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BUSAN, KOREA

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FIFTH MEETING OF COMMITTEE 6

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 >> CHAIRMAN: Good afternoon everyone. We're about to start, so if you could take your seats.

 We have a revised agenda for this afternoon because we had moved slightly faster than expected in the morning. So a new agenda is ADM/20 rev 2. So if there are no comments, we can accept it as approved.

 Okay.

 Now, we've moved on and we're about to discuss number 10 of our new agenda, which is assistance and support to countries in special need for rebuilding their telecommunication sector. Resolution 34.

 And the Arab Group has a contribution 79A1/3. So if I could ask a representative from the Arab Group to introduce the contribution, please.

 Libya.

 >> LEBANON: Thank you. This document is very important. It has to do with an amendment to Resolution 34. It has to do with assistance to be provided to countries so that they can build their telecommunications Sector. Obviously it's important to continue to provide assistance to Arab countries who need this assistance, namely, Lebanon, Iraq and Somalia.

 The amendments that have been made to the content of the Resolution include adding the term "Activate." As for the agenda, we made a few changes on Iraq. And we insisted here, once again, on activating

the Resolution. This goes for Somalia as well.

 Obviously as the Arab Group we genuinely appreciate the ITU's efforts in all three sectors during the past study cycle inter alia for the support for countries who need special assistance.

 Having said that, given the circumstances that many of these countries are undergoing, security issues, economic issues or others, for us it's very important to continue to provide this assistance to these people and thus activate the Resolution.

 >> CHAIRMAN: Thank you, Lebanon and apologies. My French isn't terribly good.

 Now, if I could open the floor for comments, please. Sudan, did you have any comment that you'd like to make on the proposal?

 Sudan, please. South Sudan.

 Yes.

 >> REPUBLIC OF SOUTH SUDAN: Thank you, Chair. Madam Chair, thank you.

 With regards to Resolution 34, assistance and support to countries in special need for rebuilding their telecommunications sector, Madam Chair, we attach ourselves to Resolution 34.

 But first, give me this opportunity to sincerely apologize for not presenting our proposal earlier in time. Nonparticipating in small drafting groups earlier, we have come a little bit late. But I appreciate your understanding.

 South Sudan, Madam Chair, has gone through more than two decades of civil war which resulted in shattered lives, broken down institutions, and rudimentary infrastructure. By 2010 we were not yet an independent country or a sovereign state. Therefore, we were not included. But now, with the peace, we are committed to build our ICT Telecom Sector.

 If you allow me, Madam Chair, to put our proposal as I read, I will be very happy. So if I could read my proposal, I'll say "South Sudan has gone through more than two decades of civil war, with shattered lives, destroyed properties, broke down institutions and the existing rudimentary infrastructure. But with the peace, South Sudan emerged as a sovereign country with completely no telecommunications infrastructure, which is badly needed now for the development of its people. Within the framework of the Resolution 34, we propose at this conference to give us appropriate assistance and support which shall be provided to the Republic of South Sudan for building a telecommunications system, policy and regulatory framework as well as building their capacities."

 Madam Chair, this is what I submit to the session.

 Thank you very much. Thank you.

 >> CHAIRMAN: Thank you, south Sudan.

 Mali, please.

 >> MALI: Thank you, Madam Chair.

 Mali is impacted and is in a very difficult situation, therefore is sensitive to the South Sudan's intervention. And therefore we would like to endorse the suggestion made by this country. And that suggestions be taken into account in the Resolution that we're looking at and other relevant Resolutions of the ITU. So I think that we need to update the list of countries that might be able to benefit from the ITU's assistance.

 Thank you.

 >> CHAIRMAN: Thank you, Mali.

 Kenya, please.

 >> KENYA: Thank you very much, Madam Chair.

 We would like to associate ourselves with the comments made by Mali. We in particular would like to support the proposal by South Sudan to be included amongst the countries that would be assisted by the ITU. We know the difficulties that the South Sudan has gone through over the years, and surely we do believe that they qualify for assistance and be categorized as among the countries that have special needs.

 I thank you, Chair.

 >> CHAIRMAN: Thank you.

 Lebanon, please.

 >> LEBANON: Thanks, Madam Chair.

 We associate ourselves and everyone with the proposal associated with South Sudan and we believe that a section should be added to the Resolution on South Sudan. And the ITU should be supporting South Sudan in its effort to rebuild its network and develop its regulatory system.

 Thank you.

 >> CHAIRMAN: Okay, Lebanon.

 So I'm hearing support for the suggestion to add South Sudan to this Resolution. And no comment for the updates that were proposed.

So if that's the case and that there is support, we will afford this Resolution to the Editorial Committee.

 Thank you.

 We then move on to the next item 11, which is assistance and support to Lebanon for rebuilding its telecommunications networks, fixed and mobile. Resolution 159. And again, I'd ask the Arab Group if they could introduce the proposal.

 Lebanon.

 >> LEBANON: Thank you, Madam Chair.

 Thank you. I'm very pleased to speak on behalf of the Arab Group and to introduce document 79Add1/7 on Resolution 159, entitled "Assistance and support to Lebanon for rebuilding its telecommunication networks, fixed and mobile."

 I believe a consensus has arisen on this Resolution and there are no proposals for amendment.

 Thank you.

 >> CHAIRMAN: Thank you, Lebanon. I'm now opening the floor for any comment.

 I see none, so we will be forwarding this to the Editorial Committee. Thank you.

 Now, the next item on our agenda is, as we said this morning, the proponents of assistance to Iraq are still having discussions out of session, so they have asked for item number 12, assistance to Iraq, to be moved to tomorrow.

So we will be going on to ITU participation, and this is a contribution from the U.S. Document Number USA/27R1-A1/10. So if I could ask the USA to introduce the document. Thank you.

 >> UNITED STATES OF AMERICA: Thank you, Chairman. Good afternoon everyone.

 The United States recognizes that MoUs entered into by the ITU are within its mandate and are beneficial. We have submitted this new Resolution to define Council's oversight of the ITU's role as a signatory to Memoranda of Understanding with financial and/or strategic consequences through a new Resolution on MoUs, that the ITU would study this. MoUs in which ITU is or may become a party which have financial or strategic implications should only be entered into after approval of Council.

 So we put forth this Resolution for the meeting to consider a new Resolution that the ITU should not enter into MoUs that have strategic and financial implications without the approval of Council.

 >> CHAIRMAN: Thank you, U.S.

 Now I'll open the floor for comments.

 Mali, please.

 >> MALI: Thank you, Madam Chair.

 Mali would like to endorse this draft Resolution. We would like to ask the Secretariat through you, Madam, to give us a little bit of an update of MoUs that were signed, putting the accent of course on the financial aspects of these MoUs.

 Were there any cases of these kind of activities and could we be informed of them? Thank you.

 >> CHAIRMAN: Thank you very much, Mali.

 Secretariat, please.

 >> SECRETARY OF THE SESSION: Thank you, Madam Chair.

 And I would like to thank the United States for its contribution on MoUs' financial impacts.

 And if you recall during the last Council meeting, we studied this issue and the Secretariat produced an information document in 2013 but also in 2014. So this issue was debated at the Council and in the Council group responsible for financial and human resources. The Secretariat published a document, so we can give you a copy of this document so that you can have a list of the MoUs signed which have financial impact. This is therefore something that happened or that was done in 2014 in May at the last Council meeting.

 I'm obviously at the disposal of the delegate of Mali to provide this document to him.

 Thank you.

 >> CHAIRMAN: Thank you.

 Mali, please.

 >> MALI: Many thanks for these explanations. But as a complement to the information you provided, I'm just wondering, are there MoUs that are signed that do not, say, go through the Council? I think that is the crux of the issue.

 >> CHAIRMAN: Thank you, Mali.

 Mr. Ba?

 >> SECRETARY OF THE SESSION: Thank you, Madam Chair.

 My Legal Advisor is unfortunately not in the room. And she will correct me if necessary, because the Legal Advisor must be in plenary.

 Now, it's occurred in the past that the Secretary-General has signed MoUs with partners, MoUs that have financial impact. So this is something that does exist. Having said that, if it's the PP's will that these agreements first be validated by the Council, then the Secretariat will operate on that basis. But in the past, the Secretary-General and certain entities have signed MoUs with financial implications without it going through the Council. But the Secretary-General obviously reports to the Council via a report on his financial management, and clearly makes report of any MoUs he signs in that framework.

 Thank you.

 >> CHAIRMAN: Thank you, Mr. Ba.

 United States, please.

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

 Just to follow up on and provide more information for our contribution, we recognize that the MoUs that the ITU has signed are very important, and they have -- excuse me. Supports ITU's efforts to partner with expert organizations and provide such collaboration as necessary. However, we believe that when the ITU signs MoUs with these partners, there should be some type of criteria to develop. And so this is the reason why we have produced our contribution, to have the Council create criteria and guidelines for when the ITU signs these MoUs, that Council should direct the Council Working Group on human resources and finance to develop criteria.

 So I hope that is helpful. Thank you.

 >> CHAIRMAN: Thank you, U.S.

 Were there any further comments or requests for the floor?

 Mali, again.

 >> MALI: Thank you, Madam Chair. There is one thing that is the responsibility of the Council, b), they said they would not be prevented from associating themselves with these agreements. And I'm wondering what exactly it means here.

 >> CHAIRMAN: The U.S., could you please clarify for Mali, please. U.S. Please? Not working.

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

 I believe it's the "instructs the council" b) that interested Member States and Sector members would be kept informed of the activities and will not be restricted from joining relevant MoUs."

 Yes, we're not restricting the ITU from joining other MoUs. We just would like the membership to be informed when there are strategic and financial implications for the MoUs that the Union -- that the ITU signs.

 I hope that explanation is helpful. Thank you.

 >> CHAIRMAN: Thanks, U.S.

 Mali.

 >> MALI: Thank you, Madam Chair.

 Given the explanation provided by the United States, I was wondering if this kind of language is something we could do without. It's a little bit confusing, at least in the French version. I was wondering if we could delete part of this. They should be kept informed that then the Council is going to formulate criteria and guidelines with regard to participating or joining MoUs. And principles should be clearly explained. But this part of the sentence is a little bit -- could lead to some confusion. So I was wondering if we could drop the last part of this that says "will not be restricted from joining relevant MoUs."

 >> CHAIRMAN: U.S., is that proposal from Mali agreeable?

 >> UNITED STATES OF AMERICA: Thank you, Chairman. Yes, that's agreeable.

 >> CHAIRMAN: Thank you very much, US.

 Now, with that revised language, if there are no further comments, there seemed there was support for the proposal certainly from Mali, with the text small edit.

 So we can send that -- Mr. Ba.

 >> SECRETARY OF THE SESSION: Thank you, Madam Chair.

 I just want to react to the fact that the Secretariat is also in favor of the change, since it is really the Council who defines the guidelines for these types of agreements. This will help the Secretariat to keep a thumb on these issues. Really, the Council should be providing us with guidelines on agreements that have financial impacts.

 Thank you.

 >> CHAIRMAN: Thank you very much for that, Mr. Ba. So given that, the Secretariat in full support, Mali supporting, we will now be able to send this draft new Resolution through to the Editorial Committee. So thank you.

 So we will now move on to examination of the financial management of the Union by the Plenipotentiary Conference, years 2010 to 2013. It's a document PP-14/65. We will ask Madam Galasso to please introduce the document. >> ITU: Thank you, Mrs. Chair.

 Ladies and gentlemen, Distinguished Delegates, it's my pleasure to introduce on behalf of the Secretary-General document PP-14 65 concerning the financial report of the Union for the years 2010, '11, '12, and '13 as published in the financial operating reports and approved by the Council.

 Pursuant to the United Nations General Assembly approbation of the adoption of the International Public Sector Accounting Standards, IPSAS, at the 60th session in July 2006, ITU decided to implement IPSAS and produce the first financial statements under IPSAS for the 2010 financial period. Decision 550, adopted by the Council at its 2008 session.

 The document presents the following information. The IPSAS compliant statement of financial position, of financial performance, of changes in net assets, the cash flow statement, and the comparison of actual and budgeted amounts of the Union for the year 2010, '11, '12, and '13, in Annexes A to D.

 The financial management information in Annex E.

 A draft New Resolution related to approval of the accounts of the Union for the year 2010 to '13 in Annex F.

 The financial management in Annex E gives information on the implementation of a decision and Resolution of the Plenipotentiary Conference Guadalajara, 2010, concerning the finances of the Union, namely Article 28, Decision 5, rev Antalya 2006 and Guadalajara 2010. And the Resolutions Resol38, 45 and 91 and 94.

 The implementation of the International Public Sector Accounting Standards, the budget of the Union, in particular of the income and expenditure of the 2010 and '11 budget and the '12 and '13 budget as well as the actual expenditure compared to the limits on expenditure.

 Assets and liabilities and net assets at 31 December 2013, focusing on the reserve accounts and net assets, including the ITU Centenary Prize fund, the staff welfare fund, the capital budget fund, the exhibition working capital fund and Telecom events.

 Cash and cash equivalent, receivables covering the uncollected revenue from Member States, Sector Members and Associates.

 Fixed assets, employee benefits and specifically the ASHI obligation and special accounts.

 External funds, contribution interest funds, funds in trust, information and communication technology development fund. And other financial management questions related to external audit of the Union, the cost attribution and review of the financial Regulation and Rules.

 The Plenipotentiary Conference is invited to take note of this document and approve a draft Resolution in Annex F regarding the approval of the accounts of the Union for the year 2010 to 2013.

 Thanks you.

 >> CHAIRMAN: Thank you, Ms. Galasso.

 Now we will open the floor for any comments. I see none. Therefore -- Spain.

 >> SPAIN: Thank you very much, Chair.

 Good afternoon, delegates.

 We would like to thank the Secretariat for this document and make a very general observation about it. We are grateful for the Secretariat's efforts to present the accounts and the IPSAS related matters, and we would like to stress that IPSAS accounting gives us a much better overview in a medium-term and long-term sense of the ITU's finances. This doesn't mean that we need to take drastic measures in the short-term, but it does give us some ideas for the next few years. The deficit of 200 million francs is a significant figure and this will exert significant pressure over the coming years.

 That given a freezing or reduction of contributions is a significant challenge and we as Member States need to be aware of that.

 Thank you.

 >> CHAIRMAN: Thank you, Spain.

 Russian Federation, please.

 >> RUSSIAN FEDERATION: Thank you. We, too, note that this document contains a great deal of information and this is a document of great quality. It seems, however, and perhaps many members of this Committee share our opinion, that we need a Resolution in this regard. And that's strange, because we're not looking at future measures. I think it would be more reasonable to take a decision rather than a Resolution in this regard.

 Thank you.

 >> CHAIRMAN: Mali, please.

 >> MALI: Thank you, Chair.

 We echo the thanks which have been uttered to the ITU for the clarity of this document. And we would also like to thank Mr. Ba and his team. We know that a great deal of work has been done, qualitative work.

 Concerning the implications of the losses flagged up by Spain, perhaps he could tell us what those implications are, how this will really bear out for us.

 Concerning a draft Resolution or a decision, we believe that this should be left to the Secretariat. The Secretariat should ascertain what's best in that regard, given past practice.

 >> CHAIRMAN: Thank you, Mali.

 Korea, please.

 >> REPUBLIC OF KOREA: Sorry, Madam Chair, it was malfunctioning.

 >> CHAIRMAN: Thank you. Korea did not want to take the floor?

 Okay, United States, please.

 >> UNITED STATES OF AMERICA: Thank you, Madam Chair. I wanted to join the others in thanking the Secretariat for the development of this document. It very clearly and concisely presents the salient points of the financial management of the Union in the last four years. As Spain mentioned, the organization has significant net loss, but as we have noted before, the recognition of the after service, medical insurance, liability is the main driver of the asset value.

 We noticed before that the short-term financial health of the organization is not directly affected, but that the midterm, potentially long-term financial health of the organization could be affected if this is not addressed.

 But we have seen that ITU has taken some first steps to address this liability. The creation of measures in 2013 and the other measures that we discussed at the May session of Council ensured that the organization is headed in the right direction.

 We look forward to seeing the report of the next session of Council, which will present the organization's plan on how to create a credible long-term plan to address this liability.

 Thank you.

 >> CHAIRMAN: Thank you, U.S.

 There was a lot of support there, and I think for the report and the quality of it, I'd just like to see if the Secretariat had a view of the question of Resolution versus decision.

 >> SECRETARY OF THE SESSION: Thank you, Madam.

 On behalf of my colleague, I'd like to thank the delegates for their kind words. To respond firstly to the Russian delegate on the Resolution decision matter, in the past this has always been a Resolution. These are the accounts since the last Plenipotentiary, the Guadalajara meeting. We can approve the accounts for this four-year period, so the financial year 2010, 2011, 2012, and 2013.

 The accounts for 2013 were presented here on Saturday, the 18th of October. And the Council approved those accounts. So four sets of accounts have been approved by the Council and now we're requesting formal approval for those accounts from the Plenipotentiary Conference.

 In the past this has always been done by means of a Resolution. Now, to respond to Mali on the implications, as you know since 2010, which was the first year that IPSAS standards were implemented, we ended with a deficit around 300,000. In 2012, we had around 228 million. And you have to bear in mind the difficulties which the organization is facing. They relate both to health insurance and to the population, the active population of ITU is -- as it were, has to be borne in mind. We assess this every year. There is an actuarial assessment and we look at the life expectancy of the active employees and the retired ones. And these are taken into account when health insurance is calculated.

 This year we received some views because our high prophecies allowed us to reduce the impact to the tune of 31 million Swiss francs. So that meant we could end with net assets of around 196 million.

 You also may know that ITU changed its health insurance. Before we were with the ILO. The entire population of the ITU is more expensive. These retired persons live in Geneva and the surrounding area, where things are very expensive.

 The ITU, following other organizations such as WIPO and the WTO, has gone to the private sector for its health insurance. It's the Van Breda Health Insurance and we started this on the 1st of May 2014. We hope that with that, we will be able to make further savings and rein in the health insurance costs which we face.

 Through the measures which the Secretary-General's implemented, now we have an excess for the health insurance. So we only reimburse health expenses after that excess has been made. It might be 1500 francs for a family and it's only once that has been reached that we reimburse. That doesn't affect children.

 Another set of measures have been taken, and that has led has to surplus in 2013. 2 million were allocated to cleaning up the health insurance fund, but the 2013 Council also authorized a 4 million franc withdrawal from the account. So now we have a balance of 6 million. And with the measures which we have planned in our financial plan, we have a coverage rate of around 5.16 percent. This response needs to increase the rate of coverage, which has been around 3.3 percent. And we increased that to 5.16 percent. These then are events which are allowing us to improve the situation of the health insurance fund. And these are the details which I wanted to share with this August Assembly.

 >> CHAIRMAN: Thank you for that comprehensive response, Mr. Ba.

 Do we have any other requests for the floor?

 Spain, please.

 >> SPAIN: Thank you, Chair. Thank you very much to the Secretariat for those clarifications.

 We, too, would like to extend our thanks to the Secretariat for its efforts over the course of the last few years, and the importance which it's attached to this problem.

 We want to make it clear that this issue shouldn't be underestimated. I don't think the Secretariat has underestimated it, but we mustn't feel complacent about this. It's quite probable that some of the measures which are recommended in the future by the UN system will turn into an increase in staff costs.

 Now, the ITU is an organization with budgets that are under a great deal of pressure. That might be true of other organizations as well. But we're dealing with the ITU, and we need to bear that in mind in the coming years.

 >> CHAIRMAN: Thank you, Spain.

 I have no other requests for the floor. So I take it that we are approving the New Resolution Annex F to that document, and that we can send that through to the Editorial Committee.

 Thank you very much.

 We now have another document from the Secretariat, PP-14/64. Arrears, special arrears accounts and canceled special arrears accounts. And I'll ask Mr. Galasso again if she could introduce the document. Ms. Galasso.

 >> ITU: Thank you, Mrs. Chair.

 Ladies and gentlemen, Distinguished Delegates, it's my pleasure to introduce on behalf of the Secretary-General document PP-14/64, pertaining to the arrears, special arrears, and canceled special arrears accounts of the Union for the years 2010, '11, '12 and '13. By Resolution 41, rev Guadalajara 2010, the Plenipotentiary Conference urged all Member States in arrears, especially those for which special arrears accounts were canceled, as well as Sector Members and Associates in arrears to submit to the Secretary-General, and agree with him, a repayment schedule with a view to settling their arrears. It confirmed the decision to open any new special arrears account only after the conclusion of an agreement with the Secretary-General establishing a repayment schedule at the latest within one year of the receipt of the request for such a special arrears account.

 Academia, University and their associated research establishments were admitted to participate in the work of the three sectors of the Union for a trial period. Resolution 4, Rev Guadalajara 2010, was applied by analogy. If these categories are confirmed by the Plenipotentiary Conference, it may be appropriate to amend Resolution 41 Guadalajara 2010 accordingly.

 The Conference authorizes the Secretary-General to negotiate and agree upon with all Member States in arrears, especially those for which special arrears accounts were canceled, as well as with Sector Members and Associates in arrears, schedules for the repayment of the debts in accordance with the guideline established by the Council.

 The Secretariat wishes, however, to emphasize the difficulties that were encountered in recovering debts in the case of entities that have been thus removed, for want of incentive mechanisms involving negotiated solutions.

 In this regard, the Secretariat of the Union requests administration to continue to give it the ongoing support in recovering debts. Experience shows that action by administration plays a key role with regard to entities in arrears of payment to the Union.

 Annex A to document 64 shows resolution of arrears and special arrears accounts from 2006 to the 30th of June 2014, for a total of 50.3 million Swiss francs.

 Annex B gives status of arrears by year as of June 2014.

 Annex C shows the list of amounts due by debtors in respect of contributions and publications at 30 June 2014.

 Annex D gives the amount due in respect of invoices established for network filings, filings at 30 June 2014.

 Annex E shows the status of special arrears accounts, repayment agreements as of the end of June 2014.

 The Plenipotentiary Conference is invited to take note of these documents.

 Further, the Plenipotentiary Conference may wish to amend resolution 41 with regard to the level of the Reserve for Debtors' Accounts. Since the introduction of IPSAS on 1 January 2010, the level of the reserve has been maintained at 100 percent;

 To confirm the authorization for the Council to revise, if necessary, the condition for establishment of repayment schedule, including measures such as a temporary reduction in class of contribution, the maximum length of the period for repayment, adjustment of the amount of annual payments in the initial phase of repayment schedules, or the write-off of interest of overdue payments, with the aim of accelerating the recovery of outstanding amounts.

 Finally, to confirm the decision not to open any new special arrears accounts at plenipotentiary conferences, the Secretary-General being authorized to open new special accounts according to the guidelines approved by the Council.

 Thank you.

 >> CHAIRMAN: Thank you, Ms. Galasso.

 Now I'll ask if there are any comments or questions for Ms. Galasso on that report.

 United States of America, please.

 >> UNITED STATES OF AMERICA: Thank you, Madam Chair.

 The United States commends the Secretariat's efforts to reduce the volume arrears, but we note in the last four years 10.7 million in outstanding membership dues and interest in arrears was written off, both write-offs for members in good standing who settled the arrears and elimination of the arrears on debts deemed irrevocable. This is a significant amount concerning the Union's limited resources.

 We have noted repeatedly that the routine writing off of arrears for those with repayment schedules undercuts the purpose of charging interest, which is to serve as an incentive for members to pay on time. We would like to request information on the costs associated in administering the interest on arrears scheme in terms of the efforts associated with the periodic calculation of the amounts due for each member, the incorporation rate of these amounts into the statement, the related accounting actions, and the writing of the annual reports to Council.

 The United States supports measures that improve the collection of contributions, but at the same time measures to be clear, consistent, and fair while striking a balance between the cost of the time and effort spent in the collection procedures and the amounts actually recovered.

 Thank you.

 >> CHAIRMAN: Thank you, U.S.

 If there are no further comments, I'll ask Mr. Ba to respond. Mr. Ba.

 >> SECRETARY OF THE SESSION:

Thank you, Madam Chair, and thank you to the United States for their question.

 Concerning arrears, Article 33 of the Constitution sets the amounts for calculating interest. The annual contributions are due up to the 31st of March each year and at April 1st they accrue at 3 percent until the 30th of June. And then for the second half of the year, the rate is 6 percent. And that's what was set at the Plenipotentiary Conference through a policy set up in 1998.

 This regime allows the Secretary-General to negotiate certain rates which can then be reported to the Council. And the Council's then asked to include the relevant interest in the accounts. This has always been an area of pressure that the Secretary-General can exert and can use to encourage States to respect the 31st of March deadline. However, in this document 64, we're trying to remind the Plenipotentiary of the need to modify Resolution 48. Before the Council was tasked with setting the appropriate level of the debitor account. But since IPSAS, the accounting standards are making us allocate the debt in full. So this has been the case since 2010.

 By Resolution 41, we're told that the Council is tasked with examining the reserves for debt. There is a paragraph from this in Resolution 41 but we don't think that applies since the introduction of the IPSAS standards.

 So with your indulgence, we suggest that we delete that paragraph because it no longer matches financial reality given the introduction of the IPSAS standards. We would also like to ask the Plenipotentiary Conference to confirm its authors to the Council, if necessary, revising the conditions in which plans can be set up, including temporary measures for dealing with these circumstances.

 There are the explanations which I wanted to provide.

 Thank you.

 >> CHAIRMAN: Thank you very much, Mr. Ba.

 Now, with those explanations and the suggestion by Mr. Ba for that deletion, I'd just like to see whether there is any opposition to that. It seems not.

 So there we have agreement to amend Resolution 41 with regard to the level of the reserve for the debtor's account, to confirm the organization for the Council to revise, if necessary, the conditions for the repayment of repayment schedules, and to confirm the decision not to open any new special arrears accounts at PP conferences.

 So we will endorse that and again send that to the Editorial Committee. And I thank you all very much.

 Now our next item is a report by the Council on proposed revision to Resolutions 152, 158, 169, and 170.

Now, I would ask Dr. Gracie, as he is here, whether he would present this report, Dr. Gracie.

 >> BRUCE GRACIE: Thank you very much, Chairman.

 Yes, indeed, if you recall for those who attended the Council session, the final Council session just prior to this Plenipotentiary Conference, these four Resolutions were presented, Resolutions 52, 158, 169, and 170.

 The -- I'll start with 158. This deals with the issue of financial issues of concern for the Council. For those who attended the Plenipotentiary Conference in 2010, you recall that an amendment was made to this Resolution to specifically refer to the review of the current methodologies for the participation of Sector Members, associates, and academia in the work of ITU.

 Now in this Committee there is also a draft new Resolution which was discussed extensively in the Council as well as the Council Working Group on Financial and Human Resources which deals with the issues that are associated with the review of these current methodologies.

 So in the revisions that are made to Resolution 158, reference is made to this work that was initiated in the last Plenipotentiary period and we anticipate will continue into the next period. There will be full consultations with the membership to determine the various aspects associated with the participation of Sector Members, associates and academia in the future.

 On the subject of academia, of course Resolution 169 deals with the participation of academia in the work of ITU. You recall in 2010 the Resolution was adopted on the basis of establishing a review of the participation of the academia in the work of ITU on a trial basis. Many of the contributions that were put forward to this conference are suggesting that perhaps that trial or at least the participation should be approved and that academia should take its place as a full participant in the work of ITU in the future. So a number of amendments are put forward to Resolution 169 in that respect.

 Another Resolution, 170, deals with the participation of Sector Members from Developing Countries. That, too, was discussed in both the Council Working Group and at Council itself. And it was agreed that the Plenipotentiary Conference should have an opportunity to review the continued participation of Sector Members from Developing Countries, to determine whether any amendments would be required.

 So when all four Resolutions are presented to this conference, they are presented in such a way to essentially make minimal changes to the Resolutions, but at the same time reflect the discussions that took place both at Council Working Group and at Council, with a view towards offering the opportunity for Member States to suggest any further changes that may be required, taking into account the other documentation that is presented to this Committee with respect to various aspects addressed by these four resolutions.

 So I think that would be sufficient, Madam Chairman, at this point, to provide at least a foundation or a background for further discussion of these particular amendments.

 As I mentioned, many of them are editorial in nature, do not address the detailed substance of what changes could be brought forward, but nonetheless offer an opportunity to review discussions that took place at the level of the Council.

 Thank you very much.

 >> CHAIRMAN: Thank you very much, Dr. Gracie.

 I'll just give the floor now to Mr. Ba who has some information. Mr. Ba.

 >> SECRETARY OF THE SESSION: Thank you, Madam Chair.

 I just wanted to add some clarity relative to the document introduced by Mr. Gracie it's on Resolution 169. 169 has to do with academia and research institutions. They have participated in the work of the three sectors of the Union. This Resolution will be part of Committee 5's proceedings, because Committee 5 will determine the criteria for admitting Sectoral members among universities, academia and so forth.

 So I just wanted to bring this to the attention of Committee 6 that Committee 5 will be discussing the nitty-gritty during its proceedings.

 Thank you.

 >> CHAIRMAN: Thank you, Mr. Ba, for that clarification.

 So now I'll open the floor to any comments on the proposed revisions to Resolutions 152, 158, and 170. The floor is open.

 United States, please.

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

 Just a clarification. On Resolution 152, will the discussion take place in Committee 5 as well, or will it take place in Committee 6? And I also believe that there is an IAP/34A1/1 for Resolution 152.

 Could the Secretariat please confirm?

 Thank you.

 >> CHAIRMAN: Thank you, U.S. Just to confirm that will be in our committee. We can accommodate that discussion as part of this one, if there is somebody from CITEL who would be able to present that document.

 >> UNITED STATES OF AMERICA: Yes, CITEL, the U.S. and CITEL have a proposal for a Resolution 152. However, the U.S. proposal we're not going to introduce here, because we have joined the CITEL proposal, which is found in document 34 Rev 1. And we support the Resolution, as discussed in Council.

 However, we would like to add a new number 7 as indicated in the CITEL document, that basically, based on the positive results from the above-mentioned trial periods, with the view to retain members and recover past debts, we are proposing to include flexibility for the Secretary-General and application of prescribed timelines regarding extension and exclusion of Sector memberships.

 Thank you very much.

 >> CHAIRMAN: Thank you, U.S.

 Australia, please.

 >> AUSTRALIA: Thank you, Chair.

 I want to note along the same lines as the U.S. proposal, that there is an Asia Pacific common proposal 169, and I'm checking if that would be discussed in Com 6 or 5.

 Thank you.

 >> CHAIRMAN: 169 is Com 5, Australia.

 We have a proposal and that is that the Secretariat will prepare a DT based on the report by the Council and the CITEL proposal, and bring that forward for consideration in one of our forthcoming meetings, if that is acceptable.

 U.S., please.

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

 Just through you, Resolution 170, were there any Member States proposals to the Conference to modify Resolution 170? Could you please confirm? Thank you.

 >> CHAIRMAN: My understanding from the Secretariat is that there were no Member State proposals on Resolution 170.

 Mr. Ba?

 >> SECRETARY OF THE SESSION: Thank you, Madam.

 That's correct. We haven't received any requests from Member States. But within the group responsible for financial resources under Dr. Gracie's responsibility and to be in line with all of the other proposals for amendment, which cover all of the other Resolutions, we thought it was useful to make a small modification to Resolution 170. This is why you have this in the report that Dr. Gracie just presented to you a few moments ago.

 >> CHAIRMAN: So just to clarify, the Secretariat will prepare a DT document on Resolution 152, but if the group were agreeable we could send 158 and 170 to the Editorial Committee.

 Okay. I've got no requests for the floor. Then we will do that and we will consider Resolution 152 at a later stage.

 Thank you.

 Now because of where we are in our scheduling, I've got a proposal that we break for coffee now for 20 minutes and come back at 4 o'clock, ready to continue.

 Thank you all.

 (Break until 4 o'clock)

 >> CHAIRMAN: Welcome back, everyone. We're about to commence.

 I understand that Canada was wanting to take the floor.

 Canada, please.

 >> CANADA: Yes, thank you, Madam Chairman.

 I just wanted to make it clear with respect to the status of the amendments concerning Resolution 152, 158, and 170 that in order to facilitate the task of presenting these documents further, eventually to the plenary for approval, it would be probably a good idea to have a Member State sponsor these amendments. And I would like to announce that Canada would be quite happy to sponsor the amendments that have been put forward.

 Bearing in mind, of course, that there are further changes to Resolution 152, on the basis of the proposal, the InterAmerican Proposal, and I have since been discussing with colleagues the possibility of a further amendment to Resolution 170 which we would present to your group as soon as possible.

 This is simply in the interest of improving the text and clarifying certain aspects of the Resolutions that have caused some difficulty for some Member States, especially during the Council meeting in May of this year.

 So if that's agreeable, Madam Chairman, we would be happy to proceed on that basis.

 Thank you.

 >> CHAIRMAN: Thank you, Dr. Gracie. So Canada will be preparing some documents that will come forward again to this Committee, on the basis of the original proposal from Council together with the statements that have been made by Member States during the course of the afternoon.

 Thank you very much, Dr. Gracie.

 We can now move on to agenda item 17, which is the discussion of the Independent Management Advisory Committee. Resolution 162. We have a number of proposals on this issue from the USA, from the Asia Pacific, from the RCC, from Europe and from CITEL. So if we could commence by having the US introduce their document 27A1/8. U.S., please.

 >> UNITED STATES OF AMERICA: Thank you, Madam Chair.

 I would like to first say that the United States aligns itself to the CITEL proposal. But with your indulgence, we would be the member state that would introduce it on behalf of CITEL. So I'll just continue.

 The U.S. along with the rest of the membership welcomed the IMAC reports at the Council session. The IMAC sessions provided valuable information enabling Member States to exercise their Council responsibilities. The U.S. and others have encouraged the secretariat to implement the recommendations as swiftly as practical.

 We welcome the revisions to Resolution 162, and encourage the support to establish the IMAC on a permanent basis. Not only have the IMAC reports proven to be valuable, but this is consistent with the best practices of the majority of organizations in the U.S. system. We believe that adopting this best practice will make the ITU transparent and accountable.

 Now, there are a number of other suggestions that we would just address them as they get presented by other states. But I just wanted to say that we're very supportive and mostly we want to implement it on a permanent basis.

 Thank you.

 >> CHAIRMAN: Thank you, USA.

 And if I could have someone from the Asia Pacific region introduce document 67/A1/14. Australia, please.

 >> AUSTRALIA: Thank you, Chair.

 Australia would like to introduce document proposal ACP/67A1/14. APT members submitted a number of amendments to Resolution 162 on the Independent Management Advisory Committee. We recognize the importance of the IMAC and the valuable work that it has undertaken since 2010. The proposed amendments take account of this work and events since the IMAC was established at PP 10. We also propose that the IMAC should continue for the four year -- for a further four-year trial, during which time the Council and its Working Group on human and financial resources can continue to consider any refinements to the terms of reference that might be needed. And we welcome further discussion on the proposal.

 Thank you, Chair.

 >> CHAIRMAN: Thank you very much, Australia.

 If we could have somebody from the RCC to introduce document 73A1/23.

 The Russian Federation, please.

 >> RUSSIAN FEDERATION: Thank you, Madam Chair.

 I'm introducing the document on Resolution 162 from the RCC. We highly appreciate the work of IMAC, which has demonstrated since the inception the importance of its work, and we don't see any problem with it continuing its work for the next four years. So that we have greater flexibility in amounting further decisions, maybe we can make some amendments, but in any case IMAC should continue its work. But as for the periodicity of its work, we don't see any need to change the Resolution 162.

 In addition, as someone who took part in the selection Committee, I can say this: We likely need to clarify the procedure of the work of this Committee as to ensure rotation of members. I think this is necessary.

 So we also have a better representation in the IMAC of all of our regions which make up various countries, various members of the ITU.

 Now, the third thing that's important that we believe should be highlighted and taken into account is this. It's the need to develop mechanisms that will help us to evaluate the effectiveness of IMAC's work. As it stands today, IMAC is making its own evaluation. We clearly see that they use the indicators that existed earlier, and were identified by the Russian Federation within the framework of the work on -- the group on finances. So we think that this -- this should be clearer so that the Council could express their opinions on the IMAC's work.

 Overall, the RCC and the Russian Federation in particular endorses and supports the idea of having an IMAC and we think that the work of the IMAC is very useful. It allows us to move forward in a spirit of transparency, to increase efficiency, and this is the best way to use in the best manner possible our limited resources, the resources that the ITU has at its disposal.

 Many thanks.

 >> CHAIRMAN: Thank you, Russian Federation.

 Now if I could have somebody from Europe introduce the proposal 80A1/15. Sweden, please.

 >> SWEDEN: Thank you.

 In 80A1/15, a proposal to amend Resolution 162 regarding the Independent Management Advisory Committee. Europe is of the view that this is an important part of the Union, and we believe it should be made permanent and not be on a trial or temporary basis. In order to achieve that, we have made some modifications to the Resolution. The first with changes in the "noting" part, which is more an editorial issue. Aligning it with the latest decision by the Council.

 And then in the first part, the "resolves" part, we are proposing to add a text saying it should be on a permanent basis according to the terms of reference contained.

 Furthermore, in "instructs the Council," trying to be more specific, saying that the Council should every four years appoint the five independent experts as members of the IMAC to serve a term of four years, and that the Council should consider reports on the recommendations of the IMAC and take appropriate action.

 We believe that with those changes it would be made clear that the IMAC is permanent and that it's an important part of the Union's organization.

 Thank you.

 >> CHAIRMAN: Thank you, Sweden. And as we heard, the U.S. now joined with the CITEL proposal. So that document has already been introduced.

 So we have now heard from proponents of all proposals. So I'll now open the floor for any comments.

 Canada, please.

 >> CANADA: Yes, thank you, Chairman.

 Chairman, I'm speaking as the Chairman of the Council Working Group on financial and human resources.

 Just to advise the participants in this meeting that the Council Working Group discussed the feasibility and need, actually, for the group to review the recommendations of IMAC on an ongoing basis, much in a similar way that the recommendations and responses from the ITU to the recommendations of the external auditor are reviewed by the Working Group.

 I do believe that it would be useful for some mention be made of this possibility, that such recommendations be reviewed on an ongoing basis in order to give Member States that opportunity to provide comments at the -- both at meetings of the Council Working Group and at Council itself. I think this would enrich the discussion and allow many of their recommendations to be dealt with and addressed in a more timely fashion in the future.

 Thank you.

 >> CHAIRMAN: Thank you, Canada.

 Japan, please.

 >> JAPAN: Thank you very much, Madam Chair.

 We think that IMAC has played an important role by providing some important recommendations with ITU management. So, therefore, Japan would like to support to continue IMAC activity as proposed by APT, as Australia presented, to extend the mandate of the IMAC for the next four years.

 Thank you very much.

 >> CHAIRMAN: Thank you, Japan.

 Spain, please.

 >> SPAIN: Thank you, Chair.

 We, too, consider the past four years to be very positive, the work of the Independent Management Advisory Committee, and we support the European proposal. We believe that there is room for improving the mandate. We could make certain changes concerning rotation, evaluation, compatibility, and greater potential for Member States to interact and make comments on the Committee's recommendations. I think in light of that positive assessment and given the importance which all regions attach to this Committee, we would be giving a very positive sign if we opted for indefinite renewal. We can always reassess what changes might be required, but I think that that would be a significant show of support and that would be in step with the decisions of other UN bodies. When such Committees are created, they are normally are set up indefinitely.

 >> CHAIRMAN: Thank you very much, Spain.

 Are there any other requests for the floor? If not, and given that there is across the board, I think, support for continuation of the IMAC, it's just a question about whether it's for another four years or whether it's on a permanent basis. And we did have a suggestion for the text from Canada, that's additional to the contributions we have before us. I wonder if I could ask Australia if it would Chair a drafting group to work with all of the other regional contributions to come together and try to get some agreement on a consensus text.

 Australia?

 >> AUSTRALIA: Thank you, Chair. Yes, that would be fine. And we can speak to you at the end of the session about a time and a location for that to happen.

 Thank you.

 >> CHAIRMAN: Thank you very much, Australia.

 We now move on to the reports of the external auditors. And this is document USA/27A1/9. So if I could ask the USA to introduce that document.

 USA, please.

 >> UNITED STATES OF AMERICA: Thank you, Madam Chair.

 We have a new Resolution to make the report of the external auditor public and without a password. This is a little bit of a clean-up work from our contribution at the May session of Council.

 As you know, the report of the external auditor is a valuable tool for the Member States and for the taxpayers that pay the contributions.

 Initially, we had suggested a brand new draft Resolution, but it's come to my attention that there might be a bit of a cleaner place of where to put some language. Resolution 94 deals with the auditing of the business of the Union. This particular Resolution will actually need some slight editorial changes anyway, because we would need to update some of the dates referenced under "Resolutions" A and B. And we would suggest instead adding an "Instructs the Secretary-General" number 3 that would request the report be made available.

 Thank you.

 >> CHAIRMAN: Thank you, U.S. So the U.S. will work with the Secretariat and present a new draft document on amendments to Resolution 94. Great. Thanks very much.

 We now move on to number 19 of our agenda, which is the use of the six languages of the Union on an equal footing, or Resolution 154. We have three contributions on this from the RCC, from the Arab Group, and from CITEL.

 So if I could ask the RCC if they could introduce document 73A1/22. RCC, please. RCC?

 >> RUSSIAN FEDERATION: Thank you, Madam Chair. My apologies. We wanted to ask you to put off the introduction of our document to when the people who are responsible for this document are in the room. Maybe a little bit later, please.

 >> CHAIRMAN: Thank you, Professor Minkin. We're very close to the end of our agenda. Were you thinking that they may come in the next little while or not until tomorrow?

 >> RUSSIAN FEDERATION: Well, thank you, Madam Chair. The thing is is since this wasn't on the agenda, the distribution of work and people for the meetings, the ad hoc Committees, it just turns out that they're not here. Well, if it's possible that colleagues can do this tomorrow, or we can try to find them now. Really, it's up to you, Madam. We're in your hands.

 >> CHAIRMAN: Could I ask whether the Arab Group and CITEL are able to discuss this document or do they have a similar problem to the RCC?

 Brazil, please.

 >> BRAZIL: Thank you, Madam.

 We could present this document right now, but how do we proceed because we need to have the RCC proposal presented as well. But we are ready to present it.

 Thank you.

 >> CHAIRMAN: And the Arab Group? Is the Arab Group in a position to present? Egypt, please.

 >> EGYPT: Thank you, Madam Chair.

 On behalf of the group of Arab States, I am in a position to introduce this document. It contains issues in line with the document provided by CITEL.

 Thank you.

 >> CHAIRMAN: As we have the two presenters, I was wondering if it would be possible for the Russian Federation to find the speaker on this particular item? If not, we will have to adjourn for the afternoon.

 >> RUSSIAN FEDERATION: Thank you, Madam Chair.

 I'm ready to introduce the document myself, if you don't have any objections.

 >> CHAIRMAN: Thank you, Professor Minkin.

 >> RUSSIAN FEDERATION: Thank you, Madam Chair.

 In this document we are proposing to make a few necessary changes to Resolution 154 about the equal use of all six official UN languages of the Union. This proposal is based on the discussion which took place in the Working Group of the Council on use of languages. We support all of the proposals that have been proposed within the Working Group.

 We wanted to draw your attention to the issue of the equal use of six official languages on the ITU website. Unfortunately, up to even today, what we see on the site of the Union, in all languages -- let me say in almost all languages, except in English -- is not really exactly the same as the English version. There seems to be a mix of English and Russian in one case, and in some cases it's just not possible to move from one section to another. And sometimes if you click on a link then you get on the wrong site.

So this is something that requires some work.

 In our proposal we have made some concrete amendments to Resolution 154, and these are aimed at further improvement of the equal use of all six official languages of the Union.

 Thank you, Madam Chair. And I'll be pleased to take any questions that you may have, Madam.

 >> CHAIRMAN: Thank you, Professor Minkin. And thank you for making that presentation on such short notice.

 The Arab Group, if the presentation could be made on 79A4/3. Egypt, please.

 >> EGYPT: Thank you, Madam Chair.

 On behalf of the Arab Group, I have the pleasure of introducing this document. First and foremost, Madam, I would like to express my thanks to the Working Group of the Council for the efforts that they have given to various Resolutions, Resolutions which guarantee that all six languages of the Union are on an equal footing. We endorse the decisions coming from the Council. We think that these proposals can also be found within the framework of the proposal made by CITEL.

 Having said that, there are a few things that were not in the Council's proposal 2/9. For example, where one asks the Secretariat to cooperate closely with States, with Member States, to put in place a terminology project in Arabic using financial resources that were devoted to this project.

 We instruct the Council to follow up on the work carried out by the ITU Secretariat to pursue the implementation of the terminology project decided by the Council via close cooperation with Member States and using the financial resources already devoted to this project.

 So here you are, Madam, in a nutshell, the introduction and presentation of this document.

 >> CHAIRMAN: Thank you very much, Egypt. And Brazil, if you could present for CITEL.

 >> BRAZIL: Thank you very much, Madam Chair.

 Brazil presents the InterAmerican Proposal in document 34R1. It's proposal 28. And our proposal has a slightly different approach from the two previous ones. First, we agree that translation and typing are essential elements of the work of the Union. They are essential for us to understand each other, especially for the Americas regions, because we have three of the official languages, English, Spanish and French, in our region.

 But the thing is that they represent a huge cost in the ITU. Currently, in our biennial budget, they represent around 8 percent of the total budget. So if you consider that we have around 80 percent of staff costs, we would be left with around 10 percent to be used in all of the expenses of the Union, including interpretation. So, in our opinion, that's a problem that has to be solved. And especially considering the news that we had this morning that we are not going to have the revenue that we were expecting.

 Secondly, we have to recognize the expenditures with translation and typing compose the majority of costs of meetings and conferences. For example, in WTDC-14, the cost per page was around 191 Francs. And it seems excessive, because I believe all of us use some translation tools that are available for free. So it doesn't make sense.

 So the CITEL proposal is to look at the financial side of translation. And we are proposing some measures for the Council to study how to reduce the costs for translation.

 I'm going to go for the most important proposals in our InterAmerican document. First, as I said, we recognize the translation is an essential element of the work of the Union, so it should be encouraged.

 Second, we recognize the budget constraints facing the Union, and we named a few examples, such as the 200 million Francs in the long-term liabilities. And also the renovation and reconstruction -- or reconstruction of the Varembé building, as we will be discussing later in this conference.

 So we "instruct the Secretary-General in close collaboration with directors of the bureau to present annually to Council," next year, "bringing a report containing expenditures with translation of documents to the six official languages of the Union since 2010; procedures adopted by other International organizations inside and outside of the UN systems, and benchmark studies on the costs of translation;

 Initiatives employed by the General Secretariat in the three bureaus to reduce expenditures on implementation of this Resolution;

 And alternative translation procedures feasible to be adopted by the ITU and their respective advantages and disadvantages."

 Then we "instruct the Council" to analyze the adoption of alternative translation procedures, in order to reduce the expenditures with translation and typing, while maintaining or improving the current quality of translation, and the correct use of technical telecommunication terminology.

 These are our proposals and I'd like to emphasize how important it is for us to find ways to reduce the cost of translation in the ITU.

 Thank you very much.

 >> CHAIRMAN: Thank you, Brazil, the Russian Federation has asked for the floor.

 >> RUSSIAN FEDERATION: Thank you, Madam Chair.

 Now, we endorse in principle the proposals made by other regional organizations. Now, the issue of translation is important. It's very important for Developing Countries and this is in the Development Sector. It's at the TDAG. This is an important issue for the TDAG, so that all of the members of the meeting can work in all languages and the Bureau does everything possible to ensure that that happens.

 Now, what I have to say is this: I think these proposals should be generalized and be -- I think there should be proposals -- I don't really want to waste your time on concrete brass issues. I think maybe we can do that off line. But overall I would like to say that we do support and we have made changes to Resolution 154 within the RCC. And I see the Arabs have done the same thing.

 Thank you, Madam Chair.

 In conclusion, I would like to thank maybe personally the Chair of the Council Working Group on the equal use of languages. This work has worked very actively and I think it will provide assistance to the Council for all the work that we have to do on this issue.

 Thank you.

 >> CHAIRMAN: Thank you, RCC.

 Mali, please.

 >> MALI: Thank you, Madam Chair.

 Mali would like to associate itself with the speakers who have preceded it in thanking and congratulating the Working Group of the Council for its excellent work.

 And the proposals for revision that have been put forth by various Member States go, we believe, in the right direction. Indeed, it's necessary to find a solution like has been stated by delegates. We really need to find a solution to this issue.

 We generally appreciate the fact that a great deal of effort has been made, but we have to continue. We have to persevere. We have to try to use the best technologies available to us. I think it's here that we should step up our efforts.

 Another thing we should do, in our opinion, and here we see this in Russia's proposal; namely, the Member States have to get involved and contribute to the reduction of costs in terms of translation and typing the number of documents. The number of pages are tremendous. The dates at which documents have to be submitted. So States have to make a contribution to this.

 And one last point, Mali asks that the Working Group of the Council responsible for analyzing all six languages of the Union on an equal footing continue its work, given the fact that the results that have been achieved up until now have been satisfactory.

 Thank you.

 >> CHAIRMAN: Thank you, Mali.

 Spain, please.

 >> SPAIN: Thank you, Chair.

 We, too, would like to extend our thanks for the good work of the Council Working Group on the use of the official languages and the proposals which have been put forward by various Delegations.

 I'd like to make a comment here which is of some import for this Delegation. It relates to what was said by Brazil. It's an underlying matter when we're thinking about interpretation and translation costs. The Brazil Delegation did mention this. Multilingualism isn't just a cost, it's a basic principle of the United Nations. If it's seen as a cost, the tendency to make budgetary cuts in this area can be very significant. And this has been reported upon on a number of occasions.

 We know that some streamlining can take place here as it can elsewhere. For instance, technology can be used. Translation costs can be reduced, although that can often be difficult.

 But for Spain there are two key elements here. Firstly, this Delegation would find it very difficult, facing this organization's budgetary problems, to cut costs only in this area. We think that some cuts can be made here, but some cuts can be made elsewhere as well.

 And the second basic principle which we'd like to underscore is that any aim to make savings shouldn't go against a basic principle of the United Nations, and one of those basic principles is use of the six official languages. So we think this would be -- a study would be warranted here to make sure that those two principles are complied with.

 >> CHAIRMAN: Thank you, Spain.

 Are there any other comments from the floor?

 Brazil, please.

 >> BRAZIL: Thank you, Madam Chairman.

 Just to say that we are in full agreement with Spain. The costs with translation -- interpretation are not very significant costs, compared to the translation.

 As I said, they amount to 8 to 10 percent of the costs. They are huge costs. And in keeping in mind the multilingualism approach or the importance of multilingualism, yes, we should be careful not to reduce the quality of the translation, because we rely on the translation. Brazil specifically, because we cannot -- there are not many Brazilians who can read Arabic, Russian or Chinese.

 But nevertheless, the costs in the ITU are really high. And there are some initiatives particularly in the TSB which have reduced the costs of translation to 10 percent of what they are. So we should encourage those initiatives.

 And we should test to see if we like those translations. Basically, we need to have trials of those translations, and if they only cost 10 percent and they are not as perfect, but they are really good, for Brazil, that's good enough.

 Secondly, I would like to invite all of you to look at the proposal on document 34/R1, proposal 11. It's part of the package of CITEL's proposals with an aim to reducing the expenditures of the ITU in several ways. Not only on translation. So I would like to invite you to read that proposal and I'm going to be presenting them when they appear on the agenda. But maybe you would like to look at them and come to us and tell us what you think. Because we really feel that we need to reduce the expenditures of the ITU, since increasing the revenue is so difficult.

 Thank you very much.

 >> CHAIRMAN: Thank you, Brazil.

 I'm aware that the most obvious thing is for this to go to a drafting group to reconcile the positions of the three regional groups. But I also realize that the countries that have presented are quite busy and have all got quite a bit on their plates. So I was wondering whether perhaps we could meet after the session to see whether we can find -- and other representatives of the regional groupings who may have the capacity to take on the work, if that's a reasonable proposal.

 Okay.

 And that may be quite soon, because we have actually completed our work for this afternoon, unless anybody has any other business. I see none.

 And just a note that tomorrow we will be starting our discussion on the building proposal, and I think probably we will be able to have our first viewing of the financial plan following putting together the Secretariat, based on the figure of the contributory units.

 So good evening everyone and we will see you tomorrow morning. And just to confirm that tomorrow we will meet at 2:30 in the afternoon.

 Russian Federation, please.

 >> RUSSIAN FEDERATION: Thank you, Madam Chair.

 Madam, if you have a little bit of time left in this meeting right now, would it be advisable to introduce our proposal? It was a little bit -- this is in addition to the new position on the strategy of coordination between the three sectors. Or is this something that we should do directly at the plenary?

 >> CHAIRMAN: Professor Minkin, my advice from the Secretariat is that we will have to go to plenary. But I will have a conversation with the Com 4 Chair and I'll get back to you on that one.

 Thank you, Professor Minkin.

 >> RUSSIAN FEDERATION: Many thanks, Madam Chair. I'll wait for your decision. Thank you.

 >> CHAIRMAN: Thank you, professor.

 And if those who are interested in discussing a way forward for someone to lead the group on Resolution 154, if you could just gather around the front of the room here. Thank you.

 And interpreters, just to confirm, the meeting is over.

 Thank you very much.

 >> INTERPRETER: Many thanks, Madam Chair.

 (End of meeting 17:00)

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