for everyday life as well. Thirdly, developing capabilities for People with Disabilities to use ICTs for their own economic development. We are profoundly convinced that we can't only offer training for people using ICTs but we can also help them through using ICTs to find professional training on to find their place in society. They can work with great success and participate in the programming for other People with Disabilities. So our suggestion is based on the idea of providing them with this possibility and allowing them to be part of the process. Thank you, Madam.

>> CHAIRMAN: Thank you. I will now open the floor for any comments. United Arab Emirates.

>> UNITED ARAB EMIRATES: Thank you, Madam Chair. Madam, I have a general comment concerning the wording "used", the term. When we talk about People with Disabilities in Arabic, the translation of that is perfect. We talk about people with specific needs in Arabic and, of course, this means determined specific needs.

So our proposal is that we use specific or particular needs. Specific in English. So we say special needs for particular aspects of disability. So specific and particular would make the distinction between these two types, these two terms.

The main reason, Madam Chair, for mentioning this is the fact that there are a large number of Arab countries which say people with specific needs when they mean People with Disabilities. And that is why we consider that we need to be more clear and precise. So without ‑‑ we don't say special needs. We say specific needs.

It is more precise. So please excuse me for taking so long, but I wanted the Drafting Committee to take in to account this distinction and provide the right term in Arabic. Thank you.

>> CHAIRMAN: Thank you, UAE. You made that point very clearly. Mali, please.

>> MALI: Thank you, Madam. We, too, agree that we need to harmonize the terms that we use to designate which people we are talking about. I remember at the Dubai meeting in 2014 there was talk of harmonizing the terms. So we need to refer back to the decisions taken in Dubai.

And it was the same with Resolution there, where there was talk of how we bring together the different terms. A little group was set up for that. And here, too, we could set up a little group which would make sure that the terms used do correspond exactly, and we have a single document without contradictory terms within it. Thank you.

>> CHAIRMAN: Thank you very much, Mali. I think and indeed we will ‑‑ Japan, please.

>> JAPAN: Thank you very much, Madam Chair. So Japan supports the Webcasting and captioning. It is very important to and useful and to facilitate participation with disabilities or specific needs at ITU meetings. But previously mentioned it is important to consider the financial situation. So we need to seek to do it in a cost effective manner.

>> CHAIRMAN: Thank you, Japan. Russian Federation, please.

>> RUSSIAN FEDERATION: Thank you, Madam Chair. We overall support all the proposals to amend the text of this Resolution, but at the same time we consider it would be sensible to offer clarification concerning the changes in the ‑‑ brought in by the meetings, like Resolution 58, for instance, which was reviewed in Dubai in 2014 and the Dubai declaration as well and the results achieved in the ITU as a whole. Thank you.

>> CHAIRMAN: Thank you very much, Russian Federation. I understand there had been work going on already in terms of finding a way to integrate all the suggestions in to the one proposal and I understand Ms. Saks from the U.S. Delegation was undertaking that work. I would ask Ms. Saks to carry that forward in the drafting group and the Secretariat will work with her to assist. Thank you very much.

We can now move on to Resolution 58. And we have here an ACP, ACP/67A2/4 which is on strengthening relations between the ITU and regional telecommunications organization and regional preparations for the Plenipotentiary Conference.

>> ISLAMIC REPUBLIC OF IRAN: It is my pleasure to introduce document 67A2/4 on Resolution 58. APT members have examined Resolution 58 and made necessary amendments in order to reflect the need for organizing interregional coordination meetings for Plenipotentiary Conferences and to amend other parts of the Resolution to clarify the objectives of the Resolution. The first amendments has been done to the "resolves" parts. Resolve part No. 1 has been modified but the content is the same. Just to try to clarify that one the ITU regional preparatory meeting per ITU region will be convened. The second resolve has been amended to add World Conference on International Telecommunication. Also resolve further has been added to invite the regional groups to continue their preparations for the Plenipotentiary Conference, including the possible convening of interregional meetings.

Also in the part of instructs to the Secretary‑General under No. 3, some sentences have been added. In the first the organization of ITU preparatory meetings, preferably before or after ITU major events. It means back to back with the ITU major events. And in the second facilitation of interregional coordination meetings with the objectives of reaching a possible convergence of interregional views on major issues. Also it has been added to ‑‑ for assisting representatives of regional organizations to attend above‑mentioned interregional meetings including where necessary by providing within the budgetary union of Developing and Least Developed Countries wishing to attend above‑mentioned meetings.

Also it is added for identifying major issues to be resolved by the future conferences and assemblies refers to resolve to above. Under the "instructs" the Council it is added for taking in to account actions referred to in instructs the Secretary‑General in close cooperation with the directors of the three bureaus, three above. With that it concludes the introduction on the issues. Thank you, Madam Chair.

>> CHAIRMAN: Thank you, Iran. I am now opening the floor for any comments on the APT contribution.

United Arab Emirates, please.

>> UNITED ARAB EMIRATES: Thank you very much, Madam Chair. And I would like to thank the APT for their proposal and we support this proposal. There is only one small modification we would like to see on the document, Madam Chair. It is under "Resolves 1". At the end of the text it says as necessary. We would like to suppress the words "as necessary" from "Resolves 1" since the Arabic text which was adopted in Guadalajara 10 does not include this term "as necessary". We wish to have this deleted from "Resolves 1". Thank you, Madam Chair.

>> CHAIRMAN: Thank you, UAE. Cuba, please.

>> CUBA: Thank you. Resolution 58 as was mentioned before is one which was worked on in Guadalajara and Cuba was involved in that along with the UAE. So Cuba's already put forward a proposal on regional offices for Member States that aren't actually members of the regional groups and in that Resolution has already been said a number of paragraphs and terms reflect observance of an attention to countries that aren't members of any regional group.

However, in this amendment which has the same aim as the Resolution 58, some amendments which have been added seem to us to go beyond what we've already adopted in Guadalajara. More specifically in "Resolves 1" when it says that we'll add a bit about each regional organization mentioned in considering 2, we think that that's very specific. And we think regional preparatory meeting of the ITU covers all Member States, but if we say for each regional organization, that infers that the meeting will be convened for the regional group rather than for the region as a whole.

And we don't agree with that. So I would request that the propose ‑‑ the proponents look to eliminate that particular bit, that reference to the regional groups. That's what we discussed in relation to Resolution 58. And we wanted to mention as well that in interregional meetings we have to think about whether they are interregional meetings of a particular region or interregional meetings of the whole organization. And there again we have to ensure that countries which aren't members of regional groups aren't excluded. It then talks about representatives of regional groups. We have no objection to this if aid to Developing Countries isn't affected for ITU meeting attendance.

Here we are financing the representatives of regional organizations and their interregional meetings. So yet again Member States which aren't members of regional groups are excepted from that. So there's an assumption here that we need to be cautious about. So while the spirit of the document does take up some aspects of what was discussed, I think in some regards it goes beyond it. And in some ways it distances or hinders those countries that aren't members of regional groups from participating in ITU meetings. We are quite ready to discuss this with the proponents and agree on acceptable wording.

>> CHAIRMAN: Thank you, Cuba. Argentina, please.

>> ARGENTINA: Thank you very much. Argentina would like to express its thanks for the presentation of this contribution. We'd like to ask the proponents to clarify the further "resolves" and particularly the reference to inviting regional groups to continue their preparations and the interregional reference. We have a doubt here about what regional groups refers to. Are we talking about each of the regions separately or regional organizations? We have a doubt in that regard.

And taking up what was said by the UAE Delegate a few minutes ago about "Resolves 1", there was a comment there about where necessary and removing that. In the Spanish version of "Resolves 1" there is no such reference. So we are not sure whether we are talking about "Resolves 1" or another part of the text. Thank you.

>> CHAIRMAN: Thank you, Argentina. The U.S. please.

>> UNITED STATES: Thank you, Chairman. Yes, the U.S. would like to in the furtherance, resolves further, No. 3, there is a point about the budget implications. We would like to add to the extent possible within the financial plan to that section. And thank you very much. And we would join the group if there is a small group to discuss.

>> CHAIRMAN: Thank you very much, U.S. United Arab Emirates.

>> UNITED ARAB EMIRATES: Thank you, Madam Chair. I will be fairly brief because the results are about to be announced. So the document which was submitted by the Asia‑Pacific Group, remember that group is one of the candidates. So everyone is very keen to follow the results of the elections. Now following on from what was said by Argentina, I would like to talk about the section called "decides". The text in Arab has as necessary.

>> CHAIRMAN: Thank you for that clarification. I have one more request from the floor for Canada. Canada, please.

>> CANADA: Thank you, Madam Chair. I would be again very brief. In, Madam Chair, following the interventions of Cuba and Argentina it is Canada's view that a very clear distinction needs to be made between meetings of regional telecommunication organizations and meetings of the region. In the case of the Americas region, whenever there is an ITU meeting it has to include all countries, Member States from the Americas region and that should be clearly understood and reflected in any text in terms of the relationship between regional telecommunication organizations and the ITU.

Secondly, in regards to resolves further we agree with the spirit of the question raised by Argentina because again when the regional groups are invited to continue the preparations for Plenipotentiary Conferences include interregional meetings. The participation of all countries in the Americas would apply for this resolves further as well. Thank you, Madam Chair.

>> CHAIRMAN: Thank you, Canada. Iran, can I ask you as a representative of the APT group to coordinate with all of the members who have expressed views here this morning and come back to us with some text that takes account of their concerns and suggestions about language? Thank you.

Iran.

>> ISLAMIC REPUBLIC OF IRAN: Yes. Thank you, Madam Chair. I will do that. It is my pleasure.

>> CHAIRMAN: Thank you so such. I am sure we are all keen to get down to the Plenary room. We will see you again at 2:30 this afternoon. And thank you for all your work this morning. See you.

(Session concluded at 12:30)

\*\*\*

This is being provided in rough‑draft format. Communication Access Realtime Translation (CART) is provided in order to facilitate communication accessibility and may not be a totally verbatim record of the proceedings.

\*\*\*