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Pekka Tarjanne (Finland) elected Secretary-General of the ITU

At the 12th Plenary Meeting of the ITU Plenipotentiary Conference, Mr Pekka Johannes Tarjanne (Finland) was elected Secretary-General at the first ballot by 76 votes to 54. One hundred and thirty delegations took part in the vote. The date of entry on duty of the newly elected Secretary-General will be decided by the Conference later.

Since 1977, Mr Tarjanne has been Director-General of Finnish Posts and Telecommunications, the country's largest employer with 44 000 employees.

Born on 19 September 1937 in Stockholm (Sweden), Mr Tarjanne became, at 24, the youngest doctor of technology in Finland. After his doctorate, he devoted himself to research and teaching in Denmark (Nordita) and in the United States (Carnegie Technology, 1962-1963; University of California, Berkeley, 1963; and Cornell University, 1966).

Mr Tarjanne was professor of theoretical physics at the University of Oulu (Finland) (1965-1966) and at the University of Helsinki (1967-1977).

After being elected to Parliament as a Deputy, Mr Tarjanne was a member of the Constitutional Commission and the Foreign Affairs Commission (1970-1977) and a member of the Transport and Communications Commission of the Nordic Council (1970-1972; 1975-1977). From 1972 to 1975 he was Minister for Transport and Communications and Minister for Nordic Co-operation. During his political career, Mr Tarjanne has acquired wide-ranging experience of transnational affairs within the framework of intergovernmental co-operation. He was President of the Finnish Liberal Party from 1968 to 1978, when he left the political scene.

His years in the Finnish Administration have been described as "synonymous with a period of progress from the technological and financial points of view". He took an active part in reorganizing the telecommunication sector in Finland following the promulgation of a

law by the Finnish Parliament to deregulate the telecommunication services and terminal equipments. At the initiative of Mr Tarjanne, a new bill was submitted to Parliament with a view to transforming the Finnish Posts and Telecommunications into a State commercial company.

Under Mr Tarjanne's management and within the framework of technical co-operation, the efforts of the Finnish Administration have been mainly concerned with training and the introduction of new techniques and methods in telecommunication management in the recipient countries.

Mr Tarjanne speaks Finnish, Swedish, Danish, Norwegian, English, French and



P. J. Tarjanne

German; he is married and has three children.

After being elected, Mr Tarjanne thanked the Plenipotentiaries for the confidence they had shown him and went on to say:

"The work of the ITU is not a one-man show. It can be described much better and to the point as team-work by its 166 Member States, served by the elected officials and the staff as a whole, in Geneva and all over the world. This means hard and efficient work in our changing environment. This means concrete results changing that environment for the better".

"We are here at this Plenipotentiary Conference in order to create a Constitution that will give our efforts added continuity and a new Convention for added efficiency and flexibility. We are here to streamline and modernize the working methods of our global standardization and regulatory tasks".

"We have already decided to strengthen our efforts in the field of technical co-operation, in the development of networks and services. Let us continue. Telecommunications is development".

Mr Tarjanne concluded: "The work of the ITU is to serve its Members, to serve mankind, to serve development. Dear friends, let us get to that work, let us work together!"

Result of elections

Mr P. Tarjanne (Finland): 76 votes

Mr F. Molina Negro (Spain): 54 votes

Altogether 134 countries were entitled to vote; four voting slips were blank, and the majority was based on a figure of 130.

Mr Maurice Ghazal (Lebanon) withdrew his candidature before the vote.