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COMMITTEE 5 MEETING

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>> CHAIR: We would like to start in a couple of minutes. Thank you.

Good evening, distinguished colleagues, and welcome to the Com 5 session. At long last we get to start some work.

I assume that the translators are at posts.

>> INTERPRETER: You assume correctly, sir, yes.

>> CHAIR: Thank you. And all the channels are working.

So we spent a lot of time today throughout the plenaries, so we will make this as fast as possible for the real work to begin in the next several days.

We thank you all for being here today, and I don't believe I have to reiterate the importance of the work of this Committee, Committee 5, and it's Working Groups.

Before we go further, I would like to work on the agenda item 2 for the approval of the agenda, and that is document admin/7E.

Any comments on the agenda as we have it? I don't see any. So the agenda is approved.

(Gavel)

Item 3, the organizational matters. At this point I'd like to introduce the other Chairs and Vice Chairs.

Chair for Com 5 obviously is yours truly, Joshua Peprah, from Ghana.

And the vice Chairs are Mr. Al Alansari from Jordan. Mr. Bob Horton from Australia. Mr. Luis F. Lucatero from Mexico. Mr. Albert Nalbandian from Armenia. And Mr. Frederic Riehl from Switzerland. I hope I got everybody's name correctly pronounced.

For the Working Groups, Com 5 Working Group 1 will be chaired by Ms. Bernadette Lewis from Trinidad and Tobago, to be assisted by Vice Chairs Mr. Fahed Al-Fallaj from Saudi Arabia and Mr. Seiichi Tsugawa from Japan.

The Com 5 Working Group 2 will be Chaired by Mr. Fabio Bigi of Italy. And assisted by Vice Chairman Ms. Gertrude Aka, from Cote d'Ivoire. I think he has only one vice Chair. I guess Fabio is big enough he can handle it with just the assistance of one Chairperson.

Now, before I get into the terms of reference and the Working Groups, I assume that everybody has document 34. And I will start by this document, which already has been approved, but I'll go ahead and refresh Members. For the terms of reference for Committee 5, for the purposes of Member States taking into account the studies carried out during the preparatory process as presented in the final report of the preparatory process convened by the Secretary-General to the Member States and submitted to the conference, this WCIT-12/4, to take appropriate action with respect to the following items, which constitute the agenda of Committee 5:

One, examination of proposals from Member States.

Discussion of the proposed revisions to the ITRs as appropriate.

Discussion of WATTC-88 resolutions, recommendations and opinion.

Preparation of proposed ITRs and resolutions, recommendations and opinions, as appropriate.

And 5, preparation of reports to plenary and of proposals to be considered by the plenary.

At this point, I will give the terms of Working Group 1 of Committee 5, terms of reference, as spelled out in -- and these will be handling merely articles 2, 6, and 9, and any other related matters.

On the basis of proposals from Member States, taking into account the studies carried out during the preparatory process, as presented in the final report of the preparatory process conveyed by the Secretary-General to the Member States, and submitted to the conference WCIT-12, to take appropriate action with respect to the following items, which constitute the agenda of Working Group 1 of Committee 5.

Okay. So the terms of reference for Working Group 1 of Committee 5. Dealing with articles 2, 6, and 9 and related matters, specifically, it will be as I read the preamble and I'll continue.

The first item will be examination of proposals for Member States relating to articles 2, 6, 9, appendices and rigid definitions, resolutions, recommendations, and continues, and any other proposals related to the financial matters.

Discussion of the proposed revisions to the ITRs, as appropriate.

Discussion of WATTC-88 resolutions, recommendations and opinions.

Preparation of proposed ITRs and recommendations, resolutions opinions, as appropriate.

Preparation of reports to Committee 5, and of proposals to be considered by Committee 5.

Now, these were already approved by plenary, but I'll zip through them as quickly as I can.

I just finished with the terms for Working Group 1 and I'll just go through that of Working Group 2.

Again, they will be look at articles 2, 3, 4, 5, 7, and 8 and related matters.

And on those they will be examining or they will concern themselves with examination of proposals for Member States, relating to articles, 2, 3, 4, 5, 7, 8, and 10.

Resolutions, recommendations and opinions, if any, and any other proposals related to nonfinancial matters.

Discussion of the proposed revisions to the ITRs, as appropriate.

Discussion of the WATTC-88 resolutions, recommendations, and opinions.

Preparation of proposed ITRs and resolutions, recommendations and opinions, as appropriate.

Preparation of reports to Com 5, and of proposals to be considered by Com 5.

Now, a little clarification of the documents that have been allocated. These documents are to facilitate the work of the group. The proposals have been categorized and there are topics in Com 5 and in the Working Groups. The categorization has been done based on specific topics that the proposals address.

If members feel that their contributions are not correctly reflected, then they will have to let us know.

The DTs have been issued for all the topics allocated for our Working Groups. There are short documents focused on the topics, so you'll find all the proposals all in a linear order that can be easily read. I think this should be familiar to all of us, because that is what just happened during the past three sessions we have had today in the plenary.

It is important to stress that the DTs only contain the proposals for Member States. Considering the significant volume of proposals, the Secretariat is only facilitated in easy access for discussion. That is, the entire documents may not be available, but just the sections that either need to be discussed or changed.

Note that we will take Article 10 in Com 5 and not in the Working Groups.

I assume the pace is okay for all of you and I'm not going too fast or too slow. But these are the terms of reference of the Com 5 and its Working Groups.

Now, I would like to take Article 10. And that can be found in the DT/18. We're not going to treat the entire Article 10, but we will get it introduced, in the sense that the various regional groups that have submitted documents will be called upon to introduce their documents and then we will see how we move forward on it. Like I said, we have been here for the past several hours and we want to get through this as quickly as possible. Today is just administrative stuff. And then the Working Groups 1 and 2 will also come in to talk about what they're going to do.

So if you permit me, I'll call on the ACP or a representative of the ACP group to present their contributions on Article 10.

I have Iran and the United States on the floor. Iran, please.

>> IRAN: Thank you, Chairman. This is Iran, not the representative of APT because I have a general comment.

First of all, we are happy to have you onboard. We have worked with you in WTSA and it was a great pleasure to have you again here, and we were delighted to be directed and guided by you in the proceeding of that conference. And, in fact, another colleague of yourself, Mr. Fabio Bigi, who we have been working with for many, many years, and he is a very familiar face, and we were working with him at WTSA, we are happy to have him onboard.

Chairman, there are two questions that I wish to raise with you. All the agenda that you have raised and read was what was approved at the plenary. However, the plenary started to tackle some of the issues that is in 5-1 and 5-2, many issues that they decided to take.

So before -- I hope that it would not be this meeting -- before you deal with the matters in 5-1 and 5-2, you need to give a clear guidance to them which Article of those which have been given to 5-1 and 5-2, for the time they should not discuss them, because they are pending under the Chairmanship and auspices or leadership of the Chairman of the conference, and so on and so forth.

We would not like to have repetitions of discussions until you come up and provide guidance on that. So that is something that you need to kindly consult your counselor and give advice to 5-1 and 5-2, which would have a meeting as I heard immediately after you, if I'm right. And then they should not discuss something which they should only discuss in the ad hoc group or whatever. This is one point.

The second point, in the term of reference, Article 2 was given to two groups. But it is not clear which part of Article 2, or what group will discuss, and what other part the other group will discuss.

However, most of the issues of Article 2, which is definitions, again, is under the leadership of the Chairman of the conference with respect to the definitions, and he is going to come up with some sort of solution. Perhaps you need to withhold on the discussion at 5-1 and 5-2 for those areas which are under his discretions in the other group, which we will have discussion tomorrow at 8 o'clock and tomorrow evening at 5:30. This is just to facilitate not to have duplication of the work.

Perhaps by way of simplicity maybe you just concentrate on Article 10 as you have done. But in the meantime, you have to clarify this issue for the Working Group which will have their meeting immediately. Because they might not know which articles of the -- part of the articles assigned to them they have to discuss; not to overlap with the Conference Chair activities.

Thank you very much. And please talk about which DT document we are discussing with respect to Article 10. Thank you.

>> CHAIR: Let me quickly answer the last question, it's DT/18. But I'll call upon the ITU counselor to update you on how we're going to avoid duplication of work.

Thank you.

>> COUNSELOR: Yes, thank you, Chairman. Indeed, the document allocation down to the Working Group level has been approved by plenary and I believe it's in document DT/3. And indeed there is no duplication. So the items that were handled and the proposals that were allocated to plenary and that were discussed earlier are not allocated either to Com 5 nor to the Working Groups. And, indeed, since the documents were allocated down to the Working Group level for initial discussion, it is planned to have the initial discussion in Committee 5 only for Article 10. The initial discussion of all the other topics will occur under the Working Groups, and then of course come back to Committee 5.

That was the document allocation that has been approved by plenary. And when you look at the agendas of the Working Groups, you will find that for specific topics there is a specific DT, and that groups together the different proposals that are to be discussed under those topics.

So as the Chairman just said, there is a specific DT for Article 10, which groups together the proposals that we plan to discuss here at this session.

Thank you, Chairman.

>> CHAIR: Thank you, counselor.

I'll now call upon the United States to make a statement. United States, you have the floor.

>> UNITED STATES OF AMERICA: Thank, Mr. Chairman. I just wanted to first congratulate you on your election as Chair of this Committee, and the vice-chairs. I think you're ably going to be -- we're going to do a lot of work here.

But I did want to associate myself with a point that was made by Mr. Arasteh. And I don't think it was necessarily clarified by the counselor.

We, in the plenary today, we actually dealt with a few of the issues that are on the agenda for Working Group 5-2.

Those would be under Article 5, we dealt with quite a few of the issues there, not the Article -- not new Article 5A on security, but Article -- item 8 on their agenda, which is in ADM/9. We also dealt with Article 8 and Article 8A, on environmental issues. And 8B, on accessibility issues. Both of those issues have been sent down to ad hoc groups, or groups of the plenary. And so I think that -- I do think that Mr. Arasteh is right about that, that there are some issues that probably do not need to be taken up by working group 5-2.

Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

>> CHAIR: Thank you very much. I think the -- our goal is to avoid duplication. So I'll let the counselor clarify this issue so that everybody will know we are not doubling up.

Thank you.

>> COUNSELOR: Thank you, Chairman.

Indeed that is correct and indeed those topics, even though they appear on the agenda for now, you will see that they will not actually be discussed and there will be no proposals on those particular topics that were handled in plenary. They will be discussed in the Working Groups.

Thank you.

>> CHAIR: I'll call upon the United Arab Emirates followed by Algeria, please.

>> UNITED ARAB EMIRATES: Thank you, Chairman.

I would also like to associate myself with the previous two speakers from the United States and Iran to congratulate you and to wish you all the best and success for the work that we're going to have ahead of us.

And I do agree that when we come to definitions, and I think Article 8 and so on, but to my understanding I remember at the end of the plenary the Distinguished Delegate from Algeria had a clarification about Article 5. And I remember that the Chairman of the plenary said that this, it was -- it was raised to the plenary as a proposal. However, we recognize that there is no agreement into this and it will be discussed sufficiently within the Working Group. And there was no further comments. And based on this, Algeria did not take the floor, with the understanding that Article 5 will go back to the Working Group and it will be discussed further. And there was no other views about that, and I think there was a consensus that the plenary did their -- they did try to discuss it, but it seems that it's better to go back to the Working Group.

So maybe just further clarification from the counselor that the understanding that this now is again at least Article 5, 5.1, and 5.2, and so on, will be discussed now based on this intervention by the Chairman.

Thank you.

>> CHAIR: Thank you very much. And, indeed, the short answer for me is yes, it will go back to the Working Group 2. But I'll let the counselor also confirm if there -- that's it? Yes. So he agrees with me, it's going back to Working Group 5.2.

Algeria, please.

>> ALGERIA: Thank you, Chairman.

Well, the Secretary-General invited us not to congratulate you repeatedly. It is a pleasure for us to do precisely that and offer you our congratulations, because we are very pleased that you have been appointed as Chairman of this Committee. You have a very difficult job to do, but it's a very great honor for the person who has been selected to do it. So congratulations.

Having said that, Chairman, you have responded to a certain number of questions and your counselor has already been put on the rack for several of those questions, but I'm afraid that I'm going to have to try and bring them all together.

We have an Article 3 which has 3A, we have 5, 5A and 5B, 8 with 8A and 8B. Your counselor is nodding and I assume that the Working Groups are going to have to deal with all the sub numbers as well, 5A and B, 8A and B, et cetera. If I've understood correctly, that is the answer to my question.

Thank you.

>> CHAIR: I believe you've got that right. But, again, he will confirm.

>> COUNSELOR: Almost. 8A and 8B were treated in plenary and they will remain in plenary. And there will be an ad hoc group as the Chairman mentioned.

So the -- we're just staying with the same allocation. Everything that you saw in plenary will stay in plenary and that's DT/4 rev 1. Whereas anything that is not in plenary will of course go down to either Working Group 1 or Working Group 2, with the exception of Article 10 which is treated here hopefully at this session.

Thank you.

>> CHAIR: Well, thank you very much. So without any -- without much ado, let's go to the Rep from ACP to present their position on Article 10.

Any representative... as from document DT/18, as I said earlier.

If -- Iran, please.

>> IRAN: Thank you, Chairman. Speaking on behalf of APT that assigned this task to Iran to submit to your Committee, Chairman, we are dealing with Article 10 of the new ITR or current ITR, which is in fact let us say the heart of the Articles. The heart of ITR, dealing with the entry into force, dealing with reservations and dealing with information submitted to the Secretary-General with respect to the ratifications. This is an important Article.

Chairman, let us share with you my experience. I have been working in both ITU-R and ITU-T. Both of them are also apart from other Treaty making associated sectors.

Chairman, ITU-R, which has a world radio communication conference dealing with the radio regulations, which is a sister, has a booklet or Treaty for, like ITR, has a similar course of actions.

However, there are differences between them. ITU-R, or radio regulations, are revised at least currently every four years. So the people are more or less very, very familiar with the process and they are also familiar with the relations and connection between the coming into force of the radio regulations in connection with Article 54 of the Constitution, which is related to administrative deliberations. So we know that ITR is one of the Administrative Regulations, together with RR.

Chairman, the audience and the people dealing with ITR are entirely different from those dealing with RR. Those dealing with ITR are concentrating in the telecommunication network system, telecharging, and so on and so forth, and they have their own booklets. Currently there are 12 pages plus a few other pages, administrative and so on and so forth. And they would like to see quite clear, have a quite clear picture of what is going to be done and what is the right and what is the right of the others and how they have to implement that, Chairman.

They rarely need to go back to the Constitution and to the Convention, and sometimes they may like that everybody would be within ITR, with respect to the applications of that coming into force and so on and so forth.

Having that in mind, Chairman, in Asia Pacific Telecommunity, from the third meeting, we started to think of this issue and we have read carefully the output of the council Working Group, which among other they have two different paths. Two different channels. One cross-referencing most of the things to Article 54 of the Constitution. The other is a straightforward, putting almost everything in the ITR.

APT, after lengthy discussions, they favor the second path that they put everything clearly, straightforward, in the ITR, starting from final provisions, entering into force, reservations, and even they went one step further to say how the ITR could be changed and who will change the ITR, or which entity, in fact, not who, which entity. Which was not clear, at least not very clearly mentioned. And we have addressed that, Chairman.

Because questions were raised at the council Working Group that perhaps we need to modify ITR from time to time. And some people were thinking that the plenipotentiary may be a good fora, forum to modify that. And APT came to the conclusion that no, it is not the case. Although the plenipotentiary is the highest organ of the Union, but the highest organ does not intervene in activities of other organs. Every organ is doing its own job and so on. That also was told in APT.

Chairman, based on that, APT provided a common proposal as contained in the document 3 plus all addendum, and those relating to Article 10.

Chairman, this is a general introduction to the proposal of APT. Chairman, having -- I just want to assist yourself, having looked into the counterproposals that make cross-reference to the Constitution and so on and so forth from a legal point of view, Chairman, there is no major differences between the two. Both of them would achieve the same objectives. But from the presentation and from the clarity, and from the message to be seen by outside, the suggestions or -- not suggestion, or the proposal of APT going forward to relate that clearly mentioned and provide information to the readers how it works and how it should be implemented.

So this is a matter of presentation. This is a matter of dedication of the issue. And this is a matter of having a clear picture. So I want to make it clear that there are no major differences. That is our view.

Now I'm in your hands whether you want to go paragraph by paragraph. I think you might have some strategy how to deal with the various proposals. Apparently you may take them first from the title of Article and then Article by Article. Or if you want to first discuss the two paths, which path we take: The path which interconnects that to the Constitution and Convention for those which are familiar with everything. Or the path which is quite clear, dedicated for those people who want to have the ITR as clear as possible and as dedicated as possible. So that is -- I leave it to you to decide on the issue.

Thank you, Chairman.

>> CHAIR: Thank you very much, Iran, for such a comprehensive introduction to the Article 10.

And I guess at this point everybody has been very well educated on this. So subsequent speakers, please stick to the three-minute time, so we can try and wrap up as much as possible. But again, thanks for the general introduction and pointing out all the differences, and sort of schooling, at least myself, and some who didn't have the details.

So I will now call upon the Arab Group, representative of the Arab Group, to present the essentials of the Article 10 that they have proposed.

Thank you.

Sudan, you have the floor, please.

>> SUDAN: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Sudan on behalf of the Arab Group.

After hearing all this introduction from The Honorable Iranian delegate, I would like just simply to state that the Arab Group has modified the Article only two modifications.

The title, the modification that happens in the title is that it becomes entry into force and provisional application. And Article 10, one is being modified to read: "As these Regulations on which appendices 1, 2, 3 and 4, and which complement the provisions of the Constitution and the Convention of the ITU shall enter into force on whatever date the proposal is filled, January 2015, and shall be applied as of that date pursuant to Article 54 of the Constitution."

>> CHAIR: Please do not read the whole provision. Just make reference to it, so that we can save time.

Thank you.

>> SUDAN: Yes. And then we suppress all Article 10, 2, 3, to 4.

>> CHAIR: Are you done?

>> SUDAN: Yes. Thanks. Thank you.

>> CHAIR: Thank you, Sudan representing the Arab Group.

Australia, please, followed by the Africa Group.

>> AUSTRALIA: Thank you, Chair.

Australia has proposed a number of amendments to Article 10 in our contribution to the conference. These are editorial and we don't want to make significant changes to the provisions of this Article. We consider that it's essential to retain provisions in the ITRs that specify when the Treaty will enter into force, and also the process by which ITU Member States will indicate their concept and any reservations to the ITRs. So as I mentioned, our changes are comparatively minor and to that point.

>> CHAIR: Thank you very much for the brief presentation.

Representative for the Africa Group, please, on Article 10. Egypt, you have the floor.

>> EGYPT: Thank you, Chairman.

Also I'll be brief. And we just integrated the content in Article 10.1, making the regulations and appendices an integral part. And left the interpretation of this Article pursuant to the same as that in the regular regulations and Constitution as well.

So to be concise and to the point. That's brief, Mr. Chair.

>> CHAIR: Thank you very much, Egypt.

The next is a representative from RCC, followed by Cameroon, please.

>> RCC: Thank you, Chairman. We will try also to be brief.

>> CHAIR: The Chair is -- Russia is representing the RCC. Russia, you have the floor.

>> RUSSIAN FEDERATION: Thank you, Chairman.

First we will try to be brief. 10.1, it's purely an editorial change.

10.2, here we are proposing to fully delete, to suppress it. We're not making any provision there.

10.4, we also propose suppression, since this is obsolete.

And 10.3, here we have minor editorial amendments.

Thank you, Chairman.

>> CHAIR: Thank you for the brief presentation, Russia.

I'll move on to Cameroon next. Cameroon, you have the floor.

>> CAMEROON: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Even with the prevention, I should be able to congratulate, the son of Africa.

And our own contribution to Article 10, just to update certain things, except one when we proposed how ITR should be modified. So that is really the new thing here.

The rest is just to update certain things in that Article.

Thank you.

>> CHAIR: Thank you very much, Cameroon.

And now I move on to Europe, representative from Europe, please.

Sweden, you have the floor.

>> SWEDEN: Thank you very much, Mr. Chairman.

We have heard a number of proposals from different administrations and groups of administration, and also an explanation from Iran on some of the principles.

However, we are not in line with some of the proposals that have been put forward. We are proposing in 10.1 to include the date of entry into force of the ITRs. But we also have a very clear reference that it should be applied, so the date pursuant to Article 54 of the Convention.

And the reason for that is that we believe that there is no need to add any specific text, since all the text relating to the ratification, acceptance, provisionally the application, and so on, all the administrative regulations is covered in Article 54 of the Constitution. There is no need to duplicate that text and create any ambiguity between or possible ambiguity between the Constitution and the Administrative Regulations.

Then we also propose to delete 10.2, and we would like to add a provision 10.2A. The revision is so the ITR can only be taken by a competent world conference. I think that's important to indicate in the Treaty to make sure that we have a clear understanding of who can revise the Treaty.

And then we have made some editorial changes to the last part, and also indicated that in case of disputes, the French text shall prevail in accordance within the normal procedures within the ITU.

Thank you.

>> CHAIR: Thank you very much.

Now we have Brazil, followed by Mexico. Please.

>> BRAZIL: Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Our proposal is quite simple. It's no change for the title.

And then we look forward to discussions to enter more details regarding reservations and all the positions. But at the moment we have no change for the title.

And I thank you, Mr. Chairman.

>> CHAIR: Thank you, Brazil.

Mexico, you're next.

>> MEXICO: Thank you, Chairman. I think there may be a mistake, because Mexico had not sought the floor.

Thank you.

>> CHAIR: Sorry, then. Thank you.

Well, we have heard it all, ladies and gentlemen. And our goal is to make this Article precise and concise and improve upon what was done some 24 years ago.

So any comments so far on what has been presented?

United States -- sorry, United Arab Emirates. You have the floor.

>> UNITED ARAB EMIRATES: Thank you, Chairman. Good evening.

I just want to draw on comments that when we started the plenary today, there was a discussion about overlap with CS/CV, and we mentioned that as much as possible we should avoid repetition of what's in the CS/CV, and at the same time ensure that there is no inconsistency with CS/CV.

Based on this, the Arab proposal came to refer to Article 54, which also maps to so many other provisions that are related to the complex issues of ratifications and other issues related to entry into force, accession, so on and so forth.

And in the end of the day, we understand that the CS/CV is the one that will prevail. In case if there is any inconsistency with the ITRs, definitely the CS/CV provisions is the one that is going to prevail.

Taking into account this, and to avoid any inconsistency and to avoid spending a lot of time making sure that we cover everything and cover everything correctly without repeating, so I think it's probably for the interest of time better to just refer to the 54, which maps to all other Articles. And make sure that we are in consistency, rather than drafting something and we find out that probably we didn't cover the whole picture.

Thank you, Chair.

>> CHAIR: Thank you, UAE.

Iran? You're back. And followed by India, please.

>> IRAN: Thank you, Chairman. Perhaps at this stage we should avoid stating which one is better, which one is worse. Both views were expressed. For the people waiting 24 years, and after 24 years they have to see what is the outcome, maybe cross-reference to the Convention, it may not serve the purpose. So let us just say to avoid giving any preference by the order of the documents.

Thank you.

>> CHAIR: I'll take India and then we will summarize and look at a way forward on this. Thank you.

>> INDIA: Thank you, Chair.

We agree with the very good friends who conveyed that repetition again from the Constitution to ITRs may lead to some, you know, reassessment looking into it clause by clause, word by word. To avoid that, we can refer to the Article of the Constitution into this and we can stop there.

And thank you very much.

>> CHAIR: Okay. Thank you.

I think at this point I'd like to summarize on what has been presented. Iran gave us a comprehensive analysis on Article 10 and what pertains in other sectors of ITU.

But our goal is to try and avoid overlaps and make sure that we are consistent with the CS/CV, and come up with a document that is precise and concise, doesn't leave anything out, and makes sure that all the essential portions have been -- ideas have been properly captured.

For that matter, I think we will set up an ad hoc group for Friday morning, and this group is to be Chaired by UAE. And all those who have presented documents should assist in making sure that we come out with a document that will be acceptable to all and make our work going forward easy and effective.

I believe that by Friday morning the time and room will be on the screens. So if Members will agree with me on that, that is the direction we are going to take on the Article 10.

Any comments on it? Iran, please?

>> IRAN: Thank you, Chairman.

No problem with that group. No problem who Chairs the ad hoc group. The issue is that if you plan to have a meeting on Friday between 8 o'clock and 9:30, there should be no other ad hoc group meeting. I repeat. No other ad hoc meeting. So you should reserve that for the group. We don't want to have another ad hoc group so it would be difficult for some delegations to attend many groups. So if I can kindly assure that there will be only this ad hoc group between 8 and 9:30 or 9:25, we have no problem. Thank you.

>> CHAIR: Very well. Thank you. And I'll let the counselor confirm this one.

>> COUNSELOR: The plenary starts at 9 o'clock on Friday. So perhaps this ad hoc groups starts at 7:30 a.m. so you have one and a half hours. And we are following the agreement that had been discussed informally in Geneva, which is to have no more than three ad hoc groups at any one time. So it is possible that there would be another ad hoc group, unless of course the meeting decides otherwise.

>> CHAIR: Sudan, you have the floor, please.

>> SUDAN: Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

We are ready for Friday's at half 7. Thank you.

>> CHAIR: Thank you very much. Sweden?

>> SWEDEN: Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

The Europe Group is of course prepared to participate in the work, even though the meeting starts at 7:30. However, I think it would be useful to have a representative of the legal advice of ITU participating in the meeting, because my understanding from the debate here and the intervention is that we at no way would create the situation where there is conflicts between the ITR and the Convention and Constitution, and in no way leaving out any of the part of what is covered in Article 54. So whatever option we choose, it will still cover what is in Article 54 of the Constitution.

Thank you.

>> CHAIR: Thank you, Sweden. That is a very good point. The legal counselor will be there for this meeting.

Iran, you have the floor, please.

>> IRAN: Thank you, Chairman.

No problem. We encourage the legal counselor to come at 7:30. I don't know if he is here or not. The issue was simple. We discussed with him already and he gave an answer to us informally. So if he is here, good. If he is not, I don't mind if he comes at 7:30. But we are not having one path, we will discuss the advantage and disadvantage of both paths and we have not chosen any path.

>> CHAIR: That's exactly what we will do, and there will be a legal representative at the meeting from 7:30 on Friday morning. If the legal person is not here, we will make sure that this is communicated to him before Friday, between now and Friday is quite -- he is right there. Okay.

He will be there.

So, ladies and gentlemen, with that, I'd like to close agenda 5, agenda item 5, and move on to agenda item 6. That is any other business.

I don't see any... so I think at this point I'd like to thank you very much for your participation in this first session of Com 5. And I would like to wrap up now and leave the space for Working Group 1 of Com 5 to also come on the Scene and introduce their work.

Thank you very much. The meeting is closed.

(Applause)

(End of meeting 19:30)

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