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Documents of the Plenipotentiary Conference (Minneapolis, 1998)

To reduce download time, the ITU Library and Archives Service has divided the conference documents into sections.

- This PDF includes Document No. 101-200
- The complete set of conference documents includes Document No. 1-356, DT No. 1-55 and DL No.1-34

INTERNATIONAL TELECOMMUNICATION UNION



PLENIPOTENTIARY CONFERENCE (PP-98)

Document 101-E
14 October 1998
Original: French

MINNEAPOLIS, 12 OCTOBER - 6 NOVEMBER 1998

COMMITTEE 5

Tunisia

PROPOSALS FOR THE WORK OF THE CONFERENCE

- PART 1 - Development of the telecommunication sector in Tunisia
- PART 2 - Second Strategic Plan (1999-2003) and draft amendments to the ITU Convention/Constitution
- PART 3 - Telecommunications and protection of the environment
- PART 4 - Experience of partnership in the telecommunication sector, and contribution of the private sector to telecommunication development in Tunisia
- PART 5 - MODARABTEL project: launch of phase II of the project
- PART 6 - Gender and telecommunication policy: the case of Tunisia

PART 1 - DEVELOPMENT OF THE TELECOMMUNICATION SECTOR IN TUNISIA

In the context of its overall development programme, Tunisia has put telecommunication development at the very top of its list of national priorities.

Communications in Tunisia are going through a period of sustained growth, with the opening up of services and progressive institutional change.

Up until the implementation of the eighth economic and social development plan (1992-1996), **the development of telecommunication networks and services** in Tunisia was based essentially on:

- the technological decisions taken in respect of network digitization;
- constant improvement of telecommunication growth rates;
- development of the telecommunication services offered.

This approach is confirmed in the ninth plan (1997-2001), under which development of the sector is seen within the context of the overall upgrading of the country's economy, essentially oriented towards:

- A strategy based on the choice of advanced technology offering both citizens and economic players the most sophisticated telecommunication services as well as opportunities for lasting economic development, having regard to the strategic nature of the public telecommunication service, its highly technological nature and financially efficient network operation as well as possible spin-offs for the economy and the social and cultural model.
- Consolidation of the work undertaken under previous plans to build the basic infrastructure, together with steps to bring telecommunication networks and services up to an international standard, as a basic component of economic development.

This upgrading will be carried out both in the interests of the sector as such and as a contribution to the general upgrading of the national economy and the improvement of industrial competitiveness;

- Extension of the telecommunication network, placing emphasis on regional balance and the development of rural areas, as backup to the national policy of economic and industrial penetration.
- Development and implementation of a commercial policy, taking into account:
 - the need to move towards the overall financial equilibrium of the communication sector;
 - the promotion of new services;
 - the diversification of access network implementation techniques (intelligent networks, GSM, DECT, rural telephony), together with the implementation of traditional telephone networks;
 - the adoption of an incentive tariff policy.

With regard to institutional developments in the telecommunication sector, the first step taken in the process of progressive reform was to effect the separation of regulatory and network operation functions, by setting up a national broadcasting office in 1993 and a national telecommunication office (Tunisie Télécom) in 1995, as public industrial and commercial establishments providing a flexible framework for operation and commercial management.

A second major element of the reform was to make the communication sector contribute effectively to the improvement of national production through the establishment of regulatory arrangements for the introduction of new services playing a particularly effective role in the promotion of economic activity.

Implementation of a policy of technological and industrial partnership with the private sector, at both the national and the international level, is aimed at developing technological expertise and making Tunisia a credible technological relay point.

Finally, private enterprise is strongly encouraged thanks to incentive regulations on value-added services and Internet, payphones and cable television distribution, as well as complete opening up to the private sector of the opportunities to provide services for implementing communication networks and systems.

As there can be no genuine reform in the area of state-of-the-art technology without human resources development, we have also intensified our training programmes so as to strengthen the supervisory function and promote the establishment of a coherent specialized research policy in respect of telecommunications.

Legislative and regulatory changes will also be made with a view to the gradual adjustment of our regulations to the new realities, with particular reference to the GATT and WTO agreements and the Agreement of Association with Europe, but also in order to make Tunisia an informed and efficient regional operator of communication networks and systems and their applications.

Similarly, studies are under way to modernize and restructure the post office and postal services in order to make them more flexible and efficient.

The international telecommunication policy adopted by Tunisia is based on an age-old tradition of friendship and tolerance, openness and progress.

Tunisia has an extensive network of bilateral relations with a large number of sister nations and friendly countries, founded on the desire to develop networks and services at the international level, but also, above all, on the permanent quest for opportunities to cooperate in the implementation of programmes that can help us with our own sectoral restructuring, upgrading and training programmes.

Tunisia also attaches great importance to multilateral cooperation and is well placed in international organizations such as the International Telecommunication Union (ITU) and the Pan-African Telecommunications Union (PATU), of which it is a founder member.

Similarly, with regard to telecommunication operation, Tunisia also plays an active part in international telecommunication organizations such as ARABSAT, INTELSAT, EUTELSAT, RASCOM and Inmarsat.

To conclude on the subject of international cooperation, Tunisia has developed a policy of partnership with major manufacturers in the telecommunication sector.

Tunisia, as a genuine relay point for technology in the overall telecommunication landscape, is duty bound to play an active role in worldwide telecommunication development as regards both operational matters, international cooperation and coordination.

PART 2 - SECOND STRATEGIC PLAN OF ITU (1999-2003) AND DRAFT AMENDMENTS TO THE ITU CONVENTION/CONSTITUTION

Foreword

The Strategic Plan of the International Telecommunication Union for the period 1999 - 2003 and the draft amendments to the ITU Convention/Constitution, although submitted separately, are both concerned essentially with the same issue, namely, restructuring of the Union.

It is quite clear that the joint consideration of these two issues should be based simultaneously on:

- analysis of the changing telecommunication environment;
- analysis of the repercussions of these changes on ITU and its Members;
- analysis of the results achieved by the Union in the implementation of the Strategic Plan for 1995-1999;
- adoption of a progressive strategy for the period 1999-2003;
- possible measures to be taken by ITU to strengthen the financial base of the telecommunication sector;
- possible role to be played by ITU in matters relating to content;
- policies and strategies for strengthening the Union's financial base and improving its financial management.

I Grounds for the proposed reforms and plan

The draft Strategic Plan for ITU (1999-2003) is based on:

- assessment of the repercussions of the changing telecommunication environment on ITU and its Members;
- assessment of the results achieved by ITU in implementing the Strategic Plan for 1995-1999.

A Repercussions of the changing telecommunication environment on ITU and its Members

Factors:

- Strong trend towards the privatization of public telecommunication operators
- Trend towards the establishment of independent regulatory bodies
- Liberalization of domestic and international markets, and emergence of competition for telecommunication products and services
- Appearance of world operators
- Convergence of computer science, telecommunications, broadcasting and information technologies
- Acknowledgement of the efficiency of private investment
- Birth and development of the concept of the information society.

Repercussions:

- ITU has been left on the sidelines in the reform of the telecommunication sector; to a large degree, the initiative in this connection has been taken by other actors, particularly WTO.
- There has been a relative reduction in the Union's financial resources because of liberalization of the sector, the main result being that activities have been restricted and the results of implementation of the Strategic Plan for 1995-1998 have been affected.

B Results achieved by ITU in implementing the Strategic Plan 1995-1998

The ITU Plenipotentiary Conference (Kyoto, 1994) identified the following three main lines of action:

Strengthening the base of the Union

Results:

- Greater participation by entities other than administrations.
- Establishment of the ITU-2000 Working Group.
- Greater synergy between the various branches of sectoral activity.

Extending the scope of the Union's activities

Results:

- Identification of a policy function for ITU (World Telecommunication Policy Forum).
- Utilization of ITU's information resources.

Enhancing the Union's influence in international affairs

Results:

- Conclusion of strategic alliances with other international organizations.
- Establishment of public information media.

II General approaches proposed for the ITU Strategic Plan for 1999-2003

In general, the overall objectives, tasks and strategies set out in the 1995-1998 plan would be retained in the new Strategic Plan for 1999-2003.

Strengthening the Union's base

- Continued restructuring of the Union on the basis of the ITU-2000 Group's work, with a view to strengthening the role of Sector Members, diversifying ITU resources and broadening its composition.
- Collaboration of the Union's membership in promoting the services industry.
- Making the Union an international body for the development of international arrangements.
- Framing strategies that enable Members to cope with the disintegrating system of accounting rates and settlement of international accounts.
- Exercising economic discipline with regard to spectrum management.

Extension of the Union's scope of activities

- Introduction of measures designed to develop the ITU's general policy function.
 - institutionalization of the World Telecommunication Policy Forum
 - diversification of TELECOM activities
 - development of research capacity relating to general policy
 - development of an assistance programme for regulatory bodies
 - use of WWW;
- Consideration of issues arising from the convergence of the telecommunication, computer science and broadcasting sectors.

Enhancing the Union's influence

- Establishment of cooperation with WTO, WIPO, the World Bank group, UNESCO, WHO, OECD and regional telecommunication organizations;
- Establishment of a forum for further study and development of the GIS concept;
- Establishment of a mobilization fund for GIS using surplus TELECOM income.

III Draft amendments to the ITU Convention and Constitution

A Origin of the amendments

The ITU Council decided in 1996 to set up the ITU-2000 Group to continue the studies undertaken by the Review Committee set up under Resolution 15 (Kyoto, 1994) as well as those carried out under Resolution 39 (Kyoto, 1994) on strengthening the financial base of the Union.

In its recommendations, which were approved by the Council at its 1997 session, the ITU-2000 Group proposes the implementation of a series of complementary measures which, in its view, would strengthen the financial base of the Union.

In formulating its recommendations, the ITU-2000 Group was guided by:

- the need to change ITU's structures so as to secure a significant increase in the number of Sector Members;
- the need to diversify the sources of financing for ITU activities, while giving priority to standardization and radiocommunication activities.

B Main focus of amendments

The ITU-2000 Group produced a series of 27 recommendations, of which the most important are:

- Recommendation R.3 on opening up the Union's activities to Member States and Sector Members.
- Recommendations R.9, R.10, R.22 and R.23 on the determination of contributions to defraying ITU's expenditure and the classes of contribution for Member States and Sector Members.
- Recommendation R.27 on the machinery for the activities of the Development Sector.

IV Issues at stake and risks

The draft Strategic Plan and the draft amendments to the ITU Convention/Constitution proposed by the ITU-2000 Group call for the following comments:

Extension of ITU activities to Sector Members

It is true that the institutional changes which have come about in the telecommunication sector make it necessary for the International Telecommunication Union to make progressive adjustments in its structures in order to address the need:

- to secure financing for the projects and programmes in the Strategic Plan;
- to restore the Union's role at the international level.

In this context, the Kyoto Plenipotentiary Conference (1994) endorsed the principle of broader participation in the Union's activities through the admission of telecommunication operators and manufacturers as "m" members.

The ITU-2000 Group's new proposal is for the admission of Sector Members (R, T and D) based on sponsorship by Member States.

While safeguarding the rights and prerogatives of Member States in respect of ITU conferences and decision-making bodies, the ITU-2000 Group's proposal gives Sector Members full rights to participate in the activities of the Sectors Standardization, Radiocommunication and Development.

This prospect needs to be examined more thoroughly having regard to the interests of the developing countries, for:

- As a result of the horizontal restructuring embarked upon in 1994, ITU activities are based essentially on sectoral activities which govern more and more closely the Union's strategic options.
- As a result of restructuring and liberalization, the developed countries would be far more strongly represented (all the operators, manufacturers and organizations in the telecommunication sector), whereas the developing countries would not benefit from any increase in representation.
- The overall profile of telecommunication operators and manufacturers will be more like that of multinationals and the trusts produced by strategic alliances than that of national operators or manufacturers.

There can be no doubt that such an imbalance in representation would have an effect on the path followed by the Union, probably to the detriment of the developing countries' interests.

Contribution to defraying ITU expenditure and machinery for the Development Sector's activities

Not only will developed country participation be stronger than that of developing countries, but the financial contribution of Sector Members (mainly operators or manufacturers) in defraying the ITU Sectors' expenditure will certainly be greater than that of Member States.

This could certainly have an impact on the Union's sectoral activities.

The greatest danger would be for the Development Sector to have to take a back seat in relation to the Standardization and Radiocommunication Sectors.

Even now, Recommendation R.27 of the ITU-2000 Group excludes any type of development assistance for developing countries and advocates the conclusion of partnership arrangements (which, in the present state of affairs, would at the operational level give foreign operators a dominant position).

PART 3 - TELECOMMUNICATIONS AND PROTECTION OF THE ENVIRONMENT

PILOT PROJECTS

- Establishment of a terrestrial and space telecommunication infrastructure for the Elbiiâ 21 integrated information system on the environment and sustainable development in Tunisia.
- Establishment of a satellite-based network for the remote monitoring of sea water quality.

In April 1996, responding to the concerns expressed in Resolution 8 of the Telecommunication Development Conference (Buenos Aires, 1994) and Resolution 35 of the Plenipotentiary Conference (Kyoto, 1994), Tunisia acted as host to an International Symposium on the Role of Information and Telecommunication Technologies in the Protection of the Environment, convened at the initiative of BDT.

Among other things the Symposium highlighted the fact that information and telecommunication technologies have and will continue to have an increasingly important role in the protection of the environment. The Symposium also emphasized the desirability of pursuing the BDT initiative for strengthening links between the telecommunication and environment communities within the framework of a global operational project relating to the development and use of telecommunication technologies for environmental protection and sustainable development.

Recommendation 5 of the Symposium is concerned with the launching of pilot projects at the regional, subregional and national levels with the support of international operators.

This recommendation was supported by the African Regional Telecommunication Development Conference and the Arab Regional Telecommunication Development Conference.

With that background, Tunisia has submitted two pilot projects to ITU:

Project 1: Establishment of a terrestrial and space telecommunication infrastructure for the Elbiiâ 21 integrated information system on the environment and sustainable development in Tunisia;

Project 2: Establishment of a satellite-based network for the remote monitoring of sea water quality.

These two projects, which clearly reflect the concerns of the Tunisian environmentalist community and the authorities responsible for environmental protection and physical planning, in the light of the special environmental features of the Mediterranean region, fit in perfectly with the pilot project approach advocated at the International Symposium on the Role of Information and Telecommunication Technologies in Protection of the Environment.

The World Telecommunication Development Conference in Malta also brought out the importance attached by many Sector Members to the question of the role of telecommunications in the protection of the environment, Members which would be ready to develop financing mechanisms for such projects.

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In the light of the foregoing, it is urged that the measures advocated at the time of the International Symposium on the Role of Information and Telecommunication Technologies in the Protection of the Environment, as supported by the African and Arab Telecommunication Development Conferences, should be implemented with a view to the implementation of these projects, given the national and regional impact their results will have.

PART 4 - EXPERIENCE OF PARTNERSHIP IN THE TELECOMMUNICATION SECTOR AND CONTRIBUTION OF THE PRIVATE SECTOR TO TELECOMMUNICATION DEVELOPMENT IN TUNISIA

With the restructuring of the telecommunication sector, telecommunication development policies and approaches are now based on arrangements whose planning and implementation require a new conception of the contribution of the different parties involved, but also a broad vision of the whole field of their relations.

It is clear, from this point of view, that with the emergence of the information society and economy, and in the absence of a new approach to partnership, the telecommunication network and services of the world's different regions will continue indefinitely to make unequal progress, advancing on two different tracks which will further accentuate the gap between them as regards the services provided and their penetration and increase the extent to which developing countries lag behind both technologically and economically.

Tunisia's experience of partnership and the private sector's contribution to economic development could from this standpoint be regarded as opening up new ground.

A The Tunisian experience

I Partnership with foreign manufacturers

At the beginning of the 1990s, Tunisia launched a policy of promoting partnership in the field of telecommunications with the world's leading manufacturers of telecommunication equipment.

Overall, the main results of this partnership can be summed up as follows:

- the establishment of six enterprises governed by Tunisian law, generally in the form of centres of excellence.

The partnership capital amounts to about \$ 3.5 million, of which about 85% is held by foreigners.

Cumulative investment by agencies operating on a partnership basis amounts to \$ 6.5 million.

- The centres' activities are concerned with:
 - industrial production;
 - systems engineering;
 - software development;
 - triangular cooperation.
- The direct generation of over three hundred jobs, mostly for high-level technical staff specializing in research and development.

In addition, a large number of jobs have been created indirectly in enterprises doing subcontracting work for partnership activities.

- The generation of a cumulative turnover of over \$ 60 million, more than 60% of it from exports.

In the years ahead, this approach will be strengthened through:

- 1) continuation of the present form of partnership through the consolidation of the existing centres' activities and their integration into the production circuit of the parent companies;

- 2) Implementation of the communication technology park project, which will serve to establish links between partnership activities and attract new potential partners.

The purpose of this project is to:

- encourage the establishment in Tunisia of research, development and production units directly integrated into the spheres of international industry and technology;
 - give Tunisia regional influence in information and communication technologies;
 - play a catalytic role between research on the one hand and the telecommunication industry and service and network operation on the other;
- 3) Promotion of training activities at the regional level, particularly with leading manufacturers which have already launched regional training activities, such as Siemens and NEC.

II Contribution of the private sector to telecommunication development in Tunisia

In Tunisia, telecommunications are going through a period of steady growth with the opening up of services and progressive institutional change, both factors making for economic competitiveness.

The volume of investment allocated to the communications sector, comprising telecommunications, postal services and broadcasting, which was over 850 million dinars during the eighth plan (1992-1996), will be more than \$ 1 500 million under the new plan (1997-2001), representing about 4 per cent of national investment.

The implementation of these successive plans has been largely based on complementarity between the public and private sectors.

While the installation of the heavy infrastructure of the public telecommunication network (switching, transmission and local networks) was essentially undertaken by the public sector (by the national operator, Tunisie Télécom, restructured in 1996), the private sector was called upon to make a substantial contribution to the construction of this infrastructure, with direct participation by some 40 private local enterprises for the installation of local subscriber networks.

Similarly, the telecommunication sector is significantly opening up to private enterprise, as already reflected in the introduction of regulatory provisions for the:

- operation of public telephone services in more than 2 300 private centres (PUBLITELS), making available a total of some 8 200 payphones taking cards or cash;
- total opening up of the introduction and operation of value-added telecommunication services to private investment;
- practice by private investors of professional activities relating to telecommunication network installation and engineering.

Finally, still with reference to the immediate outlook, the process of restructuring the capital of the Société Tunisienne d'Équipement des Télécommunications (SOTETEL) has been initiated, involving among other things the transfer to private investors of about 40 per cent of the company's capital through a public bidding process.

With this overall vision of development in the telecommunication sector, Tunisia submitted an offer in the Negotiating Group on Basic Telecommunications of the World Trade Organization and acceded to the Fourth Protocol of the General Agreement on Trade in Services concerning the telecommunication sector.

This Tunisian approach to partnership and the contribution of the private sector, the main result of which is complementary contributions by public investment and national and international private investment, has made it possible to give the question of private sector participation the importance it deserves while relying on a structured process consisting in the introduction of across-the-board or specific regulatory provisions, taking into account both the strategic character of the telecommunication sector as a public service and the high technology content of its activities.

B Recommendation for support for the process of regulatory development

The Development Sector of the International Telecommunication Union can provide a conducive framework for fruitful debate on the question of partnership for the formulation of the most appropriate policies for harmonious and complementary development respecting the desire of all countries to have a flourishing telecommunication sector in the service of economic development.

TUN/101/2

With this in mind, it is recommended that:

- 1 ITU should make available resources necessary to ensure that the process of development and progressive liberalization proceeds in harmony with the needs and means of the developing countries;
- 2 ITU should encourage the establishment of nurseries of businessmen and entrepreneurs among young graduates in developing countries, in relation to the development of technology centres and the establishment of the information society;
- 3 ITU should draw up a frame of reference for the conduct of the process of liberalization, taking into account both trends in the international economic situation and specific national features in the area of regulation.

PART 5 - MODARABTEL PROJECT - LAUNCH OF PHASE II OF THE PROJECT

Ongoing technological development and the constant pressure of demand, in both qualitative and quantitative terms, inevitably lead to efforts, in the telecommunication field, to share knowledge and experience.

It is clearly this observation, coupled with the attainment of the objectives of the first phase of the MODARABTEL Project (RAB-89-001), which underlies the resolutions adopted by the first Regional Telecommunication Development Conference for the Arab States (Cairo, 1992) and the Coordination Committee recommendations relating to the implementation of specific telecommunication development projects in the Arab Region.

During the first phase of the MODARABTEL Project it was possible in particular to:

- deal with important and topical thematic issues (GSM, applied research, data transmission, etc.) of direct relevance to the development of telecommunication networks and services in the Arab Region;
- adopt the idea of "cooperation networks", enlisting the know-how of various countries and institutions.

The above are two significant results of the first phase of the MODARABTEL Project, which should be turned to account.

The Arab Region, moreover, being extensively involved in the new worldwide networks and information services, is also faced with the need to develop specific and community-based information systems if it is not to be merely the passive recipient of external information flows.

For these two reasons, and on the basis of the resolutions and recommendations adopted at the regional coordination meetings and by the Arab States Telecommunications Finance Colloquium (Amman, 1996), the highest priority should be attached to the matter of the launch of phase II of the MODARABTEL Project.

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Accordingly, it is recommended that:

- 1 ITU-D should approve and coordinate the launch of phase II of the MODARABTEL Project;
- 2 ITU-D should endeavour to find ways of financing phase II of the MODARABTEL Project, in particular through:
 - the allocation of resources from the ITU/BDT budget, and possibly extrabudgetary resources such as surpluses from the TELECOM exhibitions;
 - contributions by Arab Member States;
 - partnership with Member States and Sector Members.

PART 6 - GENDER AND TELECOMMUNICATION POLICY: THE CASE OF TUNISIA

The restructuring of the world economy, as well as telecommunication policy and development approaches, requires a new understanding of the contribution made by the various categories of human resources, fully justifying Resolution 7 of the World Telecommunication Development Conference (Valletta, 1998), establishing a Task Force on Gender Issues and telecommunication policy in developing countries.

The establishment of the task force, with the terms of reference set out in Appendix 1 to Resolution 7, along with ITU commitments on the issue, is of major importance for ensuring that gender issues receive appropriate attention in the implementation of all ITU priority programmes (especially ITU-D) in areas such as regulation and legislation, development in rural areas, universal access, technologies and applications.

Action on gender issues in Tunisia may be considered as a model of its kind.

Indeed, all indicators show that, since Tunisia gained its independence, there has been constant progress in the integration of women in all sectors of activity.

The equality of citizens, be they men or women, is clearly proclaimed in the Tunisian Constitution (1957). It was consolidated by the National Covenant (1988), which lays down that the equality of all citizens, men and women, without discrimination, is as important as freedom, by the creation in 1991 of the National Commission for Women and Development, and by the simultaneous amendment in 1993 of the Personal Status Code, the Labour Code and the Nationality Code.

Today, there is a true aspiration for even greater participation of women in public life, owing to a clearly expressed political will and broad popular consensus supporting the emancipation of Tunisian women.

Tunisia has acceded to all international conventions on women's rights, including the following:

- Convention concerning Discrimination in Respect of Employment and Occupation (ratified in 1959).
- Convention concerning Equal Remuneration for Men and Women Workers (ratified in 1968).
- Convention on the Political Rights of Women (ratified in 1968).
- International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights (ratified in 1968).
- International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights (ratified in 1968).
- Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination Against Women (ratified in 1985 and published in 1991).

The overall participation level of Tunisian women in economic activity is estimated at 21%, and is 34% in the civil service.

Of all working women, 29% hold management posts and 40% are supervisory staff.

In the telecommunication field, 23.3% of workers are women, 47.8% of whom are supervisory staff.

Institution	Number of employees	Female employees	Female management staff
Ministry	833	273 (32.77%)	57 (20.88%)
Tunisia Telecom	6 293	1 686 (27.18%)	849 (50.36%)
CERT	132	26 (19.70%)	11 (42.31%)
SOTETEL	1 379	59 (4.28%)	59 (100%)
Broadcasting	378	37 (9.79%)	17 (45.95%)
ATI	28	6 (21.43%)	4 (66.67%)
Total	8 953	2 087 (23.31%)	997 (47.77%)

Hence, with its clearly established policy in favour of true integration of women in all sectors of activity, Tunisia can be considered to be a success, in terms both of development of the regulatory environment and of implementation of specific programmes.

In this context, Tunisia can be taken as a model for the work of the Task Force on Gender Issues and telecommunication policy in developing countries, set up under Resolution 7 of the World Telecommunication Development Conference (Valletta, 1998).

TUN/101/4

It is therefore recommended that:

- 1 ITU should make available resources to carry out the activities covered by the terms of reference of the Task Force on Gender Issues and telecommunication policy in developing countries established pursuant to Resolution 7 of the World Telecommunication Development Conference (Valletta, 1998);
- 2 ITU should identify and allocate resources for carrying out pilot projects on gender issues in the area of telecommunications in the developing countries.

INTERNATIONAL TELECOMMUNICATION UNION



PLENIPOTENTIARY CONFERENCE (PP-98)

Document 102-E
14 October 1994
Original: English

MINNEAPOLIS, 12 OCTOBER - 6 NOVEMBER 1998

PLENARY MEETING

Morocco (Kingdom of)

CONSIDERATIONS RELATING TO QUORUM AND VOTES AT THE CONFERENCE

The special and existing procedures for amending the Constitution (CS) and the Convention (CV) prompt the following consideration:

- 1 Committees will have to deal with proposals which could lead to amendments to the CS/CV.
- 2 The quorum required by the CS and CV for the consideration of proposals relating to amendment to the CS and the CV shall not apply to the committees. Any conclusion reached in a committee by consensus or by any type of vote is to be considered as recommendations from that committee to the Plenary. Before their examination by the Plenary, such recommendations should be directed to Committee 6 to translate them in new or modified provisions of the CS/CV. They will also be presented to the Plenary by the Chairperson concerned when the related provisions prepared by Committee 6 are examined by the Plenary.
- 3 Matters not related to the CS/CV shall be treated by committees following the procedures applicable to conferences in Chapter III of the Convention.
- 4 In accordance with Articles 55 of the Constitution and 42 of the Convention, consideration by the Plenary of any proposal for amending the CS/CV require a quorum of more than half of the delegations accredited to the Conference.
- 5 Accordingly and to fulfil the quorum requirement, when a Plenary Meeting intends to consider a proposal amending the CS/CV, the Secretariat shall ensure that more than half of the delegations accredited to the Conference are present physically or by proxy.
- 6 The following procedures should be followed in Plenary Meetings for the final adoption of amendments to CS and CV:
 - a) If the number of delegations is greater than two-thirds of the accredited delegations having the right to vote, the Chairperson is authorized to declare adopted an amendment to either the Constitution or to the Convention for which agreement is obtained either by consensus or by formal vote.

- b) If the number of delegations present is more than half and less than two-thirds of the number of accredited delegations having the right to vote, the Chairperson is authorized to declare adopted an amendment to the Convention for which agreement was obtained either by consensus or by formal vote. However, the proposals to amend the Constitution cannot be approved and such approval shall be considered in another Plenary Meeting.
 - c) If the number of delegations is equal to or less than one-half of the number of accredited delegations, the proposed amendments to the Constitution or to the Convention cannot be considered and shall be left for another Plenary Meeting.
- 7 It has to be noted that, in accordance with No. 462 of the Convention, the approval of any text to be included in the Final Acts of the Conference is final when approved at the second reading in Plenary. Consequently, it is of the utmost importance that accredited delegations be present either physically or by proxy until the end of the second reading.
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INTERNATIONAL TELECOMMUNICATION UNION



PLENIPOTENTIARY CONFERENCE (PP-98)

Document 103-E
14 October 1998
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MINNEAPOLIS, 12 OCTOBER - 6 NOVEMBER 1998

COMMITTEE 5

Costa Rica

PROPOSALS FOR THE WORK OF THE CONFERENCE

The delegation of Costa Rica to the Plenipotentiary Conference wishes to make the following comments on ITU-2000 recommendation R.13 (Document 13) to the effect that Member States in arrears should not be elected to the Council.

Although the intention of the recommendation is commendable, the aim being to get the Union's finances into shape, its implementation would run counter to the universal nature of the Union. In the case of a Member State that is behind in the payment of its contributions, the adoption of such a recommendation would be tantamount to reducing its status to that of an observer and, for all practical purposes, to its virtual expulsion from the Union. Clearly, this would be an excessively strong policy measure in response to an administrative problem.

The problem is not a new one, and in an attempt to solve it international organizations have implemented incentive-based measures (such as the writing off of interest, and special instalment arrangements for payment) which serve to facilitate - rather than hinder - regularization of the financial situation so that Member States can bring themselves up to date.

If this recommendation were to be adopted and the measures it advocates to be applied to Member States with arrears of contributions, the effect would be to discourage those Member States from actively participating in the Union - a situation which would clearly be detrimental to both parties.

INTERNATIONAL TELECOMMUNICATION UNION



PLENIPOTENTIARY CONFERENCE (PP-98)

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PLENARY MEETING

Uganda

TELECOMMUNICATION REFORMS IN UGANDA

1 Introduction

Uganda's telecommunication sector is experiencing changes from being managed and controlled by government to private sector participation and increasing competition. The changes in Uganda are part of wider Government economic reforms towards liberalization and divestiture of public enterprises as a way of increasing efficiency and performance of the respective sectors. The specific aims behind the telecommunication sector reforms are to develop infrastructure, increase penetration and provide better quality services to the public. A new Communication Act is in place and a Second National Operator has been licensed. Restructuring of the Government PTT was completed and preparations for negotiations with potential strategic investor is on-going.

1.1 Brief socio-economic situation of Uganda

The Republic of Uganda is a small landlocked country in East Africa covering an area of 241 038 square km. Found within the great lakes region of Africa, it shares Lake Victoria with Kenya and Tanzania and Lakes Albert and Edward with the Democratic Republic of Congo. Uganda's population is estimated at 20 million and growing at a rate of 2.5% per annum. Ninety per cent of the population reside in rural areas. The GDP per capita for 1997/98 was \$US 289.

2 Telecom sector reform

2.1 Previous regulatory framework

Uganda Posts and Telecommunication Corporation (UPTC) has been the sole public basic telecommunication and postal services provider since 1977 when it took over the services, within Uganda, from the defunct East African Posts and Telecommunications Corporation. This was on a caretaker basis until 1983 when UPTC was legally constituted under the UPTC Act of 1983 to provide the services in Uganda as a government parastatal under the Ministry responsible for communications,

UPTC was empowered to provide telecommunication services and was also responsible for regulating the telecommunication sector hence able to grant licences to other operators for the

provision of non-core telecommunication services. Licences were granted, on behalf of government, to private companies for the provision of cellular mobile services, trunked mobile radio operations,

private voice and data, block wiring, terminal equipment provision and the provision of Internet services. This level of liberalization had no major impact on the human resource, however the dual role of UPTC as a regulator and an operator tended to create some conflicts of interest and at times hindering free participation in some areas of the market.

2.2 Current telecom sector policy

In January 1996, the Government released a Telecommunication Sector Policy statement setting out the objectives for the sector in the short and medium term. These objectives include:

- increasing teledensity from 0.25 lines per 100 people to 2.0 lines per 100 people within five years;
- improving facilities and services and introducing new telecommunication services, and
- Increasing the geographical distribution of telecommunication services.

These objectives required adoption of specific targets including:

- increasing call completion rates from 35% to 65%;
- improving fault recovery rates to 60% within 24 hours and 95% within 72 hours;
- upgrading the national network to achieve 75% digitalization; and
- increasing subscriber lines to a minimum of 300 000 main lines in the next five years.

The Government's strategies for meeting these objectives have been:

- the repeal of the UPTC act by enactment of a new Communications Act;
- restructuring of UPTC into Uganda Telecom Limited (UTL), Uganda Post Limited (UPL) and Post Bank (U) Limited and subsequently selling off a proportion of shares in UTL to a strategic investor and divest the rest in due course to the public and institutional investors over a period of time;
- establishing an independent regulator - the Uganda Communications Commission (UCC);
- licensing a Second National Operator (SNO);
- Fostering competition in the telecommunications sector.

2.3 Changes in telecommunication legislation

The Uganda Communications Act 1997 came into force on 26 September 1997 and was amended in December 1997, to remove provisions which were pegging licensing of the SNO to the privatization of UTL and establishment of a workers' pension fund. The old UPTC Act also remains in force pending finalization of some residual functions.

2.4 Provisions of the new Act

The Uganda Communications Act provides for a framework under which a modern communications sector can be developed. The main objectives are geared to fulfillment of the sector objectives in addition to reducing government participation in the sector and encouraging private investment. The Act provided for establishment of the Uganda Communications Commission with a primary responsibility of implementing the objectives of the Communication Act. In addition the functions of the commission are to:

- monitor, inspect, licence and regulate communications services;
- allocate and licence the use of the radio-frequency spectrum;

- make recommendations to the Minister towards granting of major licences;
- grant Minor licences for services such as paging, store and forward messaging, voice mail, telex, telegraph services and value added services in general;
- establish a tariff system to avoid unfair tariff competition;
- draw up, establish and enforce a national numbering plan;
- promote interests of consumers and operators as regards the quality of communications services;
- promote research into the development and use of new communications techniques including those which promote accessibility of hearing impaired people to communication services;
- improve communications services and ensure equitable distribution of service throughout the country;
- establish and administer a fund for rural communications development;
- promote competition and to facilitate new and modern systems and services.

2.5 Ownership reforms and competition

UTL was incorporated in February 1998 with a share capital of 100 billion shillings. The effective cutover date set by government was March 1998 while actual operation of UTL did not commence until 1 May, 1998. UTL will be privatized by way of sale of 51% of UTL shares to a strategic partner. After privatization, the strategic partner will manage UTL in accordance with provisions of a shareholders Agreement with government.

MTN Uganda Limited a consortium of MTN, Telia, Tristar and Invesco was licensed as Second National Operator on 15 April 1998. The award of the SNO licence to MTN followed:

- taking an inventory of the demand and existing facilities
- holding an investors forum
- prequalifying bidders
- bidding and evaluation.

The licencing in Uganda, as in other countries, have been accompanied by performance requirements imposed to the major licence basic service operators in return for the 5 year duopoly period granted.

2.6 Preparation for the reforms

Government with assistance of several consultants, developed licences for the basic service providers (now MTN and UTL). The main objective of the licences being to increase the coverage and penetration density, so the licences do not unbundle the services into local, long distance and international but each operator can offer any of these services while providing for interconnection. Block numbering ranges have been allocated to each of the major operators. Although government formulated a Default Interconnect Agreement, the operators have opted to negotiate different agreements.

2.7 Key articles in the licences provide for:

- provision of all telecom services including value added services and sell of bulk capacity without restriction to any particular technology;
- country coverage;
- roll out targets for rural and urban areas;
- service targets;
- term of licence of 20 years subject to renewal;
- duopoly for five years;
- contribution of up to 2.5% of gross revenues to the Uganda Communications Commission;
- obligation to interconnect with other licenced operators;
- obligation to meet radio licence fees as set by the commission.

2.8 Universal service

In order to ensure universal access, the Communications Act provides for establishment of a Rural Development Fund to be managed by the commission for purposes of extending services to rural and remote areas. UCC may also grant licences to independent service operators that wish to service rural and remote areas which may not have been reached by the major providers within two years of licence award.

2.9 Overview of steps taken in restructuring of UPTC

The split of UPTC into UTL, UPL, POSB started with internal processes:

- Separation of accounts between Postal and Telecom activities with common overheads apportioned according to rates recommended by a Government consultant.
- A Board Change Management Committee (BCMC) was constituted to coordinate the change process and it consisted of members from the parent ministry, the board of directors, and members of UPTC senior management. Two change teams were commissioned one team for Postal activities and one for Telecom activities to implement decisions of BCMC. A cross-cutting team was also formed to cater for issues which do not fall in either Postal or Telecom. Awareness workshops were held for all levels of workers and several activities were completed within these teams.
- The organization entered a transition phase "divisionalization". This saw the creation of two divisions within UPTC and an apex organ the "Corporate headquarters". This period enabled the Telecom and Postal divisions to concentrate on their core businesses, while at the same time paving the way for the smooth split of UPTC. The underlying principle was that no employee was to be laid off as a result of divisionalization.

The specific activities for implementation of the divisionalization included:

- Assignment of staff
UPTC staff were assigned duties in the new divisions. This was done in a way that avoided distortion of the payroll while maintaining continuity in operations.
- Rationalization of office space was necessary due to the duplication of duties (Postal and Telecom)
- Separation of stores

- Staff sensitization
- Formation of new organization structures
- New chart of accounts
- Opening of new bank accounts
- Review of revenue collection systems
- Image and performance improvement measures
- Telecom development strategy (image improvement, debt collection, staff motivation, etc.)
- Short-term investment plan
- Draft Memorandum of Understanding between UPL and UTL
- Separation of assets

The government meanwhile:

- developed the articles of association for the new entities, licences and interconnect agreements;
- established an interim regulator;
- appointed an actuaries consultant and negotiated a redundancy package;
- floated the SNO tender.

During the process, Uganda closely cooperated and shared views with the Commonwealth Telecommunications Organization, the ITU, the World Bank, the IFC and several telecom administrations.

3 Overview of existing telecommunications infrastructure and services

3.1 Introduction

The basic public telecommunication infrastructure is still mainly that of the incumbent, Government owned company, UTL. The national basic teledensity is 0.29/100. The number of subscribers has been however increasing steadily over the past few years. The network consists of 45 automatic telephone exchanges and 55 manual exchanges yielding a total exchange capacity of 80 977 lines (June 1998). Of all lines in service, about 70% are in the Kampala region. Large towns are served by modern digital exchanges while most rural towns are served by manual switch. Although telex is a declining service UTL still maintains a modern digital telex exchange of 600 lines capacity .

3.2 Transmission

The transmission network is basically in a star configuration and consists of optic fibre, microwave radio links, UHF and VHF radio systems. Some open wire systems are also still in use. The core backbone transport network consists of microwave radio systems linking the city to the major towns and provide access to Kenya, Tanzania, Rwanda and Burundi.

The international network consists of a digital international exchange linked to the international satellite earth station via an optical fibre transmission system. The earth station is an INTELSAT standard A providing access to over 200 international direct dial destinations. Two international routes are via terrestrial links of the PANAFTEL network.

3.3 Access network and rural communications

Much of the local cable network in the main switching centre has been upgraded. However, outside the main switching centre areas, local line facilities remain inadequate in many cases. The capital city area is already in need of expansion.

Exchanges in rural areas are mostly manual and linked to their transit exchanges with analogue carrier and physical overhead lines. For rural and remote areas situated a significant distance from urban development or isolated sites separated from the country infrastructure by distance or difficult terrain, UTL has employed wireless digital multiple access radio solution where an out station built in a relatively central point extends the services to the individual subscriber premises via conventional copper distribution cables. Most of the out stations and repeater stations are solar powered.

HF radiocall service caters for more than 100 remote areas for regular communications and emergencies. UTL is planning to divest the service to a private operator.

3.5 Telecommunication services

Telephony - the dominant service; Telex Services, Facsimile, Interconnect services.

Leased circuits and Inmarsat Services - Automatic access to the Inmarsat terminals via all ocean regions.

3.6 New technologies

UTL is offering high-speed data on the existing copper cables in the local loop using high bit rate digital subscriber loop (HDSL) technology on a trial basis. All new major transmission links are planned as SDH radio or fibre optic routes. All major exchanges introduced in the network will in future be able to support Signalling No. 7 and N-ISDN services.

3.7 Telecommunication development plans

Uganda has one of the fastest growing economies in Africa and is enjoying more than a decade of stable government. This has set in a high demand on telecommunication services. There is enormous need to expand the core networks, i.e. the switching capacity in urban areas, trunk capacity linking the exchanges and a pro-active approach to local access networks. This has to be done employing future proof technology aiming at improving operational efficiency and providing flexible capacity and capability for new services.

The objectives of the development plans are to:

- provide a fully automatic network;
- extend services to every county;
- evolve an integrated services digital network;
- improve international connectivity particularly within the region;
- introduce advanced services.

3.7.1 Proposed network expansions

UTL is implementing a Short-Term Investment Plan (STIP) with priority being given to high income generating projects with a quick return on investments and those projects which will enhance the image of the company. The projects under the programme include:

- replacement of billing system starting with provision of an accounting package;
- introduction of Prepayment Services;
- expansion and digitalization of backbone transmission links;
- expansion of switching capacity in Kampala, Jinja and Entebbe;
- provision of Rural Automatic Exchanges to various areas in the country;
- expansion and diversification of local access networks in Kampala, Jinja and Entebbe and start up networks for the rural areas.

3.7.2 Other regional developmental projects

A high capacity SDH digital transmission project is being undertaken by the three countries of the East African Co-operation, to replace the existing aged back borne microwave link. The project will provide about 700 km of optical fibre route in Uganda, 1 200 km of fibre route in Kenya and 30 hops of SDH digital radio links in Tanzania with a total estimated capital expenditure cost of \$US 70 m. This project is expected to improve services within the East African countries and provide connectivity to the transoceanic cables, e.g. Africa ONE. Commissioning is expected to start in late 2000 and continue to mid 2001. When completed, this project will constitute a major part of the Uganda portion of the proposed COMTEL network.

Under the Northern Uganda Rehabilitation programme an SDH digital microwave link and a digital exchange will be provided to link the Northern part of Uganda to the rest of the network. This project with an expected commissioning date of early 2000, will tremendously improve communications to the northern part of the country as well as providing an alternative route to the eastern part of the country.

3.8 Rural telecommunication development plans

Rural and remote areas are characterized by small and isolated scattered demand and a high cost of infrastructure. A unique requirement of rural areas which may be satisfied by telecommunication based solutions is their (rural areas) remoteness from social services like health, education and information centres - a situation demanding an even more sophisticated broadband network for rural areas. Individual needs for rural areas in Uganda are currently met by single and dual channel VHF radio systems, small capacity radios and low cost exchanges (Rural automatic exchanges). The concept of a Multipurpose Community Telecentre is under trial, whereby the telecentre provides telecommunication services as part of a wider range of information based services.

3.9.1 Other players in the telecom business

MTN Uganda Limited will commence operations in October 1998 by offering mobile cellular and fixed cellular (WLL) services.

Mobile cellular services

Cellular is classified as a major licence and hence restricted to the three operators (Celtel, MTN and UTL) for a period of 5 years. Currently GSM cellular mobile services covering the three major cities and the adjacent transport corridors, are provided by one private company. The customer base is

estimated at 10 000. All operators have indicated preference to GSM technology, but are not restricted to this technology by regulation. The licence provides for entire country coverage, but only allows international access via a basic services licence holder.

3.9.2 Data networks and VSATs - (Minor licences)

Full Internet access is provided by at least 2 Internet Service Providers via private dedicated VSAT networks. Other services are paging, mobile trunked radio and private voice and data offered by private companies. Uganda has no public switched data network. Data is transacted via leased lines and as voiceband data.

VSATs are licenced as a transport medium for supporting a specified service. A VSAT as such is not licenced as a service by itself. The type of VSAT licence depends on the services to be offered. Two broad categories are identifiable, i.e. multi-user VSATs which are allowed to resale hub capacity to other remote VSATs or allowed to sell bulk capacity and single user VSATs for private closed networks. The policy as regards number and size of VSAT networks is still evolving and will be refined by UCC in due course in line with the various international regulations and agreements governing telecommunication services.

The framework provided by the Communications Act enabled Government to effect some liberalization measures. These measures, such as the licensing of the second national operator and the grant of licences for value added services are included in the Uganda government's offer of commitments under the World Trade Organization (WTO) Basic Telecommunication Agreement. In particular the government is proposing to adopt the regulatory disciplines set out in the WTO regulatory reference paper. Much of the detail required by the reference paper will be put in place by way of licences and by regulations promulgated by the Uganda Communications Commission. In particular, all major suppliers will be required to offer cost-oriented interconnection rates to all licenced service suppliers.

A number of minor licences have already been issued in such areas as VSAT networks (for private voice and data), Mobile Trunked Radio, Paging, Internet Service Providers, Public Payphone Service, Block wiring and Prewiring Services, Customer Premises Equipment vending and repair services, Cable TV, FM Broadcasting, Enhanced Fax Services, etc. Here the Government has left the field open to as many players as the market can support.

4.1 Opportunities for investment

Uganda has had an investment policy in place in form of a law since 1991 when the Uganda Investment Authority was created. This law was reviewed last year to bring it in line with international practice in a free market economy. The law has quite generous incentives for foreign participation including unlimited participation in a company (0-100% ownership) and unlimited repatriation of dividends earned on investments.

4.2 Potential for licensing new operators

Government has already licensed two national operators for basic telecommunications services, i.e. Uganda Telecom Ltd. and MTN (Uganda) Ltd., and the situation will remain so for the next five years. However, there is a provision in the law permitting granting of minor licences to operators of local services in areas where the two major operators are unable to provide service within a reasonable period.

4.3 Other areas of investment include:

- Shareholding arrangements with UTL and other service providers.
- Value Added Services not yet exploited.
- BOT (Build-Operate/Own - Transfer) arrangements with major licence operators to expand the network.
- Mobile Satellite Services commonly referred to as Global Mobile Personal Communications by Satellite (GMPCS) are encouraged to be introduced in Uganda within the framework of the basic services licence.
- Rural telecommunications development.
- Manufacturing, systems integration, maintenance and technical services.

5 International Affiliation

UTL and Uganda in particular participates in the activities of various regional and international telecommunications organizations as an active member. The organizations include:

The International Telecommunications Union, ITU

The Pan African Telecommunications Union, PATU

INTELSAT

Commonwealth Telecommunications Organization, CTO

Regional African Satellite Communications Organization, RASCOM

African Advanced Level Telecommunications Institute, AFRALTI

East African Cooperation, EAC

Technical Cooperation among Developing Countries, TCDC

Uganda also participates in the activities of the World Trade Organization (WTO)

6 Conclusion

The sector reform process in Uganda has been different from other countries, in that, the following have been taken in a very short span of time.

- Restructuring of UPTC
- Privatization of Telecom business
- Liberalization of basic telecom services
- Licensing of SNO before operationalization of the Communications commission.

There is a lag between demand and supply of telecommunication services in Uganda.

Coupled with the current outlook on telecommunications industry and the favourable Government policy, there is a lot to attract private investment in the sector. The needs of the sector are to increase telephone penetration by increasing switching and trunk capacity and access networks, wider variety of service offerings, extension of coverage to rural and remote areas in order to provide universal access for Telecom services and improvement of quality of service.

These needs call for injection of capital to increase capacity and coverage, introduction of new value added services, modernization of core network to support a variety of services, introducing competition and private participation

Current regulatory provisions provide for a duopoly in basic services. Rural telecommunication development and value added service are also areas where private investment is encouraged.

INTERNATIONAL TELECOMMUNICATION UNION



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COMMITTEE 5

Uganda

PREPARATIONS FOR YEAR 2000 IN UGANDA TELECOM LIMITED (UTL)

Introduction

Uganda Telecom Limited being a key and crucial player in the Uganda telecommunications industry, has a major role to play in the economy. The company management recognizes the problems that could arise as a result of the non-compliance with Year 2000 requirements. Year 2000 being a global business concern, the company is working together with other organizations within and outside the country towards finding a solution to the problem.

Current status

- Within the company, budgets for the Year 2000 programme have been drawn and approved.
- A full-time Year 2000 team has been established and officially assigned to carry out the project. The Year 2000 team has already started work.
- An inventory of equipment seen as likely to be affected by Year 2000 has been prepared and is constantly being updated (see attached).
- Suppliers and manufacturers have been contacted on the status of their equipment as far as Year 2000 compliance is concerned.
- Tests have been carried out on some data processing systems.
- Some staff within the organization have participated in some seminars and workshops organized within and outside the country. This is part of the awareness programme.
- Assistance was sought from the Commonwealth telecommunications organizations for a two week training programme. This is being carried out in October 1998.
- A Year 2000 compliance clause is being included in current and future bid documents. For cases under progress, compliance is being taken care of by a similar clause in the purchase orders.
- Several organizations have requested to know our progress on the Year 2000 programme. In response, UTL has answered the requests and a press release (see attached) has been placed in the newspapers to explain our position. Progress reports shall continue to be issued.

Critical areas

Some critical areas that will need to be addressed have been identified and include:

- Low level of awareness within and outside the company.
- Lack of sufficient skills to manage the Year 2000 problem.
- Identification of Year 2000 date sensitive embedded chips at all levels of the systems.
- Testing tools and procedures.
- Upgrade and replacement of non-compliant or obsolete systems, e.g. Billing Centre, International Telephone Exchange, etc.
- Financing for replacement or upgrade/correction of obsolete or non-compliant systems.
- Legal obligations and certification of systems for compliance.
- Getting commitment and assurances or guarantees from suppliers/manufacturers especially for larger systems. The response from some of them has not been satisfactory.
- Inter-carrier testing may require assistance and coordination by ITU-T.

Ongoing activities

Some of the major activities that the company is currently pursuing include:

- Raising level of awareness within the company and improvement of skills to handle the Year 2000 problem.
- Prioritization of activities.
- Dissemination of information to business partners and other administrations/operators.
- Drawing a concrete action plan and carrying out tests on the systems unit, integration and inter-carrier.
- Identifying financing for replacement of critical systems.
- Ensuring that any new systems being purchased are Year 2000 compliant and making sure that certification is issued to this effect.

The targeted date for completion of compliance tests is 31 March 1999. This is to allow for a period of assessment of our readiness for Year 2000 roll-over.

National preparations

The Ugandan Government has set-up a Year 2000 Steering Committee in which Uganda Telecom Limited has been appointed to participate due to the vitality of her services to the national economy. The Government is organizing a donors conference for the national Year 2000 budget including cost of equipment and materials.

Conclusion

The Year 2000 problem poses a great challenge to the telecommunications sector as non-compliance will have a great impact on national economies. Uganda Telecom Limited has put in place measures to limit the impact of the problem. A concerted effort is, however, expected from our business partners.

UGANDA TELECOM LIMITED'S POSITION ON ITS YEAR 2000 PROGRAMME

Uganda Telecom Limited acknowledges the several requests from all her business partners (local and international) regarding the level of preparedness for the Year 2000 problem.

Uganda Telecom Limited recognizes and appreciates the problems associated with the Year 2000 (Y2K) problem. Early this year, UTL Board and management recognized the Y2K problem as global, managerial and is all about business survival. UTL resources and effort thus have been and continue to be expended towards managing this problem accordingly.

For purposes of assuring our business partners and the public as a whole on our level of preparedness for Y2K compliance, the following are highlights of the steps so far taken by the UTL Board and management towards tackling the Y2K problem:

- Management set up an interdepartmental task force on the Y2K problem in UTL, which force recommended the adoption of a "Y2K Problem Programme" after determining the extent of the problem. UTL thus has an overall picture of the extent of the problem.
- The Board approved and is championing the "Year 2000 Problem Programme". An appropriate budget has been duly approved by the Board.
- Management and Board appointed project team specialists within the organization to execute and implement the programme. The specialists are working on the programme on a full-time basis, and are facilitated accordingly within the budget. The programme is well under way with clearly stipulated objectives.
- The planned compliance date for any non-compliant systems within UTL is March 1999. We are well ahead of time. Meanwhile all new systems being implemented in UTL are Y2K compliant. UTL, however, may **not** influence the progress of its partners in business - we are doing our best to get compliance assurances.
- Sensitization of the UTL staff and customers about the Y2K problem is also well under way.

Again, UTL would like to thank all participating partners in this regard. We will endeavour to provide more information as we march towards our compliance date. For more information please contact the office of the Managing Director, UTL, P.O. Box 7171, Kampala, Telephone: +256 41 234401 Fax: +256 41 345907.

**UGANDA TELECOM LIMITED
YEAR 2000 (Y2K) INVENTORY**

No.	Equipment	Manufacturer	Supplier	Location	Y2K status	Remarks
A.	Switching systems					
1	E10B GSC	Alcatel-France	Alcatel	Kampala		
2	E10B GSC	"	"	Wandegeya		
3	E10B TSU	"	"	Kampala		
4	E10B-RLU	"	"	Kawempe		
5	E10B-RLU	"	"	Mbuya		
6	E10B-RLU	"	"	Nsambya		
7	E10B-RLU	"	"	Lubowa		
8	E10B-RLU	"	"	Mukono		
9	OCB 283	"	"	Kampala		
10	HDX 10	Hitachi-Japan	Hitachi	Masaka		
11	HDX 10	"	"	Mbarara		
12	FETEX 150	Fujitsu-Japan	Fujitsu	Kabalc		
13	TDX-1B	Hahnwa-Korea	Hahnwa	Mbalc		
14	TDX-1B RLU	"	"	Soroti		
15	TDX-1B RLU	"	"	Kapchorwa		
16	TDX-1B RLU	"	"	Malaba		
17	TDX-1B RLU	"	"	Busia		
18	TDX-1B	"	"	Luwero		
19	TDX-1B RLU	"	"	Wobulenzi		
20	TDX-1B	"	"	Masindi		
21	TDX-1B RLU	"	"	Hoima		
22	RAX 256	ITI-India	ITI	Kyambogo		
23	RAX 256	"	"	Entebbe		
24	RAX 256	"	"	Jinja		
25	RAX 256	"	"	Kumi		
26	RAX 256	"	"	Kisoro		
27	RAX 256	"	"	Kalisizo		
28	RAX 256	"	"	Tororo		
29	RAX 256	"	"	Lugazi		
30	RAX 256	"	"	Kyotera		
31	RAX 256	"		Rakai		
32	RAX 256	"		Ntungamo		
33	RAX 256	"				
34	NEAX	NEC-Japan	Yamato	Kampala		
35	NEAX		"	Kyambogo		
36	NEAX		"	Jinja		

37	NEAX		"	Entebbe		
38	EDX TELEX EXCH.	Siemens-Germany	Siemens	Kampala		
B.	Transmission systems					
1	Mpoma E/S	NEC-Japan	Yamato	Mpoma		
2	PCM/Optic Eqpt.	Fujitsu-Japan	Marubeni	Kampala n/w		
3	DMARS	NEC-Japan	Yamato	Western Regn.		
4	KBO	Siemens-Italy	Siemens	KBO States		
5	Small Cap Dig. Links	Alcatel-Italy	Alcatel	Eastern Regn.		
6	Kla-Ebb Optical Link	NEC-Japan	Yamato	Kla-Ebb		
7	Telemobile Links	TeleMobile-USA	TeleMobile	S-West. Regn.		
8	Radio Call Network	CODAN-Australia	ROKO	Spread		
9	Digital Link	NERA-Norway	Digitel	Kla-Bombo		
10	Digital Link	NERA-Norway	Digitel	Msk-Nkozi		
11	DEFT	Teletron-Italy		Msk-Bulo		
12	Digital Link		Celtel	UTL-Celtel		
13	Signal Analyser		BT	E10B Room		
14	DCME	ECI Telecom	ECI	"		
15	GPS Clock System	True-Time USA		"		
16	1-TDM 5794 Call Back System	Granger	Granger Telecom	"		
17	Wang Billing System	Wang Computers, Inc.	CA (U) Ltd.	GPO	Obsolete	

NB: This list covers only the major systems.

INTERNATIONAL TELECOMMUNICATION UNION



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PLENARY MEETING

**Algérie, Arabie saoudite, Bahreïn, Bangladesh, Comores, Djibouti, Egypte,
Emirats arabes unis, Rép. Gabonaise, Gambie, Jordanie, Mali, Maroc, Mauritanie, Niger,
Oman, Pakistan, Qatar, République arabe syrienne, Soudan, Tunisie, Yémen**

PROPOSITIONS POUR LES TRAVAUX DE LA CONFÉRENCE

Ajouter "**Liban**" dans la liste des pays signataires de ce document.

* * * * *

**Algeria, Saudi Arabia, Bahrain, Bangladesh, Comoros, Djibouti, Egypt, United Arab
Emirates, Gabonese Republic, Gambia, Jordan, Mali, Morocco, Mauritania, Niger, Oman,
Pakistan, Qatar, Syrian Arab Republic, Sudan, Tunisia, Yemen**

PROPOSALS FOR THE WORK OF THE CONFERENCE

Add "**Lebanon**" to the list of signatories for this document.

* * * * *

**Argelia, Arabia Saudita, Bahrein, Bangladesh, Comoras, Djibouti, Egipto, Emiratos Árabes
Unidos, Rep. Gabonesa, Gambia, Jordania, Malí, Marruecos, Mauritania, Níger, Omán,
Pakistán, Qatar, República Árabe Siria, Sudán, Túnez, Yemen**

PROPUESTAS PARA LOS TRABAJOS DE LA CONFERENCIA

Añádase "**Líbano**" a la lista de países firmantes de este documento.

INTERNATIONAL TELECOMMUNICATION UNION



PLENIPOTENTIARY CONFERENCE (PP-98)

Corrigendum 3 to
Document 106-F/E/S
30 October 1998
Original: French/English/
Spanish

MINNEAPOLIS, 12 OCTOBER - 6 NOVEMBER 1998

PLENARY MEETING

Algérie, Arabie saoudite, Bahreïn, Bangladesh, Comores, Egypte, Emirats arabes unis, Rép. Gabonaise, Jordanie, Mali, Maroc, Mauritanie, Niger, Oman, Pakistan, Qatar, République arabe syrienne, Soudan, Tunisie, Yémen

PROPOSITIONS POUR LES TRAVAUX DE LA CONFÉRENCE

Ajouter "**Djibouti, Gambie**" dans la liste des pays signataires de ce document.

* * * * *

Algeria, Saudi Arabia, Bahrain, Bangladesh, Comoros, Egypt, United Arab Emirates, Gabonese Republic, Jordan, Mali, Morocco, Mauritania, Niger, Oman, Pakistan, Qatar, Syrian Arab Republic, Sudan, Tunisia, Yemen

PROPOSALS FOR THE WORK OF THE CONFERENCE

Add "**Djibouti, Gambia**" to the list of signatories for this document.

* * * * *

Argelia, Arabia Saudita, Bahrein, Bangladesh, Comoras, Egipto, Emiratos Árabes Unidos, Rep. Gabonesa, Jordania, Malí, Marruecos, Mauritania, Níger, Omán, Pakistán, Qatar, República Árabe Siria, Sudán, Túnez, Yemen

PROPUESTAS PARA LOS TRABAJOS DE LA CONFERENCIA

Añádanse "**Djibouti, Gambia**" a la lista de países firmantes de este documento.

INTERNATIONAL TELECOMMUNICATION UNION



PLENIPOTENTIARY CONFERENCE (PP-98)

Corrigendum 2 to
Document 106-F/E/S
27 October 1998
Original: French/English/
Spanish

MINNEAPOLIS, 12 OCTOBER - 6 NOVEMBER 1998

PLENARY MEETING

**Algérie (République algérienne démocratique populaire), Arabie saoudite (Royaume d'),
Bahreïn (Etat de), Egypte (République arabe d'), Emirats arabes unis, Jordanie (Royaume
hachémite de), Maroc (Royaume du), Mauritanie (République islamique de), Oman
(Sultanat d'), Qatar (Etat du), République arabe syrienne, Soudan (République du),
Tunisie, Yémen (République du)**

PROPOSITIONS POUR LES TRAVAUX DE LA CONFÉRENCE

Ajouter "Bangladesh (République populaire du), Comores (République fédérale islamique
des), Gabonaise (République), Mali (République du), Niger (République du), Pakistan
(République islamique du)" dans la liste des pays signataires de ce document.

* * * * *

**Algeria (People's Democratic Republic of), Saudi Arabia (Kingdom of), Bahrain (State of),
Egypt (Arab Republic of), United Arab Emirates, Jordan (Hashemite Kingdom of),
Morocco (Kingdom of), Mauritania (Islamic Republic of), Oman (Sultanate of),
Qatar (State of), Syrian Arab Republic, Sudan (Republic of the), Tunisia,
Yemen (Republic of)**

PROPOSALS FOR THE WORK OF THE CONFERENCE

Add "Bangladesh (People's Republic of), Comoros (Islamic Federal Republic of the),
Gabonese Republic, Mali (Republic of), Niger (Republic of the), Pakistan (Islamic Republic
of)" to the list of signatories for this document.

* * * * *

**Argelia (República Argelina Democrática y Popular), Arabia Saudita (Reino de),
Bahrein (Estado de), Egipto (República Árabe de), Emiratos Árabes Unidos,
Jordania (Reino Hachemita de), Marruecos (Reino de), Mauritania (República
Islámica de), Omán (Sultanía de), Qatar (Estado de), República Árabe Siria,
Sudán (República del), Túnez y Yemen (República del)**

PROPUESTAS PARA LOS TRABAJOS DE LA CONFERENCIA

Añádanse "**Bangladesh (República Popular de), Comoras (República Federal Islámica de las), Gabonesa (República), Malí (República de), Níger (República del), Pakistán (República Islámica del)**" a la lista de países firmantes de este documento.

UNION INTERNATIONALE DES
TELECOMMUNICATIONS



CONFERENCE DE
PLENIPOTENTIAIRES (PP-98)

Corrigendum 1 au
Document 106-F/E/S
20 octobre 1998
Original: anglais

MINNEAPOLIS, 12 OCTOBRE - 6 NOVEMBRE 1998

SÉANCE PLÉNIÈRE

**Algérie (République algérienne démocratique populaire), Arabie saoudite (Royaume d'),
Bahreïn (Etat de), Egypte (République arabe d'), Emirats arabes unis, Jordanie (Royaume
hachémite de), Maroc (Royaume du), Mauritanie (République islamique de), Oman
(Sultanat d'), Qatar (Etat du), République arabe syrienne, Soudan (République du),
Tunisie, Yémen (République du)**

PROPOSITIONS POUR LES TRAVAUX DE LA CONFÉRENCE

Ajouter "**République islamique d'Iran**" dans la liste des pays signataires de ce document.

* * * * *

**Algeria (People's Democratic Republic of), Saudi Arabia (Kingdom of), Bahrain (State of),
Egypt (Arab Republic of), United Arab Emirates, Jordan (Hashemite Kingdom of),
Morocco (Kingdom of), Mauritania (Islamic Republic of), Oman (Sultanate of),
Qatar (State of), Syrian Arab Republic, Sudan (Republic of the), Tunisia,
Yemen (Republic of)**

PROPOSALS FOR THE WORK OF THE CONFERENCE

Add "**Islamic Republic of Iran**" in the list of signatories for this document.

* * * * *

**Argelia (República Argelina Democrática y Popular), Arabia Saudita (Reino de),
Bahrein (Estado de), Egipto (República Árabe de), Emiratos Árabes Unidos,
Jordania (Reino Hachemita de), Marruecos (Reino de), Mauritania (República
Islámica de), Omán (Sultanía de), Qatar (Estado de), República Árabe Siria,
Sudán (República del), Túnez y Yemen (República del)**

PROPUESTAS PARA LOS TRABAJOS DE LA CONFERENCIA

Añádase "**República Islámica del Irán**" a la lista de países firmantes de este documento.

INTERNATIONAL TELECOMMUNICATION UNION



PLENIPOTENTIARY CONFERENCE (PP-98)

Document 106-E
14 October 1998
Original: English

MINNEAPOLIS, 12 OCTOBER - 6 NOVEMBER 1998

PLENARY MEETING

**Algeria (People's Democratic Republic of), Saudi Arabia (Kingdom of), Bahrain (State of),
Egypt (Arab Republic of), United Arab Emirates, Jordan (Hashemite Kingdom of),
Morocco (Kingdom of), Mauritania (Islamic Republic of), Oman (Sultanate of),
Qatar (State of), Syrian Arab Republic, Sudan (Republic of the), Tunisia,
Yemen (Republic of)**

ADMISSION OF PALESTINE AS A MEMBER STATE OF THE UNION

The signatories of this document have continuously applied in their internal and external telecommunications the principles contained in Article 1 of the Constitution. In particular provision No. 7 leading to strengthening peace and security in the world. They consider that the fulfilment of the above principles and the strengthening of peace and security are closely related to the universality of the Union. With its 188 Member States the Union is nearly universal and may improve its universal character by admitting those States that have not until now been able to join the Union. Palestine has been part of the Union for many decades through countries having administrative Authority over its Territory.

The 21 Arab countries and many other countries consider the Palestine Authority as being, *de facto*, the Government of the Palestinian State.

It is proposed to admit Palestine as a Member State of the Union.

INTERNATIONAL TELECOMMUNICATION UNION



PLENIPOTENTIARY CONFERENCE (PP-98)

Document 107(Rev.1)-E
24 October 1998
Original: English

MINNEAPOLIS, 12 OCTOBER - 6 NOVEMBER 1998

COMMITTEE 5

Sweden

PROPOSALS FOR THE WORK OF THE CONFERENCE

IMPLEMENTATION OF RESOLUTIONS 15 AND 39 (KYOTO, 1994)

In Document 13, the Secretary-General has reported on the implementation of Resolutions 15 and 39 (Kyoto, 1994). The work that has been carried out by the Secretary-General, the Review Committee, ITU-2000 and the Council has paved the way for significant improvements in ITU working methods and financial system. The Swedish members of the ITU Sectors (manufacturers and operators) as well as the Swedish Administration consider the recommendations made in Document 13 to be important and support swift implementation of the recommendations.

These recommendations are however not sufficient to maintain ITU's position in what must be seen as a "marketplace" for telecom (ICT) recommendations/standards. Further steps will be needed. The major areas for ITU, telecommunications and information technology (IT) are changing at a fast pace, much faster than was foreseen in Kyoto. This calls for continuing changes and adjustment of policies, structures and working methods within the ITU.

It may be noted that already today ITU standardization groups are pre-eminent only in some specific areas. There is in reality considerable risk that the number of areas where ITU is the leading forum for international agreement on technical specifications will diminish. A decreasing number of pre-eminent groups would mean that ITU loses in attraction for Sector Members compared to other organizations.

If so it becomes increasingly difficult to justify participation in ITU groups for new actors, who are potential Sector Members, especially in emerging areas where time to market of the specifications is of key importance and where there are alternative fora developing those specifications which are required by various market players. ITU procedures and decision methods are often felt to be more of a hindrance than help, in particular by new actors.

In the tremendous developments in telecommunications and information technology it is most important that all involved can influence the work of the ITU study groups on an equitable and timely basis. Sector Members (manufacturers, operators, research institutes etc.), should therefore enjoy increased rights in the determination of questions for study, setting priorities and approval of recommendations. ITU Sector Members in Sweden see a great value in ITU maintaining a high quality in its technical work in the study groups, and there is a general desire among them that ITU

should function well. For this to be achieved, the implementation of the recommendations by ITU-2000 only will not be sufficient.

Status of recommendations resulting from study group work

As regards differences between the Sectors, in particular ITU-R and ITU-T, the Swedish Administration and Sector Members consider that the work of the study groups of the two Sectors, in spite of some obvious differences due to the special characteristics of radio waves, may be treated in a very similar way as regards rights and obligations of Sector Members.

In both Sectors experts from Administrations and Sector Members contribute to the development of the recommendations. Independent of the subject matter for a recommendation *it is not mandatory with regulatory force*.

Later, if a recommendation or parts of it is to be incorporated in an international treaty or in national regulations, then *that in itself is a binding decision with regulatory force*, e.g. by a radiocommunication conference (WRC), by a national administration or by any other body with legislative power. (If a recommendation, which is incorporated partly or wholly in a treaty or any other legislation, later is modified by a study group, another decision by the regulatory body is necessary to update the relevant treaty or legislative text accordingly.)

The development and approval of recommendations that may be candidates for incorporation in treaty and legislative texts is not a matter only for Member States. Like other draft recommendations such drafts will be based on technical and operational conditions. Member States will then have the sole right *to adopt or reject the incorporation* of candidate recommendations on a particular subject in a regulatory context.

Conclusions

After the implementation of the ITU-2000 recommendations, and in the light of the above considerations, the rights and obligations for ITU Sector Members should be reviewed further. Sweden therefore strongly supports the proposed draft Resolution [EUR-2] in Document 32, Part 5, in which the Directors of the Bureaux, with the assistance of their Sector advisory group, are instructed to consider further changes to the organization and working methods of their Sector in the spirit of Resolutions 15 and 39 (Kyoto, 1994). In these considerations the Directors and their advisory groups should take into account, i.a. the considerations above on the status of recommendations resulting from study group work.

The goals for the considerations as proposed in draft Resolution [EUR-2] should be much more far reaching than what follows from the implementation of the ITU-2000 recommendations.

Administrations are urged to consider the further possibilities to improve the rights of Sector Members in order to more fairly and reasonably correspond to the *de facto* commitment they have already taken on board, without infringing the rights of Member States which are basic in an intergovernmental organization in the UN family.

In addition, the considerations may include such structural changes that may facilitate the introduction of increased rights and obligations for Sector Members.

INTERNATIONAL TELECOMMUNICATION UNION



PLENIPOTENTIARY CONFERENCE (PP-98)

Document 107-E
14 October 1998
Original: English

MINNEAPOLIS, 12 OCTOBER - 6 NOVEMBER 1998

COMMITTEE 5

Sweden

PROPOSALS FOR THE WORK OF THE CONFERENCE

IMPLEMENTATION OF RESOLUTIONS 15 AND 39 (KYOTO, 1994)

In Document 13, the Secretary-General has reported on the implementation of Resolutions 15 and 39 (Kyoto, 1994). The work that has been carried out by the Secretary-General, the Review Committee, ITU-2000 and the Council has paved the way for significant improvements in ITU working methods and financial system. The Swedish members of the ITU Sectors (manufacturers and operators) as well as the Swedish Administration consider the recommendations made in Document 13 to be important and support swift implementation of the recommendations.

These recommendations are however not sufficient to maintain ITU's position in what must be seen as a "marketplace" for telecom (ICT) recommendations/standards. Further steps will be needed. The major areas for ITU, telecommunications and information technology (IT) are changing at a fast pace, much faster than was foreseen in Kyoto. This calls for continuing changes and adjustment of policies, structures and working methods within the ITU.

It may be noted that already today ITU standardization groups are pre-eminent only in some specific areas. There is in reality considerable risk that the number of areas where ITU is the leading forum for international agreement on technical specifications will diminish. A decreasing number of pre-eminent groups would mean that ITU loses in attraction for Sector Members compared to other organizations.

If so it becomes increasingly difficult to justify participation in ITU groups for new actors, who are potential Sector Members, especially in emerging areas where time to market of the specifications is of key importance and where there are alternative fora developing those specifications which are required by various market players. ITU procedures and decision methods are often felt to be more of a hindrance than help, in particular by new actors.

In the tremendous developments in telecommunications and information technology it is most important that all involved can influence the work of the ITU study groups on an equitable and timely basis. Sector Members (manufacturers, operators, research institutes etc.), should therefore enjoy increased rights in the determination of questions for study, setting priorities and approval of recommendations. ITU Sector Members in Sweden see a great value in ITU maintaining a high quality in its technical work in the study groups, and there is a general desire among them that ITU

should function well. For this to be achieved, the implementation of the recommendations by ITU-2000 only will not be sufficient.

Status of recommendations resulting from study group work

As regards differences between the Sectors, in particular ITU-R and ITU-T, the Swedish Administration and Sector Members consider that the work of the study groups of the two Sectors, in spite of some obvious differences due to the special characteristics of radio waves, may be treated in a very similar way as regards rights and obligations of Sector Members.

In both Sectors experts from Administrations and Sector Members contribute to the development of the recommendations. Independent of the subject matter for a recommendation *it is not mandatory with regulatory force*.

Later, if a recommendation or parts of it is to be incorporated in an international treaty or in national regulations, then *that in itself is a binding decision with regulatory force*, e.g. by a radiocommunication conference (WRC), by a national administration or by any other body with legislative power. (If a recommendation, which is incorporated partly or wholly in a treaty or any other legislation, later is modified by a study group, another decision by the regulatory body is necessary to update the relevant treaty or legislative text accordingly.)

The development and approval of recommendations that may be candidates for incorporation in treaty and legislative texts is not a matter only for Member States. Like other draft recommendations such drafts will be based on technical and operational conditions. Member States will then have the sole right *to adopt or reject the incorporation* of candidate recommendations on a particular subject in a regulatory context.

Conclusions

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The goals for the considerations as proposed in draft Resolution [EUR-2] should be much more far reaching than what follows from the implementation of the ITU-2000 recommendations.

Administrations are urged to consider the further possibilities to improve the rights of Sector Members in order to more fairly and reasonably correspond to the *de facto* commitment they have already taken on board, without infringing the rights of Member States which are basic in an intergovernmental organization in the UN family.

In addition, the considerations may include such structural changes that may facilitate the introduction of increased rights and obligations for Sector Members. The Group should report and make its recommendations to the ITU Council at its session 2000.

INTERNATIONAL TELECOMMUNICATION UNION



PLENIPOTENTIARY CONFERENCE (PP-98)

Document 108-E
9 October 1998
Original: English

MINNEAPOLIS, 12 OCTOBER - 6 NOVEMBER 1998

COMMITTEE 3

Note by the Secretary-General

SITUATION OF THE ACCOUNTS OF THE PLENIPOTENTIARY CONFERENCE (PP-98) AS AT 9 OCTOBER 1998

I have the honour to submit herewith for examination by the Budget Control Committee an estimate of the expenditure of the Plenipotentiary Conference (PP-98) as at 9 October 1998.

Pekka TARJANNE
Secretary-General

**Situation of the accounts of the Plenipotentiary Conference (PP-98)
as at 9 October 1998**

Swiss francs (000)

	1998/99 budget	Expenditure as at 9 October 98	Projected expenditure	Credits available
	(1)	(2)	(3)	(1) - (2) - (3)
<u>Appropriations</u>				
Staff costs	2 293	1 175	925	193
Other staff costs	125	13	82	30
Travel on duty	31	8	23	0
Contractual services	90	0	90	0
Rental and maintenance of premises and equipment	120	120	0	0
Materials and supplies	150	33	117	0
Acquisition of premises, furniture and equipment				
Public and internal services	180	19	161	0
Miscellaneous	30	0	30	0
Total appropriations	3 019	1 368	1 428	223
<u>Cost for documentation*</u>				
Translation	1 230	237	993	0
Typing	1 040	256	784	0
Reprography	569	140	429	0
Total cost for documentation	2 839	633	2 206	0
TOTAL COSTS	5 858	2 001	3 634	223
		5 635		

* The cost for documentation is based
on the following volumes:

Pages

	1998/99 budget	Actual pages
Translation	9 740	1 838
Typing	18 665	4 766
Reprography	13 210 000	3 244 000

INTERNATIONAL TELECOMMUNICATION UNION



PLENIPOTENTIARY CONFERENCE (PP-98)

Document 109(Rev.2)-E
28 October 1998
Original: English

MINNEAPOLIS, 12 OCTOBER - 6 NOVEMBER 1998

COMMITTEE 4

FIRST SERIES OF TEXTS FROM COMMITTEE 5 TO THE EDITORIAL COMMITTEE

Committee 5 has adopted the following Resolution, which it submits to the Editorial Committee for consideration and subsequent transmission to the Plenary Meeting.

Mauricio BOSSA
Chairperson

Annex: 1

DRAFT RESOLUTION [COM5/1]

WORLD RADIOCOMMUNICATION CONFERENCE PROCESS

The Plenipotentiary Conference of the International Telecommunication Union
(Minneapolis, 1998),

considering

- a) that the agenda for WRC-2000 was approved by Council-98 and excluded those items covered by agenda 8 and that these items are not included in the agenda for the [2001] World Radiocommunication Conference in Resolution 722 (WRC-97);
- b) that the Radiocommunication Sector has experienced rapid technological growth and demand for new services is increasing rapidly in an environment that demands timely and efficient action,

considering further

- a) that WRC-97 saw many administrations submitting common regional proposals which greatly assisted in the efficiency of the conference proceedings;
- b) that informal groups and the general liaison between regions played an important role in smoothing the work of the Conference;
- c) that Resolution 72 (WRC-97) invited this Plenipotentiary Conference to take appropriate measures to assist in regional preparations for world radiocommunication conferences,

noting

- a) [that this Plenipotentiary Conference implemented many of the ITU-2000 recommendations that are aimed at increasing the effectiveness of ITU in a rapidly changing environment;]
- [* b) that in accordance with Nos. 118 and 126 of the Convention, the general scope of a world radiocommunication conference cycle is based on a four-year period where agenda items requiring long periods of study can be foreseen for a future conference, while those that may be studied in the two-year period can be placed on the agenda for the first conference in the cycle;]
- c) that the draft strategic plan highlights a strategy aimed at more efficient radiocommunication conferences;
- d) that the radiocommunication advisory group indicated a preliminary intention at its next meeting to consider "re-engineering" conference procedures,

resolves

- 1 that world radiocommunication conference preparations and administration, including budgetary appropriations, should in principle be planned on the basis of two consecutive world radiocommunication conferences. Items included in the second world radiocommunication conference and for which study work is under way shall be given priority when finalizing the agenda for the following world radiocommunication conference;

* For editorial adjustments after consideration of CV118 and CV126.

2 to support the regional harmonization of common proposals, as stated in Resolution 72 (WRC-97), for submission to administrative conferences;

3 to encourage both formal and informal collaboration in the interval between conferences with a view to resolving differences on new, or conference agenda issues,

instructs the Director of the Radiocommunication Bureau

to seek advice from the radiocommunication advisory group (RAG) on ways of improving the preparations for, and the actual management during, world radiocommunication conferences and report to WRC-2000 for its consideration,

instructs the Secretary-General

to encourage the participation of all members in addressing this issue.

INTERNATIONAL TELECOMMUNICATION UNION



PLENIPOTENTIARY CONFERENCE (PP-98)

Document 109(Rev.1)-E
20 October 1998
Original: English

MINNEAPOLIS, 12 OCTOBER - 6 NOVEMBER 1998

COMMITTEE 4

FIRST SERIES OF TEXTS FROM COMMITTEE 5 TO THE EDITORIAL COMMITTEE

Committee 5 has adopted the following resolution, which it submits to the Editorial Committee for consideration and subsequent transmission to the Plenary Meeting.

M. BOSSA
Chairperson

Annex: 1

DRAFT RESOLUTION [COM5/1]

WORLD RADIOCOMMUNICATION CONFERENCE PROCESS

The Plenipotentiary Conference of the International Telecommunication Union
(Minneapolis, 1998),

considering

- a) that the agenda for WRC-2000 was approved by Council-98 and excluded those items covered by agenda item 8, and that the items in question are not included in the agenda for the [2001] World Radiocommunication Conference in Resolution 722 (WRC-97);
- b) that the radiocommunication sector has experienced rapid technological growth and demand for new services is increasing rapidly in an environment that necessitates timely and efficient action,

considering further

- a) that WRC-97 saw many administrations submitting common regional proposals which greatly enhanced the efficiency of the conference proceedings;
- b) that informal groups and general liaison between regions played an important role in smoothing the work of the Conference;
- c) that Resolution 72 (WRC-97) invited this Plenipotentiary Conference to take appropriate measures to assist in regional preparations for world radiocommunication conferences,

noting

- a) [that this Plenipotentiary Conference implemented many of the ITU-2000 recommendations that are aimed at increasing the effectiveness of ITU in a rapidly changing environment;]
- [* b) that, in accordance with Nos. 118 and 126 of the Convention, the general scope of a world radiocommunication conference cycle is based on a four-year period, whereby agenda items requiring long periods of study can be foreseen for a future conference, while those that may be studied in the two-year period can be placed on the agenda for the first conference in the cycle;]
- c) that the draft Strategic Plan highlights a strategy aimed at more efficient radiocommunication conferences;
- d) that the Radiocommunication Advisory Group indicated a preliminary intention at its next meeting to consider "re-engineering" conference procedures,

resolves

- 1 that world radiocommunication conference preparations and administration, including budgetary appropriations, should in principle be planned on the basis of two world radiocommunication conference cycles, whereby items included in the second world radiocommunication conference and for which study work is under way shall be given priority when finalizing the agenda for the second cycle;
- 2 to support the regional harmonization of common proposals, as stated in Resolution 72 (WRC-97), for submission to administrative conferences;

* For editorial adjustments after consideration of CV118 and CV126.

3 to encourage both formal and informal collaboration in the interval between conferences with a view to resolving differences on new or conference agenda issues,

instructs the Director of the Radiocommunication Bureau

to seek advice from the Radiocommunication Advisory Group (RAG) on ways of improving the preparations for, and actual management during, world radiocommunication conferences, and report to WRC-2000 for its consideration,

instructs the Secretary-General

to encourage the participation of all members in addressing this issue.

INTERNATIONAL TELECOMMUNICATION UNION



PLENIPOTENTIARY CONFERENCE (PP-98)

Document 109-E
16 October 1998
Original: English

MINNEAPOLIS, 12 OCTOBER - 6 NOVEMBER 1998

COMMITTEE 4

FIRST SERIES OF TEXTS FROM COMMITTEE 5 TO THE EDITORIAL COMMITTEE

Committee 5 has adopted the following Resolution, which it submits to the Editorial Committee for consideration and subsequent transmission to the Plenary Meeting.

Mr. M. BOSSA
Chairperson

Annex: 1

Draft Resolution [COM5/1]

WORLD RADIOCOMMUNICATION CONFERENCE PROCESS

The Plenipotentiary Conference of the International Telecommunication Union
(Minneapolis, 1998),

considering

- a) that the agenda for WRC-2000 was approved by Council 98 and excluded those items covered by agenda 8 and that these items are not included in the agenda for the [2001] World Radiocommunication Conference in Resolution 722 (WRC-97);
- b) that the Radiocommunication Sector has experienced rapid technological growth and demand for new services is increasing rapidly in an environment that demands timely and efficient action,

considering further

- a) that WRC-97 saw many administrations submitting common regional proposals which greatly assisted in the efficiency of the conference proceedings;
- b) that informal groups and the general liaison between regions played an important role in smoothing the work of the Conference; and
- c) that Resolution 72 (WRC-97) invited this Plenipotentiary Conference to take appropriate measures to assist in regional preparations for world radiocommunication conferences,

noting

- a) [that this Plenipotentiary Conference implemented many of the ITU-2000 recommendations that are aimed at increasing the effectiveness of ITU in a rapidly changing environment;]
- b) that in accordance with Nos. 118 and 126 of the Convention, the general scope of a world radiocommunication conference cycle is based on a four-year period where agenda items requiring long periods of study can be nominated for a future conference, while those that may be studied in the two-year period can be placed on the agenda for the first conference in the cycle;
- c) that the draft Strategic Plan highlights a strategy to aim at more efficient radiocommunication conferences; and
- d) that the Radiocommunication Advisory Group indicated a preliminary intention at its next meeting to consider "re-engineering" conference procedures,

resolves

- 1 in principle that world radiocommunication conference preparations and administration, including budgetary appropriations, should be planned on the basis of two world radiocommunication conference cycles, where items included in the second world radiocommunication conference and for which study work is under way, be given priority when finalizing the agenda for the second cycle;

2 to support the regional harmonization of common proposals, as stated in Resolution 72 (WRC-97), for submission to administrative conferences; and

3 to encourage both formal and informal collaboration in the interval between conferences with a view to resolving differences on new, or conference agenda issues,

instructs the Director of the Radiocommunication Bureau

to seek advice from the Radiocommunication Advisory Group (RAG) on ways of improving the preparations for, and the actual management during, world radiocommunication conferences and report to WRC-2000 for its consideration,

instructs the Secretary General

to encourage the participation of all members in addressing this issue.

INTERNATIONAL TELECOMMUNICATION UNION



PLENIPOTENTIARY CONFERENCE (PP-98)

Document 110-E
16 October 1998
Original: English

MINNEAPOLIS, 12 OCTOBER - 6 NOVEMBER 1998

COMMITTEE 6

Report by the Chairperson of Committee 5 to the Committee 6

In accordance with the mandate of Committee 5 and for the purpose of transmitting to Committee 6 matters requiring amendments to the Constitution and Convention, I am pleased to report on the conclusions reached by Committee 5 on policy issues relating to ITU-2000 Recommendations 2, 4, 5, 6, 13, 15, 17 and 26.

Rec. 2 This recommendation, as an umbrella clause, was unanimously approved.

It is recommended that, in order to maintain its pre-eminent position in the telecommunication world and to meet the interests and expectations of existing members and encourage new members, the appropriate bodies within the ITU should implement the ITU-2000 recommendations as soon as possible, including the following:

- adoption of a project management approach where appropriate;
- assurance that all members are aware of their rights in relation to Sector activities and opportunities to participate in the work at all stages;
- the need for all members of the Sector to contribute to the priority setting process for the study activities within a Sector or Study Group;
- production of Recommendations including those related to world standards and other products on time to meet the needs of the marketplace;
- simplification of the methods used to change and implement new working methods of the ITU taking into account inputs from Member States and Sector Members.

Rec. 4 The principle of having one category of Sector Member is unanimously approved. However, to avoid ambiguity and give precise direction, Committee 5 agreed to amend the last sentence of recommendation 4 (*in italics*):

ITU-2000 recommends that there should be only one category of Sector Member which should be open to the widest range of entities commensurate with the aims of the ITU. The following entities are eligible to become Sector Members:

- a) Entities dealing with telecommunications, including multi-media, for example: Operating Agencies, Scientific or Industrial Organizations, Financial and Development Organizations.
- b) Regional or other international telecommunication, standardization, financial or development organizations.

In principle, all Sector Members of a given Sector should have equal rights and equal obligations within the given Sector.

Along with the above consensus, some Members identified a case for exception where only international organizations shall have the right to address WRC.

Rec. 5 Approving the basic principle of this recommendation, Committee 5 agreed on the following amendments:

- 1) The term "jurisdiction" needs to be replaced by "sovereignty".
- 2) The period of two months (see paragraph 3) should be changed to four months.
- 3) The words "within a period of four months" should also be included in paragraph 1, after the words "Member State".
- 4) Gender-neutral language should be used in relevant legal drafting.

ITU-2000 recognizes the sovereign right of each Member State, when applying the procedure for admission of Sector Members, to determine its own procedure and under what conditions the entities under its **jurisdiction** may apply to become a Sector Member¹. In this respect, a Member State may authorize entities under its **jurisdiction** to apply for one or more Sector(s) directly to the Secretary-General and in such case the following should apply:

When the Secretary-General receives an application from an entity under the **jurisdiction** of a Member State who authorized direct application to the Secretary-General, the latter shall, on the basis of criteria defined by the Council, ensure that the function and purposes of the candidate are in conformity with the purposes of the Union. He shall then without delay, inform the applicant's Member State inviting approval of the application.

1. If no objection is received from the Member State, the applicant will be informed that the application has been approved.
2. If an objection is received, the applicant will be invited to contact his Member State.
3. When a Member State has previously indicated to the Secretary-General that no reply from its side on an individual application should be considered as an acceptance, the applicant is considered as being approved upon expiry of a period of **two months** following the request by the Secretary-General.

The Secretary-General should regularly update and publish a list of those Member States having authorized entities under their **jurisdiction** to apply directly to him.

Rec. 6 Committee 5 approved the recommendation and the intention to attract new members and expertise. However, concern was expressed by several Members in regard to possible financial implications (potential Sector Members may prefer to become Associates). It was therefore agreed to draw the attention to Committee 7, which should address the issue as appropriate.

It is recommended that to increase participation by smaller entities in the work of a Sector a form of membership termed "Associate" should be established. Should an Assembly or Conference decide to admit an Associate in a Sector concerned, the following principles should apply :

1. the process for becoming an Associate should be the same as that applicable to a Sector Member of that Sector;
2. the rights of an Associate would include the right to participate in the work of one study group in a Sector, but excludes rights applicable to Sector Members including participation in the decision-making processes of the study group and study group liaison activities;
3. the level of financial contribution applicable to Associates should be such that it at least covers the full allocated cost of their participation.

¹ Entities not under the jurisdiction of the Member State would continue to follow the existing procedure (CV235, CV236) to become a Sector Member.

Rec. 13 Committee 5 only dealt with the first indent which was allocated to it.

It is recommended that, in relation to the rights of Member States who are in arrears:

- not to elect Member States in arrears to the Council, nor to any management bodies for Conferences;
- abolish the concept of special arrears accounts.

Through the discussion that took place, no consensus was reached. Following the suggestions made by some Members, the Committee 5 decided to report the Recommendation to the Plenary for further consideration.

Rec. 15 Committee 5 approved the principle of this Recommendation. However, the proposals related to the widening of participation by Sector Members in WRCs will be further addressed by ad hoc group 5/1, convened by Canada. Committee 5 will review its report on Monday 19 October.

It is recommended that for the purpose of widening the representation of Radiocommunication Sector participants at WRCs, the Radiocommunication Assembly (1997) consider the matter and prepare the contribution to the Council.

Rec. 17 Committee 5 approved this Recommendation. However, the point 7 should be amended in adding at the end "*tariffs and accounting rates issues*".

ITU-2000 recommends that, considering the need for approval of some Recommendations in a more flexible way than others, each Sector may extend its own working methods and procedures for the adoption of Questions and Recommendations to meet such needs using an alternative approval process. These working methods and procedures, where applicable, should be based on the following general principles:

1. Questions be adopted at a Study Group meeting on an equal footing by Member States and Sector Members participating in the meeting (for example, as presently done in the Standardization Sector).
2. The Study Group meeting should indicate at the time of approval of the Question whether the resulting Recommendation is to be approved by the alternative process.
3. The Questions, together with the designation of which approval process to be used should be notified to all Member States and Sector Members. Any resulting comments should be treated in accordance with the procedures adopted by the Sector.
4. When the alternative process is used, Recommendations should be approved by the Member States and Sector Members in a Study Group meeting on an equal footing, in accordance with the procedures adopted by the Sector.
5. Recommendations approved using the alternative process shall have the same status as Recommendations approved otherwise.
6. Each Sector shall develop guidelines to be followed by Study Groups when identifying the process to be applied for approval of each Recommendation.
7. The alternative process should not be used for Recommendations having policy or regulatory implications.

Also, the Committee 5 agreed to set up the ad hoc group 5/2 to consider the numbering issues related to the alternative process and whether the "*alternative process*" should also be applied in the Radiocommunication Sector.

Rec. 26 Committee 5 unanimously agreed that flexibility is needed concerning the interval between two WRCs and concluded the interval should be between two and three years.

It is recommended that consideration is given by future WRCs to the need to allow sufficient time for proper and thorough conference preparations to be made, when recommending the agenda and the date for the succeeding WRC, noting that the Convention allows flexibility in this regard.

The Resolution as proposed by Australia was approved and is submitted to Committee 4.



**PLENIPOTENTIARY
CONFERENCE (PP-98)**

**Corrigendum 1 to
Document 111-E
21 October 1998
Original: French**

MINNEAPOLIS, 12 OCTOBER - 6 NOVEMBER 1998

COMMITTEE 7

Lebanon

PROPOSALS FOR THE WORK OF THE CONFERENCE

Please replace draft Resolution [LBN-1] with the new text that follows:

DRAFT RESOLUTION [LBN-1]

**REMOVAL OF ALL LIMITATIONS ON THE USE OF ARABIC AS ONE OF THE
OFFICIAL LANGUAGES OF THE INTERNATIONAL TELECOMMUNICATION UNION**

The Plenipotentiary Conference of the International Telecommunication Union (Minneapolis, 1998),

considering

- a) the Constitution of ITU, and particularly its Article 29;
- b) the Convention of ITU;
- c) Resolutions 62 and 63 of the Plenipotentiary Conference (Kyoto, 1994),

recognizing

that there can be no denying the multinational, international and historic character of the Arabic language,

recognizing further

that the use without limitation of Arabic, an official language of ITU, on the same footing as French, English and Spanish, would have a very positive influence on the development of telecommunications and of knowledge in general in all countries in which Arabic is used as the first or second official language,

recalling

that the main purpose of the Union, as expressed in its Constitution, is to promote the development of telecommunications wherever possible, using all the means at its disposal,

noting

- a) that the extra cost in the budget resulting from the removal of all current limitations on the use of Arabic in the context of the Union's activities does not pose an insurmountable obstacle to implementation of the decision embodied in this resolution;
- b) that a number of Member States, and particularly Arab States, have already proposed an increase in their contributions to ITU with a view, *inter alia*, to facilitating implementation of the decision embodied in this resolution, such that it will have no detrimental effect on the state of the Union's finances,

resolves

- 1 that Arabic shall be removed from the group of official languages of the Union whose use is subject to limitations pursuant to Resolution 62 of the Plenipotentiary Conference (Kyoto, 1994), and that that resolution shall therefore be revised accordingly;
- 2 that a special inter-conference group (ICG) shall be established to follow up on the implementation of this resolution, having terms of reference as set forth in Annex 1 to this resolution, which forms an integral part hereof.
-

INTERNATIONAL TELECOMMUNICATION UNION



PLENIPOTENTIARY CONFERENCE (PP-98)

Document 111-E
14 October 1998
Original: French

MINNEAPOLIS, 12 OCTOBER - 6 NOVEMBER 1998

PLENARY MEETING
COMMITTEES 5, 6, 7

Lebanon

PROPOSALS FOR THE WORK OF THE CONFERENCE

General approach

All administrations participating in the work of PP-98 have in recent months been very actively engaged in a process of reflection and formulation of proposals that should enable the Conference to achieve important results. This work, done on different levels - national, regional and international - has been reinforced by the conclusions reached by the special groups created within ITU, and first and foremost by ITU-2000. There can be no doubt that all these administrations are fully aware of the major importance that the decisions to be taken and choices to be made in Minneapolis will have for the future of telecommunications worldwide.

The essential objective assigned by the ITU Constitution and Convention to any Plenipotentiary Conference is, in general terms, to:

- ensure the fullest respect for the ITU provisions in force, as approved by the Member States, and favour the introduction of any new provisions that may serve as a legal basis for the future strengthening of ITU, in accordance with the founding principles;
- draw up a global vision of the "telecommunications of the future" and reflect on the additional means with which the Council and the three Sectors of the Union should be provided to enable them to continue to play their role in developing this sector worldwide;
- designate by means of elections those individuals to whom will be entrusted the very great responsibility of managing ITU and, if necessary, redefine the content of their respective mandates;
- indicate the major themes to which ITU should devote its attention in the interval between conferences.

On the basis of the preliminary examination that the administrations of all the ITU regions have made of the items on the agenda of PP-98, it is clear that the subjects on which the delegates in Minneapolis will need to focus their attention are as follows:

- today's major **technological** upheavals (development of "low-earth-orbit satellite constellation" systems and of new optical-fibre-based technologies), thanks to which a very wide range of services (including mobile telephony, rural telephony, high-speed Internet and direct broadcasting) is already available, and will be increasingly supplied, to people the world over;
- the major **structural** upheavals (globalization: WTO agreements and/or full liberalization of the sector in all countries of the world) currently taking place in the telecommunication sector;

These trends must be fully taken into account by ITU in the elaboration and implementation of its strategy for the next five years, in such a way that these major upheavals do not have a detrimental effect on the well-being of peoples, but rather contribute to enhancing that well-being; and also in such a way that the specific solutions adopted for distributing the huge revenues that will be generated over the coming years by the development of telecommunication activities will enable all Member States to benefit in one way or another.

- improving the effectiveness of ITU through better definition of the objectives and periodicity of the conferences and meetings held under its auspices, and by strengthening of its financial bases;
- the role of the Sector Members in strengthening ITU's capacity for action through a more comprehensive definition of their rights (greater consideration for their needs, leading to a new status) and responsibilities (financial, economic and technical).

The Conference should study these matters and take corresponding concrete decisions. These topics have already been under discussion for a long time within the different ITU groups and results have already been achieved on many points. PP-98 must allow itself as much time as possible for their consideration, but without making the workload so heavy that it becomes a major burden, particularly for the representatives of developing country administrations. The best way to proceed would be to avoid getting caught up in endless discussions of substance on matters already discussed by WRC-97, WTDC-98 or the 1998 Council, or which could be dealt with by forthcoming Sector conferences.

Lebanon's proposals to PP-98 have been drawn up with a constant eye to meeting the general objectives set out above.

Radio Regulations Board (RRB)

Like many other countries, and particularly all Arab countries, Lebanon recognizes the crucial importance of the role that is played by RRB within ITU, and wishes to see its activities furthered.

Lebanon is not directly concerned by the discussion that is currently under way on the membership of RRB and which concerns the decision as to whether to change its existing composition to enable the Americas Region to increase its membership of RRB from one to two, and is not opposed to that in principle.

For this reason, it is proposed:

LBN/111/1

- **that the membership of RRB be increased from the present nine to twelve members, currently distributed according to the administrative regions of ITU (A, B, C, D and E), with in all cases an increase by one unit of the number of representatives from Administrative Regions D and E;**

Indeed, this solution seems to be the only one possible, given the problems that will always be posed by having to distribute nine representatives among five regions - themselves not homogeneous - without generating legitimate frustrations. The proposed figure of twelve members - an increase of 33% - would make it possible to avoid the kind of situation that currently prevails, without incurring major additional expenditure.

LBN/111/2

- **that PP-98 be requested to include on the agenda of WRC-00 a study of the means and procedures to be introduced within RRB to increase its effectiveness and transparency.**

It would appear essential to increase the effectiveness and transparency of the working and decision-making methods used by RRB. In that regard, it is considered that the decisions adopted by WRC-97 on the matter, while having constituted genuine progress, are certainly inadequate, and that more needs to be done. On that understanding, Lebanon would have proposals to put forward to the effect that the procedures whereby ITU Member administrations submit cases to RRB should be simplified in order to make the whole process more speedy and direct.

Interval between WRCs

There is clearly much support among ITU Member administrations for increasing the interval between WRCs. For example, the decision by the 1998 Council to postpone the next WRC, initially scheduled for October 1999, to the first half of 2000 has given rise to no serious objections.

Furthermore, the new services proposed by systems to which WRC envisages giving its support can only properly be introduced if the necessary prior studies can be completed. However, recent experiences have shown that the complexity of the issues which have to be studied, coupled with the fullness of WRC agendas, often makes it impossible to arrive at final conclusions within the normal interval of eighteen months.

LBN/111/3

- **It is therefore proposed that the interval between WRCs be increased to three years.**

Languages

There are currently two groups, each of three languages, which constitute the languages officially in use at ITU. The first group - French, English and Spanish - comprises the official languages of ITU. The second group - Arabic, Russian and Chinese - comprises the working languages of ITU, i.e. those for which simultaneous interpretation is available at meetings of certain special groups set up within the Union.

A study of the criteria on the basis of which the above choices would appear to have been made points to the possibility of improving the present situation, particularly in so far as Arabic is concerned. Arabic is spoken on the five continents ("internationality" of the Arabic language). It is the official language of the 22 Arab Member States of ITU and the second official language of several dozen other Member States, particularly Muslim countries ("multinationality" of the Arab language). There can be no doubt whatsoever that Arabic is a language that was chosen by history to play an eminent, not to mention predominant, role in the development and transmission of knowledge and the applied sciences to the whole of humanity ("historical significance" of the Arab

language). On the basis of each of these criteria, there can be no doubt that Arabic presents the type of characteristics which should result in its being accorded the same rights as those enjoyed by the three official languages of ITU, and that there is no reason for the situation being otherwise.

The conclusion arrived at by the Working Group on the use of languages set up by the Plenipotentiary Conference (Kyoto, 1994) and presided over by the Secretary-General of ITU are such as to permit a fairly accurate estimate of the additional expenditure that would result from the addition of Arabic to the three existing official languages of ITU. The conclusions show that the additional expenditure would not represent an insurmountable obstacle to the addition of Arabic, particularly since the Arab administrations are ready as a matter of principle to increase their financial contribution to ITU if that were to be conducive to acceptance of their position concerning adoption of Arabic as an official language of the Union.

Finally, acceptance of this proposal regarding the Arabic language, which would thus become the first non-Latin language to be incorporated in the group of official languages of the Union, would give our organization an image of progress, justice and equity and cultural universalism, that is, an image fully in line with the basic principles expressed in the Constitution and Convention of ITU. It would open the way to progress in the standardization of Arabic and Persian characters, thereby favouring the development and direct transmission of electronic messages without the need for decoding. For the peoples concerned, it would amount to a decisive step in favour of the future development and transmission of knowledge in their countries.

LBN/111/4

- **It is proposed that PP-98 should adopt the following Resolution:**

DRAFT RESOLUTION PP-98 [LBN-1]

**INCORPORATION OF ARABIC AS ONE OF THE OFFICIAL LANGUAGES
OF THE INTERNATIONAL TELECOMMUNICATION UNION**

The Plenipotentiary Conference of the International Telecommunication Union
(Minneapolis, 1998),

considering

- a) the Constitution of ITU, and particularly its Article 29;
- b) the Convention of ITU, and particularly its Article 35;
- c) Resolutions 62 and 63 of the Plenipotentiary Conference (Kyoto, 1994),

recognizing

that there can be no denying the multinational, international and historical character of the Arabic language,

recognizing further

that the incorporation of Arabic as an official language of ITU on the same footing as French, English and Spanish would have a very positive influence on the development of telecommunications and of knowledge in general in all countries in which Arabic is used as the first or second official language,

recalling

that the main purpose of the Union, as expressed in its Constitution, is to promote the development of telecommunications wherever possible, using all the means at its disposal,

noting

- a) that the extra cost in the budget resulting from the inclusion of Arabic within the group of official languages of ITU is not an insurmountable obstacle to implementation of the decision embodied in this Resolution;
- b) that a number of Member States, and particularly Arab States, have proposed an increase in their contributions to ITU to facilitate implementation of the decision embodied in this Resolution, such that it will have no detrimental effect on the state of the Union's finances,

resolves

- 1 that Arabic shall be an official language of the Union, with all that this implies for the basic instruments of the Union;
- 2 that a special inter-conference group (ICG) shall be established to facilitate the implementation of this Resolution.

Elections

The main election that the Heads of delegation of administrations taking part in an ITU Plenipotentiary Conference are called upon to conduct is that of the Secretary-General.

When the present Secretary-General was elected at the Kyoto Plenipotentiary Conference in 1994, there was no competition in that there was only one candidate. Accordingly, that Conference sought to save time by grouping together the election of the Secretary-General and that of the Deputy Secretary-General.

For the election of the next Secretary-General at the 1998 Plenipotentiary Conference, however, there are several candidates in the running, which makes for a very different situation to the one that existed in Kyoto in 1994. In particular, if the elections of the new Secretary-General and Deputy Secretary-General were once again to be grouped together, this could in theory have the result of the Deputy Secretary-General being elected before the Secretary-General.

In that situation, some Heads of delegation could well be influenced in their choice of Secretary-General by the result of the election of the new Deputy Secretary-General, which would not serve ITU's fundamental interests. Overall, it is more logical to select the Secretary-General first before selecting his or her Deputy.

Accordingly, in order to save as much time as possible in conducting the overall election process, it is proposed:

LBN/111/5

- **that the elections of the new Secretary-General and Deputy Secretary-General be conducted separately;**

LBN/111/6

- **that the election of the Secretary-General be conducted first;**

LBN/111/7

- **that the same procedures as those adopted by the 1994 Kyoto Conference be used for the elections to the other elected official posts, incorporating the amendments proposed in regard to RRB;**

LBN/111/8

- **that firm and definitive rules be laid down for elections.**

Advisory groups: RAG, TDAB, TSAG

WTDC-98 decided to change the name of TDAB to TDAG, and to open the work of that Group to all ITU Members. That decision is supported by Lebanon. We also support the ITU-2000 proposals regarding RAG and TSAG, and particularly the proposal to include the responsibilities of those two Groups in the Convention.

World telecommunication policy forum (WTPF)

Lebanon considers the results of the first two WTPFs to be very positive for all ITU Member States, and particularly for the developing countries. Provision should be made to give WTPF a stable basis and ensure that it will continue to be held. It is therefore proposed:

LBN/111/9

- **that the importance of WTPFs be reflected in the Convention;**

LBN/111/10

- **that a decision be taken to hold a WTPF, of six days' duration, every three years;**

LBN/111/11

- **that the Council be given the task of convening the Forum and deciding on its exact dates and venue.**

Plenipotentiary Conferences

Plenipotentiary Conferences should, as a rule, avoid including on their agendas matters that could be resolved at other, lower levels within ITU, particularly at a WRC or WTDC.

In addition, the Council should establish more precisely the general subject matter to be considered and debated by Plenipotentiary Conferences, so as to prevent the agendas of Plenipotentiary Conferences from becoming excessively full by eliminating the need for them to make decisions on technical issues.

Lebanon proposes that, in future, Plenipotentiary Conferences be devoted primarily to:

- elections;
- the financial situation of ITU;
- giving guidance to the three Sectors of ITU and to the Council;
- political issues relating to the Constitution and the Convention of ITU (sovereignty of States, equitable management of resources, strategic plan and financial plan, gender issues, assistance to least developed countries).

ITU-2000 recommendations concerning amendments to the Constitution and the Convention

We support overall the ITU-2000 recommendations in this regard. Lebanon does feel, however, that these recommendations do not go far enough on certain issues, particularly everything having to do with:

- the future status of Sector Members;
- ITU's role in accompanying the transition towards full liberalization of the telecommunication sector in developing countries;
- appropriate ways of strengthening the Union's financial stability, which will require amendments to the Constitution and the Convention in order to be implemented.

Lebanon believes that the 1998 Plenipotentiary Conference should focus on strengthening the conclusions to which the ITU-2000 recommendations lead on this point.

Regional presence of ITU

The matter of ITU's regional presence is of particular interest to Lebanon. Up to now, the establishment of a regional presence has been conceived principally according to an approach based on "geographic decentralization", i.e. the establishment of regional offices of ITU to which certain responsibilities would be delegated that the regional offices would then discharge on behalf of ITU vis-à-vis the countries in the region concerned.

In the light of recent years' experience, Lebanon considers this approach to be counter-productive, and proposes that the whole issue be revisited.

The great drawback to this approach is that, of necessity, it winds up creating an intermediate level of decision-making and responsibility between ITU and the administrations of the Member States. The fundamental issue is determining what level of responsibility will be given to these regional offices.

If, in order to justify the existence of ITU's regional offices, it were decided to give them increasingly important responsibilities - which would in consequence be responsibilities that ITU would no longer assume directly, as proposed by certain administrations - many difficulties would arise vis-à-vis the administrations of the countries in the region concerned, while the activities of these regional offices in the long run would not escape the effects of foreseeable budget constraints.

On the other hand, if these regional offices were intended simply to serve as liaison offices between ITU and the administrations of the Member States, this would be an unnecessary function given the capabilities of electronic mail, and a far too costly one.

The central question is whether the presence of a given ITU regional office contributes significantly to strengthening cooperation between all the States in the region, on the one hand, and ITU, on the other, or whether, on the contrary, it has the opposite result. The answer to this question depends on the level and nature of the responsibilities entrusted to that regional office.

In addition, there are other important constraints, which will always be present, with regard to the cost, the status of the directors of regional offices and the choice of one country over another to be the site of a regional office.

Lebanon believes that a different approach needs to be taken in regard to ITU's regional presence, an approach which is more dynamic and centres on strengthening direct collaboration between ITU and the administration of each Member State, and especially each developing Member State.

The resources that ITU can devote to strengthening its regional presence should be used to coordinate the support provided to the various administrations for implementing and carrying out the resolutions adopted at WRCs and WTDCs.

It is proposed:

LBN/111/12

- **that the 1998 Plenipotentiary Conference establish a working group to identify the various approaches that could be used to strengthen ITU's regional presence, with the first objective being to maximize the effects of this presence on the administration of each Member State;**

LBN/111/13

- **that the conclusions reached by WTDC-98 and by ITU-2000 on the role that could be assigned to ITU-D and to BDT in particular for proposing solutions to this end be taken into account by this working group.**

Strategic Plan

Lebanon proposes that the Conference adopt the Strategic Plan drawn up by the Working Group of the Council, incorporating the amendments decided upon by WTDC-98, without the Conference debating questions of substance that have already been taken up on several occasions and yielded conclusions that have been widely accepted.

Council observers

The existing practice of permitting the administrations of ITU Member States that are not Members of the Council to participate in the Council's work as observers has proven very positive, and has not produced the confusion once feared as to the quality of the deliberations. It would be advisable to extend the activities in which observers are permitted to engage to include the submission of information documents, as WRC observers are permitted to do.

The Council should also be permitted to ask the administration of a country which is not a Council Member to provide its point of view on an issue being discussed by the Council.

It is proposed:

LBN/111/14

- **that the Convention be amended to reflect the right granted to the administrations of all ITU Member States to participate in the debates and discussions of the Council, and to submit contributions for information on any matter in which an administration believes it has a specific interest and which is included on the Council's agenda;**

LBN/111/15

- **that participation in decision-making by the Council be excluded from these rights.**

WRC observers

It was apparent at the most recent WRCs, and particularly WRC-95 and WRC-97, that certain Sector Members were heavily involved and undertook major lobbying efforts to persuade the Conference to support the regulatory positions introduced on their behalf by the administrations of certain major industrialized countries. Moreover, at the last two WRCs, it was noted that a single Sector Member could have direct representatives within several delegations; indeed, this was the case with several Sector Members.

One of the consequences of this new situation was increased concern and apprehension on the part of many delegates, particularly delegates from developing countries, in view of the general risk that introducing these new methods within the framework of regulatory deliberations could have on the work of ITU.

On the other hand, the fact cannot be overlooked that Sector Members have regulatory objectives that must legitimately be taken into account, particularly when one bears in mind that most large telecommunication projects are promoted by Sector Members.

There is a need, therefore, to increase the transparency of participation by Sector Members in the work of WRCs, and to this end it is proposed:

LBN/111/16

- **that the ITU-2000 recommendation to the effect that Sector Members be authorized to attend WRC meetings as observers be supported;**

LBN/111/17

- **that Sector Members be authorized to submit information documents, in their own name, on any matter in which their interests are at stake and which is included on the Conference agenda;**

LBN/111/18

- **that the chairperson of a WRC be given the power to approve or deny any request submitted to him or her by a Sector Member wishing to address the Conference directly, provided that all such requests must be supported by at least two administrations, which must enter their names on the request itself;**

LBN/111/19

- **that the presence of a representative of a private firm on a delegation sent by an administration to a WRC not be accepted unless that administration has previously notified ITU-R that that private firm belongs to ITU-R by virtue of being a Sector Member.**

Financial matters, and Kyoto Resolutions 15 and 39

The ITU-2000 recommendations in this regard are of the greatest interest, and on the whole Lebanon supports them. However, the Plenipotentiary Conference can and should go further in considering measures to be taken in order to place ITU's financial situation on a sound footing, for this is the most important issue facing the Conference.

In this connection, Lebanon proposes:

LBN/111/20

- **that a decision be taken to establish a working group, reporting to the Secretary-General, charged with resolving, by all appropriate means, the issue of arrears in the contributions owed by various administrations to ITU;**

It should be possible to devise arrangements for paying off these arrears gradually or for financing them in the medium or long term. The working group should focus in particular on the situation of the least developed countries so as to resolve the issue of the arrears owed by these countries, while ensuring that the effective exercise of their rights as Member States not be suspended.

LBN/111/21

- **that the existing system based on free choice of class of contribution by Member States be changed;**

The existing system should be replaced by a system that takes various weighting factors into account for determining the number of contributory units owed by a given administration, so as to create an elasticity between a country's financial contribution and the overall benefit it derives from its participation in the work of ITU's three Sectors. One of these weighting criteria should be the number of Sector Members notified by the country's administration.

On this point, the ITU-2000 recommendation must be rejected.

This elasticity should not be a precisely proportional mathematical relationship, nor even necessarily a linear relationship; and it needs to be progressive so as to give administrations an incentive to register as many Sector Members as possible and encourage small and medium-sized enterprises to ask their administration to register them as Sector Members without fear of incurring excessive financial obligations by doing so.

LBN/111/22

- **that a new contribution system be instituted for Sector Members.**

The new system should be aimed both at increasing the proportion of ITU's total budget accounted for by contributions from Sector Members, the target being an increase from the present level of less than 13 per cent to 35 per cent by the end of 2002 and 50 per cent by the end of 2005, and at rationalizing Sector Members' participation in the work of ITU's three Sectors.

To this end, it is necessary first and foremost to introduce an exact proportional relationship between the number of contributory units payable by a Sector Member and the number of delegates that that Sector Member decides to send to participate in the work of ITU's different Sectors.

A list of these delegates should be sent to the General Secretariat not later than 31 January of each year, with the list being open to revision at any time. Any change to the list, in order to be valid, must be communicated by registered letter with advice of delivery, and would automatically alter the amount of the contributions payable by the Sector Member: it would be understood that any notification of a new delegate being designated will automatically result in one full month being billed (1/12 of the annual contribution due on behalf of a delegate), and that any removal of a name from the list of designated delegates will result in a cessation of billing for that delegate beginning the month following receipt of the notification by the General Secretariat.

However, it is important not to discourage the possibility of having the same Sector Member registered by several administrations if such is the Sector Member's wish. Indeed, ITU's internal administrative procedures must take account of and reflect economic realities to the greatest extent possible, and particularly the alliances now being concluded worldwide.

Role of the notifying administration

Time and time again it has been observed, within both the Radiocommunication Bureau and the Telecommunication Development Bureau, that the responsibilities of a notifying administration seeking frequencies to develop its networks, or of an ITU-D Sector Member, both before and after notification, are not spelt out clearly enough. This is particularly the case when notification regarding the system is being given by one administration acting on behalf of a group of administrations, or when such notification is being given on behalf of a private group which is itself registered as an ITU-D Sector Member by several administrations.

Lebanon proposes:

LBN/111/23

- **that the Conference ask WRC-00 and the next WTDC to place the matter of the responsibility of notifying administrations vis-à-vis Sector Members on their agendas.**

Equality of treatment of GSO and non-GSO networks

Lebanon proposes:

LBN/111/24

- **that all appropriate changes be made to the Constitution and the Convention so as to provide for geostationary systems and non-geostationary systems to be treated equally in all matters concerning the use of frequencies, the right to protection and the obligation to abide by existing procedures.**
-

INTERNATIONAL TELECOMMUNICATION UNION



PLENIPOTENTIARY CONFERENCE (PP-98)

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16 October 1998
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MINNEAPOLIS, 12 OCTOBER - 6 NOVEMBER 1998

PLENARY MEETING

MINUTES

OF THE

SECOND PLENARY MEETING

Tuesday, 13 October 1998, at 0945 hours

Chairperson: Mr. Thomas SIEBERT (United States)

Subjects discussed

- 1 General policy statements

Documents

-

1 General policy statements

1.1 The **Chairman** invited participants to make general statements, observing the recommendations concerning the conduct of proceedings set out in Document 86. The list of speakers had been drawn up in the following order: ministers, deputy-ministers, under-secretaries, Heads of delegation, observers.

1.2 **H.E. Shaikh Ali bin Khalifa Al-Khalifa, Minister of Transportation, Bahrain**, expressed appreciation of ITU's work, which had assisted in establishing a framework for providing reliable, affordable telecommunication services on a global scale. The task of the conference was now to establish ITU policies and strategies for the future in order to achieve a clear, balanced approach that would be of benefit to all countries. Privatization and liberalization had led to an improvement in telecommunications in developing countries, and also to a significant drop in prices, thus increasing demand. He welcomed the discussion of new policies within the framework of the World Telecommunication Policy Forum, as well as greater cooperation with other organizations, in particular with the World Trade Organization (WTO), not only in order to abolish trade barriers but also to promote exchange of expertise and information and to establish a harmonized environment for the telecommunication industry. Regarding the global information infrastructure, ITU should maintain its leadership role and main objectives, while seeking to satisfy market needs.

1.3 **H.E. Mr. John Manley, Minister of Industry, Canada**, expressing his country's continuing commitment to the work of ITU, gave a brief summary of the conclusions of the ministerial conference of the Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD) recently held in Ottawa, which had marked a step forward in the development of a global framework for electronic commerce, establishing common objectives relating to matters such as privacy, consumer protection, authentication and taxation. ITU, with its global membership and expertise, could be instrumental in ensuring that domestic policies were compatible with the needs of global electronic commerce. The universal interconnectivity which his country was striving to achieve at national level should be extended to all countries, especially the developing countries. Partnership was essential to achieve that objective, and ITU was well placed to play a key role.

1.4 **Hon. Ismail Shafeeu, Minister of Transport and Communications, Maldives**, said that, although the current reforms in telecommunications policy and structures in the developing countries, as reflected in commercialization of operation, competition and private sector participation, varied according to the economic level of the country, the common fundamental goal was universal access to basic telecommunications services at affordable prices. Outlining the positive developments in his country since the separation of the regulatory and operational functions, he endorsed the programmes within the Valletta Action Plan, particularly the development of rural telecommunications and human resources. If an interconnected global economy was to be created, it was essential that the benefits of new telecommunication technologies should reach all parts of the world. ITU and regional telecommunication organizations should provide forums for coordination, exchange of information and harmonization of national, regional and international telecommunication policies, with ITU playing a catalytic role in that process.

1.5 **Hon. John Nasasira, Minister of Works, Housing and Communications, Uganda**, stressing the growing importance of communication and information technology in the economic and social development of nations, gave a brief description of progress in the telecommunication sector in his country over the past four years, largely as a result of restructuring, new legislation, liberalization, private sector investment and the implementation of the resolutions and

recommendations of the 1994 Plenipotentiary Conference. Uganda also attached particular importance to the resolutions of the World Telecommunication Development Conference (WTDC), concerning special programmes for the least developed countries, issues relating to alternative calling procedures and apportionment of revenues in international services, and financial support for national spectrum management programmes. Regarding the World Radiocommunication Conference, the matter of paper satellites was of particular concern. It was important that, with the increasing participation of the private sector in telecommunications, ITU should play a key role in regulation, in particular by assisting developing countries to establish their own regulatory bodies. Coordination between ITU and WTO was also important to ensure that all countries would stand to benefit from trade in telecommunications.

1.6 **H.E. Dr. Mai Lien Truc, Minister of Posts and Telecommunications, Viet Nam**, said that rapidly expanding world telecommunications would provide the essential infrastructure for the development of cultural, social, political and economic activities worldwide, and stressed the close links between telecommunications and global trade. A matter of major importance was the communication gap between developed and developing countries. Although that gap had narrowed significantly since the 1994 Plenipotentiary Conference, new gaps within the telecommunication sector were presenting fresh challenges: the information gap between developed and developing countries created by the difference in accessibility to the global information infrastructure, especially the Internet; the trading gap resulting from the rapid growth in electronic commerce; the infrastructure gap between countries using the new multimedia techniques and those which were still unaware of such convergence; and the competitiveness gap between market-driven countries and those where telecommunication liberalization and competition were not yet taken seriously. The conference should focus on closing existing and new gaps and on paving the way for telecommunication development strategies in the twenty-first century.

1.7 **H.E. Ms. Claudia de Francisco, Minister of Communications, Colombia**, said that the conference was meeting to discuss the advent of a new society, creating high hopes for rapid progress through the development of the telecommunications sector as well as deep anxieties owing to the slow rate of change in the developing world. As the report of a recent forum on basic services convened by the Inter-American Telecommunications Commission showed, the situation had barely improved since 1985. The big difference was that telecommunications authorities were now fully aware of the gravity of the deficit. In that context she recalled President Mandela's appeal for a new vision based on certain fundamental principles, primarily the right to universal access to telecommunications, which her Administration fully supported. ITU had always worked to promote the progressive development of telecommunications and must now be given the resources it needed to meet the challenges of the twenty-first century. The proposals of the countries composing CITELE would be found in Document 59. It was time to reflect on the development of a more just society, in which telecommunications had a fundamental part to play.

1.8 **H.E. Mr. Kabindra Purkayastha, Minister of State for Communications, India**, said that globalization, privatization and competition were the key themes of the present-day telecommunications environment. His Government recognized the need for private-sector involvement as well as the sovereign right of each State to regulate its own telecommunications sector. In that context, he firmly believed that the intergovernmental character of the Union should be fully maintained. The radio-frequency spectrum and the geostationary orbit had to be used efficiently and economically, providing equitable access to all Member States, which implied a spirit of mutual understanding and cooperation. ITU had been doing excellent work in that area. His own country had taken various steps towards increased competition and efficiency, basing its national policy on the principle that telecommunication should be for all. To that end various

services had been opened up to the private sector. India had achieved impressive growth in software development and export, and there had been steady progress in space technology. A second series of geostationary satellites would soon be launched. A sound manufacturing base had been established in both the government and the private sector, and India would like to share its expertise with other countries.

1.9 **H.E. Mr. Byong-Yub Ahn, Vice-Minister of Information and Communication, Republic of Korea**, said that the signing of the WTO Basic Agreement had unleashed an unprecedented level of competition as nations strove to adapt to the new environment by strengthening their competitiveness, liberalizing their markets and privatizing key corporations. After outlining the progress of innovation in his own country, he stressed the efforts being made to facilitate investment. Thanks to the cooperation and support offered by Member States of ITU, the Republic of Korea had been able to develop its domestic telecommunications sector and was now ready to repay that assistance by implementing a variety of programmes in neighbouring countries in such areas as human resources development, technical training and modernization. The Union was to be commended on the significant role it had played in meeting the demands of a changing environment through ceaseless improvements and reforms. His country would like to continue to be a Member of the Council and he appealed to all participants for their support.

1.10 **H.E. Mr. Abdallah Abdillahi Miguil, Minister of Transport and Telecommunications, Djibouti**, drew attention to recent technological developments that had profoundly modified the structure and methods of organization and management of telecommunications networks. Public monopolies were giving way to more customer-oriented structures. The creation of WTO and the entry into force of the Basic Agreement were landmarks in the new telecommunications environment, which posed a challenge to ITU. The Union had responded by adopting at the Kyoto Plenipotentiary Conference a strategic plan that it was making a determined effort to implement. To that end, it should consolidate the multilateral basis of its activities, take into account current sectoral developments marked by the active participation of private enterprise, help the developing countries to reorganize their networks and operators, and make the best possible use of its resources. In that connection, he laid special emphasis on the importance of the Development Sector and concluded by outlining the efforts his Government was making to develop its telecommunications sector and to introduce institutional and regulatory reforms.

1.11 **H.E. Mr. Jichuan Wu, Minister, Ministry of Information Industry, China**, said that in order to meet the challenges of the future it was essential to develop the information industry and build new infrastructures, bearing in mind that the development of the global information infrastructure depended on that of national infrastructures. In that connection he highlighted the efforts being made in China, in particular the establishment of his own ministry, which was responsible for planning the information and telecommunication industry on a market-oriented basis. Efforts were also needed to strengthen international cooperation in order to narrow the gap between the information haves and have-nots. He therefore appealed to the developed countries and the international financing institutions to set up partnerships on an equal and mutually beneficial basis. ITU should play an active role in that process. It should also endeavour, *inter alia*, to accelerate the global interconnection of national networks, conduct research on new services, study the strategies of the information industry, encourage Member States to jointly develop data communication standards, carry out experiments on transnational interconnection on a voluntary basis, redouble its efforts to devise international standards for electronic trade, and study the cost of information services and reasonable charging systems. Lastly, he hoped that ITU would be able to improve its efficiency through internal management reform. It was gratifying to note that the proposed strategic plan attached due importance to those issues.

1.12 **H.E. Ms. Tamboura O. Ascofare, Minister of Communication, Mali**, said that recent changes in the global telecommunication environment posed a severe challenge to the developing countries, which accordingly placed high hopes in the results of the conference. Its major tasks were to revise the basic instruments, determine policies and strategies for the next four years and elect candidates with a clear vision of the future. Mali would prefer to maintain the intergovernmental character of ITU, with greater participation by the private sector. In that connection, it was clear that the development of the global telecommunication infrastructure depended on national, subregional and regional development, to which the opening up of markets could contribute, provided that free competition was not fettered. The developing countries should give priority to a minimum basic service to support health, education and the preservation of cultural diversity, calling on ITU, other United Nations bodies and all interested parties for assistance. In particular, the international community should create a solidarity fund to help countries in difficulties to set up emergency networks. She supported the restructuring envisaged in the strategic plan, believing that the future success of ITU would largely depend on reforming the methods of work of the three Sectors. Lastly, she informed the participants that Mali was liberalizing its telecommunications sector with the active support of ITU and in cooperation with the World Bank.

1.13 **H.E. Mr. Ratu Inoke Kubuabola, Minister for Communications, Works and Energy, Fiji**, said that, in the next millennium, telecommunication development would continue to be a challenge for small island countries with developing economies, such as Fiji, and he hoped that the gap between developed and developing countries would decrease significantly. Although the advice provided by the developed countries on such matters as market liberalization and reform of the international accounting rate regime was welcome, there appeared to be a tendency to assume that the same policies and even market prices could be applied to the developing countries. But because of the low population density of countries in the South Pacific, the costs of delivering telecommunication services bore no comparison to the cost of delivery in a large metropolitan city. It was encouraging to note that various ways of reforming the international rate structure were being suggested, including the models emerging from ITU-T Study Group 3, and he was confident that a balanced and multilateral solution to the problem could be found. Lastly, it would be useful if the small island countries had a voice in the Council.

1.14 **H.E. Mr. Jean-Michel Moulod, Minister of Economic Infrastructures, Côte d'Ivoire**, said that it was essential for the Union to adapt to the global changes in the telecommunication environment while encouraging the increased involvement of the private sector and strengthening its financial base in order to remain the focus for telecommunication matters. Although developing Member States suffered from a shortage of resources which hindered access to basic telecommunication services, each country was finding solutions to bridge the gap between urban and rural areas, and the gap between the developed and developing countries was being narrowed. Having outlined some of the steps taken in his country to liberalize the national telecommunication market and the results achieved, he said that cooperation with the private sector was essential for telecommunication development and the efficient use of limited resources. Cooperation at the national level offered a way for ITU to work with the private sector without threatening the Union's intergovernmental nature. Although greater participation of the private sector would help to finance more ITU activities, Member States were still required to contribute to the Union. There was a need for a comparative study of the size of contributions and the benefits derived for each Member State or Sector Member, to allow for informed decisions to be taken on class of contribution.

1.15 **H.E. Mr. Mohamad Radwan Martini, Minister of Communication, Syria**, outlined some of his country's efforts to develop the telecommunication sector with a view to spreading modern telecommunications and narrowing the gap between urban and rural areas. As a central

transit country in the Middle East, Syria was attempting to use its position and the opportunities offered by telecommunications to promote cooperation and bring nations closer together. Furthermore, every effort was being made to benefit from scientific developments in order to bridge the gap between Syria and the developed countries. He hoped that ITU would continue its efforts to find practical and equitable solutions to the accounting rate issue and further its work to enhance the telecommunication services in the developing countries. Lastly, he hoped that Syria's candidacy for membership of the Council would receive support.

1.16 H.E. Dr. Antoni Slavinski, Minister of Posts and Telecommunications, Bulgaria, said that the organization of events such as policy forums and seminars for the exchange of experience and opinions on highly topical telecommunication issues, the conclusion of memoranda of understanding, such as GMPCS-MoU, and the WTO Basic Agreement were an indication of the new direction that ITU was taking. Having emphasized the need to work towards a liberalized telecommunications market and ensure the high quality and accessibility of services, he outlined some of the steps taken to reform the telecommunication sector in Bulgaria, where several private operators were providing telecommunication services and the main national operator was currently being privatized. Over the past twenty years, Bulgaria had become a more active participant in the work of the Union and in the development of its policy and strategy. There should be equal participation of Member States in the work of the Union and of Sector Members in the work of the different sectors, irrespective of their geographical position, economic power or the size of their financial contributions.

1.17 H.E. Mr. Giri. S. Hadihardjono, Minister of Communications, Indonesia, said that there had been many changes in the telecommunication field since the Kyoto Plenipotentiary Conference in 1994. Drawing attention to some of the steps taken at the international level, such as the WTO Basic Agreement, to ensure that all countries could benefit from the newly developed technologies, he noted that the advantages of the Internet were increasingly being enjoyed by the developing countries. Information and knowledge had become the primary factors in social and economic development, and would constitute the challenges of the future. ITU needed to be strong, innovative and efficient in order to meet those challenges. In that context, he appealed for support for the candidacy of Mr. Parapak, one of the most prominent figures in the field of telecommunications in Indonesia, for the post of Secretary-General. Lastly, he emphasized the importance of regional cooperation for progress in the area of telecommunications and hoped that the decisions taken by the conference would be of benefit to the developing countries while also proving satisfactory to the developed countries.

The meeting rose at 1230 hours.

The Secretary-General:
Pekka TARJANNE

The Chairperson:
Thomas SIEBERT

INTERNATIONAL TELECOMMUNICATION UNION



PLENIPOTENTIARY CONFERENCE (PP-98)

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MINNEAPOLIS, 12 OCTOBER - 6 NOVEMBER 1998

PLENARY MEETING

Note by the Secretary-General

INFORMATION PAPER

I have the honour to bring to the attention of the Conference the annexed information paper from the Palestinian Authority.

Pekka TARJANNE
Secretary-General

Annex: 1

**Palestinian National Authority
Ministry of Post & Telec.**

SUPPORT FOR THE PALESTINIAN AUTHORITY

It is widely recognized that, in its main areas of activity, the International Telecommunication Union's overall strategy for the developing and new countries consists in strengthening and delivering assistance for integrated socio-economic and cultural development.

The Palestinian Authority has the task, in the Gaza Strip and the West Bank, of putting in place the infrastructure for harmonious economic and social development, including telecommunication networks and services.

Resolution 32 of the Plenipotentiary Conference (Kyoto, 1994) clearly stated that it was necessary and urgent to grant Palestine assistance in information, informatics and communication.

Despite the combined efforts of ITU-D and UNESCO, the establishment of a telecommunication network has not produced the expected results and has not met the aspirations of the people of Palestine in respect of telecommunication services.

Technical and financial assistance is still clearly a central concern for the implementation of BDT projects to improve and develop the Palestinian telecommunication network and services and to develop the skills that are needed to operate and maintain these networks and services.

Herein the Palestinian Authority would like to draw the attention of the Conference to:

- a) the Charter of the United Nations and the Universal Declaration of Human Rights;
- b) Resolution 18 of the World Telecommunication Development Conference (Valletta, 1998);
- c) Resolution 32 of the Plenipotentiary Conference (Kyoto, 1994) on technical assistance to the Palestinian Authority for the development of telecommunications;
- d) Resolution 6 of the Plenipotentiary Conference (Kyoto, 1994) and Resolution 741 of the ITU Council on the participation of Palestine in the work of ITU;
- e) The Constitution and Convention of the International Telecommunication Union (Geneva, 1992) which are designed to strengthen peace and security in the world for the development of international cooperation and better understanding among the peoples concerned;
- f) the ITU's policy of assistance to the Palestinian Authority for the development of its telecommunication sector;
- g) the establishment of a reliable and modern telecommunication network which is an essential part of economic and social development and is of the utmost importance to the future of the Palestinian people;
- h) the importance of the international community in assisting the people of Palestine to develop a modern and reliable telecommunications network;
- i) the fundamental principles contained in the Preamble of the ITU Constitution (Geneva, 1992);
- j) the report of the Director of the Telecommunication Development Bureau on the Regional Telecommunication Development Conference for the Arab States (AR-RTDC-96);

- k) the BDT's long-term technical assistance to the Palestinian Authority for the development of its telecommunications pursuant to Resolution 32 of the Plenipotentiary Conference (Kyoto, 1994) and the urgent need for assistance to be provided in the various fields of information, informatics and communication;
- l) the Interim Agreement, which considered the rights for Palestine to establish its own and independent telecommunication policies and precisely indicates under subparagraph D (5) of Article 36 that:
"... c) the provisions of subparagraphs a) and b) above will be applied between the two sides until such time as the two sides agree upon installation and operation of an 'international gateway', as well as the international code, for the Palestinian side and the actual commencement of operation of the said gateway; d) the Palestinian side shall enter into a discussion with Bezeq for the purpose of coming to an agreement for the use of a separate area code and numbering plan, pending to the establishment of a separate Palestinian network".

Herein we note that five years passed without any progress.

It is clear that the accession of the Palestinian Authority to membership in the International Telecommunication Union, which is likely to facilitate the implementation of ITU-D programmes in Palestine, would enable the Palestinian Authority to carry out a structured development programme based on various sources of financing.

Consequently, since there are more than two countries who are members of ITU but not of the United Nations Assembly, the accession of the Palestinian Authority to ITU membership should be decided upon rapidly, having regard to favourable precedents in the case of new countries and certain territorial entities.

Lastly, a rapid and harmonious development of telecommunication networks and services in Palestine cannot take place unless the Palestinian Authority is in a position to benefit from all the resources of the telecommunication sector.

From this point of view, it is unusual, to say the least, that at a time when an international country code is specifically allocated to telecommunication network operators, a network serving the Palestinian population should not have one.

Furthermore, at a time when radio-frequency spectrum resources are assigned on a non-national basis, it would be usual, to say the least, for the Palestinian Authority to have the right to assign radio frequencies within the West Bank and the Gaza Strip.

It is evident that not obtaining an international country code and the inability to make use of the frequency spectrum are obstacles at least as serious for the development of Palestinian telecommunication networks and services as the lack of financial resources, to the extent that they increase operating costs and therefore lower the efficiency of the networks.

Conclusion

In view of the foregoing, it is **strongly** recommended that ITU give all appropriate importance and urgency to the **accession of Palestine to ITU membership, which will secure the following urgent needs for Palestine:**

- 1) **The allocation to the Palestinian network of an international country code;**
- 2) **Recognition of the Palestinian Authority's right to manage and control the radio-frequency spectrum;**
- 3) **Have its own call sign.**

INTERNATIONAL TELECOMMUNICATION UNION



PLENIPOTENTIARY CONFERENCE (PP-98)

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PLENARY MEETING

REPORT BY THE CHAIRPERSON OF COMMITTEE 5 TO THE PLENARY

Following the discussion by Committee 5 on ITU-2000 Recommendation 13 (1st indent), no consensus was reached.

The Committee decided, further to the suggestions made by some Members, to transmit this Recommendation to the Plenary for further consideration.

Rec. 13

It is recommended that, in relation to the rights of Member States who are in arrears:

- not to elect Member States in arrears to the Council, nor to any management bodies for Conferences;
- abolish the concept of special arrears accounts.

Mr. M. BOSSA
Chairperson

INTERNATIONAL TELECOMMUNICATION UNION



PLENIPOTENTIARY CONFERENCE (PP-98)

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PLENARY MEETING

Israel (State of)

PROPOSALS FOR THE WORK OF THE CONFERENCE

THE STATUS OF THE PLO/PALESTINE OBSERVER IN ITU

- 1 This paper is submitted with reference to the proposal for admission of the PLO/Palestine observer as a Member State of the Union, brought before the Plenipotentiary Conference by a group of Arab Countries (Document 106). The paper is presented in order to inform the Conference of the Israeli position.
- 2 The status of the PLO/Palestine as an observer in ITU was determined in Council Resolution 741 of 1974 and in Kyoto Resolution 6. The legal status of an observer is clearly defined in the ITU Constitution and Convention.
- 3 The Constitution permits only **sovereign states** to become Members of the Union. This fundamental requirement is set out in CS Article 2, and is the basic assumption underlying the rights and responsibilities which the Constitution grants to Members (such as the competence to participate fully in law-making conferences, the responsibility for preventing harmful interference in radiocommunications, and the presentation of proposals for the work of ITU).
- 4 Any attempt to alter the status of the PLO/Palestine observer to that of a Member State would be in flagrant violation of CS Article 2, and is therefore outside the competence of the Plenipotentiary Conference and legally inadmissible. The sweeping aside of important constitutional procedures of ITU at a Plenipotentiary Conference for political motives unrelated to the professional work of ITU would set a dangerous precedent, which would severely undermine the ITU's effectiveness as a leading international organization.
- 5 Additionally, any attempt to transform the PLO/Palestine observer into a Member State of ITU would constitute unacceptable political interference in the bilateral relations between Israel and the Palestinians. The Interim Agreement signed by Israel and the PLO in Washington in September 1995, contains a detailed section regarding telecommunications in the West Bank and Gaza Strip (Article 36 of Annex III, Appendix 1). Article 36 governs a wide array of telecommunications and broadcasting matters, and sets up a Joint Technical Committee (JTC), composed of members of the Israeli and Palestinian sides, whose task it is to address all common issues, "including the growing future needs of the Palestinian side".

6 The Interim Agreement is the binding and sole framework for the status of the Palestinian area, both in general and in the context of telecommunications, until its permanent status is settled through negotiations. Article XXXI(7) of the Interim Agreement expressly prohibits either side to "initiate or take any step that will change the status of the West Bank and the Gaza Strip pending the outcome of the permanent status negotiations." The Interim Agreement, therefore, clearly rules out the introduction of any form of "State" status during the Interim Period, and hence precludes such action within ITU.

7 Moreover, according to Article IX(5) of the Interim Agreement, the Palestinian Authority (as distinct from the PLO) is not empowered to act in the sphere of foreign relations, and therefore cannot be represented in international organizations, including ITU. Any change in the observer status will violate this bilaterally agreed-upon principle.

8 In the interest of maintaining the integrity of the fundamental constitutional rules of ITU, as well as in the interest of allowing the peace process between Israel and the Palestinians to progress along its bilateral course - any change in the status of the PLO/Palestine observer in ITU should be firmly rejected by the Member States at this Conference.

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PLENARY MEETING

Israel (State of)

PROPOSALS FOR THE WORK OF THE CONFERENCE

TELECOMMUNICATIONS IN THE WEST BANK AND GAZA STRIP UNDER THE ISRAELI-PALESTINIAN INTERIM AGREEMENT

- 1 This paper is submitted with reference to the Report by the Secretary-General on the implementation of Kyoto Resolution 32 on Technical Assistance to the Palestinian Authority for the Development of Telecommunications (PP-98 Document 38).
- 2 The paper is presented in order to inform the Conference on the development of telecommunications infrastructure and services in the areas under civilian control of the Palestinian Authority, as well as to summarize the Israeli position concerning Palestinian demands for a separate international code, frequency assignment and call signs.

The Successful Development of Telecommunications

- 3 Article 36 of the Interim Agreement signed by Israel and the PLO in Washington in September 1995, provides for close cooperation between Israel and the Palestinian Authority on matters of telecommunications and broadcasting in the West Bank and Gaza Strip. Article 36 also calls for the transfer from Israel to the Palestinian side of specific responsibilities in the areas under Palestinian civilian control, and establishes a comprehensive framework for the future development of Palestinian telecommunications and broadcasting.
- 4 Within the Joint Technical Committee (JTC), set up in the Interim Agreement, bilateral negotiations between the sides have been ongoing and fruitful, despite serious differences of opinion and approach, at times, on the various issues. The majority of telecommunications issues treated in Article 36 have been fully addressed through the JTC, permitting the Palestinian telecommunications sector to develop rapidly and effectively in order to meet the communication needs of the Palestinian population.
- 5 A key factor in Palestinian telecommunications has been the successful corporatization of the sector. The Palestinian side has established the telecommunications service provider Paltel, and granted Paltel a general license for provision of telecommunications services. Paltel has about 1 200 employees at present, and is successfully implementing an ambitious development plan.

- 6 The Paltel network comprises the following services and infrastructures:
- a) **Telephone services:** Paltel has about 130 000 telephone subscribers and a penetration rate of about 5%, with a development plan for 250 000 subscribers by year end 1999 (10% penetration). Paltel provides modern services such as DTMF dialling, call waiting, and certain CLASS features.
 - b) **Switching infrastructure:** Paltel has deployed a 100% digital telephony network based on 18 digital Central Offices (CO) and #7 signalling. The overall switching capacity at present is about 190 000 subscribers.
 - c) **Local access infrastructure:** The local access network is a modern copper infrastructure, utilizing a fair amount of electronics to enhance the use of the copper network, including about 30 remote switching units and about 100 modern concentrators.
 - d) **Transmission backbone:** There is a fibre optics transmission backbone (about 140 km in the Gaza Strip and 90 km in the West Bank, with plans for an additional 200 km), with modern SDH facilities; there are microwave digital transmission facilities, including about 30 links; links to interconnect the Gaza Strip and the West Bank were recently approved by the JTC; and additional 100 microwave transmission facilities in the West Bank and Gaza Strip, planned by the Palestinian side, were approved by the JTC.
 - e) **Cellular services:** After extended tender proceedings, Paltel is now in the process of deploying a GSM mobile telephony system. Negotiations between Paltel and Israeli GSM operator Partner are under way, to the end of concluding a commercial agreement on shared operations. This close technical cooperation has been mandated by the JTC, and will be monitored by it in the future. Within the framework of the JTC, negotiations were held in order to meet the Palestinian request for frequencies, leading to the mutually agreed document "GSM Frequency Assignment and Terms of Operation", signed in May 1998 (for further details see section 5 below).
 - f) **International services:** All Paltel subscribers can access incoming and outgoing international services, provided by Paltel through commercial agreement between Paltel and Israeli international facility-based operators, which operate in an environment of competition and liberalization.
 - g) **Data Network:** Paltel recently implemented state-of-the-art TDM infrastructure, enabling provision of digital leased lines and frame relay services throughout the Palestinian areas. The network consists of 5 major nodes, 9 additional nodes and customer nodes, all connected by 2 Mb/s digital backbone. At present, Paltel has connected 60 customers, and plans to accommodate 250 users by year end 1998.
 - h) **PABXs:** Modern digital PABXs and key-systems are in widespread use.

(For a recent report in the Arab press on the rapid development of the Paltel network, see El Kuds, 10 September, 1998.)

7 As to public broadcasting services, these are provided by the Palestinian Broadcasting Corporation (PBC), which operates modern studios and an independent microwave transmission facility comprising 7 microwave links. The services include the following:

- a) **AM radio:** One high-power transmitter (675 kHz), that was transferred from Israel to the Palestinian side.
- b) **FM Radio:** Two of the eight FM transmitters provided for by the Interim Agreement are operational; the others have yet to be established by the Palestinian Authority.

- c) **Television:** 11 local UHF transmitters (of which 4 are not properly authorized, in violation of the Interim Agreement).
- d) **Voice of America broadcasts:** Beyond and above the terms of the Interim Agreement, Israel has permitted, on an ad hoc basis, the import by the Palestinian side of equipment for the reception of Voice of America radio satellite broadcasts. This arrangement was authorized by the JTC in late 1997.

8 Despite the fine achievements described above, there have been several consistent and serious violations of the Interim Agreement on the part of the Palestinian side. First, there is large-scale operation of pirate radio and television broadcasting, with the full support of the Palestinian Authority. In the saturated electromagnetic environment, such operations can cause major interference to lawful broadcasting and other operations, including communications between air control towers and civilian aircraft. At present, 65 unauthorized television stations and 19 unauthorized FM radio stations are in operation.

9 Secondly, there have been certain broadcasts with manifestly hostile content, including incitement on a regular basis, in clear violation of the conditions of the Interim Agreement. Israel's repeated attempts to address this issue on a bilateral basis have been ignored by the Palestinian side.

International Code

10 Article 36(D)(5)(c) of the Interim Agreement clearly stipulates that the operation of a Palestinian international gateway and international code are a matter to be agreed by the two sides, and that until such agreement obtains, international communications are to be undertaken through the Israeli operators. The Palestinian demand to be allocated a separate international code for the areas under Palestinian civilian control is currently under discussion within the JTC, which is the sole forum authorized to resolve the matter under the Interim Agreement. Unfortunately a JTC meeting scheduled in September, which was to be entirely dedicated to discussion of the matter, was postponed, but discussions will resume after the current Conference.

11 Putting the international code issue before the Plenipotentiary Conference at the present time is strictly politically motivated, as it lacks any genuine technical or otherwise objective justification. International traffic to and from Paltel's subscribers in the Palestinian areas can well pass through the Israeli international operators, and recently Paltel has concluded a commercial agreement with the operator Golden Lines. Revenues for international traffic initiating and terminating in the Palestinian areas are determined by commercial arrangement, as provided in the Interim Agreement; thus Palestinian subscribers may enjoy the benefits of liberalization of the Israeli international calls sector.

12 As regards the economic aspect, most of the international traffic by Paltel subscribers is outgoing to Arab countries, resulting in outgoing payments. The only way to ease the economic burden is to reduce the relevant accounting rates, a well known issue in ITU circles.

13 Furthermore, a separate country code for the Palestinian area would not accord with the applicable ITU-T Recommendation E.164.1 ("Criteria and procedures for the reservation, assignment, and reclamation of E.164 country codes and associated Identification Codes (ICs)"), which stipulates the following relevant criteria for the assignment of a code: (i) the applicant country must be ITU or UN recognized; and (ii) assigning a new country code to an area already served by an existing code will normally not be considered, unless the existing code is "approaching exhaust" (Article 6.2).

14 Neither of the said criteria are met in the case of the Palestinian Authority. First, no UN or ITU recognition has been extended to a Palestinian applicant, and the relevant applicant country must be the relevant administration, which currently is Israel. Secondly, there is absolutely no question of exhaustion of numbering capacity. Pursuant to the Interim Agreement, Paltel has recently come to an agreement with Israeli domestic operator Bezeq regarding a full numbering plan with capacity for many years to come.

15 As regards capacity, under the agreed numbering arrangements the Palestinians were allocated 7-digit numbers within four local Israeli area codes, which altogether enable to serve over 3 million telephone lines. In view of the fact that the Paltel network currently serves some 130 000 subscribers, it is difficult to see how any problem of capacity might arise.

Frequency Assignment

16 The Interim Agreement is very clear on the question of electromagnetic spectrum. Article XVI of the Agreement provides that "the exercise of authority with regard to the electromagnetic sphere and air space" shall be in accordance with the provisions of the Agreement. Article 36(C), with Schedule 5, lays down a precise list of Approved Frequencies for radio and television broadcasts and microwave links for use in the Palestinian area. The Article further provides that "future needs for frequencies shall be agreed upon by the two sides" through the JTC.

17 To date, the frequencies specified in the Agreement have all been duly assigned to the Palestinian side, and various additional requirements and requests, above and beyond those specified in Article 36, have all been met and assigned by the Israeli administration, in a working atmosphere of positive professional cooperation. GSM is a case in point. A special sub-committee of the JTC reached agreement on the principle that the assignment of frequencies to the Palestinians is proportionate to that of their Israeli counterparts. In fact, the Palestinian side was assigned a 2.4 MHz for exclusive use and another 2.4 MHz for shared use with Israeli operator Partner, which is far greater bandwidth than what was anticipated in the Interim Agreement or is actually required to satisfy planned Palestinian needs. The Palestinian side was also assured that further adjustments would be made, should additional needs arise and be presented to the JTC.

18 Assignment of frequency, as well as all other aspects of frequency management and control, must be kept strictly in order, tightly monitored by the responsible Member State. In particular, under the geographical conditions that obtain in the area, spectrum management clearly cannot be handled by more than one competent authority. The Interim Agreement assumes that the authority charged with responsibility for the management of the frequency spectrum is the Government of Israel, and any outside intervention in this matter would be self-defeating.

Call Signs

19 The Interim Agreement does not specifically address the issue of radio call signs, nor has this issue been formally raised between the two parties to the Agreement. No relevant request has been received to date by the JTC, although it would undoubtedly be within that body's competence.

20 Israel opposes the treatment of this issue by the ITU, as the ITU is not authorized to assign a radio call sign to the areas in question, until such time as the matter is resolved bilaterally between Israel and the Palestinians.

21 The call signs applicable for the territories under Palestinian civilian control continue to be those of Israel, which is their responsible administration in matters relating to the ITU (4XA and 4XZ). Any application for different call signs can therefore be made only by the State of Israel.

22 In addition, Israel reiterates its objection to the current unsanctioned use of illegal call signs both from these areas and by amateur radio operators located elsewhere.

Summary

23 As demonstrated above, telecommunications infrastructure and services in the West Bank and Gaza Strip have developed impressively under the Israeli-Palestinian Interim Agreement, and it is Israel's hope that they should continue to thrive. Israel firmly believes that any intervention by the ITU in the bilateral relations between the sides, in particular on the issues of international code, frequency assignment and call signs, would be wholly counter productive and would not serve the cause of further development and progress towards peace and cooperation.

INTERNATIONAL TELECOMMUNICATION UNION



PLENIPOTENTIARY CONFERENCE (PP-98)

Document 117(Rev.1)-E

22 October 1998

Original: English

MINNEAPOLIS, 12 OCTOBER - 6 NOVEMBER 1998

COMMITTEE 1

Information document

GENERAL SCHEDULE OF THE WORK OF THE CONFERENCE

(as established by the Steering Committee)

First week (12-16 October)

Monday

- Meeting of Heads of delegation
- Inaugural Plenary
 - Election of Chairperson and Vice-Chairpersons of the Conference
 - Establishment of committees and election of Chairpersons and Vice-Chairpersons of committees
 - Allocation to committees of proposals from Member States, recommendations of ITU-2000 and reports from Council, the Council Chairperson and the Secretary-General.
- Opening ceremony

Tuesday/Wednesday

- Election procedures; time-limit for the deposit of candidatures
- General policy statements

Thursday/Friday

- Commencement of work of the committees

Second week (19-23 October)

- Elections to commence and be held progressively for the posts of elected officials
- Continuation of work at Plenary and committee level

Third week (26-30 October)

- Elections for Council on Monday, 26 October
- Continuation of work at Plenary and committee level
- Deadline for candidatures for RRB: 1800 hours, Wednesday, 28 October
- Committee 5 should complete its work by Thursday, 29 October
- Committees 6 and 7 should complete their work by Friday, 30 October
- Plenary Meetings as required with a view to commencing the first and second readings of the texts of the Final Acts
- Final meeting of Committees 2 and 3 to prepare their reports

Fourth week (2-6 November)

Monday/Tuesday/Wednesday

- Elections of members of RRB on Monday, 2 November
- Report of Committees 2 and 3
- First reading by Plenary of the texts of the Final Acts*

Thursday/Friday

- Second reading by Plenary of the texts of the Final Acts*

Friday

- Signing Ceremony and Close of the Conference

NOTE 1 - Plenary Meetings will be scheduled as necessary during each week of the Conference.

NOTE 2 - This schedule may be changed in the course of the work of the Conference.

* Quorum needed for consideration of proposals - 50% of delegations accredited and having the right to vote.

Majority needed for adoption - (CS - 2/3 of delegations accredited and having the right to vote).
(CV - 1/2 of delegations accredited and having the right to vote).

Provisional draft PP-98 Timetable

Date	Monday		Tuesday		Wednesday		Thursday		Friday	
	a.m.	p.m.	a.m.	p.m.	a.m.	p.m.	a.m.	p.m.	a.m.	p.m.
12-18 Oct	PL	PL 1)	PL		PL	5	5	5 → 2	5	PL
						7	6 → 3	7	6	
19-25 Oct	5	5 2)	PL 3)	6*	PL 4)	5*	PL 5)	5*	5	6
	7	6 2)		7*		7*		6*	7	7
26 Oct - 1 Nov	PL 6)	6	5	7	PL	5 7)	7	5 8)	6 → 2	6 8)
		7	6	6		7 7)	6	6	7 → 3	7 8)
2-6 Nov	PL 9)		PL		PL		PL 8)		PL 10)	

Explanatory notes

PL = Plenary

1 = Steering (as appropriate)

2 = Credentials

3 = Budget Control

4 = Editorial (as appropriate)

5 = Strategic Policy and Plans

6 = CS/CV

7 = Management of the Union

1) Opening ceremony

2) Deadline for candidatures for Secretary-General, Deputy Secretary-General, Directors of the Bureaux, Members of the Council

3) Election of SG followed by C7

4) Election of DSG

5) Election of Bureau Directors followed by C6

6) Election of Members of the Council

7) Deadline for candidatures for RRB

8) Final

9) Election of members of RRB

10) Signature and Close

* Followed by the Plenary, if needed.

NOTE - Additional sessions may be scheduled, as appropriate, to complete the work.

INTERNATIONAL TELECOMMUNICATION UNION



PLENIPOTENTIARY CONFERENCE (PP-98)

Document 117-E
16 October 1998
Original: English

MINNEAPOLIS, 12 OCTOBER - 6 NOVEMBER 1998

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Information document

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8) Final

9) Election of members of RRB

10) Signature and Close

* Followed by the Plenary, if needed.

NOTE - Additional sessions may be scheduled, as appropriate, to complete the work.

INTERNATIONAL TELECOMMUNICATION UNION



PLENIPOTENTIARY CONFERENCE (PP-98)

Document 118-E
16 October 1998
Original: English

MINNEAPOLIS, 12 OCTOBER - 6 NOVEMBER 1998

COMMITTEE 7

Note by the Chairperson of Committee 7 (Finance)

The first part of the meeting of Committee 7 to be held on Monday, 19 October 1998 at 0930 hours will be devoted to urgent matters related to arrears: requests made by Member States of the Union in Documents 74, 78, 80 and 79(Rev.1).

The second part of the meeting of Committee 7 will be devoted to staff matters.

Ulrich MOHR
Chairperson of Committee 7

INTERNATIONAL TELECOMMUNICATION UNION



PLENIPOTENTIARY CONFERENCE (PP-98)

Document 119-E

16 October 1998

Original: English

MINNEAPOLIS, 12 OCTOBER - 6 NOVEMBER 1998

COMMITTEE 7

REPORT BY THE CHAIRPERSON OF COMMITTEE 5 TO THE COMMITTEE 7

The Committee 5 approved the ITU-2000 Recommendation 6 and the intention to attract new members and expertise. However, some concern was expressed by several Members in regard to possible financial implications (potential Sector Members may prefer to become Associates). Committee 6 is therefore kindly requested to consider this matter as appropriate.

Rec. 6

It is recommended that to increase participation by smaller entities in the work of a Sector a form of membership termed "Associate" should be established. Should an Assembly or Conference decide to admit an Associate in a Sector concerned, the following principles should apply :

1. the process for becoming an Associate should be the same as that applicable to a Sector Member of that Sector;
2. the rights of an Associate would include the right to participate in the work of one study group in a Sector, but excludes rights applicable to Sector Members including participation in the decision-making processes of the study group and study group liaison activities;
3. the level of financial contribution applicable to Associates should be such that it at least covers the full allocated cost of their participation.

Mr. M. BOSSA
Chairperson

INTERNATIONAL TELECOMMUNICATION UNION



PLENIPOTENTIARY CONFERENCE (PP-98)

Corrigendum 1 to
Document 120-E
23 October 1998
Original: French

MINNEAPOLIS, 12 OCTOBER - 6 NOVEMBER 1998

PLENARY MEETING

MINUTES

OF THE

THIRD PLENARY MEETING

Tuesday, 13 October 1998, at 1435 hours

Chairperson: Mr. Thomas SIEBERT (United States)

Please replace paragraph 2.10 with the following text:

2.10 His Excellency Mr. Idris Ngari, Minister of National Defence, Security and Immigration, responsible for Posts and Telecommunications of Gabon, referred to the far-reaching changes experienced by ITU in recent years because of the convergence of information technologies and telecommunications. Today it could be affirmed that telecommunications were the major factor for economic growth in the world and would be the driving force behind all social and cultural development. That technological explosion, however, threatened to widen the gap between rich and poor countries, and ITU's role should therefore be strengthened to encourage collaboration between countries and limit the technological dependence of the developing countries. Those countries, including Gabon, had to modernize their telecommunication networks and fall into step with globalization, which implied liberalization, competition, regulation of the sector, lower service costs and consumer protection. His country had contributed in a modest way to constructing the global village by providing itself with modern means of communication, and was fully engaged in the restructuring process. The operational and regulatory functions were to be separated and a regulatory body established; furthermore, the entire sector was to be privatized. Gabon had also signed the Memorandum of Understanding on GMPCS and taken part in the Tampere Conference on Emergency Telecommunications. Finally, it had hosted a meeting which had set up a new body, COPTAC, to strengthen cooperation in the telecommunication field between the countries of central Africa. It was very important for the Union to continue to serve the cause of bringing peoples closer together.

Please replace paragraph 2.12 with the following text:

2.12 Mr. Klaus Bnger, State Secretary, Federal Ministry of Economics of Germany, wondered by what means ITU could retain its pre-eminent position in the telecommunication sector in view of the processes of globalization, liberalization, privatization, the convergence of information technologies and telecommunications, and the new mass communication media which would affect people's future. First of all, the Union would have to open its doors more widely to private sector members. When it had been established, telecommunication networks had been operated exclusively by the State, but today things were different and the private sector must be given its rightful place. Germany, together with other European countries, therefore supported the proposals of the ITU-2000 Group which were aimed at increasing private sector participation in the work of the Union. The financial base of the Union must also be preserved. The number of contributory units of Members had dropped steadily since 1982, and the Union would certainly not be able to do its job unless it had adequate funds. Both the Member States and ITU needed a reliable basis for planning in terms of the contributions Members would be paying in the future. Germany therefore supported the Secretary-General's proposal to no longer orient the ceiling of the financial plan to total expenditure but to the level of the contributory unit. In order for ITU to perform the tasks laid down in the Strategic Plan, the Plenipotentiaries needed to have some idea of expected contributions and to evaluate the work which could be financed out of those contributions; during the present Conference, therefore, delegations should announce their class of contribution before the amount of the contributory unit was set. Finally, after referring to the various bodies in which Germany took part, he said that his country was seeking re-election to the ITU Council and that its contribution to the budget of the Union was planned to be 30 contributory units.

INTERNATIONAL TELECOMMUNICATION UNION



PLENIPOTENTIARY CONFERENCE (PP-98)

Document 120-E
October 1998
Original: French

MINNEAPOLIS, 12 OCTOBER - 6 NOVEMBER 1998

PLENARY MEETING

MINUTES

OF THE

THIRD PLENARY MEETING

Tuesday, 13 October 1998, at 1435 hours

Chairperson: Mr. Thomas SIEBERT

Subjects discussed

- | | |
|---|---------------------------------------|
| 1 | Election procedures |
| 2 | General policy statements (continued) |

Documents

62
-

1 Election procedures

1.1 The **Secretary-General** drew the attention of the Conference to Document 62 which contained suggestions concerning the procedures for election of the Secretary-General, the Deputy Secretary-General, the Directors of the Bureaux, the members of the RRB and the Members of the Council. The Council had taken note of those suggestions and had briefly discussed them but had not reached a decision. He invited participants to comment on the suggestions, particularly regarding the order of elections, the grouping together of the elections of the Secretary-General and Deputy Secretary-General and the deadline for the submission of candidatures. His own suggestion was that the deadline should be either 17 October or 19 October.

1.2 The **delegate of Saudi Arabia**, supported by the **delegates of Spain and France**, proposed that the deadline should be Monday, 19 October.

1.3 It was so **agreed**.

1.4 The **delegate of Russia** drew attention to Document 34 containing his country's proposals concerning the elections.

1.5 The **delegate of Morocco** said that, before proceeding to the election of the members of the RRB, the Conference should first of all decide how many members that body would have and define their functions. For that purpose, it would have to enter into a debate which might well be a lengthy one. His delegation proposed, therefore, that the members of the RRB should be elected after the Members of the Council, so as not to delay the Council elections. The **delegates of Kuwait and Syria** supported that proposal.

1.6 The proposal by the Moroccan delegation was **approved**.

1.7 The **delegate of Turkey** said that a deadline should be set for the election of the RRB members, so that the discussions on that matter were not unduly prolonged.

1.8 The **delegate of France** proposed holding separate elections for the Secretary-General and Deputy Secretary-General. There had been a single ballot for both posts in Kyoto because there had been only one candidate for the post of Secretary-General, but that was not the case at the current Conference. In the interests of clarity, therefore, the two elections should not be grouped together, particularly in view of the important role that the future Secretary-General would be called upon to play.

1.9 That proposal was supported by the **delegates of Switzerland, Austria, the Netherlands, Denmark, Portugal, the Czech Republic, Luxembourg, Belgium and Sweden**.

1.10 The **delegate of Lebanon** said that ITU would be entering upon a new phase and that the new Secretary-General would have heavy responsibilities to assume. The election should therefore take account of those requirements, without encroaching on any other issues. For that reason, the Lebanese delegation was in favour of holding separate elections for the posts of Secretary-General and Deputy Secretary-General.

1.11 The **delegate of Morocco** said that the two elections had been combined in Kyoto not because there had been only one candidate for the post of Secretary-General but in order to save time, since the duration of the Plenipotentiary Conference had for the first time been only four weeks, compared with seven previously. The Union should endeavour to shake off its reputation as an "election machine" and the Conference should proceed as quickly as possible to consider the vital issues on its agenda.

1.12 The **delegate of Brazil** proposed holding the two elections together as at Kyoto, precisely in order to save time.

1.13 The Brazilian proposal was supported by the **delegates of Paraguay, Argentina, Chile, Ecuador, Mexico, Cuba and Russia**.

1.14 The **Chairperson**, noting that opinions were divided on the matter, suggested that the interested parties should continue their consultations with a view to reaching a consensus before the next Plenary Meeting.

1.15 It was so **agreed**.

2 General policy statements (continued)

2.1 **His Excellency Mr. Chen Chimutengwende, Minister of Information, Posts and Telecommunications of Zimbabwe**, reviewed telecommunication development in his country. Having opted for the liberalization and restructuring of the telecommunication sector and for an expansion of the role of the private sector, the Government had undertaken a reform of the Zimbabwe Posts and Telecommunication Corporation (ZPTC) and had assigned it two urgent tasks, namely, renovation of the trunk network and modernization of switching centres, all of which was intended to supplement the interconnectivity initiative in southern Africa. The ZPTC had also established a national Internet centre in March 1998 and was endeavouring to resolve the problems raised by the management and proper use of that service. In order to overcome the many problems posed by telecommunication development in Zimbabwe, the Government had among other things opted for separation of the regulatory and policy-making functions and had divided the ZPTC into separate enterprises dealing with postal services, telecommunications, manufacturing and cellular telephony respectively. The next phase would be the transition from mere marketing to privatization, finding strategic partners for both fixed and cellular services. The ZPTC subsidiary responsible for equipment manufacture had already received offers for joint ventures. Zimbabwe had irrevocably embarked on the path of deregulation and privatization in order to develop competition and manage services more efficiently for the users. In that connection, it was fully aware of the major role played by ITU in the development of the sector.

2.2 **His Excellency Mr. Sarat Lallah, Minister of Telecommunications and Information Technologies of Mauritius**, said that in a sector as dynamic as that of telecommunications, which ITU had helped so much to develop, all parties concerned should strive to bring the benefits of info-communication services to those who needed them most. Mauritius therefore welcomed the recommendations contained in the draft Strategic Plan for the Union. For the purpose of developing its own information infrastructure and preparing itself to be part of the global information infrastructure, Mauritius had decided to adopt a new telecommunications bill, to establish a strong and effective regulatory body, gradually to reduce the State's role in the telecommunication sector, and to liberalize that sector fully by the year 2004, in accordance with the commitments it had made in the WTO working group on basic telecommunication services. Mauritius was participating in the fibre-optic submarine cable project to link South Africa and Malaysia, which would facilitate its integration in the global information infrastructure and boost opportunities for electronic commerce. It was also endeavouring to promote the establishment of a service network for the corporate sector, to improve the efficiency of public services, to bring government closer to the people, to use information technologies in order to improve education services and to enhance corporate competitiveness. Mauritius was also playing an active role at the regional level; in particular, it had contributed to the preparation of the "African Connexion" report which was intended to pave the

way for Africa to become part of the global information systems. Since August 1997, Mauritius had been dealing with the problem of the transition to the year 2000 and ITU, which was making praiseworthy efforts in that regard, should encourage Member States and Sector Members to report on the state of their own progress. Finally, having always honoured its commitments towards ITU, Mauritius had chosen the 1/4 unit class of contribution and was encouraging the national operator to participate in the activities of the Union as a Sector Member. It was to be hoped that the Conference itself would see to it that the developing and least developed countries derived real benefit from the new technologies and their convergence.

2.3 His Excellency Sheikh Ahmed Bin Nassar Al-Thani, Minister of Communications and Transport of Qatar, said that his country was aware of the role of telecommunications in economic, cultural and social development, and had applied itself to modernizing its telecommunication infrastructure which now ranked among the most developed in the region. Capacity was fully digital and the body responsible for telecommunications was one of the most efficient in the country. Qatar was one of the first Middle Eastern countries to have developed GSM and other modern services: Internet, satellite television, roaming systems, etc. It had also endeavoured to modernize the legal regime governing the sector, in order to bring it into line with international standards and the relevant WTO agreements. The Public Telecommunications Corporation had liberalized the main services and had undergone a 45% privatization to enable the private sector to take part in national telecommunication development.

2.4 His Excellency Mr. Mahamoudou Ouedraogo, Minister of Communication and Culture of Burkina Faso, said that his country was aware of the growing gulf between the developed and developing countries in a field where there had been a boom in new technologies, and it had started to restructure its telecommunication sector in order to bring it into line with the global trend towards the information society and ensure non-discriminatory access for its people. Much remained to be done, however, if that enterprise was to be successful, and the Conference should therefore give priority to achieving positive results in terms of the harmonious development of telecommunications worldwide. The Valletta Action Plan was of crucial importance in that regard. The Conference should also examine the Strategic Plan for the Union and revise its basic instruments. On all those issues, Burkina Faso remained fully open to the useful discussions which would take place at the Conference. As a developing country and one of the least developed among them, it was afraid, however, that the proliferation of discussion forums on general policy and strategic planning outside the Conference might rapidly consign the developing countries to the sidelines. On that point, Burkina Faso was undoubtedly expressing the concern of all the African countries. Being firmly convinced that ITU and international cooperation had a major role to play, his country was sparing no effort to fulfil its obligations towards the Union conscientiously. There was also a need for interaction between the different Sectors of the Union. Finally, he paid a tribute to the Secretary-General of ITU and his colleagues for their contribution to telecommunication development in Africa, particularly through major projects such as RASCOM. It was in order to play its full part in that undertaking that Burkina Faso was running for election to the ITU Council.

2.5 His Excellency Mr. Sévérin Adjoui, Minister of Culture and Communication of Benin, said that despite the intense efforts made by ITU to focus the globalization of information on human development, the developing countries were continuing to experience serious problems with regard to equipment. The Union should therefore continue to support restructuring policies and to assist with network development, the strengthening of the State's regulatory role and development of the private sector's role. The structure and basic texts of the Union should be adapted accordingly and more resources should be allocated to BDT, but without detriment to the other two Sectors. His

Government had given the telecommunication sector a special place in its action programme, providing a sound footing for implementation of the Kyoto recommendations. As a result, teledensity had risen from 3 to 7 lines per 1 000 inhabitants and the country had been one of the first in Africa to install an Internet network and a mobile cellular network. Some activities had been thrown open to the private sector and texts were being prepared for opening up the capital structure of the national operator. Those steps should make it possible to achieve a teledensity of 10 lines per 1 000 inhabitants, which was indicative of the persistent development gap in the telecommunication sector. Network development called for substantial investments, thus highlighting the significance of some countries' experience. The opening up and liberalization of the sector were necessary, provided that due account was taken of the social, economic and political realities of each country. All those challenges made it imperative that the Conference should succeed.

2.6 His Excellency Mr. Suleiman Hafez, Minister of Posts and Communication of Jordan, said that the noble objectives described by the Vice-President of the United States called for cooperation and coordination among all the stakeholders in the telecommunication sector, in order to facilitate access to the new technologies for all countries and create a global network of knowledge. Jordan had followed the experience of other countries with keen interest; since the Kyoto Conference, it had reorganized its telecommunication sector, adopted a new law for the sector and established a regulatory body which authorized and supervised private sector participation in order to ensure fair competition. There were over 18 private telecommunication operators in the country, and the Government had set about privatizing the national company by selecting a strategic partner. Private sector enterprises were being encouraged to take part in the activities of the Union as Sector Members. As one of the region's pioneers in the area of deregulation and liberalization, Jordan was standing for membership of the Council in order to continue that work and share its own experience in that field.

2.7 His Excellency Mr. Issa Moussa, Minister of Communication and Culture of Niger, said that the Conference should enable ITU to adjust its strategies and methods of cooperation in order to reduce the glaring inequalities in the telecommunication sector. The main lines of action had been defined at the Nice Conference and it was now high time to take specific measures to extend and modernize networks, which meant that the Union should be provided with the necessary resources for that purpose. Having embarked upon the restructuring of its telecommunication sector in 1992, Niger had separated the regulatory and operational functions, adopted a law governing the sector and opened up the capital of the Niger Telecommunications Company to a strategic partner. As a landlocked country, Niger needed to develop telecommunications in order to make it less isolated from the outside world and open up access to rural areas. However, its efforts were hampered by a shortage of resources and the existence of other pressing needs. It therefore appealed to donors and to ITU, especially BDT, to see to it that the least developed countries did not become more and more marginalized and that the strategies adopted by the Conference served to reduce inequalities not only between developed and developing countries, but also within regions and between rural and urban areas. All the development partners should work towards that vital aim.

2.8 His Excellency Mr. Monchipou Seidou, Minister of Posts and Telecommunications of Cameroon, said that his country, which had always maintained close relations with ITU, had overhauled the legal and regulatory framework of its telecommunication sector, in order to separate the regulatory and operational functions, allocate a more important role to the private sector and ensure that new services were offered on a competitive basis. As a result, the scene was now set for Cameroon to become an investment centre. Nevertheless, the revolution in telecommunication systems supported by the activities of the Union should avoid three pitfalls: loss of the intergovernmental character of the Union, privatization of its management and reduction of the

self-financing capacity of a number of developing countries as a result, *inter alia*, of large-scale diversion of traffic. The Conference should see to it that every possible step was taken to strengthen the Union's mission and upgrade the capacities of developing countries to the minimum developed country level.

2.9 **His Excellency Mr. Michel Bindo, Minister of Posts and Telecommunications of the Central African Republic**, said that telecommunications were indispensable to the economic development of all countries, as the Vice-President of the United States had emphasized. While the Buenos Aires Conference had marked the start of the globalization process, the Valletta Conference had been a turning-point with its six action programmes, its special programme for LDCs and its technical assistance programme for universal access to telecommunications. The Union would therefore be called upon to play a vital role in the years to come with regard to sustainable development and the year 2000 computer problem. The present Plenipotentiary Conference offered a unique opportunity to reaffirm the principles embodied in the recommendations of the Valletta Conference and to breathe new energy into the Union. The concept of the "right to communicate" should be spelt out in more detail and made the subject of a new charter.

2.10 **His Excellency Mr. Idris Ngari, Minister of National Defence, Security and Immigration, responsible for Posts and Telecommunications of Gabon**, referred to the far-reaching changes experienced by ITU over the past century because of the convergence of information technologies and telecommunications. Today it could be affirmed that telecommunications were the major factor for economic growth in the world and would be the driving force behind all social and cultural development. That technological explosion, however, threatened to widen the gap between rich and poor countries, and ITU's role should therefore be strengthened to encourage collaboration between countries and limit the technological dependence of the developing countries. Those countries, including Gabon, had to modernize their telecommunication networks and fall into step with globalization, which implied liberalization, competition, regulation of service costs and consumer protection. His country had contributed in a modest way to constructing the global village by providing itself with modern means of communication and restructuring its telecommunication sector. The operational and regulatory functions had been separated and a regulatory body established; furthermore, the entire sector had been privatized. Gabon had also signed the Memorandum of Understanding on GMPCS and taken part in the Tampere Conference on Emergency Telecommunications. Finally, it had hosted a meeting which had set up a new body, COPTAC, to strengthen cooperation in the telecommunication field between the countries of central Africa. It was very important for the Union to continue to serve the cause of bringing peoples closer together.

2.11 **His Excellency Mr. Juarez Quadros do Nascimento, Vice-Minister of Communications of Brazil**, recalling that his country was one of the oldest members of ITU and that it participated actively in all Union conferences and meetings, said that the Brazilian telecommunication sector had been restructured in recent years, particularly in the regulatory sphere: a new independent regulatory agency had been established and the State-owned companies in TELEBRAS had recently been privatized. Brazil now obliged operators to provide universal access to basic services and had opened its market to competition, thus encouraging companies to provide higher-quality services. The Government was now concerned exclusively with defending the rules of competition and economic order. Brazil was convinced that the Union was the best multilateral organization for discussing all issues relating to telecommunications; it was in that spirit that, the previous year, it had announced the candidature of Mr. Roberto Blois for the post of Deputy Secretary-General. Finally, it was his hope that participants would share his delegation's view that ITU's mission

was to ensure the development of world telecommunications, to encourage cooperation and exchange of experience among its Members and to contribute to improving the telecommunication infrastructure in the less developed countries.

2.12 Mr. Klaus Bunger, State Secretary, Federal Ministry of Economics of Germany, wondered by what means ITU could retain its pre-eminent position in the telecommunication sector in view of the processes of globalization, liberalization, privatization, the convergence of information technologies and telecommunications, and the new mass communication media which would affect people's future. First of all, the Union would have to open its doors more widely to private sector members. When it had been established, telecommunication networks had been operated exclusively by the State, but today things were different and the private sector must be given its rightful place. Germany, together with other European countries, therefore supported the proposals of the ITU-2000 Group which were aimed at increasing private sector participation in the work of the Union. The financial base of the Union must also be preserved. The number of contributory units of Members had dropped steadily since 1982, and the Union would certainly not be able to do its job unless it had adequate funds. Germany therefore supported the Secretary-General's proposal to set budgetary ceilings on the basis of total contributions. In order for ITU to perform the tasks laid down in the Strategic Plan, the Plenipotentiaries needed to have some idea of expected contributions and to evaluate the work which could be financed out of those contributions; during the present Conference, therefore, delegations should announce their class of contribution before the amount of the contributory unit was set. Finally, after referring to the various bodies in which Germany took part, he said that his country wished to have a seat on the ITU Council and that its contribution to the budget of the Union was 30 contributory units.

2.13 Her Excellency Mrs. Josefina Trinidad-Lichauco, Under-Secretary for Communications of the Philippines, said that notwithstanding the current crisis in the Asia Pacific region, her country's delegation was far larger than at Kyoto because the Philippine telecommunication sector had been opened up to competition and liberalization. There had been an unprecedented increase in telephone density because companies had called on foreign investors, leading the country into the 21st century. Furthermore, the new laws adopted, together with mandatory interconnection and universal service, were designed to link all peoples and to allow the free flow of information in the context of liberalization, competition, convergence of technology and globalization. Her delegation recognized that Sector Members should play a greater part in telecommunication development and that the basic instruments of the Union should be kept up to date so that it could enter the new millennium with confidence. With regard to radiocommunications, the Philippines fully supported any measures designed to avoid delays and wastage of resources in respect of the coordination of satellite systems. Finally, while it was aware of the advantages of globalization, her delegation wished to emphasize that the movement of goods, services and capital across borders without any government control could harm the economies of the developing countries. Most countries, and particularly the developing and least developed ones, would need both time and assistance to adapt to liberalization, competition and globalization.

2.14 His Excellency Mr. Ralph B. Everett, Ambassador of the United States to the Plenipotentiary Conference, after referring to the ever more important role played by telecommunication networks in all fields (electronic commerce, telemedicine, distance learning), as well as by new technologies such as satellite systems and new applications such as the Internet, emphasized that the question was no longer whether to liberalize the telecommunication sector but how best to do so. Developments in world markets had shown that universal access and economic development could best be achieved in an environment open to private investment and competition, with flexible rules. First, the Conference must address the needs of ITU's changing membership.

The Union was and would remain an intergovernmental body, but it was also a body of over 500 Sector Members including service providers, operators, equipment manufacturers, financial institutions, regional and international organizations, and non-governmental organizations. It must encourage those pioneers to take part in all its activities and must benefit from their participation. Second, the Conference must adopt a strategic plan for the next four years that would secure the Union's pre-eminence among international telecommunication organizations; the plan should link ITU strategies and sectoral operational plans to the overall ITU budget in order to direct energies and resources towards priority strategic goals and activities. In conclusion, it should be stressed that unless technological progress was of benefit to all the world's peoples, the Union would have failed in its mission of promoting the global information infrastructure. It was up to all participants to ensure that telecommunications, which allowed everyone to make their voice heard, were instrumental in creating a community of interdependent lives. What was done at the Conference would advance the fundamental objectives of the global community, namely, health, education, peace and the spiritual liberation that came from literacy.

2.15 Mr. Yoshio Utsumi, Deputy Minister, Ministry of Posts and Telecommunications of Japan, said that the advance of telecommunication technology was truly exponential and that the telecommunication revolution had produced an explosion of new services, new players and new regulatory frameworks. The Union had made great efforts to adapt to the new environment. At Kyoto it had started a process which had resulted in the recommendations of the ITU-2000 Group, which Japan firmly supported and which would be studied in detail by the present Conference. Japan proposed the establishment of a high-level committee to study the ITU's mission in the 21st century. The Union should take every possible measure to enable everyone to have access to telecommunications, in particular by promoting those technologies best suited to the needs of developing countries. It would thus contribute to global economic growth and help children to make friends across the world by giving them access to communication tools. The Union must set up a cost-recovery mechanism and use its limited resources as efficiently as possible, allocating them to the most necessary tasks: coordinating the allocation of frequencies, setting standards and building bridges between the public and private sectors, between telecommunications and other industries, and between those with access to telecommunications and those without, so that the "right to communicate" could be exercised the world over.

The meeting rose at 1750 hours.

The Secretary-General:
Pekka TARJANNE

The Chairperson:
Thomas SIEBERT

INTERNATIONAL TELECOMMUNICATION UNION



PLENIPOTENTIARY CONFERENCE (PP-98)

Document 121-E
19 October 1998
Original: English

MINNEAPOLIS, 12 OCTOBER - 6 NOVEMBER 1998

PLENARY MEETING

REPORT BY THE CHAIRPERSON OF COMMITTEE 7 TO THE PLENARY MEETING

FINANCE

Restoration of voting rights for the Islamic Republic of Mauritania and Nicaragua

Committee 7 considered the above requests at its third meeting, as follows:

Islamic Republic of Mauritania (Document 74)

The Islamic Republic of Mauritania requests the cancellation of the interest on overdue payments (809 352.10 Swiss francs) related to arrears for the years 1978 to 1997, and restoration of its right to vote. The Islamic Republic of Mauritania has undertaken to settle its current debts in 20 annual instalments, and the balance of its special arrears account (55 181.75 Swiss francs) pursuant to Resolution 53 (Nairobi, 1982) in four annual instalments. All instalments due have been received thus far.

The Committee recommends to the Plenary Meeting to transfer the unpaid contributions (509 458.45 Swiss francs) to a special arrears account bearing no interest, and to restore Mauritania's right to vote with immediate effect. The Council should be authorized to write off the interest on overdue payments, amounting to 809 352.10 Swiss francs, subject to the Islamic Republic of Mauritania complying strictly with the agreed repayment schedule.

Nicaragua (Document 79(Rev.1))

Nicaragua, invoking a very difficult economic situation, requests that its interest on overdue payments for the years 1983 to 1998 (851 657.90 Swiss francs) be cancelled. With regard to the unpaid contributions for the years 1983 to 1996 (1 225 814.65 Swiss francs), Nicaragua has undertaken to settle them in 15 annual instalments beginning in 1999. Nicaragua has settled its contributions for the years 1997 and 1998.

The Committee recommends to the Plenary Meeting to transfer the unpaid contributions (1 225 814.65 Swiss francs) to a special arrears account bearing no interest, and to restore Nicaragua's right to vote with immediate effect. The Council should be authorized to write off the interest on overdue payments, amounting to 851 657.90 Swiss francs, subject to Nicaragua complying strictly with the agreed repayment schedule.

The draft Resolution covering the above cases will be processed through Committee 4.

U. MOHR
Chairperson, Committee 7

INTERNATIONAL TELECOMMUNICATION UNION



PLENIPOTENTIARY CONFERENCE (PP-98)

Corrigendum 2 to
Document 122-F/E/S
27 October 1998
Original: French/English/
Spanish

MINNEAPOLIS, 12 OCTOBER - 6 NOVEMBER 1998

PLENARY MEETING

**Algérie (République algérienne démocratique et populaire), Bulgarie (République de),
Cap-Vert (République du), Costa Rica, Gabonaise (République), Hongrie (République de),
Inde (République de l'), République arabe syrienne, Russie (Fédération de),
Suisse (Confédération), Tanzanie (République-Unie de),
Venezuela (République du)**

PROPOSITIONS POUR LES TRAVAUX DE LA CONFÉRENCE

Ajouter "Chypre (République de)" dans la liste des pays signataires de ce document.

* * * * *

**Algeria (People's Democratic of), Bulgaria (Republic of), Cape Verde (Republic of),
Costa Rica, Gabonese Republic, Hungary (Republic of), India (Republic of),
Syrian Arab Republic, Russian Federation, Switzerland (Confederation of),
Tanzania (United Republic of), Venezuela (Republic of)**

PROPOSALS FOR THE WORK OF THE CONFERENCE

Add "Cyprus (Republic of)" to the list of signatories for this document.

* * * * *

**Argelia (República Argelina Democrática y Popular), Bulgaria (República de),
Cabo Verde (República de), Costa Rica, Gabonesa (República), Hungría (República de),
India (República de la), República Árabe Siria, Rusia (Federación de),
Suiza (Confederación), Tanzania (República Unida de),
Venezuela (República de)**

PROPUESTAS PARA LOS TRABAJOS DE LA CONFERENCIA

Añádase "Chipre (República de)" a la lista de países firmantes de este documento.

UNION INTERNATIONALE DES
TELECOMMUNICATIONS



CONFERENCE DE
PLENIPOTENTIAIRES (PP-98)

Corrigendum 1 au
Document 122-F/E/S
22 octobre 1998
Original: anglais

MINNEAPOLIS, 12 OCTOBRE - 6 NOVEMBRE 1998

SÉANCE PLÉNIÈRE

**Algérie, Bulgarie, Cap-Vert, Costa Rica, Rép. gabonaise, Hongrie,
Inde, Syrie, Russie, Suisse, Tanzanie, Venezuela**

PROPOSITIONS POUR LES TRAVAUX DE LA CONFÉRENCE

Ajouter "**Grèce, Koweït, Mali**" dans la liste des pays signataires de ce document.

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**Algeria, Bulgaria, Cape Verde, Costa Rica, Gabonese Republic, Hungary,
India, Syria, Russia, Switzerland, Tanzania, Venezuela**

PROPOSALS FOR THE WORK OF THE CONFERENCE

Add "**Greece, Kuwait, Mali**" in the list of signatories for this document.

* * * * *

**Argelia, Bulgaria, Cabo Verde, Costa Rica, Rep. Gabonesa, Hungría,
India, Siria, Rusia, Suiza, Tanzania, Venezuela**

PROPUESTAS PARA LOS TRABAJOS DE LA CONFERENCIA

Añádanse "**Grecia, Kuwait, Malí**" a la lista de países firmantes de este documento.

INTERNATIONAL TELECOMMUNICATION UNION



PLENIPOTENTIARY CONFERENCE (PP-98)

Document 122-E
19 October 1998
Original: French

MINNEAPOLIS, 12 OCTOBER - 6 NOVEMBER 1998

COMMITTEE 7

**Algeria (People's Democratic of), Bulgaria (Republic of), Cape Verde (Republic of),
Costa Rica, Gabonese Republic, Hungary (Republic of), India (Republic of),
Syrian Arab Republic, Russian Federation, Switzerland (Confederation of),
Tanzania (United Republic of), Venezuela (Republic of)**

PROPOSALS FOR THE WORK OF THE CONFERENCE

**ALG/BUL/CPV/CTR/GAB/
HNG/IND/SYR/RUS/SUI/
TZA/VEN/122/1
ADD**

DRAFT RESOLUTION [ALG/BUL/CPV/CTR/GAB/HNG/IND/SYR/RUS/SUI/TZA/VEN-1]

OCCUPATIONAL ILLNESS

The Plenipotentiary Conference of the International Telecommunication Union
(Minneapolis, 1998),

considering

the lack of any provisions in the ITU Staff Rules and Regulations on:

- a) occupational medicine/health in general;
- b) occupational illnesses in particular,

recognizing

- a) that this situation is to the detriment of the staff, who are the Union's main asset, as is recognized in § 45 of Resolution 1 of the Plenipotentiary Conference (Kyoto, 1994);
- b) that the staff are entitled to a healthy working environment and adequate health protection,

instructs the Secretary-General

- 1 to take the necessary steps to ensure compliance with occupational medicine/health standards in force in Switzerland;
- 2 to institute, in particular, a study with a view to providing ITU staff with insurance coverage for occupational illness and to submit a report on the measures taken to the Council at its 1999 session.

UNION INTERNATIONALE DES
TELECOMMUNICATIONS



CONFERENCE DE
PLENIPOTENTIAIRES (PP-98)

Corrigendum 1 au
Document 123-F/E/S
22 octobre 1998
Original: anglais

MINNEAPOLIS, 12 OCTOBRE - 6 NOVEMBRE 1998

SÉANCE PLÉNIÈRE

**Algérie, Cap-Vert, Costa Rica, Rép. gabonaise,
Hongrie, Syrie, Tanzanie, Venezuela**

PROPOSITIONS POUR LES TRAVAUX DE LA CONFÉRENCE

Ajouter "**Grèce, Koweït, Mali**" dans la liste des pays signataires de ce document.

* * * * *

**Algeria, Cape Verde, Costa Rica, Gabonese Republic,
Hungary, Syria, Tanzania, Venezuela**

PROPOSALS FOR THE WORK OF THE CONFERENCE

Add "**Greece, Kuwait, Mali**" in the list of signatories for this document.

* * * * *

**Argelia, Cabo Verde, Costa Rica, Rep. Gabonesa,
Hungría, Siria, Tanzania, Venezuela**

PROPUESTAS PARA LOS TRABAJOS DE LA CONFERENCIA

Añádanse "**Grecia, Kuwait, Malí**" a la lista de países firmantes de este documento.

INTERNATIONAL TELECOMMUNICATION UNION



PLENIPOTENTIARY CONFERENCE (PP-98)

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MINNEAPOLIS, 12 OCTOBER - 6 NOVEMBER 1998

COMMITTEE 7

**Algeria (People's Democratic Republic of), Cape Verde (Republic of), Costa Rica,
Gabonese Republic, Hungary (Republic of), Syrian Arab Republic,
Tanzania (United Republic of), Venezuela (Republic of)**

PROPOSALS FOR THE WORK OF THE CONFERENCE

**ALG/CPV/CTR/
GAB/HNG/SYR/
TZA/VEN/123/1
ADD**

DRAFT RESOLUTION [ALG/CPV/CTR/GAB/HNG/SYR/TZA/VEN-1]

UNEMPLOYMENT INSURANCE

The Plenipotentiary Conference of the International Telecommunication Union
(Minneapolis, 1998),

recalling

Article 20 of the Headquarters Agreement under which ITU has to provide its staff with a social protection coverage equivalent to the one in force in the host country,

noting

the independent status of the ITU staff, as laid down in Regulation 1.4 of the Staff Regulations and Staff Rules: "In the performance of their duties with the Union, staff members shall neither seek nor accept instructions from any government or from any other authority external to the Union",

considering

that ITU staff cannot be covered by any national unemployment scheme because, in order to benefit from such a scheme, a staff member would have to continue to be employed by a national entity and this could be considered as a violation of the independence required of international civil servants,

considering further

that loss of employment, due to restructuring measures, can lead to situations of social exclusion, the responsibility for which lies mainly with the employer,

concerned

by the increasing number of ad hoc measures taken by some Member States to give additional compensation to their nationals working in the United Nations system in order to offset the lack of competitiveness of remuneration levels in the United Nations common system (Resolution 47, (Kyoto, 1994)),

recognizing

ITU's attachment to the standards of conduct in the international civil service approved by the United Nations General Assembly,

resolves

that an unemployment insurance scheme for loss of employment due to restructuring measures should be put into place as soon as possible,

resolves further

that the Secretary-General, in close collaboration with the Staff Council, shall report to the next session of the Council on the implementation of such a scheme.

INTERNATIONAL TELECOMMUNICATION UNION



PLENIPOTENTIARY CONFERENCE (PP-98)

Document 124(Rev.1)-E
22 October 1998
Original: French

MINNEAPOLIS, 12 OCTOBER - 6 NOVEMBER 1998

COMMITTEE 7

**Algeria (People's Democratic Republic of), Cape Verde (Republic of), Costa Rica,
Gabonese Republic, Greece, Hungary (Republic of), India (Republic of), Kuwait (State of),
Mali (Republic of), Syrian Arab Republic, Switzerland (Confederation of),
Tanzania (United Republic of), Venezuela (Republic of)**

PROPOSALS FOR THE WORK OF THE CONFERENCE

DRAFT RESOLUTION

INTRODUCTION OF A LONG-TERM CARE INSURANCE SCHEME IN THE UNION

CCAQ had begun to look into the question of long-term care insurance in 1994 because societal trends and their consequences had underlined the need for a long-term care insurance for international civil servants working in the UN common system organizations. Since then, many documents and studies on the question of the introduction of affordable long-term care insurance in the UN common system have been produced by the Consultative Committee on Administrative Questions (CCAQ) and the Administrative Committee on Coordination (ACC).

It is a well-documented fact that life expectancy is increasing rapidly and most of those surviving into old age will have some degree of handicap. Future health spending will be increasingly concentrated on those surviving into old age in the last third of their life and particularly on those in the last few years of their life.

In that respect, the situation of former international civil servants is more complex and less favourable than that of those who were employed in a national setting, as they are normally ineligible for social protection schemes provided by their home country and are deprived of the safety net of close kin. There is a further complication in the case of UN pensioners whose dependent spouses are by and large also ineligible for any national security coverage and who would be left in a particularly impecunious state if the UN pension had to be used to meet long-term care costs. Also, it has to be noted that most of the UN organizations' current health insurance provisions do not allow for payments for long-term care.

Some of the conclusions of the CCAQ were:

- Long-term dependent care coverage fits squarely within the context of the UN organizations' social security arrangements.

- To be most effective, coverage should be mandatory.

- To be equitable, coverage should be available to all participants in all countries.
- Participation in long-term care coverage should be available to staff members, their recognized dependants and retirees.
- Coverage should be provided for: nursing home, home care and help for family members providing care.

On this basis, a framework was built around a small component of compulsory coverage on which could be developed a number of voluntary coverage options. The scheme design contains the following specifications:

Mandatory Programme

The Mandatory Programme will apply to all active staff working within the UN family worldwide. The benefits under the Mandatory Programme have been set at a relatively low level, considered to be a reasonable common denominator, bearing in mind the scope of such a global scheme. The low level is also important to attract a low premium rate, as all staff worldwide irrespective of grade or location will be contributing to it, probably in equal measure.

The Mandatory Programme will, at least and under certain restrictions and financial limits, cover confinement in a nursing facility, assisted living facility care, and home care or home health care benefit.

Voluntary Programme

To give the scheme flexibility and to allow staff to purchase cover more appropriate to their own circumstances, a Voluntary Programme will provide the following:

- Active staff will have options to buy up additional benefit amounts, or a longer benefit payment period.
- Active staff will also have the option to purchase long-term care (LTC) cover for their spouses/significant others.
- Current pensioners will have the option to purchase LTC cover for themselves and their spouses/significant others.
- Future pensioners will have the option to continue to purchase LTC cover for themselves and their spouses/significant others.

The Voluntary Programme will have a larger scope than the Mandatory Programme and will vary with the type of coverage purchased.

Current situation

After having contacted a number of insurance brokers, CCAQ has selected the best offer, that of Willis Corroon, in order to promote the scheme among the UN organizations on the basis of a specific and affordable insurance. The very low premium proposed (\$US 28.- per person on average) may make it possible for the employer organization to make a contribution without having to resort to a specific budget appropriation.

ALG/CPV/CTR/GAB/GRC/
HNG/IND/KWT/MLI/SYR/
SUI/TZA/VEN/124/1
ADD

DRAFT RESOLUTION [ALG/CPV/CTR/GAB/GRC/HNG/IND/
KWT/MLI/SYR/SUI/TZA/VEN-1]

**INTRODUCTION OF A LONG-TERM CARE
INSURANCE SCHEME IN THE UNION**

The Plenipotentiary Conference of the International Telecommunication Union
(Minneapolis, 1998),

recalling

- a) Article 20 of the Headquarters Agreement under which ITU has to provide its staff with a social protection coverage equivalent to the one in force in the host country;
- b) that ~~most of~~ the United Nations organizations' current health provisions do not allow for payments for long-term care;
- c) its commitment to the welfare of its staff;
- d) the study by the Consultative Committee on Administrative Questions (Personnel and General Administrative Questions) and the Administrative Committee on Coordination on the possibility of introducing an affordable long-term care insurance in the United Nations common system.

considering

- a) that, before and after retirement, ~~most some~~ international civil servants ~~will~~ may be excluded from their national social security arrangements;
- b) that life expectancy is increasing rapidly and most of those surviving into old age will have some degree of handicap;
- c) ~~that the Consultative Committee on Administrative Questions (Personnel and General Administrative Questions) and the Administrative Committee on Coordination have proposed the introduction of an affordable long-term insurance in the United Nations common system;~~

resolves

~~that the Union has to be involved and actively participate in the implementation of a long-term care insurance scheme for the benefit of its staff, comprising a mandatory low-premium component and a voluntary component, as proposed by CCAQ and ACC;~~

instructs the Council

~~to closely monitor and to give its full support to the implementation of such a scheme in ITU;~~

instructs the Secretary-General

- 1 ~~to encourage the executive heads of~~ consult his counterparts in other United Nations common system organizations regarding their interest in the possible introduction of a long-term care insurance comprising a mandatory low-premium component and a voluntary component, as proposed by CCAQ and ACC in their organizationsto adopt the same position as ITU;

- 2 to be prepared to study compile and prepare appropriate data regarding the possible introduction of a long-term care insurance comprising a mandatory low-premium component and a voluntary component, as proposed by the CCAQ and the ACC, and in particular, regarding its cost for the Union and for the participant staff members the long-term care insurance scheme in the event other UN common system organizations do not wish to implement such a scheme;
 - 3 to report to the next Council session on the outcome of deliberations in the Fifth Committee of the UNGA on the above-mentioned proposal and other progress in the implementation of made with respect to this resolution;
 - 4 to inform ICSC accordingly.
-

INTERNATIONAL TELECOMMUNICATION UNION



PLENIPOTENTIARY CONFERENCE (PP-98)

Document 124-E
19 October 1998
Original: French

MINNEAPOLIS, 12 OCTOBER - 6 NOVEMBER 1998

COMMITTEE 7

**Algeria (People's Democratic Republic of), Cape Verde (Republic of), Costa Rica,
Gabonese Republic, Hungary (Republic of), India (Republic of), Syrian Arab Republic,
Switzerland (Confederation of), Tanzania (United Republic of), Venezuela (Republic of)**

PROPOSALS FOR THE WORK OF THE CONFERENCE

DRAFT RESOLUTION

INTRODUCTION OF A LONG-TERM CARE INSURANCE SCHEME IN THE UNION

CCAQ had begun to look into the question of long-term care insurance in 1994 because societal trends and their consequences had underlined the need for a long-term care insurance for international civil servants working in the UN common system organizations. Since then, many documents and studies on the question of the introduction of affordable long-term care insurance in the UN common system have been produced by the Consultative Committee on Administrative Questions (CCAQ) and the Administrative Committee on Coordination (ACC).

It is a well-documented fact that life expectancy is increasing rapidly and most of those surviving into old age will have some degree of handicap. Future health spending will be increasingly concentrated on those surviving into old age in the last third of their life and particularly on those in the last few years of their life.

In that respect, the situation of former international civil servants is more complex and less favorable than that of those who were employed in a national setting, as they are normally ineligible for social protection schemes provided by their home country and are deprived of the safety net of close kin. There is a further complication in the case of UN pensioners whose dependent spouses are by and large also ineligible for any national security coverage and who would be left in a particularly impecunious state if the UN pension had to be used to meet long-term care costs. Also, it has to be noted that most of the UN organizations' current health insurance provisions do not allow for payments for long-term care.

Some of the conclusions of the CCAQ were:

- Long-term dependent care coverage fits squarely within the context of the UN organizations' social security arrangements.

- To be most effective, coverage should be mandatory.

- To be equitable, coverage should be available to all participants in all countries.
- Participation in long-term care coverage should be available to staff members, their recognized dependants and retirees.
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On this basis, a framework was built around a small component of compulsory coverage on which could be developed a number of voluntary coverage options. The scheme design contains the following specifications:

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The Mandatory Programme will apply to all active staff working within the UN family worldwide. The benefits under the Mandatory Programme have been set at a relatively low level, considered to be a reasonable common denominator, bearing in mind the scope of such a global scheme. The low level is also important to attract a low premium rate, as all staff worldwide irrespective of grade or location will be contributing to it, probably in equal measure.

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Voluntary Programme

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- Future pensioners will have the option to continue to purchase LTC cover for themselves and their spouses/significant others.

The Voluntary Programme will have a larger scope than the Mandatory Programme and will vary with the type of coverage purchased.

**ALG/CPV/CTR/GAB/
HNG/IND/SYR/SUI/
TZA/VEN/124/1
ADD**

DRAFT RESOLUTION [ALG/CPV/CTR/GAB/HNG/IND/SYR/SUI/TZA/VEN-1]

**INTRODUCTION OF A LONG-TERM CARE
INSURANCE SCHEME IN THE UNION**

The Plenipotentiary Conference of the International Telecommunication Union
(Minneapolis, 1998),

recalling

- a) Article 20 of the Headquarters Agreement under which ITU has to provide its staff with a social protection coverage equivalent to the one in force in the host country;
- b) that most of the United Nations organizations' current health provisions do not allow for payments for long-term care;
- c) its commitment to the welfare of its staff,

considering

- a) that, before and after retirement, most international civil servants will be excluded from their national social security arrangements;
- b) that life expectancy is increasing rapidly and most of those surviving into old age will have some degree of handicap;
- c) that the Consultative Committee on Administrative Questions (Personnel and General Administrative Questions) and the Administrative Committee on Coordination have proposed the introduction of an affordable long-term insurance in the United Nations common system,

resolves

that the Union has to be involved and actively participate in the implementation of a long-term care insurance scheme for the benefit of its staff,

instructs the Council

to closely monitor and to give its full support to the implementation of such a scheme in ITU,

instructs the Secretary-General

- 1 to encourage the executive heads of other United Nations common system organizations to adopt the same position as ITU;
- 2 to be prepared to study an ITU long-term care insurance scheme in the event other United Nations common system organizations do not wish to implement such a scheme;
- 3 to report to the next Council session on the progress in the implementation of this Resolution.

INTERNATIONAL TELECOMMUNICATION UNION



PLENIPOTENTIARY CONFERENCE (PP-98)

Document 125-E
19 October 1998
Original: English

MINNEAPOLIS, 12 OCTOBER - 6 NOVEMBER 1998

PLENARY MEETING

Note by the Secretary-General

TRANSFER OF POWERS

CROATIA - GERMANY

The delegation of the Republic of Croatia has announced that it has to leave the Conference on 20 October 1998.

Pursuant to No. 336 of the Convention (Geneva, 1992), the delegation of the Republic of Croatia has given the delegation of the Federal Republic of Germany a mandate to exercise its vote at the present Conference.

Pekka TARJANNE
Secretary-General

UNION INTERNATIONALE DES TÉLÉCOMMUNICATIONS



**CONFÉRENCE DE
PLÉNIPOTENTIAIRES (PP-98)**

Corrigendum 6 au
Document 126-F/E/S
5 novembre 1998
Original: anglais

MINNEAPOLIS, 12 OCTOBRE - 6 NOVEMBRE 1998

PLENARY MEETING

**Barbade, Bosnie-Herzégovine, Burundi, Canada, Chypre, Danemark, Etats-Unis d'Amérique,
Finlande, Rép. Gabonaise, Guyana, Italie, Koweït, Liban, Mali, Népal, Philippines,
Royaume-Uni, Sainte-Lucie, Sénégal, Slovénie, Suisse, Zambie**

PROJET DE RÉSOLUTION

LES TÉLÉCOMMUNICATIONS AU SERVICE DE L'AIDE HUMANITAIRE

Ajouter "Ghana" dans la liste des pays signataires de ce document.

**Barbados, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Burundi, Canada, Cyprus, Denmark, United States of
America, Finland, Gabonese Republic, Guyana, Italy, Kuwait, Lebanon, Mali, Nepal,
Philippines, United Kingdom, Saint Lucia, Senegal, Slovenia, Switzerland, Zambia**

DRAFT RESOLUTION

TELECOMMUNICATIONS IN THE SERVICE OF HUMANITARIAN ASSISTANCE

Add "Ghana" to the list of signatories for this document.

**Barbados, Bosnia y Herzegovina, Burundi, Canadá, Chipre, Dinamarca, Estados Unidos de
América, Finlandia, Rep. Gabonesa, Guyana, Italia, Kuwait, Líbano, Malí, Nepal, Filipinas,
Reino Unido, Santa Lucía, Senegal, Eslovenia, Suiza, Zambia**

PROYECTO DE RESOLUCIÓN

LAS TELECOMUNICACIONES AL SERVICIO DE LA ASISTENCIA HUMANITARIA

Añádase "Ghana" a la lista de países firmantes de este documento.

UNION INTERNATIONALE DES
TÉLÉCOMMUNICATIONS



CONFÉRENCE DE
PLÉNIPOTENTIAIRES (PP-98)

Corrigendum 5 au
Document 126-F/E/S
3 novembre 1998
Original: anglais

MINNEAPOLIS, 12 OCTOBRE - 6 NOVEMBRE 1998

PLENARY MEETING

Barbade, Bosnie-Herzégovine, Burundi, Canada, Chypre, Danemark, Etats-Unis d'Amérique, Finlande, Rép. Gabonaise, Guyana, Italie, Koweït, Liban, Mali, Népal, Philippines, Royaume-Uni, Sainte-Lucie, Sénégal, Slovénie, Suisse, Zambie

PROJET DE RÉSOLUTION

LES TÉLÉCOMMUNICATIONS AU SERVICE DE L'AIDE HUMANITAIRE

Ajouter "Jordanie (Royaume hachémite de), Turquie" dans la liste des pays signataires de ce document.

* * * * *

Barbados, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Burundi, Canada, Cyprus, Denmark, United States of America, Finland, Gabonese Republic, Guyana, Italy, Kuwait, Lebanon, Mali, Nepal, Philippines, United Kingdom, Saint Lucia, Senegal, Slovenia, Switzerland, Zambia

DRAFT RESOLUTION

TELECOMMUNICATIONS IN THE SERVICE OF HUMANITARIAN ASSISTANCE

Add "Jordan (Hashemite Kingdom of), Turkey" to the list of signatories for this document.

* * * * *

Barbados, Bosnia y Herzegovina, Burundi, Canadá, Chipre, Dinamarca, Estados Unidos de América, Finlandia, Rep. Gabonesa, Guyana, Italia, Kuwait, Líbano, Malí, Nepal, Filipinas, Reino Unido, Santa Lucía, Senegal, Eslovenia, Suiza, Zambia

PROYECTO DE RESOLUCIÓN

LAS TELECOMUNICACIONES AL SERVICIO DE LA ASISTENCIA HUMANITARIA

Añádase "Jordania (Reino Hachemita de), Turquía" a la lista de países firmantes de este documento.

INTERNATIONAL TELECOMMUNICATION UNION



PLENIPOTENTIARY CONFERENCE (PP-98)

Corrigendum 4 to
Document 126-F/E/S
2 November 1998
Original: English

MINNEAPOLIS, 12 OCTOBER - 6 NOVEMBER 1998

PLENARY MEETING

Barbade, Bosnie-Herzégovine, Burundi, Canada, Chypre, Danemark, Etats-Unis d'Amérique, Finlande, Rép. Gabonaise, Guyana, Indonésie, Italie, Koweït, Liban, Mali, Népal, Philippines, Royaume-Uni, Sainte-Lucie, Sénégal, Slovénie, Suisse, Zambie

PROJET DE RÉSOLUTION

LES TÉLÉCOMMUNICATIONS AU SERVICE DE L'AIDE HUMANITAIRE

Ajouter "**Malte**" dans la liste des pays signataires de ce document.

* * * * *

Barbados, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Burundi, Canada, Cyprus, Denmark, United States of America, Finland, Gabonese Republic, Guyana, Indonesia, Italy, Kuwait, Lebanon, Mali, Nepal, Philippines, United Kingdom, Saint Lucia, Senegal, Slovenia, Switzerland, Zambia

DRAFT RESOLUTION

TELECOMMUNICATIONS IN THE SERVICE OF HUMANITARIAN ASSISTANCE

Add "**Malta**" to the list of signatories for this document.

* * * * *

Barbados, Bosnia y Herzegovina, Burundi, Canadá, Chipre, Dinamarca, Estados Unidos de América, Finlandia, Rep. Gabonesa, Guyana, Indonesia, Italia, Kuwait, Líbano, Malí, Nepal, Filipinas, Reino Unido, Santa Lucía, Senegal, Eslovenia, Suiza, Zambia

PROYECTO DE RESOLUCIÓN

LAS TELECOMUNICACIONES AL SERVICIO DE LA ASISTENCIA HUMANITARIA

Añádase "**Malta**" a la lista de países firmantes de este documento.

INTERNATIONAL TELECOMMUNICATION UNION



PLENIPOTENTIARY CONFERENCE (PP-98)

Corrigendum 3 to
Document 126-F/E/S
30 October 1998
Original: français/anglais/
espagnol

MINNEAPOLIS, 12 OCTOBER - 6 NOVEMBER 1998

PLENARY MEETING

Barbade, Bosnie-Herzégovine, Burundi, Canada, Chypre, Danemark, Etats-Unis d'Amérique, Finlande, Rép. Gabonaise, Guyana, Italie, Koweït, Liban, Mali, Népal, Philippines, Royaume-Uni, Sainte-Lucie, Sénégal, Slovénie, Suisse, Zambie

PROJET DE RÉSOLUTION

LES TÉLÉCOMMUNICATIONS AU SERVICE DE L'AIDE HUMANITAIRE

Ajouter "**Indonésie**" dans la liste des pays signataires de ce document.

* * * * *

Barbados, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Burundi, Canada, Cyprus, Denmark, United States of America, Finland, Gabonese Republic, Guyana, Italy, Kuwait, Lebanon, Mali, Nepal, Philippines, United Kingdom, Saint Lucia, Senegal, Slovenia, Switzerland, Zambia

DRAFT RESOLUTION

TELECOMMUNICATIONS IN THE SERVICE OF HUMANITARIAN ASSISTANCE

Add "**Indonesia**" to the list of signatories for this document.

* * * * *

Barbados, Bosnia y Herzegovina, Burundi, Canadá, Chipre, Dinamarca, Estados Unidos de América, Finlandia, Rep. Gabonesa, Guyana, Italia, Kuwait, Líbano, Malí, Nepal, Filipinas, Reino Unido, Santa Lucía, Senegal, Eslovenia, Suiza, Zambia

PROYECTO DE RESOLUCIÓN

LAS TELECOMUNICACIONES AL SERVICIO DE LA ASISTENCIA HUMANITARIA

Añádase "**Indonesia**" a la lista de países firmantes de este documento.

INTERNATIONAL TELECOMMUNICATION UNION



PLENIPOTENTIARY CONFERENCE (PP-98)

Corrigendum 2 to
Document 126-F/E/S
27 October 1998
Original: français/anglais/
espagnol

MINNEAPOLIS, 12 OCTOBER - 6 NOVEMBER 1998

PLENARY MEETING

**Barbade, Bosnie-Herzégovine (République de), Burundi (République du), Canada,
Chypre (République de), Danemark, Etats-Unis d'Amérique, Finlande,
Gabonaise (République), Guyana, Italie, Koweït (Etat du), Liban,
Mali (République du), Népal, Philippines (République des),
Royaume-Uni de Grande-Bretagne et d'Irlande du Nord,
Sainte-Lucie, Sénégal (République du),
Slovénie (République de),
Suisse (Confédération)**

PROJET DE RÉSOLUTION

LES TÉLÉCOMMUNICATIONS AU SERVICE DE L'AIDE HUMANITAIRE

Ajouter "**Zambie (République de)**" dans la liste des pays signataires de ce document.

* * * * *

**Barbados, Bosnia and Herzegovina (Republic of), Burundi (Republic of), Canada, Cyprus
(Republic of), Denmark, United States of America, Finland, Gabonese Republic, Guyana,
Italy, Kuwait (State of), Lebanon, Mali (Republic of), Nepal, Philippines (Republic of the),
United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, Saint Lucia,
Senegal (Republic of), Slovenia (Republic of),
Switzerland (Confederation of)**

DRAFT RESOLUTION

TELECOMMUNICATIONS IN THE SERVICE OF HUMANITARIAN ASSISTANCE

Add "**Zambia (Republic of)**" to the list of signatories for this document.

* * * * *

**Barbados, Bosnia y Herzegovina (República de), Burundi (República de), Canadá,
Chipre (República de), Dinamarca, Estados Unidos de América, Finlandia,
Gabonesa (República), Guyana, Italia, Kuwait (Estado de), Líbano, Malí (República de),
Nepal, Filipinas (República de), Reino Unido de Gran Bretaña e Irlanda del Norte,
Santa Lucía, Senegal (República del), Eslovenia (República de), Suiza (Confederación)**

PROYECTO DE RESOLUCIÓN

LAS TELECOMUNICACIONES AL SERVICIO DE LA ASISTENCIA HUMANITARIA

Añádase "**Zambia (República de)**" a la lista de países firmantes de este documento.

UNION INTERNATIONALE DES
TELECOMMUNICATIONS



CONFERENCE DE
PLENIPOTENTIAIRES (PP-98)

MINNEAPOLIS, 12 OCTOBRE - 6 NOVEMBRE 1998

Corrigendum 1 au
Document 126-F/E/S
22 octobre 1998
Original: anglais

SÉANCE PLÉNIÈRE

PROJET DE RÉOLUTION

LES TÉLÉCOMMUNICATIONS AU SERVICE DE L'AIDE HUMANITAIRE

Ajouter "**Pologne**" dans la liste des pays signataires de ce document.

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DRAFT RESOLUTION

TELECOMMUNICATIONS IN THE SERVICE OF HUMANITARIAN ASSISTANCE

Add "**Poland**" in the list of signatories for this document.

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PROYECTO DE RESOLUCIÓN

LAS TELECOMUNICACIONES AL SERVICIO DE LA ASISTENCIA HUMANITARIA

Añádase "**Polonia**" a la lista de países firmantes de este documento.

INTERNATIONAL TELECOMMUNICATION UNION



PLENIPOTENTIARY CONFERENCE (PP-98)

Document 126-E
19 October 1998
Original: English

MINNEAPOLIS, 12 OCTOBER - 6 NOVEMBER 1998

COMMITTEE 5

Barbados, Bosnia and Herzegovina (Republic of), Burundi (Republic of), Canada, Cyprus (Republic of), Denmark, United States of America, Finland, Gabonese Republic, Guyana, Italy, Kuwait (State of), Lebanon, Mali (Republic of), Nepal, Philippines (Republic of the), United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, Saint Lucia, Senegal (Republic of), Slovenia (Republic of), Switzerland (Confederation of)

PROPOSALS FOR THE WORK OF THE CONFERENCE

***/126/1
ADD**

DRAFT RESOLUTION [*-1]

TELECOMMUNICATIONS IN THE SERVICE OF HUMANITARIAN ASSISTANCE

The Plenipotentiary Conference of the International Telecommunication Union
(Minneapolis, 1998),

endorsing

- a) Resolution 644 of the World Radiocommunication Conference (Geneva, 1997) on telecommunication resources for disaster mitigation and relief operations;
- b) Resolution 19 of the World Telecommunication Development Conference (Valletta, 1998) on telecommunication resources for disaster mitigation and relief operations;
- c) the Valletta Declaration of the World Telecommunication Development Conference (Valletta, 1998), drawing the attention of ITU Member States and Sector Members to the importance of emergency telecommunications and the need for an international convention on this subject,

considering

* BRB/BIH/BDI/CAN/CYP/DNK/USA/FIN/GAB/GUY/I/KWT/LBN/MLI/NPL/PHL/G/LCA/SEN/SVN/SUI

that the Intergovernmental Conference on Emergency Telecommunications (Tampere, 1998) has adopted the Tampere Convention on the provision of telecommunication resources for disaster mitigation and relief operations,

noting

- a) the Final Acts of the Intergovernmental Conference on Emergency Telecommunications (Tampere, 1998), reflecting the recognition by the Conference of the extraordinary impact of disasters on societies and the environment and of the need for providing timely, effective telecommunication assistance and resources for disaster mitigation and relief;
- b) the report of the Secretary-General on the implementation *inter alia* of Resolution 36 (Kyoto, 1994);
- c) with appreciation the efforts deployed by the ITU Secretary-General towards the adoption of the Tampere Convention;
- d) with appreciation the close cooperation between **the United Nations Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs** and the ITU during the past four years,

recognizing also

the seriousness and dimension of potential disasters that may cause dramatic human suffering,

convinced

that the un-hindered use of telecommunications equipment and services is an indispensable element for the effectiveness and appropriateness of humanitarian assistance,

further convinced

that the Tampere Convention provides the necessary framework for such application of telecommunications resources,

instructs the Secretary-General

to closely work with the United Nations Emergency Relief Coordinator on the development of practical arrangements for the implementation of the Tampere Convention,

urges administrations

to work towards the earliest possible ratification, acceptance, approval or final signature of the Convention by the appropriate national authorities,

further urges administrations

to take all practical steps for the application of the Tampere Convention and to closely work with the operational coordinator as requested by the Convention.

INTERNATIONAL TELECOMMUNICATION UNION



PLENIPOTENTIARY CONFERENCE (PP-98)

Document 128-E
20 October 1998
Original: English

MINNEAPOLIS, 12 OCTOBER - 6 NOVEMBER 1998

COMMITTEE 4

SECOND SERIES OF TEXTS FROM COMMITTEE 5 TO THE EDITORIAL COMMITTEE

Committee 5 has adopted the following Resolution, which it submits to the Editorial Committee for consideration and subsequent transmission to the Plenary Meeting.

M. BOSSA
Chairperson

Annex: 1

ANNEX A

DRAFT RESOLUTION [COM5/2]

**REFINEMENT OF THE RADIOCOMMUNICATION SECTOR AND
TELECOMMUNICATION STANDARDIZATION SECTOR**

The Plenipotentiary Conference of the International Telecommunication Union (~~Kyoto,~~
~~1994~~Minneapolis, 1998),

noting

the report by the Council on the results of the implementation of Resolution 16 (Kyoto, 1994).

considering

- a) that ~~the~~ITU should be the pre-eminent global standardization body in the telecommunication field, including radiocommunication;
- b) that ~~the~~ITU is the pre-eminent body for efficient worldwide cooperation in the radio regulatory field;
- c) that, ~~by its Resolution 2,~~ the Additional Plenipotentiary Conference (APP) (Geneva, 1992) recognized Nos. 78 and 104 of the Constitution (~~Geneva, 1992~~) as an initial allocation of work between the Radiocommunication (ITU-R) and Telecommunication Standardization (ITU-T) Sectors and outlined general principles and guidelines pertaining to the allocation of work between ITU-R and ITU-T;
- ~~d) that Resolution 2 of the APP (Geneva, 1992) outlines general principles and guidelines pertaining to the allocation of work between ITU-R and ITU-T;~~
- ~~ed)~~ that, in application of ~~the instructions handed down by the APP~~ Additional Plenipotentiary Conference (Geneva, 1992), the World Telecommunication Standardization Conference (Helsinki, 1993) and the Radiocommunication Assembly (Geneva, 1993) adopted resolutions that ~~confirmed the allocation of work to ITU-R and ITU-T as envisaged by Resolution 2 of the APP (Geneva, 1992) and established procedures for ongoing review and, as appropriate, allocation of work, in order to achieve goals in terms of effectiveness and efficiency;~~
- ~~fe)~~ the need to involve all interested participants of ITU-R and ITU-T in this ongoing review;
- ~~g) the consequent need to maintain the review within current mechanisms, as far as possible, so as to reduce the burden on the limited resources of many of the interested participants and on the resources of the Bureaux of the Sectors;~~
- ~~h) that, in order to permit a period of consolidation and adjustment, a significant departure from existing practices would not be advisable at this stage;~~
- ~~i) that the functions and responsibilities of each of the ITU Sectors should be clear and transparent;~~
- f) that, when implementing this Resolution, questions that may have implications on the International Telecommunication Regulations and the Radio Regulations require a more cautious approach.

resolves

1 that the current process, in conformity with the relevant resolutions of the World Telecommunication Standardization Conference and the Radiocommunication Assembly Resolution 2 of the APP (Geneva, 1992), providing for ongoing review of new and existing work and its allocation to ITU-R and ITU-T, shall be maintained;

2 that the Directors of the Radiocommunication and Telecommunication Standardization Bureaux shall, with the assistance of the Radiocommunication Advisory Group (RAG) and the Telecommunication Standardization Advisory Group (TSAG), consider further elements for refining the ITU's structure, including any necessary amendments to the Constitution and the Convention, and prepare a preliminary report to the 1996 Council and a final report to the 1998 Council, that changes in the allocation of work between the Radiocommunication (ITU-R) and Telecommunication Standardization (ITU-T) Sectors in respect of matters that may be related to either the International Telecommunication Regulations or the Radio Regulations shall not be considered within that process.

instructs the Secretary-General

to encourage all ITU-R and ITU-T participants to participate in the meetings and joint meetings of the RAG and TSAG at an appropriately high level of representation, taking account of the strategic nature of this task;

instructs the Council

1 — to consider, on the basis of the report of the Directors to the 1996 Council session, whether the progress of the work carried out in accordance with *resolves 2* is satisfactory;

2 — to prepare a report for consideration by the 1998 Plenipotentiary Conference.

INTERNATIONAL TELECOMMUNICATION UNION



PLENIPOTENTIARY CONFERENCE (PP-98)

Document 129-E
23 October 1998
Original: English/French

MINNEAPOLIS, 12 OCTOBER - 6 NOVEMBER 1998

COMMITTEE 4

FIRST SERIES OF TEXTS SUBMITTED BY COMMITTEE 7 (STAFF MATTERS) TO THE EDITORIAL COMMITTEE

Committee 7 has adopted the attached texts, which it submits to the Editorial Committee for consideration and subsequent transmission to the Plenary Meeting.

Adolar MAPUNDA
Chairperson

Annexes: 6

DRAFT RESOLUTION [COM7/1]

**REHABILITATION OF THE PROVIDENT FUND OF THE ITU
STAFF SUPERANNUATION AND BENEVOLENT FUNDS**

The Plenipotentiary Conference of the International Telecommunication Union
(Minneapolis, 1998),

considering

the situation of the Provident Fund shown in the balance sheet at 31 December 1997,

taking into account

that the support measures hitherto applied have been effective,

aware

that the Provident Fund continues to require support in the form of an annual contribution,

instructs the Council

to monitor carefully in coming years the situation of the ITU Staff Superannuation and Benevolent Funds, and in particular the Provident Fund, with a view to taking any measures it considers appropriate,

resolves

to reduce the annual contribution from the budget to the Provident Fund from 200 000 Swiss francs to 70 000 Swiss francs and to maintain that contribution at the necessary level until the Fund is able to meet its obligations.

DRAFT RESOLUTION [COM7/2]

HUMAN RESOURCES MANAGEMENT AND DEVELOPMENT

The Plenipotentiary Conference of the International Telecommunication Union
(Minneapolis, 1998),

recalling

- a) Resolution 48 of the Plenipotentiary Conference (Kyoto, 1994) on human resources management and development;
- b) No. 154 of the Constitution (Geneva, 1992);
- c) Resolution 50 of the Plenipotentiary Conference (Kyoto, 1994) on ~~R~~ecruitment of ITU ~~S~~taff and ~~E~~xperts for ~~T~~echnical ~~A~~ssistance ~~M~~issions,

noting

- a) the report of the Council (1998) concerning human resources ~~and~~ management and development; ~~and~~
- b) the Strategic Plan of the ITU as described in Resolution 1 of the Plenipotentiary Conference (Minneapolis, 1998),

recognizing

the value of the human resources of the Union to the fulfilment of its goals,

further recognizing

- a) ~~the mutual value, both to the Union and to the staff, of developing those resources to the fullest extent possible, through the various human resources development activities, and in particular, in-service training;~~
- b) ~~the impact on the Union and its staff of the continuing evolution of activities in the domain/field of the telecommunications and the need for the Union and its human resources to adapt to this evolution;~~
- c) the importance of human resources management and development in support of ITU's strategic orientations and goals,

considering

- a) the need to follow a recruitment policy appropriate to the requirements of the Union, including the redeployment of posts and ~~the recruitment of young specialists~~ at the start of their career;
- b) the need to continue to improve the geographical distribution of appointed staff of the Union;
- c) the need to encourage the recruitment of women in the professional and higher categories;
- d) the constant advances made in ~~the telecommunications~~ telecommunication technology and operation ~~of telecommunications~~ and the corresponding need to recruit specialists ~~with~~ of the highest standard of competence,

fnoting

~~that the Administrative Committee on Co-ordination (ACC) attributes the priority to the reform of human resources management in the United Nations common system;~~

resolves

1 that ~~the~~ human resources management and development in the Union should be compatible with ~~the~~ ITU's goals and activities ~~of the ITU~~; and

2 that the principles of human resources management and development should be applied with regard to human resources planning, recruitment and selection, training, compensation, job classification, career development, performance appraisal and end of service within existing resources and to the extent consistent with the United Nations Common System.

further resolves

1 that appointed staff in the Professional and higher categories shall continue to be recruited on an international basis and that, in general, vacancies for these posts shall be advertised as widely as possible and communicated to the administrations of all Members States of the Union; however, reasonable promotion possibilities must continue to be offered to existing staff;

2 that, when filling vacant posts by international recruitment, in choosing between candidates who meet the qualification requirements for a post, preference shall be given to candidates from regions of the world which are insufficiently represented in the staffing of the Union, taking into account the desirable balance between female and male staff;

3 that, when filling vacant posts by international recruitment and when no candidate fulfils all the qualification requirements, recruitment can take place at one grade below, on the understanding that a candidate will have to fulfil certain conditions before being given the full responsibilities of the post and the promotion to the grade of the post, as the candidate does not meet all the requirements of the post,

instructs the Secretary-General

1 to ensure that humans resources management and development help achieve the ITU management goals ~~set by the Co-ordination Committee~~;

2 to prepare medium-term and long-term human resources management and development plans to respond to the needs of the Union, its Members and its staff; and

3 to study how ~~the~~ new approaches to best practices in human resources management; [practices] ~~[as defined in the ACC statement]~~, might [best] be applied within the Union, and report to the Council;

4 to continue to pursue a recruitment policy designed to improve ~~the~~ geographical and gender representations ~~of the~~ among appointed staff;

5 to recruit ~~young specialists~~ at the start of their career at the P.1/P.2 level, where appropriate, with a view to improving ~~professionalism~~ professional competence within the Union, taking into account geographical distribution and the balance between female and male staff;

6 to submit each year to the Council a report on the measures adopted in pursuance of this Resolution and on the evolution of recruitment issues in general,

~~requests~~instructs the Council

- 1 to ensure, to the extent feasible within approved budget levels, that the necessary staff and financial resources are made available for implementing issues related to human resources management and development ~~of the~~in ITU as they emerge;
- 2 to examine the Secretary-General's report on this matter and to decide on the actions to be taken;
- 3 to allocate the appropriate credits for in-service training in accordance with an established programme, which shall represent 3% of the budget allocated to staff costs;
- 4 to follow with the greatest attention the question of recruitment and to adopt within existing resources and to the extent consistent with the United Nations common system, the measures it deems necessary to secure an adequate number of qualified candidates for Union posts, particularly taking account of considering b) and c) above.

DRAFT RESOLUTION [COM7/3]

COMPENSATION MATTERS

The Plenipotentiary Conference of the International Telecommunication Union
(Minneapolis, 1998),

noting

~~the adoption by the United Nations General Assembly at its 46th session of Resolution 46/192 resulting in the implementation of a pension adjustment system which largely protects the purchasing power of pensions as sought by the Plenipotentiary Conference (Nice, 1989) in its Resolution 43.~~

considering

- a) ~~that the need to ensure the competitiveness of the remuneration levels in the Professional and higher categories in the common system are no longer competitive when compared to a number of other international civil services;~~
- b) the specific needs of the Union for attracting and retaining highly technical and specialized staff with knowledge of the most recent technological developments;
- c) that most civil services and organizations facing similar difficulties have been able to find suitable solutions.

still concerned

by the increasing number of ad hoc measures taken by some Member States to give additional compensation to their nationals working in the United Nations system in order to compensate for the lack of competitiveness of remuneration levels in the United Nations common system.

recalling

~~the decision of principle taken by the United Nations General Assembly in Resolution 47/216, reiterated in resolutions 50/208 and 51/216, to introduce~~ endorse in principle the use of special occupational rates in the common system which still remains to be implemented in organizations with problems of recruitment and retention, and which requests that organizations collect data to substantiate the recruitment and retention problems they face in respect of certain specialized occupations,

recognizing

the efforts made by the International Civil Service Commission (ICSC) in order to respond to requests submitted by organizations of the United Nations common system concerning recognition of performance.

expressing its satisfaction

~~of~~ at decisions taken by the Council in application of Resolution 47 of the Plenipotentiary Conference (Kyoto, 1994); in order to enhance staff motivation through the implementation of an incentive scheme,

invites the International Civil Service Commission and the United Nations General Assembly

- 1 ~~to remedy, as a matter of urgency, the problem of lack of~~ to continue to monitor and to take steps to ensure the competitiveness of the common system compensation scheme for staff in the professional and higher categories;
- 2 ~~actually to continue to~~ introduce the required flexibility in the United Nations common system to enable small highly technical agencies to be competitive in the labour market from which they draw their workforce,

instructs the Council

- 1 to continue monitoring with the greatest attention the question of protection of the purchasing power of pensions and the competitiveness of the compensation scheme for staff in all categories;
- 2 to continue monitoring the responsiveness of ICSC and the United Nations General Assembly and to take steps in order to ensure that the specific needs of ITU, as expressed in the present Resolution, are fulfilled.

DRAFT RESOLUTION [COM7/4]

ITU STAFF PARTICIPATION IN CONFERENCES OF THE UNION

The Plenipotentiary Conference of the International Telecommunication Union
(Minneapolis, 1998),

considering

- a) that staff are a key element in the achievement of the Union's objectives;
- b) the importance of good human resources management to the achievement of the Union's objectives;
- c) the importance of fruitful working relations between the staff and its employer and of staff participation in the management of the Union,
- d) that it is important for the Staff Council to be consulted by the Secretary-General before decisions of a general nature are taken concerning human resources management and working conditions at ITU, in accordance with Staff Rule 8.1.1.b).

recognizing

the rights of staff under ~~Article 8~~Chapter VIII of the ~~Staff Rules and Regulations and Staff Rules,~~

noting

the initiative of ~~the~~ Council in creating a consultative group comprising representatives of the secretariat of the Union, staff representatives and Council members,

considering further

that the participation of staff representatives is beneficial to the Plenipotentiary Conference,

resolves

- a) that staff will be represented by ~~one person (or a maximum of two persons) who will participate in~~attend sessions of the ITU Council and ~~in~~ Plenipotentiary Conferences;
- b) that the staff representatives will be entitled to state the staff's opinion concerning staff matters at the request invitation of the Chairman of the meeting dealing with staff matters, such participation having no impact on the budget of ITU or, as appropriate, at the request of a Member of the Council, at Council sessions, or of a delegation at Plenipotentiary Conferences.

DRAFT RESOLUTION [COM7/5]

**INTRODUCTION OF A LONG-TERM CARE
INSURANCE SCHEME IN THE UNION**

The Plenipotentiary Conference of the International Telecommunication Union
(Minneapolis, 1998),

recalling

- a) Article 20 of the Headquarters Agreement under which ITU has to provide its staff with a social protection coverage equivalent to the one in force in the host country;
- b) that ~~most of~~ the United Nations organizations' current health provisions do not allow for payments for long-term care;
- c) its commitment to the welfare of its staff;
- d) the study by the Consultative Committee on Administrative Questions (Personnel and General Administrative Questions) and the Administrative Committee on Coordination on the possibility of introducing an affordable long-term care insurance in the United Nations common system.

considering

- a) that, before and after retirement, ~~most some~~ international civil servants ~~will~~may be excluded from their national social security arrangements;
- b) that life expectancy is increasing rapidly and most of those surviving into old age will have some degree of handicap;
- c) ~~that the Consultative Committee on Administrative Questions (Personnel and General Administrative Questions) and the Administrative Committee on Coordination have proposed the introduction of an affordable long-term insurance in the United Nations common system.~~

resolves

~~that the Union has to be involved and actively participate in the implementation of a long-term care insurance scheme for the benefit of its staff, comprising a mandatory low premium component and a voluntary component, as proposed by CCAQ and ACC;~~

instructs the Council

~~to closely monitor and to give its full support to the implementation of such a scheme in ITU.~~

instructs the Secretary-General

- 1 ~~to encourage the executive heads of~~consult his counterparts in other United Nations common system organizations regarding their interest in the possible introduction of a long-term care insurance comprising a mandatory low-premium component and a voluntary component, as proposed by CCAQ and ACC in their organizations to adopt the same position as ITU;

2 ~~to be prepared to study~~ compile and prepare appropriate data regarding the possible introduction of a long-term care insurance comprising a mandatory low-premium component and a voluntary component, as proposed by the CCAQ and the ACC, and in particular, regarding its cost for the Union and for the participant staff members ~~the long-term care insurance scheme in the event other UN common system organizations do not wish to implement such a scheme;~~

3 to report to the next Council session on the outcome of deliberations in the Fifth Committee of the UNGA on the above-mentioned proposal and other progress in the implementation of ~~made with respect to this resolution;~~

4 to inform ICSC accordingly.

DRAFT RESOLUTION [COM7/6]

OCCUPATIONAL ILLNESS

The Plenipotentiary Conference of the International Telecommunication Union
(Minneapolis, 1998),

considering

that the protection of the health of its staff must be a major concern of the Union at all times,

recognizing

the inadequate provisions in the ITU Staff Regulations and Staff Rules regarding safety, health and environmental standards, and regarding compensation for work-related illness, death, injury or disability attributable to service, which may occur after end of service,

instructs the Secretary-General

- 1 to take the necessary steps, within available resources, to ensure compliance with accepted safety, health and environmental standards in force in the host country of the Union;
 - 2 to determine if the current insurance coverage would be applicable and effective in the event of an illness occurring after end of service by reason of prior employment with ITU, and if not, to evaluate the cost of appropriate coverage;
 - 3 to submit a report on this matter to the Council.
-

INTERNATIONAL TELECOMMUNICATION
UNION



**PLENIPOTENTIARY
CONFERENCE (PP-98)**

**Corrigendum 2 to
Document 130-F/E/S
27 October 1998
Original: French/English/
Spanish**

MINNEAPOLIS, 12 OCTOBER - 6 NOVEMBER 1998

PLENARY MEETING

Autriche, Bulgarie, Danemark, Espagne, France, Norvège, Portugal, Suisse

PROPOSITIONS POUR LES TRAVAUX DE LA CONFÉRENCE

Ajouter "**Chypre (République de)**" dans la liste des pays signataires de ce document.

* * * * *

Austria, Bulgaria, Denmark, Spain, France, Norway, Portugal, Switzerland

PROPOSALS FOR THE WORK OF THE CONFERENCE

Add "**Cyprus (Republic of)**" in the list of signatories for this document.

* * * * *

Austria, Bulgaria, Dinamarca, España, Francia, Noruega, Portugal, Suiza

PROPUESTAS PARA LOS TRABAJOS DE LA CONFERENCIA

Añádase "**Chipre (República de)**" a la lista de países firmantes de este documento.

UNION INTERNATIONALE DES
TELECOMMUNICATIONS



CONFERENCE DE
PLENIPOTENTIAIRES (PP-98)

Corrigendum 1 au
Document 130-F/E/S
22 octobre 1998
Original: anglais

MINNEAPOLIS, 12 OCTOBRE - 6 NOVEMBRE 1998

SÉANCE PLÉNIÈRE

Autriche, Bulgarie, Danemark, Espagne, France, Norvège, Portugal, Suisse

PROPOSITIONS POUR LES TRAVAUX DE LA CONFÉRENCE

Ajouter "**Royaume-Uni**" dans la liste des pays signataires de ce document.

* * * * *

Austria, Bulgaria, Denmark, Spain, France, Norway, Portugal, Switzerland

PROPOSALS FOR THE WORK OF THE CONFERENCE

Add "**United Kingdom**" in the list of signatories for this document.

* * * * *

Austria, Bulgaria, Dinamarca, España, Francia, Noruega, Portugal, Suiza

PROPUESTAS PARA LOS TRABAJOS DE LA CONFERENCIA

Añádase "**Reino Unido**" a la lista de países firmantes de este documento.

INTERNATIONAL TELECOMMUNICATION UNION



PLENIPOTENTIARY CONFERENCE (PP-98)

Document 130-E
19 October 1998
Original: English/French

MINNEAPOLIS, 12 OCTOBER - 6 NOVEMBER 1998

COMMITTEE 5

**Austria, Bulgaria, Denmark, Spain, France, Norway, Portugal
and Switzerland (Confederation of)**

PROPOSALS FOR THE WORK OF THE CONFERENCE

DRAFT RESOLUTION ON INTERNET GOVERNANCE

1 Introduction

During its last session in May, Council deferred consideration of the Internet Governance until the Plenipotentiary Conference, pending the availability of information on the subject. The American Government issued a White Paper in July which has resulted in a number of new proposals. The governance of Internet remains an important issue that the Plenipotentiary Conference should address.

2 Background

The success of the Internet has resulted in a growing demand for domain names which has shown the limits of the actual assignment system (especially in the .com domain, where a number of jurisdictional and commercial problems appeared) and the need to set up a new system. Until now, the assignment and management of Internet domain names have been ruled by several entities located in the United States, particularly the Internet Assigned Numbers Authority (IANA), the National Science Foundation (NSF) and the Network Solutions Inc. (NSI).

In 1996, IANA and ISOC have set up an International Ad Hoc Committee (IAHC) to organize a public debate in these matters and prepare a reform of the assignment and management of DNS. ITU and WIPO took part in this committee. The work of IAHC has resulted in two MoUs, the first one on gTLD (gTLD-MoU), the second one about the settlement of a Council of Registrars (CORE-MoU): In 1997, the ITU Council discussed the issues of DNS and IAHC reform, and the Secretary-General of ITU has proposed to become depositary of the MoU which was signed in Geneva by a large number of private sector stakeholders.

In February 1998, the United States issued a Green Paper insisting on the responsibility of the American Government towards Internet. Afterwards, numerous governments have drawn the attention of the American Government to problems in the areas of legal jurisdiction, intellectual property rights and fair competition in the assignment of domain names, and stressed the need for an international, multilateral approach and a mechanism for settling disputes.

The publication of a White Paper by the United States in June 1998 resulted in return in new proposals. Particularly last published IANA Bylaws make reference to the creation of a "governmental advisory committee" in which international organizations such as WIPO and ITU could participate.

Although recognizing that the development of the Internet must be market-led and driven by private initiative, we support the need for a multilateral approach involving all interested parties both private and public, and the fact that governments must also be involved in some ways. The Internet naming and addressing system should support the objectives of public policy with reference to electronic communications, in particular regarding reliable and economical access to the Internet for all categories of users, transparency and predictability of Internet names and addresses, respect of personal privacy and the continued development and expansion of electronic communications for private, educational and commercial purposes, in the interests of the public good, worldwide.

More particularly Internet is a matter of concern for governments and ITU for the following reasons:

- Internet names and addresses are a scarce public resource which must be managed in the public interest;
- the naming and addressing system must respect applicable laws, including competition, data protection and intellectual property laws.

ITU, as a major actor of the international telecommunication community, has a role to play in raising the awareness of its Member States especially in following the discussions taking place at international level. It must get organized as well in order to participate in the governmental advisory committee proposed by the IANA Bylaws.

3 Proposal

The ITU Secretary-General should be instructed to take an active part in international discussions and initiatives on Internet governance, and report each year to the Council on his activities. Council is instructed to take any appropriate measure in order to contribute actively. Member States are invited to participate in and follow the progress of work and to raise the awareness on this subject at national level among all interested non-governmental parties.

AUT/BUL/DNK/E/
F/NOR/POR/
SUI/130/1
ADD

DRAFT RESOLUTION [AUT/BUL/DNK/E/F/NOR/POR/SUI-1]

GOVERNANCE OF INTERNET

The Plenipotentiary Conference of the International Telecommunication Union
(Minneapolis, 1998),

conscious

that the purposes of the Union are, *inter alia*, to promote, at the international level, the adoption of a broader approach to the issues of telecommunications in the global information economy and society, to promote the extension of the benefits of the new telecommunication technologies to all the world's inhabitants and to harmonize the actions of Members in the attainment of those ends,

considering

- a) that advances in global information infrastructure, including the development of the Internet, are an issue of crucial importance to the future, as an important engine for growth in the world economy in the 21st century;
- b) that the private sector is playing a key role in the expansion of the Internet, in particular through investments in infrastructures and services;
- c) that the development of the Internet must essentially be market-led and driven by private initiative;
- d) that the future system of registration, allocation and governance of Internet domain names must fully reflect the geographical and functional nature of the Internet, taking into account an equitable balance of interests of all stakeholders, in particular of businesses and consumers;
- e) that domain names, and more generally the Internet and global information networks, must be widely accessible to all citizens without regard to sex, race, religion nor their country of residence;
- f) that the methods of attribution of domain names and IP addresses should not privilege any country or region of the world to the detriment of others;
- g) that the management of the Internet is a subject of valid international interest and consequently must be agreed internationally,

emphasizing

- a) that the mechanisms of allocation of global and potentially scarce resources such as IP addresses and domain names are a subject of concern for the governments;
- b) that the role of governments is to provide a clear, consistent and predictable framework, to promote a favorable environment in which global information networks are interoperable and widely accessible to all citizens and to ensure adequate protection of consumer and user interests;

c) that it is in the public interest that the Internet have transparent and equitable dispute resolution procedures to facilitate the protection of intellectual property rights;

d) that the governments are expected to preserve a fair competitive environment among companies or organizations responsible for Internet resources allocation,

instructs the Secretary-General

a) to take an active part in the international discussions on Internet governance, with special attention to the activities conducted by WIPO, and to participate fully in international initiatives on this subject, bearing in mind the purposes of the Union;

b) to report yearly to the Council on the activities undertaken on this subject,

instructs the Council

to take appropriate measures in order to contribute actively to any relevant international initiative,

invites the Member States

a) to participate in and follow the progress of the work;

b) to increase the awareness at national level among all interested non-governmental parties and to encourage their participation in Internet governance entities.

INTERNATIONAL TELECOMMUNICATION UNION



PLENIPOTENTIARY CONFERENCE (PP-98)

Corrigendum 1 to
Document 131-E
23 October 1998
Original: English

MINNEAPOLIS, 12 OCTOBER - 6 NOVEMBER 1998

PLENARY MEETING

MINUTES

OF THE

FOURTH PLENARY MEETING

Wednesday, 14 October 1998, at 0940 hours

Chairperson: Mr. Thomas SIEBERT (United States)

Please replace paragraph 2.3 with the following text:

2.3 The **delegate of Spain**, while in principle supporting the proposals read out by the delegate of Morocco, considered that discussion of the matter should be deferred until the text had been made available in printed form - a view shared by the **delegate of the Philippines**. He also considered that a decision was required concerning contributions submitted after the deadline of 11 February. In his opinion, the deadline was preclusive, although, in view of the number of contributions submitted after that date, he would not oppose their consideration if such were the will of the Conference, but felt that a decision should be taken on the matter, with appropriate amendment of the Convention, with a view to avoiding such situations.

INTERNATIONAL TELECOMMUNICATION UNION



PLENIPOTENTIARY CONFERENCE (PP-98)

Document 131-E
20 October 1998
Original: English

MINNEAPOLIS, 12 OCTOBER - 6 NOVEMBER 1998

PLENARY MEETING

MINUTES

OF THE

FOURTH PLENARY MEETING

Wednesday, 14 October 1998, at 0940 hours

Chairperson: Mr. Thomas SIEBERT (United States)

Subjects discussed

- 1 Election procedures (continued)
- 2 Working methods of committees
- 3 General policy statements (continued)

Documents

62
25 + Add.1
-

1 Election procedures (continued) (Document 62)

1.1 Regarding the unresolved matter of whether there should be a combined or separate vote for the offices of Secretary-General and Deputy Secretary-General, the **Chairperson** announced that the informal consultation group had not reached consensus on that matter but had suggested that, in the interests of efficiency, the decision should be left to the Chairperson. After reflection, he had opted in favour of a separate vote for each office, following the procedure adopted at previous Plenipotentiary Conferences, with the exception of Kyoto where a single vote had been taken as there had been only one candidate for the office of Secretary-General.

1.2 In the absence of any objection, it was so **agreed**.

1.3 The **Secretary-General** said that, on the basis of that decision, it would be possible to schedule the election of the Secretary-General for Tuesday, 20 October.

1.4 The **delegate of Turkey** proposed that the date of Wednesday 28 October should be fixed for discussions and decisions concerning the membership and composition of the Radio Regulations Board (RRB) and that the elections to RRB should be held on Thursday 29 October at the latest.

1.5 The **Chairperson** suggested that the matter of the deadline for elections to RRB should be referred to the Steering Committee for consideration at its meeting on 15 October.

1.6 It was so **agreed**.

2 Working methods of committees (Document 25 and Addendum 1)

2.1 The **delegate of Morocco** introduced Document 25 and its Addendum 1 containing proposals submitted by a number of Arab countries concerning the question of quorums and majorities required by the Plenary Meeting and the committees in dealing with proposals by Member States. At present two sets of procedures existed - one in Article 55 of the Constitution and Article 42 of the Convention relating, respectively, to amendments to the Constitution and Convention; the other in Chapter III of the Convention applicable to all other proposals. The proposals in Document 25 had been put forward because the existing provisions might greatly complicate the work of the present Conference, at which radical changes to the Constitution and Convention were envisaged. There was a risk of the quorum not being reached and of discussions in committees being reopened systematically in the Plenary Meeting. It was proposed to shift the provisions relating to quorums to Chapter III of the Convention. He then read out an eight-point text, which he had drafted after consultations with the Legal Affairs Unit of ITU, and which would be issued later as a conference document.

2.2 The **delegate of Saudi Arabia** emphasized that his country also co-sponsored the proposals in Document 25.

2.3 The **delegate of Spain**, while in principle supporting the proposals read out by the delegate of Morocco, considered that discussion of the matter should be deferred until the text had been made available in printed form - a view shared by the **delegate of the Philippines**. He also considered that a decision was required concerning contributions submitted after the deadline of 11 February. In his opinion, all contributions should be discussed even if handed in after that deadline, although that procedure was not strictly in accordance with the provisions of the Convention.

2.4 The **delegate of Morocco** pointed out that the relevant provision (No. 519 of the Convention) did not expressly exclude consideration of proposals submitted after the deadline. Comparison with other organizations in the United Nations indicated that there was no fixed date limit for submission of proposals other than 24 hours before discussion of the relevant item. He agreed with the delegate of Spain that all proposals should be considered by the Conference.

2.5 The **delegate of Greece** expressed concern that it might become regular practice to make amendments to the Convention or Constitution at every Plenipotentiary Conference. It was important that the permanent nature of the basic texts should be protected. He reserved the right to make a proposal at an appropriate moment to adopt a decision making it less straightforward to amend the Constitution and Convention.

2.6 The **Chairperson** suggested that discussion of the working methods of committees be deferred until the text proposed by the delegate of Morocco had been circulated.

2.7 It was so **agreed**.

3 General policy statements (continued)

3.1 **Mr. Raja Nagar Pervez Khan, Minister for Communications, Pakistan**, said that in the fast moving technological environment, ITU played a vital role in assisting nations to achieve global telecommunication links. Developments in telecommunications in his country, of which he gave a brief account, were based on the principles of universal access, transparency, promotion of privatization and value-added services, expansion of networks to rural areas and tariff rationalization. Regarding problems arising from the current accounting rate system, it was important that any decisions thereon should be acceptable to at least 75 per cent of countries and that income from accounting rates should go towards the purchase of equipment and expert assistance for developing countries. He proposed that a fund should be created, similar to the universal service fund, to compensate for the disparity in accounting rate settlements between developed and developing countries. He expressed appreciation for the assistance received from ITU in providing expertise in his country. Pakistan had been an active Member of ITU and was seeking re-election to the ITU Council and membership of the Radio Regulations Board.

3.2 **The Honourable Anthony Rolle, Minister for Telecommunications, Bahamas**, expressed appreciation for the valuable assistance which his country had received from ITU in the privatization and modernization of its telecommunication sector, processes that had become essential in the changing world telecommunication environment. It was important that, in future, sufficient emphasis should be placed on the rights and role of small States such as his own. After four years of representation on the ITU Council, his country supported the Member State of Saint Lucia as the next candidate from the Caribbean. He welcomed ITU's intention to strengthen relations with regional telecommunication organizations and expressed support for the programme for LDCs under the Valetta Action Plan, which especially concerned Haiti in the Caribbean region, and for the multilateral process within ITU concerning accounting rate issues, in particular the work of the focus group under ITU-T Study Group 3. He also welcomed the exercises on tariffs conducted in developing countries. Lastly, he called for an explicit programme of work in the area of technical development as a follow-up to the second World Telecommunication Policy Forum (WTPF), especially concerning Opinions A and B.

3.3 The Honourable Reginal Stanley, Minister of Infrastructure and Public Utilities, Vanuatu, said that Vanuatu had been making great efforts to develop and expand its telecommunication network, through a programme aimed at providing the remotest rural settlements with the same service quality as was available in urban centres. The programme included the extension of mobile telephone use in metropolitan areas and the introduction of services such as electronic mail and file transfer protocol. Links had already been established with several other countries. The problem of termination charges was of particular concern because of the difficulty in determining the value of each allocator. For that reason, a workshop had been held, with ITU participation, with a view to introducing suitable methodology for dealing with termination charges, taking into account, *inter alia*, the distortion in costs which could arise from the disparity in skills between operators in small island developing countries and those in advanced technology nations. In closing, he said that current telecommunication legislation and regulatory procedures were to be reviewed, and ITU's assistance, possibly in the form of a mission, would be welcome.

3.4 Mr. René López Alvarez, Vice-Minister of Communications, Cuba, said that the gap between rich and poor nations remained as wide as ever. In that context, it was important to ensure that the globalization and liberalization which characterized the recent radical changes in telecommunications did not foster coercive cross-border measures which could adversely affect a country's economic and social stability. Likewise, any reform of contributions should take into account the varying levels of development, bearing in mind that for many developing countries telecommunication revenue was an important part of the national income. The standards developed by ITU should be used to promote international understanding and cooperation, and should not be abused for hostile purposes or to interfere in the internal affairs of another country, as the United States had been doing for some forty years in the case of Cuba. International undertakings should be strictly observed, in the spirit of the preamble to the Constitution, which spoke of the growing importance of telecommunications for the preservation of peace and the economic and social development of all States. Cuba itself was reorganizing its telecommunication systems, with the help of joint stock companies, especially in areas such as cellular telephony, recognizing the importance of access by all its people to telecommunications.

3.5 Mr. Jorge Nicolín Fischer, Under-Secretary of Communications, Mexico, said that, following the privatization of telecommunications in Mexico in the early 1990s, due regard had been given to the role of the State, particularly with regard to putting in place a legal framework to ensure balanced development in areas such as cellular telephony, paging and value-added services. In 1995 the law had been amended so as to promote licence concession and other measures to open up the market; and as a result of further measures taken in 1996, dealing, *inter alia*, with the difficult question of tendering, there was now a wide choice of providers for some 80 per cent of users. Satellite services, too, had been developed; Mexico was already making use of a second generation of satellites and would shortly be discussing a third generation. While the State maintained control over essential services, the Government was convinced that opening up the telecommunication market was the way to promote universal access. Industry was cooperating increasingly with the public sector, and over 80 per cent of rural areas were already covered by services. Complete coverage was expected by the year 2000. ITU's experience and constant development made it the paramount body in international telecommunication activities. Its efforts should continue to be focused on measures to ensure that services were operated rationally in order to benefit rural and urban populations alike. The difficult question of redefining accounting rates should be dealt with on the basis of multilateral consensus. The challenge facing the present Conference was to find a suitable balance between government and private enterprise, within an appropriate legal framework.

3.6 The Honourable George Wan, Vice-Minister for Communications, Papua New Guinea, said that his country, being a small island developing nation, depended heavily on telecommunications for development. In an era of rapidly changing technology, including a shift from monopoly control to market forces, ITU faced a difficult task in promoting competition while at the same time avoiding any tendency to dominance. The objective was to promote goodwill and peace everywhere, and it was important that all reforms in the sector should take account of the needs of the countless poor people in many Member States. In addition, ITU's basic texts, such as the Radio Regulations, should always be applied firmly. He recognized, however, that the value of ITU's work lay not only in the application of its rules and regulations, but also in the wisdom and experience of those who guided it. In that regard, his country hoped that, at the elections to be held at the current Conference, a balance could be struck between the equitable geographical distribution of posts and the promotion of meritorious and experienced candidates. He expressed thanks to the many countries who had provided assistance in the wake of the recent tsunami disaster.

3.7 His Excellency Mr. Jay Naidoo, Minister of Posts, Telecommunications and Broadcasting, South Africa, said that Sub-Saharan Africa, which accounted for 10 per cent of the world's population, had only 1 per cent of its telephone lines. The Maitland Commission report had pointed to the growing gap, which the current Conference should consider practical ways to close. At the dawn of a new millennium, many peoples remained subject to the ravages of civil war, genocide and dictatorship, and the endless cycle of poverty and underdevelopment. Telephony was a key factor in closing the development gap; South Africa had taken radical steps to increase access to telephones, *inter alia* by establishing an independent regulator to control licensing and preparing the country for fairer competition among operators. Within the next three years, 75 per cent of all households would have access to a telephone, and every social centre would be connected. All up-to-date technology would be introduced, including satellite links. African leaders were determined to find African solutions to Africa's problems in order to develop a continent-wide communication infrastructure; in that regard, AFRICA TELECOM 98 had been one of the most successful regional events. He called on the Conference to support Africa's efforts to close the development gap, and to restructure ITU so as to ensure efficiency, regional strengthening and fairer representation of the least developed countries. The resolution on gender equality adopted at Valletta should also be supported. Technology alone, it should be remembered, was soulless. It was up to the world's leaders to ensure that values were respected and that hopes were translated into reality.

3.8 The Chairperson invited the Director General of EUTELSAT to take the floor.

3.9 Mr. Jean Grenier, Director General, EUTELSAT, speaking also as chairperson of the Plenipotentiary Conference (Nice, 1989), said that the participants at that Conference had been fully aware of the importance of the future role of ITU and of the need to change its structure and working methods. It was now more important than ever to support the Union to ensure the effectiveness of its work. EUTELSAT's 11 satellites, plus a further two that were due to enter into service shortly, served 47 Member States. With his extensive experience in application of the Radio Regulations, he had been surprised that the Radio Regulations Board had considered itself empowered to take a decision, in a matter involving EUTELSAT, through its notifying administration, France, which had been tantamount to arbitration between two Member States of the Union in a dispute over the interpretation of the Radio Regulations. Those Regulations had the value of a treaty and their interpretation was a matter for the Member States of the Union to decide. The Board's task was to approve rules of procedure to be used in the application of the Radio Regulations by the Bureau. Administrations could also be asked for their comments, and in the case of continuing disagreement, the matter should be submitted to a world radiocommunication conference. In order to increase the effectiveness of the Radio Regulations, the powers of the former

IFRB had been divided between the Bureau and the Board, but the latter had not been given the power to arbitrate between administrations in matters of interpretation. It would be desirable for the Member States of the Union to reflect urgently on the matter in order to avoid any confusion in the future.

3.10 **Mr. Leki Dorji, Deputy Minister of Communications, Bhutan**, said that although the convergence of new technologies offered developing countries an opportunity to join the information age, they were still grappling with the task of providing access to basic services, particularly for their scattered rural populations. Like other developing countries, Bhutan's potential for growth could only be realized with the continued support of ITU and of its development partners. In order for ITU's efforts to benefit the developing countries, a greater regional presence was required. ITU should support LDCs, in particular by establishing policies for rural communications and universal access, providing guidance on such issues as the WTO basic telecommunication agreement, and allocating resources to help build the necessary infrastructure to capture the full social and economic benefits of information and communication technology, bearing in mind its commitments under the Valletta Action Plan. The help of Member States was also important. Furthermore, there was a need to address the impact of the reform of the international accounting and settlement system. ITU should remain a focal point for world communications in the 21st century, and the necessary reforms should be made to increase its effectiveness and efficiency.

3.11 **His Excellency Mr. Mohamed Mulla, Deputy Minister of Posts, Telegraph and Telephone, Saudi Arabia**, said that Saudi Arabia had adopted a three-phase telecommunication development plan to provide telecommunication services in remote areas with the highest possible level of service and to develop its transit facilities. The first phase, transforming the public entity responsible for communication services into a private enterprise, had been completed earlier in the year. The second phase, developing the commercial aspects of the enterprise, was scheduled for completion by the end of the year, while the third phase, opening up the telecommunication market, involving the development of a telecommunication structure, its standardization and regulation, was expected to be completed by 2000. Among the administration's achievements so far was the regulation and standardization of Internet services, the gradual replacement of analogue systems by digital switching systems, the installation of a fibre-optic system, and extension of the fixed telephone system. Mobile services had also been supplied to over 600 000 subscribers. Saudi Arabia saw the telecommunication sector as one of the main pillars of the development of other sectors and as being instrumental in reducing the gap between the developing and developed countries, and in guaranteeing peace, security and prosperity throughout the world.

3.12 **His Excellency Dr. Mehdi Tabeshian, Deputy Minister of Posts, Telegraph and Telephone for International Affairs, Islamic Republic of Iran**, said that whereas 70 per cent of the world's telephone users represented only 16 per cent of the global population, the largest part of the world's population, particularly in the rural areas of Africa and the Asia-Pacific Region, remained deprived of the most basic telecommunication facilities. The Conference should therefore take action to narrow the gap between the developed and developing world, particularly LDCs, by adopting appropriate policies and a strategic plan which would guarantee equal telecommunication development. That goal could only be achieved by close cooperation between all Member States and ITU. The role of ITU in achieving that goal was vital. The Conference should therefore take the necessary action to ensure that the sovereign rights of Member States were safeguarded and to allow for the fullest possible participation of developing countries, particularly LDCs, in the work of the Union. It should also ensure the peaceful use of outer space, as well as equitable access by all countries. In view of its active participation in the work of ITU, the Islamic Republic of Iran had decided, after a break of twenty years, to submit its candidacy for membership of the Council.

3.13 **Mr. Mahidol Chantrangkurn, Permanent Secretary, Ministry of Transport and Communications, Thailand**, said the changes in the global telecommunication environment since the 1994 Plenipotentiary Conference, in particular the convergence of telecommunications and information technology and the globalization of telecommunication industries and services, had led to liberalization in many developing countries including Thailand, whose market would be open to international competition in 2006. To that end, a telecommunication development master plan had been introduced, under which existing enterprises would be privatized, monopolies abolished and a regulatory body established. Thailand saw ITU as a global forum where all Member States could express their views as equal partners. The participation of the private sector would contribute to greater financial stability of the Union as would a change in the present system of contributions. To that end, the Conference should give due consideration to the views of the Council. ITU's regional presence should be strengthened by further decentralization to the field offices. Lastly, the entire spectrum of ITU's functions should be re-examined to enable the Union to prepare itself for the environmental changes of the new millennium.

3.14 **Ms. Valeria Deppeler, Chief of Staff, Communications Secretariat, Argentina**, emphasized the challenge posed by the creation of a global information society in which the benefits of telecommunication and its services would be available to all people, thereby expanding their cultural, social and economic opportunities. That challenge could only be met through the adoption of measures to promote access to new technology and the provision of new services to new clients throughout the world, in a competitive regulatory framework. Argentina had already made great progress in the telecommunication sector and was ready to face the new challenge, confident that its promotion of the global information infrastructure would result in the attainment of the desires and wishes of all its citizens, without denial of identity, roots or culture.

3.15 **Mr. Dato Paduka Malai Ali Bin Haji Othman, Permanent Secretary, Ministry of Communications, Brunei Darussalam**, said that Brunei Darussalam welcomed the implementation of the global information infrastructure and was committed to achieving a high performance network infrastructure that would secure the country's place in the competitive global economy of the 21st century. Telecommunications would be the catalyst for the country's development and provide it with new trading partners. He subscribed to the call by the Vice-President of the United States to meet the challenges of a digital declaration of interdependence, and to the vision of the future globalization of society, when small economies would be linked to a global community that would coexist in peace and harmony. In realizing that vision, there was a need for true international partnership in global development, in which ITU had a catalytic role to play.

The meeting rose at 1235 hours.

The Secretary-General:
Pekka TARJANNE

The Chairperson:
Thomas SIEBERT

INTERNATIONAL TELECOMMUNICATION UNION



PLENIPOTENTIARY CONFERENCE (PP-98)

Document 132-E
27 October 1998
Original: English

MINNEAPOLIS, 12 OCTOBER - 6 NOVEMBER 1998

COMMITTEE 3

SUMMARY RECORD

OF THE

FIRST MEETING OF COMMITTEE 3

(BUDGET CONTROL)

Thursday, 15 October 1998, at 1130 hours

Chairperson: Mr. A. UNTILA (Moldova)

Subjects discussed		Documents
1	Terms of reference of the Committee	89
2	Organization of the work of the Committee	-
3	Arrangements between the Government of the United States of America and the Secretary-General of the International Telecommunication Union	64
4	Budget of the Conference	83
5	Contributions of organizations to defraying the expenses of the Conference	84
6	Situation of the accounts of the Conference as at 9 October 1998	108

1 Terms of reference of the Committee (Document 89)

- 1.1 The Committee's terms of reference, as set out in Document 89, were **approved**.

2 Organization of the work of the Committee

- 2.1 The **Chairperson** said that it was planned for the Budget Control Committee to hold two meetings; the second meeting, to adopt the Committee's final report, would be scheduled at an appropriate time later in the Conference.

- 2.2 It was so **agreed**.

3 Arrangements between the Government of the United States of America and the Secretary-General of the International Telecommunication Union (Document 64)

- 3.1 The **Secretary**, introducing the arrangements concluded between the host Government and the Secretary-General for holding the Conference in Minneapolis, drew particular attention to the estimated additional expenditure to be borne by the host country, as indicated in Annex 3 to the document, and to the draft resolution submitted for approval by the Budget Control Committee and subsequent transmission to the Plenary Meeting.

- 3.2 Document 64 was **noted**, and the draft resolution was **approved**.

4 Budget of the Conference (Document 83)

- 4.1 The **Secretary** introduced the budget of the Conference, as set out in Annex A to Document 83, drawing attention to the total appropriations approved by the Council in Resolution 1100 and the breakdown by item.

- 4.2 Document 83 was **noted**.

5 Contributions of organizations to defraying the expenses of the Conference (Document 84)

- 5.1 The **Secretary** said that Document 84 specified the amount of the contributory unit payable by organizations which had not been exempted by the Council for defraying expenses associated with their participation in the Conference, namely 16 000 Swiss francs. Organizations concerned were requested to inform the secretariat of their selected level of contribution, so that a report on the subject could be made at the next meeting of the Committee and a list of the contributory units for non-exempted organizations could be published before the end of the Conference.

- 5.2 Document 84 was **noted**.

6 Situation of the accounts of the Conference as at 9 October 1998 (Document 108)

6.1 The **Secretary**, introducing Document 108 showing the situation of the Conference accounts as at 9 October 1998, said that the estimated available appropriation stood at 223 000 Swiss francs. An updated situation would be reported to the next meeting of the Committee, although any figures would necessarily be estimates, since the final situation would only be known after closure of the 1998/99 accounts at the end of the biennium.

6.2 With respect to documentation, no definite forecast of the use of resources could be made at such an early stage; it was stated that the Conference should remain within the limits of the volume of documentation budgeted.

The meeting rose at 1145 hours.

The Secretary:
A. TAZI-RIFFI

The Chairperson:
A. UNTILA

INTERNATIONAL TELECOMMUNICATION UNION



PLENIPOTENTIARY CONFERENCE (PP-98)

Document 133-E
21 October 1998
Original: English

MINNEAPOLIS, 12 OCTOBER - 6 NOVEMBER 1998

COMMITTEE 2

SUMMARY RECORD OF THE FIRST MEETING OF COMMITTEE 2 (CREDENTIALS)

Thursday, 15 October 1998, at 1650 hours

Chairperson: Ms. K. HECETA (Philippines)

Subjects discussed

- | | |
|---|---|
| 1 | Terms of reference of the Committee |
| 2 | Organization of the work of the Committee |
| 3 | Transfer of powers |

Documents

89
-
-

1 Terms of reference of the Committee (Document 89)

- 1.1 The terms of reference of the Committee, as set out in Document 89, were **noted**.
- 1.2 The **Chairperson** said that there were two aspects to the Committee's work, namely verification of credentials and reporting of its conclusions to the Plenary.
- 1.3 Having regard to CV325, 328-331 and 334, all delegations were urged to encourage their governments to submit valid credentials as soon as possible. Over 100 sets of credentials had been received by the secretariat to date.
- 1.4 The Plenary Meeting had set Monday, 2 November 1998 as the time limit for submission of the Committee's report. The Committee must thus aim to complete its work by the end of the third week of the Conference.

2 Organization of the work of the Committee

- 2.1 The **Chairperson** said that, in scheduling and organizing the Committee's work, it was important to bear in mind that some delegations interested in participating in the work of Committee 2 also needed to be able to follow the work of the substantive committees.
- 2.2 For the purpose of verifying credentials and completing the Committee's work, she suggested that a working group should be set up and requested any delegations wishing to participate to inform the secretariat accordingly. Further meetings of the Committee would be organized according to the progress made in the working group.
- 2.3 It was so **agreed**.

3 Transfer of powers

- 3.1 The **Chairperson** reminded the Committee of the rules governing the transfer of powers set forth in CV335-338, and in particular that delegations could not exercise more than one proxy vote.
- 3.2 Replying to a question by the **delegate of Australia**, the **Secretary-General** said that delegations enjoying the right to vote were able to vote at all times during the Conference in all votes.
- 3.3 No transfers of powers had yet been notified. Any transfers of powers that were received would be verified by the secretariat, in collaboration with the Credentials Committee. If they were found to be in order and both the countries concerned had the right to vote, a document would be issued duly informing all delegations, and the delegation receiving the powers could exercise the proxy in all votes, including the elections scheduled for the second week of the Conference.
- 3.4 The **Chairperson** said that delegations receiving powers from other countries should notify the Chairperson of the Conference in writing immediately, so that the necessary action could be taken as described by the Secretary-General.

The meeting rose at 1720 hours.

The Secretary:
W. KIRSCH

The Chairperson:
K. HECETA

INTERNATIONAL TELECOMMUNICATION UNION



PLENIPOTENTIARY CONFERENCE (PP-98)

Document 134-E
19 October 1998
Original: English

MINNEAPOLIS, 12 OCTOBER - 6 NOVEMBER 1998

Note by the Chairperson of the Conference

DEADLINE FOR THE DEPOSIT OF CANDIDATURES

(Approved at the third Plenary Meeting)

The deadline for the deposit of candidatures for the posts of Secretary-General, Deputy Secretary-General, Directors of the Bureaux of the Sectors and Members of the Council has been fixed at:

1800 hours (Minneapolis local time) on Monday, 19 October 1998.

The voting to elect the Secretary-General will take place on Tuesday, 20 October 1998, at 0930 hours.

Thomas SIEBERT
Chairperson

INTERNATIONAL TELECOMMUNICATION UNION



PLENIPOTENTIARY CONFERENCE (PP-98)

Document 135-E
19 October 1998
Original: English

MINNEAPOLIS, 12 OCTOBER - 6 NOVEMBER 1998

COMMITTEE 7

Committee 7 meetings on 20 October 1998

The meeting of Committee 7 to be held on Tuesday, 20 October 1998, immediately following the Plenary Meeting at 0930 hours, will deal with the remainder of the agenda on staff matters.

The meeting of Committee 7 at 1430 hours will deal with general management matters.

U. MOHR
Chairperson of Committee 7

INTERNATIONAL TELECOMMUNICATION UNION



PLENIPOTENTIARY CONFERENCE (PP-98)

Document 136-E
26 October 1998
Original: English

MINNEAPOLIS, 12 OCTOBER - 6 NOVEMBER 1998

COMMITTEE 5

SUMMARY RECORD

OF THE

FIRST MEETING OF COMMITTEE 5

(STRATEGIC POLICY AND PLANS)

Wednesday, 14 October 1998, at 1435 hours

Chairperson: Mr. M. BOSSA (Argentina)

Subjects discussed

- 1 Terms of reference of the Committee
- 2 Organization of the work of the Committee
- 3 Consideration of recommendations of the ITU-2000 Group and related proposals

Documents

89

-

15, 20, 32,
59(Rev.1) + Corr.1,
66, 70, 85; DT/7

1 Terms of reference of the Committee (Document 89)

1.1 The **Chairperson** drew attention to the terms of reference of Committee 5 set out in Document 89 and observed that the Committee's task was to chart the course of ITU, taking a strategic view in order to meet the challenges of the future.

2 Organization of the work of the Committee

2.1 The **Chairperson** said that the Committee would begin its work with consideration of the recommendations of the ITU-2000 Group and related proposals set out in Document DT/7. He pointed out that the list of proposals contained in that document was not exhaustive and merely reflected the initial allocation of documents to committees, as set out in Document 96; delegates should feel free to bring up other related proposals from their administrations. As some delegates had pointed out, some of the documents allocated to Committee 5 overlapped with the work of other committees; but that should not interfere with the work of the Committee. He reminded the Committee that its task was to discuss the principles underlying the ITU-2000 recommendations rather than the wording, which would be taken up subsequently by Committee 6. He hoped that decisions would be reached by consensus.

3 Consideration of recommendations of the ITU-2000 Group and related proposals (Documents 15, 20, 32, 59(Rev.1) + Corr.1, 66, 70, 85; DT/7)

3.1 The **Chairperson** invited the Committee to take up the ITU-2000 recommendations set out in Document DT/7.

Recommendation 2 (Document 66)

3.2 The **delegate of the Islamic Republic of Iran** introduced his country's proposal IRN/66/2. Referring to the fourth indent of recommendation 2, he said that it was important to be aware of the impact that ITU recommendations might have on the revenues of the developing countries and the LDCs; the production of recommendations dealing with tariff policies, for example, would be unacceptable to his Administration.

3.3 The **Chairperson** noted that there was consensus in the Committee on the principles underlying recommendation 2.

3.4 Recommendation 2 was **approved** for transmission to Committee 6 together with the observations made by the delegate of the Islamic Republic of Iran.

Recommendation 4 (Documents 20, 59(Rev.1) + Corr.1, 66 and 70)

3.5 The **delegate of Mexico**, introducing the IAP proposals contained in Document 59(Rev.1), said that CITELE was, in general terms, satisfied with the draft Strategic Plan of ITU for 1999-2003, and could support the view that there should be only one category of Sector Member.

3.6 The **delegate of the Islamic Republic of Iran** introduced proposals IRN/66/72 and 73, noting that his country had proposed no change to No. 192 of the Convention. The draft amendment to that provision proposed by ITU-2000 implied agreement with the draft amended text of Nos. 246A-247 of the Convention, which was not acceptable to his Administration.

3.7 The **delegate of Japan** said that members of APT generally supported the ITU-2000 recommendations and believed that the review process should continue. Introducing the APT

common proposals, he pointed out that the proposals APT/70/46, 50 and 54 were identical to proposals IAP/59/15, 22 and 26, and noted that APT was in favour of a single category of Sector Member.

3.8 The **delegate of the United States** said that it would be inappropriate for Committee 5 to transmit a recommendation to Committee 6 without paying due regard to any concerns regarding wording. He suggested that, for the purposes of clarity, the final paragraph of recommendation 4 should be amended to read "... equal rights and obligations within the given Sector." The **delegate of Canada** supported that proposal.

3.9 The **delegate of Mali** said that the last paragraph of recommendation 4, and in particular the phrase "In principle, and where appropriate", should be reworded to avoid any ambiguity.

3.10 The **delegate of India** pointed out that any concerns regarding the phrase "where appropriate" in recommendation 4 applied equally to the same phrase in recommendation 2.

3.11 The **delegate of South Africa** observed that the final paragraph of recommendation 4 was the result of lengthy discussion on different sizes and types of Sector Members within the ITU-2000 Group; the intention was to ensure that Sector Members were, in principle, treated alike.

3.12 The **delegate of the Philippines** said that, while the wording of recommendation 4 as it stood was acceptable, it might be advisable to clarify the phrase "where appropriate" in the final paragraph. Where there was a right, there was an obligation; and it would be inappropriate to imply that the Sector Members exempted from payment had the same rights as those that were not.

3.13 The **delegate of Colombia**, supported by the **delegates of Sweden** and the **United States**, said that it was not enough for Committee 5 to approve recommendation 4 in principle; it should also forward its observations on the text of the recommendation to Committee 6, in order to expedite that Committee's work.

3.14 The **delegate of the United Kingdom**, having endorsed the views of the previous speaker, said that the last paragraph of the recommendation should be clarified. All Sector Members should have equal rights, with the exception of international organizations, which should have the right to speak at WRCs as observers. He suggested that the paragraph should be amended to read "All Sector Members of a given Sector should have equal rights and obligations within the given Sector, except that only international organizations shall have the right to address WRCs". The **delegates of Sweden** and **Germany** supported that proposal.

3.15 The **delegate of South Africa** said that she would prefer the text of the recommendation to remain as it stood; the right of international organizations to speak at WRCs as observers might not be the only exception.

3.16 The **delegate of the Philippines** said that, in his opinion, the amendment suggested by the delegate of the United Kingdom would create additional difficulties. He therefore proposed the following compromise wording: "In principle, all Sector Members of a given Sector should have equal rights and equal obligations within the given Sector." The **delegates of South Africa, France** and **the Netherlands** supported that proposal.

3.17 The **Chairperson** noted that there was consensus in the Committee on the general principle that there should only be one category of Sector Members. He proposed that the Committee should agree on the compromise wording suggested by the delegate of the Philippines and said that he would draw the attention of Committee 6 to the concerns expressed, in particular those of the United Kingdom.

3.18 It was so **agreed**.

3.19 Recommendation 4, as amended, was **approved** for transmission to Committee 6, together with the concerns expressed in the course of the debate.

Recommendation 5 (Documents 15, 20 and 70)

3.20 The **delegate of China** pointed out that recommendation 5 dealt with matters relating to the sovereign rights of Member States and therefore proposed that the word "jurisdiction" should be replaced in all cases by "sovereignty". With regard to the procedure for the admission of Sector Members other than administrations, he referred participants to the formulation in proposal USA/15/88.

3.21 The **delegate of the Islamic Republic of Iran**, supported by the **delegate of Turkey**, proposed that the period of two months referred to in paragraph 3 should be extended to four months.

3.22 The **delegate of Japan** drew attention to the modification to CV240 in proposal APT/70/111 introduced as a consequence of recommendation 5. He proposed to raise the matter in Committee 7.

3.23 The **delegate of India** said that while his country supported the constructive participation of the private sector in the Union's work, it strongly felt that the rights and obligations of Member States should be fully maintained. He therefore supported in principle the Chinese proposal but considered that Committee 6 should be entrusted with the task of finding a suitable formulation. He also supported the proposal by the Islamic Republic of Iran, since many small and developing countries faced difficulties in meeting tight deadlines.

3.24 The **delegates of Syria and Mali** also endorsed the two proposals, the latter recalling that in proposal MLI/20/34 his country had suggested that the same time period should be mentioned in both paragraphs 1 and 3.

3.25 The **delegate of the Philippines** pointed out that, legally speaking, jurisdiction was an attribute of sovereignty; the appropriate term would therefore seem to be "sovereign jurisdiction" but he could agree to "sovereignty".

3.26 The **delegate of Germany** considered that the whole issue should be transmitted to Committee 6 to decide on the exact wording.

3.27 The **delegate of New Zealand** suggested that Committee 5 should set a good example by calling on Committee 6 to bear in mind the need to produce gender-neutral texts.

3.28 The **Chairperson** said that the point raised by the delegate of New Zealand had been noted and would be conveyed to Committee 6. He observed that there was consensus in the Committee on the principle underlying recommendation 5 and on the proposals made by the delegates of China and the Islamic Republic of Iran.

3.29 Recommendation 5 was **approved** for transmission to Committee 6 together with the proposals and comments made in the course of the debate.

Recommendation 6 (Documents 59(Rev.1) + Corr. 1, 66 and 70)

3.30 The **delegate of the Islamic Republic of Iran** drew attention to proposal IRN/66/99 which contained an amended version of CV247.

3.31 The **delegate of Japan** introduced proposals APT/70/112-116, 124 and 143, which generally endorsed recommendation 6.

3.32 The **delegate of Mexico**, supported by the **delegates of the Philippines and Cuba**, said that while he agreed in principle with recommendation 6, he was concerned by the impact it might have on some prospective Sector Members which might opt for associate status, thereby negatively affecting the Union's finances.

3.33 The **delegate of Syria**, after endorsing recommendation 6, pointed out that its purpose was to encourage smaller entities to participate in the work of the study groups. All prospective Sector Members would be aware that associate membership carried with it fewer rights and obligations.

3.34 The **delegate of the United States** endorsed those remarks, indicating that the aim was to attract additional expertise to the study groups and to create new sources of revenue.

3.35 The **Chairperson** noted the consensus in favour of recommendation 6, with some delegates expressing concern about possible negative consequences and others drawing attention to its positive aspects.

3.36 Recommendation 6 was **approved** for transmission to Committee 6 together with the comments made in the course of the debate.

Recommendation 13 (Documents 32, 70 and 85)

3.37 The **Chairperson** indicated that the second indent of recommendation 13, which dealt with special arrears accounts, would not be taken up by Committee 5 but referred to Committee 7.

3.38 The **delegate of Costa Rica**, supported by the **delegates of Mexico, Guatemala and Chile**, said that he could not accept recommendation 13 which took far too strong a line with countries in arrears. Many United Nations organizations faced similar problems without resorting to coercive measures. The Union should seek a negotiated solution with Member States in arrears, not try to exclude them.

3.39 The **delegate of France** expressed concern over recommendation 13 which did not appear to fall within the Committee's terms of reference. The Committee could hold a preliminary debate on the subject, but the final decision should be taken in plenary.

3.40 The **delegates of Uganda and the Islamic Republic of Iran** agreed that the issue should be taken up in plenary.

3.41 The **delegate of Argentina** considered that the problem could be solved without taking such drastic measures as those reflected in recommendation 13. While it was true that arrears gave rise to administrative difficulties, it was more important to help the developing countries to accede to the modern telecommunication world. Since recommendation 13 was not conducive to that objective, he associated himself with the remarks of the delegate of Costa Rica and believed that the issue should be settled in plenary.

3.42 The **delegate of Japan**, after recalling that the matter had already been extensively debated, drew attention to proposal APT/70/74 which endorsed recommendation 13. After listening to the debate, he considered that the issue should be referred to the plenary.

3.43 The **delegate of Norway** pointed out that proposal EUR/32/57 fully supported recommendation 13.

3.44 The **delegate of the Philippines** said that Member States in arrears were already punished by losing their right to vote. Further loss of rights could only add to their difficulties. It should also be borne in mind that the class of contribution was voluntary; if Member States failed to pay, it was because they were prevented from doing so by circumstances. In his view, the plenary would be the best forum for settling the issue.

3.45 The **delegate of Syria** said that it was clear from the list of Member States in arrears that they were countries suffering from severe difficulties. It was punishment enough to lose the right to vote. Clearly there was no consensus on the matter, which should be taken up in plenary.

3.46 The **delegate of South Africa** recalled that the whole issue had been extensively debated in the ITU-2000 Group, where the developing countries had been inadequately represented. The Group's chief concern had been the financial survival of the Union, which was faced with the intractable problem of growing responsibilities and declining revenues. While it was true that choice of the class of contribution was voluntary, it was nevertheless an obligation to make a choice and to pay. ITU's planning depended on it. The Group could think of no other solution and had finally proposed measures similar to those taken by the Organization of African Unity when it had found itself in the same situation. She agreed that there was no consensus within the Committee and could personally go along with proposal KEN/85/2.

3.47 The **Chairperson** said that the debate would continue at the next meeting.

The meeting rose at 1740 hours.

The Secretary:
D. SCHUSTER

The Chairperson:
M. BOSSA

INTERNATIONAL TELECOMMUNICATION UNION



PLENIPOTENTIARY CONFERENCE (PP-98)

Document 137(Rev.2)-E
24 October 1998
Original: English

MINNEAPOLIS, 12 OCTOBER - 6 NOVEMBER 1998

PLENARY MEETING

Note by the Secretary-General

INFORMATION NOTE ON THE VOTING PROCESS

The Plenary Hall has been divided into four sectors each having its own voting station. The lists of the Member States having the right to vote in the four sectors are as follows:

Voting station No. 1

Algeria	United States
Argentina	France
Armenia	Gabon
Australia	Ghana
Belgium	Haiti
Belize	Iran (Islamic Republic of)
Benin	Ireland
Bhutan	Iceland
Bosnia and Herzegovina	Israel
Botswana	Italy
Canada	Jamaica
Cape Verde	Jordan
Central African Rep.	Kazakhstan
Chile	Kenya
Croatia	Kuwait
Cuba	Lao P.D.R.
Denmark	Madagascar
Djibouti	Malaysia
Dominica	Malawi

Voting station No. 2

Germany	Korea (Rep. of)
Andorra	Costa Rica*
Saudi Arabia	Côte d'Ivoire
Austria	Egypt
Bahamas	El Salvador
Bahrain	United Arab Emirates
Bangladesh	Ecuador
Barbados	Eritrea
Belarus	Spain
Brazil	Estonia
Brunei Darussalam	Ethiopia
Bulgaria	Fiji
Burkina Faso	Finland
Burundi	Gambia
Cameroon	Greece
China	Guinea
Cyprus	Guyana
Vatican	Hungary
Colombia	India
Comoros	Indonesia

* Subject to approval by the Plenary.

Voting station No. 3

Liechtenstein	Czech Rep.
Maldives	Romania
Mali	United Kingdom
Malta	Russia
Morocco	Singapore
Mozambique	Slovenia
Myanmar	Sudan
Namibia	Sri Lanka
Nepal	South Africa
Nicaragua	Sweden
Niger	Switzerland
Norway	Suriname
Papua New Guinea	Tonga
Paraguay	Trinidad and Tobago
Netherlands	Tunisia
Peru	Tuvalu
Philippines	Ukraine
Poland	Uruguay
Qatar	Vanuatu
Slovakia	

Voting station No. 4

Japan	Syria
The Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia	Kyrgyzstan
Lebanon	Dem. People's Rep. of Korea
Luxembourg	Saint Lucia
Marshall Islands	San Marino
Mauritius	Saint Vincent and the Grenadines
Mauritania	Western Samoa
Mexico	Sao Tome and Principe
Micronesia	Senegal
Moldova	Swaziland
Monaco	Tanzania
Mongolia	Thailand
New Zealand	Togo
Oman	Venezuela
Uganda	Viet Nam
Uzbekistan	Yemen
Pakistan	Zambia
Panama	Zimbabwe
Portugal	

The four voting stations, clearly marked with the numbers 1 to 4, are situated in Conference Room A.

Delegates are requested to use a black or dark-coloured ball-point pen, roller pen or felt-tip pen when completing the ballot paper, and to follow the instructions on the ballot paper in order to avoid submitting an invalid ballot.

The Secretary of the Plenary Meeting will call the names of the delegations in the four sectors in groups of ten at a time in French alphabetical order. When called, delegates (one per delegation) are requested to proceed to their designated voting station (see lists above), identify themselves to the ITU official at that voting station, cast their ballot and return to their seats.

All ballot papers are identical for each round of voting. The block in the bottom right-hand corner identifies the ballot paper for the computer as being part of a specific round of voting for a specific election, but **does not permit any individual ballot paper to be identified**. This ensures that ballot papers from different rounds cannot be mixed up inadvertently.

INTERNATIONAL TELECOMMUNICATION UNION



PLENIPOTENTIARY CONFERENCE (PP-98)

Document 137(Rev.1)-E
20 October 1998
Original: English

MINNEAPOLIS, 12 OCTOBER - 6 NOVEMBER 1998

PLENARY MEETING

Note by the Secretary-General

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Belgium	Haiti
Belize	Iran (Islamic Republic of)
Benin	Ireland
Bhutan	Iceland
Bosnia and Herzegovina	Israel
Botswana	Italy
Canada	Jamaica
Cape Verde	Jordan
Central African Rep.	Kazakhstan
Chile	Kenya
Croatia	Kuwait
Cuba	Lao P.D.R.
Denmark	Madagascar
Djibouti	Malaysia
Dominica	Malawi

Voting station No. 2

Germany	Korea (Rep. of)
Andorra	Côte d'Ivoire
Saudi Arabia	Egypt
Austria	El Salvador
Bahamas	United Arab Emirates
Bahrain	Ecuador
Bangladesh	Eritrea
Barbados	Spain
Belarus	Estonia
Brazil	Ethiopia
Brunei Darussalam	Fiji
Bulgaria	Finland
Burkina Faso	Gambia
Burundi	Greece
Cameroon	Guinea
China	Guyana
Cyprus	Hungary
Vatican	India
Colombia	Indonesia
Comoros	

Voting station No. 3

Liechtenstein	Czech Rep.
Maldives	Romania
Mali	United Kingdom
Malta	Russia
Morocco	Singapore
Mozambique	Slovenia
Myanmar	Sudan
Namibia	Sri Lanka
Nepal	South Africa
Nicaragua	Sweden
Niger	Switzerland
Norway	Suriname
Papua New Guinea	Tonga
Paraguay	Trinidad and Tobago
Netherlands	Tunisia
Peru	Tuvalu
Philippines	Ukraine
Poland	Uruguay
Qatar	Vanuatu
Slovakia	

Voting station No. 4

Japan	Syria
The Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia	Kyrgyzstan
Lebanon	Dem. People's Rep. of Korea
Luxembourg	Saint Lucia
Marshall Islands	San Marino
Mauritius	Saint Vincent and the Grenadines
Mauritania	Western Samoa
Mexico	Sao Tome and Principe
Micronesia	Senegal
Moldova	Swaziland
Monaco	Tanzania
Mongolia	Thailand
New Zealand	Togo
Oman	Venezuela
Uganda	Viet Nam
Uzbekistan	Yemen
Pakistan	Zambia
Panama	Zimbabwe
Portugal	

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INTERNATIONAL TELECOMMUNICATION UNION



PLENIPOTENTIARY CONFERENCE (PP-98)

Document 137-E
19 October 1998
Original: English

MINNEAPOLIS, 12 OCTOBER - 6 NOVEMBER 1998

PLENARY MEETING

Note by the Secretary-General

INFORMATION NOTE ON THE VOTING PROCESS

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Armenia	Gabon
Australia	Ghana
Belgium	Haiti
Belize	Iran (Islamic Republic of)
Benin	Ireland
Bhutan	Iceland
Bosnia and Herzegovina	Israel
Botswana	Italy
Canada	Jordan
Cape Verde	Kazakhstan
Central African Rep.	Kenya
Chile	Kuwait
Croatia	Lao P.D.R.
Cuba	Madagascar
Denmark	Malaysia
Djibouti	Malawi
Dominica	

Voting station No. 2

Germany	Korea (Rep. of)
Andorra	Côte d'Ivoire
Saudi Arabia	Egypt
Austria	El Salvador
Bahamas	United Arab Emirates
Bahrain	Ecuador
Bangladesh	Eritrea
Barbados	Spain
Belarus	Estonia
Brazil	Ethiopia
Brunei Darussalam	Fiji
Bulgaria	Finland
Burkina Faso	Gambia
Cameroon	Greece
China	Guinea
Cyprus	Guyana
Vatican	Hungary
Colombia	India
Comoros	Indonesia

Voting station No. 3

Liechtenstein	Czech Rep.
Maldives	Romania
Mali	United Kingdom
Malta	Russia
Morocco	Singapore
Mozambique	Slovenia
Myanmar	Sudan
Namibia	Sri Lanka
Nepal	South Africa
Nicaragua*	Sweden
Niger	Switzerland
Norway	Suriname
Papua New Guinea	Tonga
Paraguay	Trinidad and Tobago
Netherlands	Tunisia
Peru	Tuvalu
Philippines	Ukraine
Poland	Uruguay
Qatar	Vanuatu
Slovakia	

* Subject to approval by the Plenary Meeting.

Voting station No. 4

Japan	Syria
The Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia	Kyrgyzstan
Lebanon	Dem. People's Rep. of Korea
Luxembourg	Saint Lucia
Marshall Islands	San Marino
Mauritius	Saint Vincent and the Grenadines
Mauritania*	Western Samoa
Mexico	Sao Tome and Principe
Micronesia	Senegal
Moldova	Swaziland
Monaco	Tanzania
Mongolia	Thailand
New Zealand	Togo
Oman	Venezuela
Uganda	Viet Nam
Uzbekistan	Yemen
Pakistan	Zambia
Panama	Zimbabwe
Portugal	

The four voting stations, clearly marked with the numbers 1 to 4, are situated in Conference Room A.

Delegates are requested to use a black or dark-coloured ball-point pen, roller pen or felt-tip pen when completing the ballot paper, and to follow the instructions on the ballot paper in order to avoid submitting an invalid ballot.

The Secretary of the Plenary Meeting will call the names of the delegations in the four sectors in groups of ten at a time in French alphabetical order. When called, delegates (one per delegation) are requested to proceed to their designated voting station (see lists above), identify themselves to the ITU official at that voting station, cast their ballot and return to their seats.

All ballot papers are identical for each round of voting. The block in the bottom right-hand corner identifies the ballot paper for the computer as being part of a specific round of voting for a specific election, but does not permit any individual ballot paper to be identified. This ensures that ballot papers from different rounds cannot be mixed up inadvertently.

* Subject to approval by the Plenary Meeting.

INTERNATIONAL TELECOMMUNICATION UNION



PLENIPOTENTIARY CONFERENCE (PP-98)

Document 138-E
19 October 1998
Original: English

MINNEAPOLIS, 12 OCTOBER - 6 NOVEMBER 1998

COMMITTEE 5

United Kingdom

PROPOSALS FOR THE WORK OF THE CONFERENCE

PARTICIPATION OF RRB MEMBERS IN WORLD RADIOCOMMUNICATION CONFERENCES

The text of the Constitution and the Convention should be amended to provide sufficient flexibility for a world radiocommunication conference to appoint an RRB member (other than the Chairperson of the RRB) as a chairperson of a group/committee during the Conference.

INTERNATIONAL TELECOMMUNICATION UNION



PLENIPOTENTIARY CONFERENCE (PP-98)

Corrigendum 1 to
Document 139-E
28 October 1998
Original: French

MINNEAPOLIS, 12 OCTOBER - 6 NOVEMBER 1998

COMMITTEE 7

SUMMARY RECORD

OF THE

FIRST MEETING OF COMMITTEE 7

(MANAGEMENT OF THE UNION)

Finance

Wednesday, 14 October 1998, at 1450 hours

Chairperson: Mr. U. MOHR (Germany)

Please **replace** paragraph 3.15 with the following:

3.15 The **delegate of France** said that, with the separation of operational and regulatory functions, it was only to be expected that there should be a continuing tendency for Member States' contributions to be reduced. Each and every government was responsible for its national finances and therefore determined its income before fixing the level of expenditure. The ITU-2000 Group had merely followed the same principle in seeking to strengthen the Union's financial base, by proposing that expenditure should be adapted to the financial resources available to the Union. However, as the delegate of Ecuador had rightly pointed out, no Government could sign a blank cheque without any idea of the amount it was committing itself to. There were other solutions that could be envisaged, such as announcing the amount of contributions in Swiss francs. While his country was in favour of announcing classes of contribution during the Plenipotentiary Conference, it was against any idea of a blind commitment and proposed that the Union should set a ceiling for the contributory unit, which would enable countries to know what they were doing when they made a pledge. The ITU-2000 Group's recommendations concerned only Member States, which alone were entitled to speak at Plenipotentiary Conferences and to influence the adoption of the Financial Plan. In conclusion, he said that France was willing to accept that recommendation 22 should be applied at the next Plenipotentiary Conference, as the delegate of Morocco had suggested, on condition that there was a ceiling on the contributory unit.

INTERNATIONAL TELECOMMUNICATION UNION



PLENIPOTENTIARY CONFERENCE (PP-98)

Document 139-E
23 October 1998
Original: French

MINNEAPOLIS, 12 OCTOBER - 6 NOVEMBER 1998

COMMITTEE 7

SUMMARY RECORD OF THE FIRST MEETING OF COMMITTEE 7 (MANAGEMENT OF THE UNION)

Finance

Wednesday, 14 October 1998, at 1450 hours

Chairperson: Mr. U. MOHR (Germany)

Subjects discussed

- 1 Terms of reference of the Committee
- 2 Organization of the work of the Committee
- 3 Announcement of class of contribution

Documents

89
DT/6
9(Add.1), 13, 20,
27 (Annex B)

1 Terms of reference of the Committee (Document 89)

1.1 The **Chairperson** recalled that Committee 7 (Management of the Union) was required to examine relevant reports and proposals on the general management of the Union, in particular those relating to financial and human resources; to prepare draft financial policies and a draft financial plan for 2000-2003 and to recommend to the Plenary all appropriate decisions related to the management of the Union's activities; and to transmit to Committee 6 matters requiring amendments to the Constitution and Convention.

1.2 The terms of reference of the Committee were **noted**.

2 Organization of the work of the Committee (Document DT/6)

2.1 The **Chairperson** said that given the importance and complexity of the tasks assigned to Committee 7, he (Mr. Mohr) and the two Co-Chairpersons (Mr. Mapunda and Mr. Gracie) had agreed to share the work as follows: Mr. Mohr would chair the meetings dealing with financial matters, Mr. Mapunda those dealing with staff matters and Mr. Gracie those dealing with the general management of the Union, it being understood that decisions taken at meetings chaired by one of the two Co-Chairpersons would not need to be confirmed by the Committee at a meeting chaired by the Chairperson himself. There would be a separate agenda for each of the subjects in question, setting out all the issues and documents to be considered by the Committee within the time allotted to it. The Committee would thus know at all times what the status of its work was. Furthermore, no vote would ever be taken in the Committee, since no arrangement had been made for a voting procedure; every effort should be made to take decisions by consensus. Exceptionally, however, the Chairperson might call for a purely informal show of hands on a specific question.

2.2 The **delegate of Spain** said that the Committee should do everything within its power to resolve problems itself rather than referring them to the Plenary, whose task would thus be considerably facilitated.

3 Announcement of class of contribution (Documents 9(Add.1), 13, 20, 27 (Annex B))

3.1 The **Secretary-General** said that in the light of recommendation 22 of the ITU-2000 Group, reproduced in Document 13, the Council of the Union had decided (Decision 477) to invite Member States to get ready to announce their chosen class of contribution at the Plenipotentiary Conference. The purpose of that decision was to improve the Union's financial health. As things stood, Member States were given six months after the Plenipotentiary Conference to announce their class of contribution. If a large number of States announced a reduction of their contribution, those who had not yet made their announcement were in many cases unable to offset that reduction, thus jeopardizing the Union's financial equilibrium. The proposed change, if approved, would entail the amendment of Article 28 of the Union's Constitution. Committee 7 was thus invited to consider the amendments to that article set out in Document 13.

3.2 He was persuaded that such a change, which had been successfully made by the Universal Postal Union, would facilitate consideration of the ITU's draft financial plans and make it possible to avoid any substantial increase in the level of contributions. In conclusion, he wished the Committee every success in its deliberations.

3.3 The **delegate of Ecuador**, speaking on behalf of the Inter-American Telecommunication Commission (CITEL) of the Organization of American States, said that he would in due course explain the many reasons for which the administrations of the Member States of CITEL, in their proposal IAP/59/31 (Document 59(Rev.1)), expressed the hope that the Union would leave its Members quite free to announce the choice of their contribution after the end of the Plenipotentiary Conference. Thus CITEL considered that no change should be made either to No. 161 of the Constitution or indeed to other provisions such as Nos. 162 and 165.

3.4 The **delegate of Argentina** said that if Member States had to announce their class of contribution during the Plenipotentiary Conference they would not know the actual amount involved by the end of the Conference, since the Sector Members would not yet have announced their own contributions, which accounted for a fairly substantial share of the Union's income. That unknown factor could cause difficulties for Member States, which needed precise information in order to draw up their budgets. Accordingly, Argentina was opposed to any amendment of No. 161 of the Constitution, neither would it like any change to be made to No. 166 of the Constitution, which enabled Member States to chose a class of contribution lower than the one selected under No. 161, within six months of the end of a Plenipotentiary Conference, if their relative contributory position from the date fixed in No. 163 for a new period of contribution was substantially worse than their previous position. The ends pursued by the ITU-2000 Group were certainly commendable but they could be achieved by other means.

3.5 In reply to a question by the **delegate of India**, the **Chairperson** said that if recommendation 22 was approved, the amount of the contributory unit could only be calculated once the amount of the Union's financial plan, which was decided by the Plenipotentiary Conference, and the total number of contributory units announced were known, since that calculation consisted in dividing the total amount of the financial plan by the total number of contributory units announced.

3.6 In reply to a question by the **delegate of the Netherlands**, the **Chairperson** said that if the Conference approved recommendation 22 it would have to amend the Constitution, and then decide when the new system would enter into force, at the present Conference or subsequently.

3.7 The **delegate of Morocco** drew attention to Document 25, in which a number of countries including his own proposed that the principle of announcing contributions during the current Plenipotentiary Conference should be adopted. However, in studying the management of the Union's finances, Committee 7 should not confine itself to recommendation 22 of the ITU-2000 Group but should also consider the broader aspects of the problem: under the present system, the Plenipotentiary Conference did not know the amount of the contributory unit when it set a ceiling on Union expenditure for it did not know the total number of contributory units that would be available to the Union since countries did not announce their chosen class of contribution during the Conference. At present, a country could ask the Secretary-General to reduce its class of contribution six months after the Plenipotentiary Conference. Those who did not request a reduction within that time-limit might then be placed in a difficult situation if the amount of the contributory unit exceeded their ability to pay and made it impossible for them to keep to their commitment. The Committee therefore had two decisions to take. First, should the Union approve recommendation 22 and make consequential amendments to the Convention and Constitution? Second, should that recommendation apply at the present Conference or at a later stage? Like the delegate of Argentina, he could see that it might be difficult to announce the chosen class of contribution at the present Conference and, in a spirit of compromise, he therefore suggested that the principle of announcing contributions during Plenipotentiary Conferences should be approved at the current Conference but applied at the next one. Furthermore, it should be possible to improve the procedures for

consultation during the six months following a Plenipotentiary Conference if countries were given only three months after the Conference to announce a reduction in their class of contribution, after which the Secretary-General could bring the announced reductions to Member States' notice so that Members which had not yet done so would in turn be able to announce a reduction within a three-month period.

3.8 The **Chairperson**, summing up the discussion, noted that the present system was not satisfactory, because any reduction in classes of contribution gave rise to financial problems for the Union. With regard to the ITU-2000 Group's recommendation 22, which was intended to resolve those problems, participants had a choice of three options. The first would be to approve recommendation 22 and apply it at the present Conference, as desired by the Secretary-General. The second would be to agree to the traditional way of amending the basic instruments following the adoption of recommendation 22, i.e. the amendments would enter into force at the next Plenipotentiary Conference. The third option would be not to change anything and not to adopt recommendation 22, in other words to leave the system as it was.

3.9 The **delegate of Germany**, referring to the Secretary-General's statement at the first Plenary Meeting, stressed the importance of the present Conference's decisions for the future of the Union. The plenipotentiaries would have to decide on the question of Sector Members' rights and obligations, draw up a strategic plan which would preserve ITU's pre-eminence in the telecommunication sector and strengthen the Union's financial base. It was accordingly essential to know whether the Union had the necessary resources to carry out the work it was asked to do. The means at its disposal were constantly declining, and the Council had not increased the amount of the contributory unit. It was therefore desirable that in determining what work was to be done, the Conference should know what the Union's financial resources were. To that end, it would need to know the number of units that would be contributed by Members, because it was only once it was known what the work would cost and how many units would be contributed by Members that it would be possible to calculate the amount of the contributory unit and decide what tasks should be given priority. As the Secretary of State had announced in his general policy statement, Germany was ready to pay 30 contributory units for the next financial plan. If the principle of announcing contributions during a Plenipotentiary Conference was not to be applied at the present Conference, his delegation would be inclined to favour introducing it at the next one.

3.10 The **delegate of the Czech Republic** asked whether recommendation 22 applied to Sector Members as well, or whether they would remain free to announce their classes of contributions for up to six months after the end of the Conference.

3.11 The **Secretary** explained that the ITU-2000 Group's recommendation 22 applied to Member States alone, and not to Sector Members. Sector Members could participate or cease to participate in the activities of one or more Sectors at any point in the budget cycle, so that it was difficult to make forecasts.

3.12 The **delegate of Ecuador** thought it would be better if the Committee did not take a decision immediately, but gave due thought to all the implications of the different proposals. It would hardly be possible to take a decision during the Conference on the announcement of classes of contribution, for practical reasons. The question involved domestic policy issues, and the members of his delegation were not authorized to take a position on the matter, which was the concern of different ministries. He feared, moreover, that the ITU-2000 Group's recommendation might have a perverse effect, in that countries which were not elected to the Council, for example, might decide

to cut their contributions sharply. Furthermore, countries might well announce lower classes of contribution than they had in the past, for fear that the amount of the contributory unit would subsequently be fixed too high. His country was therefore not in favour of recommendation 22.

3.13 The **Chairperson** observed that the present system only worked if Member States did not reduce their number of contributory units.

3.14 The **delegate of the United States** asked whether approving the ITU-2000 Group's recommendation 22 would mean that countries would have to announce their class of contribution first and then adopt the financial plan, in which case they could not be sure of actually being able to pay their contributions. Would it be better to adopt the financial plan first and then announce the class of contribution chosen? And, given that Sector Members contributed more than 10 per cent of the budget, ought they also to announce their class of contribution during the Plenipotentiary Conference, despite the fact that they only attended as observers?

3.15 The **delegate of France** said that, with the separation of operational and regulatory functions, it was only to be expected that Member States would constantly reduce their contributions. Each and every government was responsible for its national finances and therefore determined its income before fixing the level of expenditure. The ITU-2000 Group had merely followed the same principle in seeking to strengthen the Union's financial base, by proposing that expenditure should be adapted to the financial resources available to the Union. However, as the delegate of Ecuador had rightly pointed out, no Government could sign a blank cheque without any idea of the amount it was committing itself to. There were other solutions that could be envisaged, such as fixing the amount of the contributory unit in Swiss francs. While his country was in favour of announcing classes of contribution during the Plenipotentiary Conference, it was against any idea of a blind commitment and proposed that the Union should set a ceiling for the contributory unit, which would enable countries to know what they were doing when they made a pledge. The ITU-2000 Group's recommendations concerned only Member States, which alone were entitled to speak at Plenipotentiary Conferences. In conclusion, he said that France was willing to accept that recommendation 22 should be applied at the next Plenipotentiary Conference, as the delegate of Morocco had suggested, on condition that there was a ceiling on the contributory unit.

3.16 The **Chairperson** observed that the present Conference also had to set ceilings on expenditure for a period of four years and could therefore take a decision on the question of contributions, which was linked to that of expenditure.

3.17 The **delegate of Canada** said that his country was keen to strengthen the Union's financial base and ready to consider any means of achieving that end. It recognized, as stated in Addendum 1 to Document 9, that there were excellent reasons for asking countries to announce their contributions before fixing the amount of the contributory unit, but that approach also had many drawbacks. Canada had some difficulty in accepting recommendation 22 as it stood, but it was open to any other suggestions, such as fixing a ceiling in Swiss francs. His delegation was prepared to consider any proposal, including the one by the delegate of Morocco, and if it had difficulty in agreeing to the idea of announcing classes of contributions before fixing the level of total expenditure, that was certainly not because it had any intention of reducing its future level of contribution.

3.18 The **delegate of Pakistan** considered that there were so many factors involved that it would be difficult to arrive at any simple solution. The Union was characterized by a voluntary, open and flexible approach, and those principles should not be lost sight of in the effort to resolve new problems. It would be preferable, therefore, to avoid rigorous and binding language and build on existing methods. Morocco's proposal deserved further study, and whatever solution was adopted it should only be applied at the next Conference.

3.19 The **delegate of Argentina** noted that the debate was focusing solely on the question of foreseeing what the Union's resources would be and not with strengthening them. Those resources were not limited just to Member States' contributions, since there were also contributions from Sector Members, which could cover a greater share of the budget than their present 12.49 per cent, and Argentina had made a proposal to that effect. Foreseeability implied knowing the number of Sector Members' contributory units as well. The only solution would thus be to fix the value of the contributory unit on the basis of the number of contributory units under the previous budget.

3.20 The **delegate of Spain** said that his country had originally been opposed to the idea of abandoning the present system, which gave Member States a period of six months to think about the matter. However, if the steady decline in contributions was to be halted, it would be necessary to adopt the new system, with a ceiling in Swiss francs.

3.21 The **delegate of China** considered that the change proposed by the ITU-2000 Group would create difficulties for most Member States. First of all, they had different budgetary procedures. Secondly, it was not logical that Member States' and Sector Members' contributions should be governed by two different systems. It would therefore be premature to take a decision on the recommendation at the present Conference.

3.22 The **delegate of Morocco**, speaking as the former Chairman of the ITU-2000 Group, said that the Group had not taken a position on the question of Sector Members because most of them contributed to the Union's budget at the minimum level, so that any change in their contributions would have no great effect. The proposal made by France on the subject might be helpful. The Group had not taken a position, either, on the question of the precise point during the Conference at which the announcement of classes of contributions was to be made, some members of the Group having been in favour of the announcement coming before the elections and others of it coming at the end of the Conference. Speaking as delegate of Morocco, he said that he fully agreed with the delegations which considered that the choice of the number of contributory units should be made after the adoption of the financial plan. A statement to that effect could be added in the ITU-2000 Group's recommendation.

3.23 The **delegate of Cuba** pointed out that, while the present method did not make it easy to foresee what resources would be available, it worked quite well, because the budget depended on the Union's activities and the value of the contributory unit was fixed by the Council. Amending the Union's basic texts to change the method might not be very easy to explain to the authorities in Member States. It would therefore be better to leave things as they were, particularly as there were many other factors, such as exchange rates, militating against foreseeability.

3.24 The **delegate of the Netherlands** fully supported the comments by the delegates of France, Germany and Spain. Her country was willing to announce its number of contributory units at the Conference if the amount of the unit was known. If the amount set at the previous Conference was taken as a ceiling and all States announced how many units they would contribute, the Union would have an exact idea of its income.

3.25 The **delegate of Denmark** supported the proposals and statements by France, Germany and the Netherlands and announced that his country had no intention of cutting its contribution.

3.26 The **delegate of Argentina** said that his country too was willing to announce its number of contributory units if the number was based on the level of the previous contributory unit. If the ITU-2000 Group's recommendation was not adopted by the Conference, the budget approved by the Conference could be divided by the number of contributory units of the previous budget. His delegation's proposal was designed to improve the balance of the Union's financial resources by increasing the contribution of Sector Members.

3.27 The **delegate of the United States** said that the constant decline in the number of contributory units paid by Member States was certainly an established fact, but that it was not necessarily established that it would be a problem for Member States to react to reductions announced by others, if only because there were remedies available in such cases under No. 166 of the Constitution. However that might be, the solution proposed would not dispose of the matter and its application would itself raise practical difficulties. Member States would not have time to react to major cuts announced during a Conference and, not knowing either the class of contribution of other Member States or the total amount of expenditure, they would no doubt be inclined to announce a lower class of contribution.

3.28 The **Deputy Secretary-General** said that the ITU-2000 Group's recommendation was supposed to ensure that at the time of the Conference Member States knew both the number of contributory units that would be paid and the Union's financial plan, from which the value of the contributory unit could be determined. Specifically, Member States would announce their class of contribution during the Conference and the total number of contributory units announced would be multiplied by the value of the contributory unit set by the previous Conference, giving a total that would serve as a basis for budget discussions and negotiations. As far as Sector Members were concerned, since their status did not allow them to make statements at the Conference, it would be necessary to find some other means of forecasting their contributions, which at all events accounted for only about 12.49 per cent of the budget. It might be possible to arrange for them to announce their contributions before the Conference in future. The logic behind all those proposals was to make sure that the Secretariat knew what resources it would have available and that Member States knew how much they would have to pay.

3.29 The **Chairperson** noted that a number of countries were ready to adopt the ITU-2000 Group's recommendation, some with immediate effect and others after the entry into force of the amendments to the Union's basic texts. Another group of countries felt that the system should not be changed for the time being, in particular because the ITU-2000's Group's recommendation raised practical problems. There was, on the other hand, general agreement that the ceiling on the contributory unit should not be higher than the value of the contributory unit for the previous period and that the level of expenditure should be known. He therefore proposed that a small group of countries should look into the matter further and make proposals at the next meeting.

3.30 It was so **agreed**.

The meeting rose at 1745 hours.

The Secretary:
A. TAZI-RIFFI

The Chairperson:
U. MOHR

INTERNATIONAL TELECOMMUNICATION UNION



PLENIPOTENTIARY CONFERENCE (PP-98)

Document 140-E
23 October 1998
Original: French

MINNEAPOLIS, 12 OCTOBER - 6 NOVEMBER 1998

COMMITTEE 7

SUMMARY RECORD
OF THE
SECOND MEETING OF COMMITTEE 7
(MANAGEMENT OF THE UNION)
Finance

Thursday, 15 October 1998, at 1445 hours

Chairperson: Mr. U. Mohr (Germany)

Subjects discussed

Documents

- | | | |
|---|---|--------|
| 1 | Announcement of class of contribution (continued) | - |
| 2 | Arrears and special arrears accounts; recommendation 13
(second paragraph) of the ITU-2000 Group | 13, 33 |
| 3 | Request submitted by Mauritania | 74 |

1 Announcement of class of contribution (continued)

1.1 The **Chairperson** said it had emerged from the discussions held just before the meeting that there was a general consensus on the need for an informal ad hoc group to examine recommendation 22 of the ITU-2000 Group and the related question of setting a ceiling for the contributory unit. He therefore suggested that the Committee should set up an ad hoc group, to be chaired by Mr. Gracie (Co-Chairperson of the Committee), to consider not only recommendation 22 of the ITU-2000 Group (Document 13) but also Document 27 setting out the Council decision on the subject and Document 82 on the ceiling for the amount of the contributory unit, as well as any point raised in connection with the item concerning announcement of the class of contribution. As there was almost unanimous agreement that Member States should not be asked to announce their class of contribution at the current Conference, the ad hoc group would have a little more time for its work and the Committee would merely inform the next plenary of the progress of its work on the matter.

1.2 It was so **agreed**.

1.3 The **Chairperson** read out the draft report on the Committee's work which he would be submitting to the next plenary and which said in substance that it had been agreed that classes of contribution should be announced at Plenipotentiary Conferences. However, that decision would not be applied at the present Conference. Moreover, the Committee had taken the view that the problem of the steady decline in the number of contributory units despite the increase in the number of Member States needed to be addressed. It had asked an ad hoc working group to look into the question of when classes of contribution should be announced as well as various related questions, and to submit a draft recommendation on the subject to the Committee.

1.4 The draft report of the Chairperson to the plenary was **approved**.

2 Arrears and special arrears accounts; recommendation 13 (second paragraph) of the ITU-2000 Group (Documents 13 and 33)

2.1 The **Chairperson** asked the Secretary to explain to the Committee the nature of the problem concerning special arrears accounts, which was the subject of the second paragraph of recommendation 13 of the ITU-2000 Group.

2.2 The **Secretary** said that, since the 1973 Plenipotentiary Conference, Member States in arrears had traditionally requested an easing of their debt in order to recover their right to vote. However the results of that arrangement, under which the arrears of the State concerned were placed in a special non-interest-bearing account on condition that the State undertook to comply scrupulously with a repayment schedule, were not very encouraging. Of the amounts handled in that way at the 1973 Conference, 42% had still not been repaid. The corresponding figure for the arrears of the 1982 Conference was 46%; for the 1989 Conference it stood at 8.3%; and for the Kyoto Conference (1994) it was 74%. Kyoto Resolution 41 urged all Member States and Sector Members in arrears or having special arrears accounts to settle them as quickly as possible, but there again the results were not very encouraging. That was why the ITU-2000 Group recommended abolishing the concept of special arrears accounts, which had not proved to be effective.

2.3 The **Chairperson** said that the Council had addressed that issue when it had considered the report to be submitted by the Secretary-General to the Conference under Kyoto Resolutions 41 and 42. That report, which was contained in Document 33, took account of recommendation 13 of the ITU-2000 Group.

2.4 The **Deputy Secretary-General**, introducing Document 33 which described the status of arrears and special arrears accounts at 30 June 1998, the actions taken to achieve the settlement of those arrears and special accounts and the results of those actions, said that the way the situation had evolved was very preoccupying. Despite the sanctions applied and the efforts made to recover the outstanding amounts, the total of arrears and special arrears accounts had increased from 29.6 million at 31 December 1991 to 43.2 million Swiss francs at 30 June 1998, an increase of 46%. Five of the eight Member States with special arrears accounts had submitted a repayment schedule, but one of them had not complied with the agreed terms of payment. The reduction in special arrears accounts between 1991 and June 1998 was due to two Member States having settled their debts in full. As far as Sector Members were concerned, at 30 June 1998 two had been suspended from participation and 16 had been requested to submit a repayment schedule before 31 December 1998. The amount of 3.2 million Swiss francs for unpaid contributions also included amounts owed by entities which had denounced their participation and thus were no longer Sector Members. For all those reasons, the Council had been obliged to increase the Reserve for Debtors' Accounts to 31.75 million Swiss francs at 31 December 1997, which restricted its leeway to reduce the level of the amount of the contributory unit. At 30 June 1998, the Reserve had covered 73.5% of all arrears and special arrears accounts.

2.5 The **delegate of Cameroon** wondered whether, and to what extent, recommendation 13 of the ITU-2000 Group could help to strengthen the financial base of the Union.

2.6 The **delegate of Morocco** asked whether the amount of contributions in arrears given for the different countries in Table III of Annex B to Document 33 included interest on arrears. In the case of Mauritania, for instance, the amount quoted was 1 386 765.05 Swiss francs, whereas Document 74 showed the amount owed by that country to be 1 320 207.45 Swiss francs.

2.7 The **Secretary** said that the problem with special arrears accounts was that the Union was not able to get them all settled by means of repayment schedules agreed with the States concerned; in some cases the situation went back 25 years, since the outstanding balance of those accounts in respect of the 1973 Conference was in the region of 2.8 million Swiss francs. Moreover, as those accounts did not bear interest they introduced an element of injustice vis-à-vis States that were not entitled to benefit from the arrangement. The case of Mauritania, which had made commendable efforts to pay off its arrears, was particularly noteworthy. The amount of interest on arrears shown for that country in Document 33 was 809 352.10 Swiss francs. Mauritania therefore owed 6% interest on its ordinary arrears account, but it also had a special arrears account which did not bear interest if it met its commitments. Plenipotentiary Conferences had in the past agreed to cancel interest but never to write off capital amounts. As neither the Secretary-General nor the Council had the necessary authority to remedy the situation, the Secretary-General was proposing, in § 4.1 of Document 33, first that no new special arrears accounts should be opened (recommendation 13 of the ITU-2000 Group), and second that the Council should be given new powers in that area.

2.8 The **delegate of Morocco** proposed, in connection with paragraph 2 of the Secretary-General's proposal (§ 4.1 of Document 33), that the Union, like other international organizations, should make a gesture towards the least developed countries so that they were not left out in the cold through losing their right to vote and to put forward candidates for election. The interest on arrears owed by the least developed countries should be cancelled altogether and the debt of other countries in arrears rescheduled over 20 years. It was true that paragraph 3 of the Secretary-General's proposal provided for the cancellation of interest on arrears, but that decision was to be left to the Council, whereas it was the Conference which should have the courage to act along those lines without waiting for the next Council session.

2.9 The **Chairperson** observed that paragraphs 1 and 3 of the Secretary-General's proposal were linked, since together they would have the effect of replacing the present system by a new one. He therefore suggested that the two paragraphs should be taken together and that the proposal by the delegate of Morocco should be considered in relation to paragraph 2.

2.10 The **delegate of Germany** said that as the special arrears accounts had proved to be inefficient no new ones should be opened, it being understood that those already in place would be maintained. The proposal to exempt States from the payment of interest on arrears, if approved, would oblige other Member States to increase their own contributions in order to balance the Union's budget. It seemed unnecessary to push solidarity that far, since States experiencing difficulties, for example as a result of natural disasters, could be granted relief in respect of their contributions.

2.11 The **delegate of Nicaragua** noted that, while Member States were certainly under an obligation to pay their contributions, the measures contemplated in recommendation 13 of the ITU-2000 Group were disproportionate to the problem posed by arrears, which accounted for only 2.3% of the Union's annual budget and therefore represented no threat to ITU's financial health. The Union should not become a club for rich countries only. On the contrary it should endeavour to help countries in difficulty, in particular by writing off the interest on arrears as proposed by the Moroccan delegate.

2.12 The **delegate of Argentina** considered that the problem of arrears would not be solved by imposing penalties on States that were behind in their payments or even by abolishing the special arrears accounts; rather, ways should be sought of encouraging those States to settle their arrears and to play a more active part in the work of the Union.

2.13 The **delegate of Nicaragua** considered that countries facing difficulties for ecological, economic or social reasons should remain full Members of the Union. Taking drastic measures against them would only widen the gulf between developed and developing countries and might have disastrous consequences for the Union's growth.

2.14 The **delegate of Pakistan** said that the Union should not do away with the payment facilities offered to Member States experiencing difficulties, without proposing alternative measures.

2.15 The **delegate of Cuba** said that the penalties imposed on countries with overdue contributions, in particular withdrawal of the right to vote, were unfair as those countries were doing their utmost to settle their arrears despite their economic difficulties, as evidenced by the case of Cuba, which was practically up to date in the payment of its contribution, as well as by the fact that the number of countries deprived of the right to vote on account of non-payment had dropped from 62 in May 1998 to only 42 currently. Member States should therefore be offered appropriate inducements, including the writing off of interest on arrears, to settle their debts instead of being subjected to sanctions which might further alienate them from the Union.

2.16 The **delegate of Saudi Arabia** supported the Moroccan proposal to write off the interest on arrears of the LDCs, since that would encourage Member States to settle their arrears. In the interests of fairness, however, the ITU administration should be scrupulous in ensuring that all States honoured their commitments. States which had fallen behind with their contributions should not have their voting rights withdrawn but should be encouraged to participate more fully in the Union's activities, especially those of BDT.

2.17 The **delegate of Algeria** said that the draft resolution on arrears and special arrears accounts (Annex C to Document 33) should stress the need to create the conditions that would enable all countries, particularly the developing countries, to take part in ITU activities, by not revoking the right to vote of States which were unable to pay their arrears because of their current economic situation. His delegation also supported the proposal to cancel interest on arrears immediately and to leave it to the Council to take that decision in the future.

2.18 The **delegate of Argentina** said that his country had itself benefited from constructive measures such as reduction of class of contribution, restoration of the right to vote, writing off of interest on arrears and establishment of a repayment schedule; it knew therefore that such measures could help Member States to come safely through a difficult period and even prompt them to increase their contribution, as was the case for Argentina. The Union should also encourage Member States to pay their contributions by convincing them of the importance of its work. That approach had been adopted in the Americas Region, where it had produced highly encouraging results.

2.19 His delegation also considered that it would be unfair to deprive Member States of the possibility of opening new special arrears accounts. Countries which were more than two years in arrears in the payment of their contributions and which did not yet have special arrears accounts would then have to settle their arrears and pay the related interest as well as losing the right to vote, whereas those already having a special arrears account benefited from a repayment schedule, paid no interest and still had the right to vote. Furthermore, the draft resolution on arrears should also spell out the measures to be taken with regard to Sector Members in arrears with the payment of their contributions.

2.20 The **delegate of the United States** observed that if charging interest on arrears had had a deterrent effect, the number of Members in arrears and having lost the right to vote would not be so high today. The establishment of special arrears accounts seemed to have led to a stalemate. While acknowledging that he had no solution to offer, he wondered whether, instead of not opening any new accounts, it might not be possible to improve the status of such accounts by laying down and applying a set of fair and balanced conditions to be met by countries, thereby reconciling all the points of view expressed during the discussion.

2.21 The **delegate of Mauritania** supported the proposal by the delegate of Morocco and expressed the hope that ITU would show flexibility in dealing with cases involving developing countries, which should enjoy the right to vote in order for the Union to maintain its status as a universal institution and its impartiality.

2.22 The **Chairperson** said that the proposal by the delegate of Morocco would be taken into account in the draft resolution to be submitted to the plenary.

3 Request submitted by Mauritania (Document 74)

3.1 The **delegate of Mauritania**, introducing Document 74, said that his country had not been able to pay its contributions because of the financial difficulties it had experienced from 1978 to 1997 but that, thereafter, it had resumed payment of its contributions and had submitted to the Council, at its 1997 session, a debt repayment schedule which had been approved. Since the amount of interest on its arrears was greater than the repayments it was making to settle its debts, Mauritania was requesting cancellation of the interest on arrears posted to account from 1978 to 1997, amounting to 809 352.10 Swiss francs, as well as restoration of its right to vote. It had undertaken to

settle the outstanding amounts on its special arrears account over a four-year period and had ratified the ITU Convention and Constitution in July 1998.

3.2 Responding to a question by the **Chairperson** regarding the legal situation, the **Secretary**, referring to Document 33, said that since the Council was in future authorized by the Plenipotentiary Conference to approve repayment conditions and plans, to reduce classes of contribution and to write off both interest on arrears and amounts due, it went without saying that the Plenipotentiary Conference had the authority to cancel interest on arrears immediately. In the event, Mauritania, which was one of the least developed countries, had submitted a rescheduling plan for its debts and had begun to settle its arrears. The measures proposed in Document 33 were therefore applicable. Hence the Conference could approve the request for cancellation of interest on arrears by writing off the amount of the interest, as it had already done in the past.

3.3 The **Deputy Secretary-General** said that the Plenipotentiary Conference, as the supreme body of the Union, could decide to cancel Mauritania's interest on arrears.

3.4 The **delegate of Argentina** said that the Conference could take a single decision in response to the two requests submitted by Mauritania, namely, to cancel the interest on arrears and to restore the right to vote. Since cancelling the interest meant that Mauritania would automatically recover the right to vote, it was not necessary to instruct Council to study the requests. He was therefore in favour of acceding to Mauritania's request.

3.5 The **delegates of Syria and Pakistan** also considered that the Conference could accede to Mauritania's requests.

3.6 The **delegate of Morocco** pointed out that his country had called for the cancellation of interest on arrears for the LDCs and that its proposal had received wide support. If the Committee had taken a clear decision on that proposal, it would not be necessary to consider the specific case of Mauritania, which was an LDC.

3.7 The **Chairperson** said that Morocco's proposal would be incorporated in the draft resolution on arrears and special arrears accounts to be submitted to the plenary. However, the Committee had to take a decision on the four requests concerning arrears which had been submitted to it. He proposed that the Committee should recommend that Mauritania's interest on arrears be cancelled and its right to vote restored.

3.8 Replying to a question by the **delegate of the United States**, the **Secretary** said that Document 74 submitted by Mauritania contained two requests: the first concerned cancellation of the interest on arrears posted to account from 1978 to 1997 and was fully in keeping with past ITU practice; the second concerned restoration of the right to vote and involved application of the provisions of No. 169 of the Constitution, under which a Member in arrears by more than two years lost the right to vote. Mauritania had proposed and complied with a repayment schedule to settle its debts, as indicated in Document 74. In order to restore Mauritania's right to vote, the outstanding capital amount would have to be transferred to a special arrears account. While Document 33 did not advocate the opening of new arrears accounts, the Conference was sovereign and could take such a decision.

3.9 The **Deputy Secretary-General** added that the present Plenipotentiary Conference was sovereign and could therefore decide to cancel Mauritania's interest on arrears. Recovery of the right to vote was covered by the provisions of No. 169 of the Constitution and depended on the amount still to be paid, i.e. the difference between the debt (1 321 207.45 Swiss francs) and the total interest on arrears (809 352.10 Swiss francs), which Mauritania had undertaken to pay over

20 years. The matter therefore depended on what decision the Conference would take regarding rescheduling of the debt and cancellation of the interest on arrears and the amounts owed.

3.10 The **Chairperson** observed that the Committee had agreed to propose to the plenary that it approve the measures set out in Document 33, in particular the schedules for repayment of debts and the cancellation of interest on arrears.

3.11 The **delegate of Argentina**, correcting his previous statement, said that recovery of the right to vote was not automatic. He was in favour of cancelling Mauritania's interest on arrears and restoring its right to vote since it had honoured all its commitments. Such a decision would also be in keeping with what had been done for other Member States in the past.

3.12 The **delegate of Algeria** considered that the provisions of the Constitution and Convention concerned the various bodies of the Union but could in no case be binding on a Plenipotentiary Conference, which could rule on any subject and set a date for application of its ruling. He proposed that the Conference should wipe clean the slate for the LDCs so as to allow them to participate in all activities of the Union and, in particular, to vote in the forthcoming elections.

3.13 The **delegate of the United States** expressed some doubt about the Plenipotentiary Conference's total freedom of action vis-à-vis the basic instruments of the Union. Furthermore, he had understood from the explanations given by the Secretariat that it was necessary to open a new special arrears account for the amounts owed by Mauritania so that it could recover its right to vote automatically without any need for a decision to that effect.

3.14 The **delegate of Morocco**, citing No. 169 of the Constitution, pointed out that its provisions related to a Member in arrears in its payments. According to Document 74, Mauritania had come to an agreement with the Union with regard to the rescheduling of its debts. Could they then still be referred to as arrears?

3.15 The **Chairperson** suggested that he should examine the four requests on arrears with the ITU secretariat and report on the matter to the plenary.

3.16 The **delegate of South Africa** proposed that the subject of special arrears accounts in general and the specific requests submitted by various Members of the Union should be dealt with separately. She also suggested that the specific requests before the Committee should be considered in the light of the legal provisions currently in force, without taking into account any that the Conference might adopt during its deliberations. She endorsed the Chairperson's suggestion concerning examination of the requests submitted by Mauritania, Grenada, Azerbaijan and Nicaragua.

3.17 The **delegate of Nicaragua** considered that the arguments advanced thus far amply justified restoring Mauritania's right to vote. His country was in a similar situation and was also requesting cancellation of its interest on arrears, rescheduling of its debt and recovery of its right to vote. He expressed the hope that Morocco's proposal would not apply only to the LDCs.

3.18 The **Chairperson** said that he would submit the Committee's report to the next plenary and, in collaboration with the ITU secretariat, examine the requests concerning arrears submitted by four Member States.

3.19 It was so **agreed**.

The meeting rose at 1755 hours.

The Secretary:
A. TAZI-RIFFI

The Chairperson:
U. MOHR

INTERNATIONAL TELECOMMUNICATION UNION



PLENIPOTENTIARY CONFERENCE (PP-98)

Document 141-E
26 October 1998
Original: English

MINNEAPOLIS, 12 OCTOBER - 6 NOVEMBER 1998

COMMITTEE 5

SUMMARY RECORD OF THE SECOND MEETING OF COMMITTEE 5 (STRATEGIC POLICY AND PLANS)

Thursday, 15 October 1998, at 0935 hours

Chairperson: Mr. M. BOSSA (Argentina)

Subjects discussed

- 1 Consideration of recommendations of the ITU-2000 Group and related proposals (continued)

Documents

9 + Add.1 + Add.2,
20, 21, 32, 59(Rcv.1) + Corr.1,
66, 68, 70, 85; DT/7

1 Consideration of recommendations of the ITU-2000 Group and related proposals (Documents 9 + Addendum 1 + Addendum 2, 20, 21, 32, 59(Rev.1) + Corrigendum 1, 66, 68, 70, 85; DT/7) (continued)

1.1 The **Chairperson** invited the Committee to continue its consideration of ITU-2000 recommendations set out in Document DT/7, with a view to transmitting its conclusions to Committee 6.

Recommendation 13 (continued) (Documents 32, 70, 85)

1.2 The **delegate of Costa Rica** observed that 15 per cent of Member States were in arrears for a total amount that represented only 2.3 per cent of the budget. In view of those figures, the draconian measures proposed in recommendation 13 seemed entirely inappropriate.

1.3 The **delegate of Syria** pointed out that no one from a Member State in arrears had in fact been elected to office, which rendered recommendation 13 pointless. In his view, the existing constitutional provisions were perfectly adequate. He understood that the second indent was to be referred to Committee 7.

1.4 The **Chairperson**, having confirmed the previous speaker's last observation, suggested that the Committee's report should indicate that there was no consensus on recommendation 13, which the Committee felt should be referred to the plenary.

1.5 It was so **agreed**.

Recommendation 15 (Documents 9 + Addendum 1 + Addendum 2, 32, 59(Rev.1) + Corrigendum 1, 66)

1.6 The **delegate of Canada** introduced proposal CAN/9/22 which called for the establishment of a working group under the Radiocommunication Advisory Group (RAG) to study the structure and working methods of ITU-R. Since recommendation 15 concerned the widening of the role of Sector Members at WRCs, that issue could be included in the proposed working group's terms of reference.

1.7 The **delegate of the Islamic Republic of Iran** introduced proposal IRN/66/7 which accepted recommendation 15 in general, but confirmed that Sector participants should not have any role in the decision-making process.

1.8 The **delegate of France** referred to the European common proposal EUR/32/139 which opened WRCs to Sector Members but without the right to address the conference unless invited to do so. That provision did not apply to observers for international organizations.

1.9 The principle of widening the representation of Radiocommunication Sector participants at WRCs was also supported by the **delegates of Saudi Arabia, Syria, Australia, India and Pakistan**, although it was felt that the whole question required further study. The **delegate of Australia** considered that the issue could not be resolved at the present Conference, while the **delegate of South Africa** said that in her view Sector Members should be allowed to take part in the decision-making process but not to vote. Similar positions were adopted by the **delegates of Pakistan and Saudi Arabia**.

1.10 The **delegate of the United Kingdom**, speaking as the Chairperson of RAG, recalled that recommendation 15 had already been extensively discussed. Some considerable time ago strong support had been expressed for making arrangements to grant Sector Members observer status at WRCs, although various concerns had also been voiced. Administrations had been given ample opportunity to consider the matter further and on that basis a formal proposal had been submitted by a number of European administrations to revise CV280. He therefore believed that recommendation 15, which referred to the 1997 Radiocommunication Assembly, was obsolete and that the Conference should now proceed to modify the Convention in accordance with proposal EUR/32/139.

1.11 The **Chairperson**, supported by the **delegates of Syria, the Islamic Republic of Iran, Lebanon and Mali**, suggested that a working group should be set up under the guidance of Canada to make a thorough study of the matter with a view to reaching a consensus. The **delegate of Canada** agreed to chair such a group provided its terms of reference were clearly defined. The **delegates of the Philippines, Australia, the United Kingdom and Denmark** questioned the usefulness of a group since the issue had already been exhaustively discussed and a formal proposal was before the Conference.

1.12 The **delegate of the United States** considered that the Committee was faced with two separate issues: a recommendation to widen participation in WRCs that required an amendment to the Convention, and the procedural question of what rights should be given to any new participants. In his view, the second issue did not call for modification of the Convention and could perhaps be settled by the chairpersons of the conferences concerned.

1.13 The **delegates of Indonesia and India** believed that it would be premature to come to a decision at the present stage. The **delegate of Sweden**, together with the **delegates of Norway, Switzerland, the Netherlands, Italy, New Zealand and Germany**, considered that the matter should not be postponed for four more years and called for a decision at the present Conference.

1.14 The **Chairperson** noted that there was consensus within the Committee on the principle embodied in recommendation 15 but some disagreement as to the procedures to be followed for putting it into effect. He therefore repeated his suggestion to set up a small, open-ended working group, to be chaired by the delegate of Canada, which would take up in very broad terms all the issues on which there was still no consensus.

1.15 It was so **agreed**.

Recommendation 17 (Documents 20, 32, 59(Rev.1) + Corrigendum 1, 66, 68, 70)

1.16 The **Chairperson** said that, in its discussion of recommendation 17, the Committee should focus on the principle of the alternative approval process.

1.17 The **delegate of France** fully supported the principle underlying recommendation 17 and drew attention to the European common proposals EUR/32/129-133.

1.18 The **delegate of Syria** introduced Document 68, drawing attention to the draft resolution which set out the Arab position concerning the Questions and Recommendations of each Sector. The alternative approval procedure should not be used for Recommendations relating either to tariff issues or to policy and financial matters. The phrase in parenthesis in paragraph 1 of recommendation 17 should be clarified; it was his understanding that in ITU-T Member States alone agreed upon Questions and Recommendations.

1.19 The **delegate of the Islamic Republic of Iran** introduced proposal IRN/66/8, drawing attention to the fact that the alternative approval process should not be used for recommendations concerning revenue matters or ITU-R Questions and Recommendations.

1.20 The **delegate of Japan** introduced the APT common proposals, noting that the proposals APT/70/117-122 were also related to recommendation 17. Those APT Members that had endorsed the proposals basically supported all of recommendation 17, including its final paragraph.

1.21 The **delegate of India** said that, while supporting the principle of accelerating the approval process, he considered that Recommendations should be approved with the full consent of Member States. The **delegate of Saudi Arabia** endorsed that view.

1.22 The **delegate of Pakistan**, supported by the **delegate of China**, said that the alternative approval process should not be used for Recommendations on policy or regulatory matters or Recommendations relating to tariffs and accounting rate issues.

1.23 The **delegate of Sweden**, referring to paragraph 7 of recommendation 17, said that it was difficult to draw a distinction between Recommendations that had regulatory implications and those that did not; no Recommendation had regulatory force in itself - that was acquired only when the Recommendation was incorporated into international treaties or national regulations.

1.24 The **delegate of New Zealand** said that the alternative approval process seemed to work well in ITU-T, the Recommendations exempted from the approval process should be kept to an absolute minimum.

1.25 The **Director of TSB** confirmed that, in the Standardization Sector, Questions could be adopted at a study group meeting if there was agreement between Member States and Sector Members - if no consensus was forthcoming the matter would be referred to Member States in the usual way. The procedure gave the Telecommunication Standardization Advisory Group (TSAG) the possibility to act rapidly between WTSCs, accelerated the standardization process and worked very well.

1.26 The **delegate of Syria** said that, in his opinion, the alternative approval process did not accelerate work; the more bodies involved in the approval process, the more likely a delay. He proposed that the process should not be used for Recommendations with policy, regulatory or tariff implications, or in connection with any ITU-R Recommendations or ITU-D Study Group 1 Questions. The **delegates of the Islamic Republic of Iran, the United States, Saudi Arabia and Pakistan** endorsed that proposal.

1.27 The **delegate of Sweden**, supported by the **delegates of Germany, the Netherlands, France, Australia, the United Kingdom and Denmark**, said that he had some difficulty with the Syrian proposal; some Questions and Recommendations dealt with in ITU-R were very similar to those addressed in ITU-T, and thus the alternative approval process should apply.

1.28 The **delegate of Norway** endorsed the view of the previous speaker, an efficient approval process for ITU-R Recommendations would be highly desirable and would help the Sector to keep pace with advances in technology and market requirements.

1.29 The **delegate of Canada** said that it should be left to each Sector to decide on the Recommendations for which the alternative approval process should apply.

1.30 The **Chairperson** said that there appeared to be consensus in the Committee on paragraphs 1 to 6 of recommendation 17, and a general view that the alternative process should not be used for tariff and accounting rate issues. There were, however, opposing views as to whether the process should be applied with respect to ITU-R Recommendations. He therefore proposed that an

informal working group should be set up, chaired by Brazil, with a view to reaching consensus and that it should report back to the Committee on its findings. If no agreement was forthcoming, the matter would be referred to plenary.

1.31 It was so **agreed**.

1.32 Recommendation 17 was **approved** for transmission to Committee 6 on the understanding that the wording "tariffs and accounting rate issues" would be added to paragraph 7, and that an informal working group would be established to consider whether the alternative approval process should also be applied in ITU-R.

Recommendation 26 (Documents 21, 70)

1.33 The **delegate of Australia** introducing proposals AUS/21/2 and APT/70/12, which were identical, said that APT fully supported recommendation 26 as it stood. In the rapidly changing telecommunication environment, WRCs were facing increasing problems concerning the complexity and volume of issues to be addressed, and more efficient preparation was required. He drew attention to the *resolves* part of the draft resolution which called for the more judicious planning of agendas, support for the regional harmonization of common proposals, and greater collaboration between conferences.

The meeting rose at 1235 hours.

The Secretary:
D. SCHUSTER

The Chairperson:
M. BOSSA

INTERNATIONAL TELECOMMUNICATION UNION



PLENIPOTENTIARY CONFERENCE (PP-98)

Document 142-E
20 October 1998
Original: English

MINNEAPOLIS, 12 OCTOBER - 6 NOVEMBER 1998

COMMITTEE 5

Note by the Secretary-General

INFORMATION DOCUMENT

GUIDELINES FOR FOLLOW-UP ON THE INTERGOVERNMENTAL CONFERENCE ON EMERGENCY TELECOMMUNICATIONS (ICET-98)

Background

The Intergovernmental Conference on Emergency Telecommunications (ICET-98), convened by the Government of Finland, took place from 16 to 18 June 1998 in Tampere, Finland. ICET-98 adopted the Tampere Convention on the Provision of Telecommunication Resources for Disaster Mitigation and Relief Operations. On 18 June 1998, 33 States signed the Convention (subject to ratification).

The Secretary-General of the United Nations is the depositary of the Convention (Article 16). The Office of Legal Affairs, Treaty Section, United Nations Headquarters, New York, administers the depositary function of the Secretary-General. The United Nations Emergency Relief Coordinator and Under Secretary-General for Humanitarian Affairs is the operational coordinator of the Convention (Article 2). The United Nations Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA), Geneva Office, is in charge of the implementation and execution of the functions of the operational coordinator and works closely with the International Telecommunication Union.

The Working Group on Emergency Telecommunications (WGET) is regularly convened by OCHA and includes all partners in international humanitarian assistance and ITU; it serves as the advisory board for work in this area. OCHA provides the secretariat of WGET under its project on Emergency Telecommunications with and in the Field.

Under Article 12.2 of the Convention, a State may express its consent to be bound by the Convention by any of the following means:

- a) by definitive signature;
- b) by signature subject to ratification, acceptance or approval followed by deposit of an instrument of ratification, acceptance or approval;
- c) by deposit of an instrument of accession.

The consent of a State to be bound may be expressed at any time; in view of the urgent need for the full application of the Convention, it is desirable that the procedures expressing consent to be bound be completed with the depositary as soon as possible. Procedures relating to signature of the Convention must follow the instructions provided by the Legal Counsel of the United Nations. On all related matters, it is advised that the assistance of the Treaty Section of the United Nations be

sought. The Convention will enter into force 30 days after the deposit of such instruments by 30 States.

NOTE - In view of the above, the United States Government has asked the United Nations to organize a special signing ceremony in conjunction with agenda item 20 "Strengthening of the coordination of humanitarian and disaster relief assistance of the United Nations" at the 53rd session of the United Nations General Assembly in 1998.

Key elements of the Tampere Convention

The Convention seeks to provide a framework to expedite and facilitate the use of emergency telecommunications in disaster mitigation and relief. Such telecommunication assistance can be provided as direct assistance, to national governments and/or a location or region affected by a disaster, and/or as part of or in support of other disaster mitigation and relief activities. The Convention addresses the roles and responsibilities of the various partners in international humanitarian assistance, including government entities, international organizations, non-governmental organizations and other non-State entities, as well as the privileges and immunities that will be afforded in providing telecommunication assistance.

The Convention fully protects the interests of the countries requesting and receiving assistance. The requesting government retains the right to supervise the assistance. The Convention foresees the establishment of bilateral agreements between the provider(s) of telecommunication assistance and the State requesting or receiving such assistance. Standard agreements for such assistance will be developed. To avoid delay in the delivery of assistance, "best practices" will be codified into common implementing language. The use of such model agreements, which will be made available in hard copy and electronic format, will allow the rapid application of the Tampere Convention in any emergency disaster situation.

Contacts

For all matters relating to the depositary (signature, ratification, acceptance, approval or accession):

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INTERNATIONAL TELECOMMUNICATION UNION



PLENIPOTENTIARY CONFERENCE (PP-98)

Corrigendum 2 to
Document 143-E
28 October 1998
Original: English

MINNEAPOLIS, 12 OCTOBER - 6 NOVEMBER 1998

COMMITTEE 6

SUMMARY RECORD

OF THE

FIRST MEETING OF COMMITTEE 6

(CONSTITUTION AND CONVENTION)

Thursday, 15 October 1998, at 0935 hours

Chairperson: Mr. A. BERRADA (Morocco)

Please **replace** paragraph 2.10 with the following text:

2.10 The **delegate of France**, speaking on behalf of the CEPT countries, introduced Document 32 which reflected intensive consultations throughout Europe covering Member States, Sector Members and the private sector. Among the proposed amendments resulting from examination of the ITU-2000 Group recommendations, he highlighted the areas which were important for Europe: recommendations on the rights and obligations of Sector Members; clarification of the role of the advisory groups; and stability of the Union's financial basis. Parts 3 and 4 of the document dealt with provisions regarding conferences and assemblies, and rules of procedure, which it was proposed should be presented as a separate legal instrument which could be more easily amended if necessary. Part 6 concerned the matter of observers at the Council, notably observers from Member States not elected to the Council. Other proposals concerned the working methods of the Radio Regulations Board, studies to be conducted by ITU-R study groups, bringing the provisions of the Convention more into line with current practice in world radiocommunication conferences, and recognizing the importance of the efficient management of non-geostationary orbits.

UNION INTERNATIONALE DES
TELECOMMUNICATIONS



CONFERENCE DE
PLENIPOTENTIAIRES (PP-98)

MINNEAPOLIS, 12 OCTOBRE - 6 NOVEMBRE 1998

Corrigendum 1 au
Document 143-F/E/S
23 octobre 1998
Original: anglais

COMMISSION 6

Veillez remplacer le titre du document par le texte suivant:

COMPTE RENDU
DE LA
PREMIÈRE RÉUNION DE LA COMMISSION 6
(CONSTITUTION ET CONVENTION)

Jeudi 15 octobre 1998 à 9 h 35

Président: M. A. BERRADA (Maroc)

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This corrigendum does not concern the English text.

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Este corrigendum no concierne al texto español.

INTERNATIONAL TELECOMMUNICATION UNION



PLENIPOTENTIARY CONFERENCE (PP-98)

Document 143-E
22 October 1998
Original: English

MINNEAPOLIS, 12 OCTOBER - 6 NOVEMBER 1998

COMMITTEE 6

SUMMARY RECORD

OF THE

FIRST MEETING OF COMMITTEE 6

(CONSTITUTION AND CONVENTION)

Thursday, 15 October 1998, at 0935 hours

Chairperson: Mr. A. BERRADA (Morocco)

Subjects discussed

Documents

- | | | |
|---|--|--|
| 1 | Terms of reference and organization of the work of the Committee | 89, 96, DT/5 |
| 2 | General introduction of proposals | 7, 9, 11 + Corr.1 + Corr.2,
15, 18 + Add.1 +
Add.2 + Corr.1,
19, 25, 32, 34, 37 |

1 Terms of reference and organization of the work of the Committee (Documents 89, 96, DT/5)

1.1 At the invitation of the **Chairperson**, the Committee **took note** of its terms of reference, as set out in Document 89.

1.2 The **Chairperson** drew attention to Document DT/5 which set out some proposals for the Committee's working methods. Responding to an observation by the **delegate of France**, he said that he did not intend to open discussion of provisions that might be affected by proposals to be dealt with first by other committees; therefore, matters being discussed elsewhere would be left in abeyance pending a report from the committee concerned. In response to a request by the **delegate of the United States**, he said that an official working document listing all proposals to the Committee would take some time to prepare, but a summary table could be made available.

1.3 The **delegate of Spain** said that proposal 4) in Document DT/5, to the effect that amendments related to those ITU-2000 recommendations to be examined by other committees should be left aside until Committee 6 received the results of studies from the committees in question, caused his delegation some difficulty. Of course, administrations' proposals which had, say, an economic impact and a bearing on provisions of the Constitution and Convention should be dealt with by the committees concerned. It was, however, important to ensure that all decisions were aligned, bearing in mind that submission of reports on one particular subject from more than one committee could lead to confusion. In that regard, the role of Committee 6 was pivotal.

1.4 The **Chairperson**, responding to an observation by the **delegate of Greece**, said that Document DT/1 indeed contained a list of provisions and relevant proposals but there had been no time to update it for the current meeting. He took it that the Committee agreed on the working methods set forth in Document DT/5, subject to consideration of certain items by the Steering Committee and the preparation of a working document that would group the various administrations' proposals according to the provisions in question.

1.5 It was so **agreed**.

1.6 The **delegate of Argentina** pointed out that proposals ARG/41/9, 10 and 11 should be added to the table on page 3 of Document 96.

2 General introduction of proposals (Documents 7, 9, 11 + Corrigendum 1 + Corrigendum 2, 15, 18 + Addendum 1 + Addendum 2 + Corrigendum 1, 19, 25, 32, 34, 37)

2.1 The **delegate of Spain**, introducing Document 7, recalled that it had been agreed at the Additional Plenipotentiary Conference (Geneva, 1992) that the Council and the Secretary-General would prepare draft rules of procedure for conferences and meetings by extracting Article 32 from the Convention and making it into a separate instrument. The Council had also agreed that the Convention should contain an article on reservations. Document 7 contained Spain's proposal that there should indeed be an article on reservations in the Convention as well as a proposed text for that article.

2.2 The **delegate of Canada** said that Document 9 contained her delegation's proposals to shorten the deadlines for the receipt of proposals to amend the Constitution and the Convention, in recognition of the fact that although early deadlines were needed to allow sufficient time for the consideration of proposals, they were rarely observed.

2.3 The **delegate of Portugal**, introducing Document 11, said that his delegation's proposals, which were also supported by Mozambique and Cape Verde, related to the use of languages other than the official and working languages of the Union. The proposal would clarify the provisions of Article 35 of the Convention and would not impose a financial burden on the Union as all the costs would be borne by the Member States concerned.

2.4 The **Chairperson** observed that Portugal's proposals were closely linked to Resolutions 62 and 63 adopted by the Kyoto Plenipotentiary Conference, which were not in the terms of reference of the Committee. He would nevertheless raise the matter with the Chairperson of the Conference, and would report back to the Committee at a later stage.

2.5 The **delegate of the United States**, introducing Document 15, said that her delegation in general supported the recommendations of the ITU-2000 Group which the Council had approved in Resolution 1112. It was in favour of enhancing and clarifying the rights and obligations of Sector Members and Member States in the work of the Union, as appropriate, and of strengthening the finances of the Union and improving its efficiency. It had consequently proposed a number of amendments consistent with the ITU-2000 recommendations. There were some areas, however, in which the United States proposals differed from those of the ITU-2000 Group. The United States believed, for example, that it was not appropriate in all instances to treat all the advisory groups in a similar fashion, particularly in respect of the delegation of authority. It had reservations about announcements of contributions during Plenipotentiary Conferences and about proposals which would deny Members the right to be eligible for election to the Council or to chair or vice-chair conference meetings if they were in payments arrears, as such an approach was inconsistent with the idea of universal participation in the work of the Union. The United States also proposed the elimination of the practice of imposing interest on arrears, thus bringing ITU into line with other specialized agencies.

2.6 The **delegate of Japan**, introducing her delegation's proposal J/18/4 in Addendum 2 to Document 18, said that its purpose was to rationalize the process of dealing with decisions, recommendations and resolutions, thereby saving time and enhancing the efficiency of the Plenipotentiary Conference.

2.7 The **Chairperson** pointed out that similar proposals had been made by other delegations and, if adopted, would have to be applied by Committees 5, 6 and 7. The Chairperson of the Conference would therefore have to be consulted about the possibility of considering those proposals in plenary.

2.8 The **delegate of Morocco** summarized the proposals made jointly by Kuwait, Morocco and Syria, as contained in Document 25, drawing particular attention to paragraphs 1.1, 1.3, 1.6, 1.7, 1.8, 2.1 and 3.3. He also highlighted the proposed draft resolution on the application of Nos. 246A to 246C of the Convention, and the proposals on the memoranda of understanding deposited with ITU, on the ratification, acceptance or approval of amendments to the Constitution, the Convention and the Administrative Regulations, and on the composition of the Radio Regulations Board. Lastly, he drew attention to the proposals to review the resolutions and recommendations adopted at the Kyoto Plenipotentiary Conference in 1994, and to amend Resolution 16 (Kyoto, 1994).

2.9 The **delegate of Kuwait**, introducing Document 19, said that his Administration was in general in favour of the recommendations of the ITU-2000 Group. Among the proposals in Document 19, which covered Nos. 1 to 116 of the Constitution, he emphasized those relating to Article 1, which concerned strengthening of financial and human resources, and to Article 3, concerning clarification of the respective rights and obligations of Member States and Sector Members - an area in which clear differentiation was necessary.

2.10 The **delegate of France**, speaking on behalf of the CEPT countries, introduced Document 32 which reflected intensive consultations throughout Europe covering Member States, Sector Members and the private sector. Among the proposed amendments resulting from examination of the ITU-2000 Group recommendations, he highlighted the areas which were important for Europe: recommendations on the rights and obligations of Sector Members; clarification of the role of the advisory groups; and stability of the Union's financial basis. Parts 3 and 4 of the document dealt with provisions regarding conferences and assemblies, and rules of procedure, which it was proposed should be presented as a separate legal instrument which could be more easily amended if necessary. Part 6 concerned the matter of observers at the Council, notably observers from Member States not elected to the Council. Other proposals concerned the working methods of the Radio Regulations Board, studies to be conducted by ITU-R study groups, and bringing the provisions of the Convention more into line with current practice in world radiocommunication conferences.

2.11 The **delegate of Sweden** said that his Administration's proposal concerning voting rights of Sector Members should be incorporated in Document 32.

2.12 The **delegate of Russia**, introducing Document 34, expressed his Administration's support for the recommendations of the ITU-2000 Group, particularly concerning clarification of the rights and obligations of Member States and Sector Members, harmonization of the provisions on advisory groups, conversion of the world telecommunication standardization conferences into assemblies, and reduction in class of contribution to a maximum of two accounting units, in order to stabilize ITU's financial position. Other proposals by his Administration concerned: modification of the periodicity of Plenipotentiary Conferences from 4 to 6 years and of WRCs from 2 to 3 years, in order to give sufficient time for thorough preparations and studies and to save resources; the holding of the radiocommunication assembly after the world radiocommunication conference, so as to align the work of study groups and advisory groups in the light of world radiocommunication conference decisions; and the need for equitable geographical distribution of posts at all levels of personnel, in particular the elected officials. Regarding the latter, there was a need to ensure the election of one official from each of the five administrative regions, with elections to the Radio Regulations Board coming after the other elections. He expressed concern that two administrative regions with vast populations and immense potential had no elected posts.

2.13 The **delegate of China** introduced Document 37 containing proposed amendments to Articles 12, 13 and 44 of the Constitution and Articles 8, 11, 12 and 13 of the Convention, mainly concerning three points: the periodicity of world radiocommunication conferences, which it was proposed should be held every three years to allow more time for thorough preparation of studies and adequate follow-up to amendments to the Radio Regulations, especially in developing countries, and to alleviate the financial burden on the Union; the inclusion of reference to the non-geostationary orbit in the Convention and Constitution, as the increased use of non-geostationary satellite systems called for greater coordination; and enabling experts from developing countries to participate more effectively in the work of the ITU-R and ITU-T study groups.

The meeting rose at 1110 hours.

The Secretary:
A. GUILLOT

The Chairperson:
A. BERRADA

INTERNATIONAL TELECOMMUNICATION UNION



PLENIPOTENTIARY CONFERENCE (PP-98)

Document 144-E
20 October 1998
Original: English

MINNEAPOLIS, 12 OCTOBER - 6 NOVEMBER 1998

COMMITTEE 7

Note by the Secretary-General

CONTRIBUTIONS BY MEMBERS OF THE UNION

AZERBAIJANI REPUBLIC

- 1 In a letter dated 19 October 1998, further to letters of 29 September and 22 November 1997, the Azerbaijani Republic requests that a special arrears account be opened for the payment of the outstanding contributions in respect of the years 1993 to 1998, in the amount of 458 998.25 Swiss francs.
- 2 In the same letter, the Azerbaijani Republic undertakes to pay its contributions in 10 equal annual instalments of 45 899.82 Swiss francs beginning in April 1999.
- 3 The Committee may wish to consider this additional request of the Azerbaijani Republic having regard to the recommendation made by Committee 7 to the Plenary (see Documents 80 and DT/11).

Pekka TARJANNE
Secretary-General

Annex: 1

Ministry of Communications
Pr. Azerbaijana 33
370139 BAKU
Azerbaijan

The International Telecommunication Union
Plenipotentiary Conference
Minneapolis, MN
USA

Minneapolis, 19 October 1998

Honoured representatives of Telecommunication Administrations of the Member States, the Telecommunication Administration of the Azerbaijan Republic conveys its greetings and best wishes to you all.

I have the honour to express the official position of my country - Republic of Azerbaijan - at such a large meeting as the Plenipotentiary Conference of the International Telecommunication Union which is held here in Minneapolis, USA.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

We wish to draw your kind attention to the difficult circumstances that my country is encountering.

We are writing further to our letters of 29 September and 22 November 1997 concerning the cancellation of the debt owed to the ITU by the Ministry of Communications of the Republic of Azerbaijan.

We thank the Committee 7 for having proposed to the Plenary the cancellation of the interest on overdue payments to the amount of 70 966.80 Swiss francs.

As a further demonstration of the Ministry of Communication's desire and will to belong to the International Telecommunication Union (ITU), we wish to request a special arrears account for the payment of the outstanding contributions from 1993 to 1998 equivalent to 458 998.25 Swiss francs, in ten (10) equal annual instalments - being 45 899.82 Swiss francs per year beginning in April 1999 up to April 2008 - over and above the regular contribution for the year.

Hoping this new offer will find favour with the senior authorities of the ITU, so that Azerbaijan may take part fully in the work of the Union, we remain,

Yours faithfully,

(signed)

Gismet IBRAHIMOV
Executive Director of International Relations and Accounting Department
c.c. Mr. Pekka Tarjanne, Secretary-General, ITU

INTERNATIONAL TELECOMMUNICATION UNION



PLENIPOTENTIARY CONFERENCE (PP-98)

Document 145-E
20 October 1998
Original: English

MINNEAPOLIS, 12 OCTOBER - 6 NOVEMBER 1998

COMMITTEE 7

Note by the Secretary-General

CONTRIBUTIONS BY MEMBERS OF THE UNION

SIERRA LEONE

- 1 In a letter dated 19 October 1998 (see Annex A), Sierra Leone, invoking a very difficult situation resulting from a rebel war which has devastated both the country's infrastructure and its economy, requests
 - a) that interest on outstanding payments accumulated over the years be written off;
 - b) that arrears on contributions and publications be placed in a special arrears account;
 - c) that Sierra Leone be allowed to pay outstanding arrears on contributions and publications totalling 928 646.30 Swiss francs in 15 annual instalments.
- 2 A statement of the amounts owed to the Union by Sierra Leone is given in Annex B.
- 3 The Plenipotentiary Conference is requested to take a decision on Sierra Leone's request in the light of its recommendations (see Document 121).

Pekka TARJANNE
Secretary-General

Annexes: 2

ANNEX A

Ministry of Information, Communication, Tourism and Culture
8th Floor, Youyi Building, Freetown, Sierra Leone
Tel: 232 22 240911 Fax: 232 22 241757

19th October 1998

The ITU Plenipotentiary Conference
Minneapolis
USA

Sierra Leone's Indebtedness to the ITU

Sierra Leone has over the past several years been in the grip of a number of debilitating circumstances which have made it extremely difficult for the country to meet its numerous financial obligations. Since 1991, we have been struggling with a rebel war which has devastated both the country's infrastructure and its economy. This situation was compounded in May 1997 when the army in collusion with the rebels overthrew the democratically elected government. In the nine months the illegal junta was in power, the economy ground to a halt and vandalism was the order of the day. The nation's telecommunications infrastructure was a major target of the vandals during this period.

The democratically elected government has been reinstated and we are in the process of bringing the war to a close. Consequently, Sierra Leone is anxious to begin the process of fulfilling its financial obligations to international organizations, particularly the ITU. Unfortunately, our current economic situation makes it impossible for us to liquidate our indebtedness immediately. We are therefore constrained to make the following request:

1. That interest on outstanding payments accumulated over the years be written off.
2. That arrears on contributions and publications be placed in a special non-interest arrears account.
3. That Sierra Leone be allowed to pay outstanding arrears on contributions and publications totalling 928 646.30 SFr in fifteen annual instalments.

I trust our case will be treated with sympathy.

Sincerely yours,

(signed)

Dr. Julius Spencer
Minister

ANNEX B

SIERRA LEONE

Year	Contributions	Interest at 31.12.1997	Total owing (Swiss francs)	Class of contribution
1977	0.00	133 800.40	133 800.40	1/2
1978	65 900.00	139 388.45	205 288.45	1/2
1979	63 200.00	122 680.50	185 880.50	1/2
1980	63 200.00	112 298.20	175 498.20	1/2
1981	67 850.00	110 036.20	177 886.20	1/2
1982	84 325.00	123 894.20	208 219.20	1/2
1983	88 300.00	117 630.80	205 930.00	1/2
1984	26 125.00	31 520.15	57 645.15	1/8
1985	30 055.00	32 444.45	62 499.45	1/8
1986	29 132.00	28 163.80	57 295.80	1/8
1987	30 486.00	26 085.00	56 571.00	1/8
1988	28 997.00	21 834.30	50 831.30	1/8
1989	29 860.00	19 544.75	49 404.75	1/8
1990	35 240.00	19 774.30	55 014.30	1/8
1991	36 756.00	17 473.55	54 229.55	1/8
1992	38 250.00	15 038.95	53 288.95	1/8
1993	38 825.00	12 243.70	51 068.70	1/8
1994	39 900.00	9 651.20	49 551.20	
1995	41 250.00	7 116.25	48 366.25	1/8
1996	41 500.00	4 441.60	45 941.60	
1997	0.00	0.00	0.00	
1998	41 000.00	0.00	41 000.00	
	920 151.00	1 105 060.75	2 025 211.75	
Publications				
1976	3 230.00	6 973.40	10 203.40	
1977	2 062.60	4 089.10	6 151.70	
1978	628.50	1 205.20	1 833.70	
1979	855.20	1 502.65	2 357.85	
1980	916.00	1 383.35	2 299.35	
1981	437.00	598.60	1 035.60	
1982	366.00	453.10	819.10	
	8 495.30	16 205.40	24 700.70	
Total	928 646.30	1 121 266.15	2 049 912.45	

INTERNATIONAL TELECOMMUNICATION UNION



PLENIPOTENTIARY CONFERENCE (PP-98)

Document 146-E
21 October 1998
Original: English

MINNEAPOLIS, 12 OCTOBER - 6 NOVEMBER 1998

COMMITTEE 7

Canada

REPRESENTATION OF WOMEN IN THE ITU STAFFING PROCESS

The text of CV69 of Article 4 should be amended to confirm the recruitment of women in the professional and higher categories as a clear objective of the Union as follows:

ARTICLE 4 (CV)

[...]

CAN/146/1
MOD 69

(3) take decisions to ensure equitable geographical distribution ~~of~~ and representation of women in the professional and higher categories in the staff of the Union and monitor the implementation of such decisions;



**CONFÉRENCE DE
PLÉNIPOTENTIAIRES (PP-98)**

**Corrigendum 8 au
Document 147-F/E/S
5 novembre 1998
Original: anglais**

MINNEAPOLIS, 12 OCTOBRE - 6 NOVEMBRE 1998

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PROJET DE RÉSOLUTION

**INTÉGRATION DU PRINCIPE DE L'ÉGALITÉ DES SEXES
DANS LES TRAVAUX DE L'UIT**

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INCLUSION OF GENDER PERSPECTIVE IN THE WORK OF ITU

Add "Bahrain (State of), United States of America, Lebanon" to the list of signatories for this document.

UNION INTERNATIONALE DES
TÉLÉCOMMUNICATIONS



CONFÉRENCE DE
PLÉNIPOTENTIAIRES (PP-98)

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3 novembre 1998
Original: anglais

MINNEAPOLIS, 12 OCTOBRE - 6 NOVEMBRE 1998

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INTÉGRATION DU PRINCIPE DE L'ÉGALITÉ DES SEXES
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Ajouter "Ghana, Jordanie (Royaume hachémite de), Portugal, République démocratique du Congo, Turquie" dans la liste des pays signataires de ce document.

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PROYECTO DE RESOLUCIÓN

**INCLUSIÓN DE UNA PERSPECTIVA DE GÉNERO EN LA LABOR
Y LOS TEXTOS OFICIALES DE LA UIT**

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INTERNATIONAL TELECOMMUNICATION UNION



PLENIPOTENTIARY CONFERENCE (PP-98)

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PROJET DE RÉSOLUTION

INTÉGRATION DU PRINCIPE DE L'ÉGALITÉ DES SEXES DANS LES TRAVAUX DE L'UIT

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PROYECTO DE RESOLUCIÓN

INCLUSIÓN DE UNA PERSPECTIVA DE GÉNERO EN LA LABOR Y LOS TEXTOS OFICIALES DE LA UIT

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PLENIPOTENTIARY CONFERENCE (PP-98)

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MINNEAPOLIS, 12 OCTOBER - 6 NOVEMBER 1998

SÉANCE PLÉNIÈRE

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PROJET DE RÉSOLUTION

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PROYECTO DE RESOLUCIÓN

INCLUSIÓN DE UNA PERSPECTIVA DE GÉNERO EN LA LABOR Y LOS TEXTOS OFICIALES DE LA UIT

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PLENIPOTENTIARY CONFERENCE (PP-98)

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SÉANCE PLÉNIÈRE

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PROJET DE RÉSOLUTION

INTÉGRATION DU PRINCIPE DE L'ÉGALITÉ DES SEXES DANS LES TRAVAUX DE L'UIT

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PROYECTO DE RESOLUCIÓN

INCLUSIÓN DE UNA PERSPECTIVA DE GÉNERO EN LA LABOR Y LOS TEXTOS OFICIALES DE LA UIT

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INTERNATIONAL TELECOMMUNICATION UNION



PLENIPOTENTIARY CONFERENCE (PP-98)

Corrigendum 3 to
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27 October 1998
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MINNEAPOLIS, 12 OCTOBER - 6 NOVEMBER 1998

SÉANCE PLÉNIÈRE
PLENARY MEETING
SESIÓN PLENARIA

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Inde (République de l'), Indonésie (République d'), Jamaïque, Japon,
Kenya (République du), Malaisie, Mali (République du), Namibie
(République de), Niger (République du), Norvège,
Pays-Bas (Royaume des), Philippines (République des),
République arabe syrienne, Royaume-Uni de Grande-Bretagne
et d'Irlande du Nord, Russie (Fédération de),
Sénégal (République du), Singapour (République de),
Slovénie (République de), Sudafricaine (République),
Suède, Suriname (République du), Tanzanie (République-Unie de),
Thaïlande, Trinité-et-Tobago, Venezuela (République du),

PROJET DE RÉSOLUTION

INTÉGRATION DU PRINCIPE DE L'ÉGALITÉ DES SEXES DANS LES TRAVAUX DE L'UIT

Ajouter "**Zambie (République de)**" dans la liste des pays signataires de ce document.

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CONFERENCE DE
PLENIPOTENTIAIRES (PP-98)

Corrigendum 2 au
Document 147-F/E/S
12 octobre 1998
Original: anglais

MINNEAPOLIS, 12 OCTOBRE - 6 NOVEMBRE 1998

SÉANCE PLÉNIÈRE

PROJET DE RÉSOLUTION

INTÉGRATION DU PRINCIPE DE L'ÉGALITÉ DES SEXES
DANS LES TRAVAUX DE L'UIT

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**PLENIPOTENTIARY
CONFERENCE (PP-98)**

**Corrigendum 1 to
Document 147-F/E/S
21 October 1998
Original: English**

MINNEAPOLIS, 12 OCTOBER - 6 NOVEMBER 1998

SÉANCE PLÉNIÈRE

PROJET DE RÉSOLUTION

**INTÉGRATION DU PRINCIPE DE L'ÉGALITÉ DES SEXES
DANS LES TRAVAUX DE L'UIT**

Ajouter "**Ghana, Jordanie, Koweït, Malte, Maroc, Mexico, Ouganda, Tunisie**" à la liste des pays signataires de ce document.

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PROYECTO DE RESOLUCIÓN

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INTERNATIONAL TELECOMMUNICATION UNION



PLENIPOTENTIARY CONFERENCE (PP-98)

Document 147-E
21 October 1998
Original: English

MINNEAPOLIS, 12 OCTOBER - 6 NOVEMBER 1998

PLENARY MEETING

Saudi Arabia (Kingdom of), Argentine Republic, Australia, Barbados, Brazil (Federative Republic of), Bulgaria (Republic of), Cameroon (Republic of), Canada, Cape Verde (Republic of), Finland, France, Gabonese Republic, India (Republic of), Indonesia (Republic of), Jamaica, Japan, Kenya (Republic of), Malaysia, Mali (Republic of), Namibia (Republic of), Niger (Republic of the), Norway, Netherlands (Kingdom of the), Philippines (Republic of the), Syrian Arab Republic, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, Russian Federation, Senegal (Republic of), Singapore (Republic of), Slovenia (Republic of), South Africa (Republic of), Sweden, Suriname (Republic of), Tanzania (United Republic of), Thailand, Trinidad and Tobago, Venezuela (Republic of)

DRAFT RESOLUTION

INCLUSION OF GENDER PERSPECTIVE IN THE WORK OF ITU

The Plenipotentiary Conference of the International Telecommunication Union,
(Minneapolis, 1998),

recalling

- a)* the initiative taken by the Development Sector at the World Telecommunication Development Conference 1998 (WTDC-98, Malta) in adopting Resolution 7, transmitted to the 1998 ITU Plenipotentiary Conference (Document 30) in which it resolved to establish a task force on gender issues (hereinafter "Resolution 7");
- b)* the purposes of ITU as stated in Article 1 of the Constitution (Geneva, 1992) which include promoting "the extension of the benefits of the new telecommunication technologies to all the world's inhabitants";
- c)* UN resolution 52/96 of 6 February 1998 adopted by the General Assembly on the Improvement of the Status of Women in the Secretariat;

d) the statement on "Gender Equality and Mainstreaming in the Work of the United Nations System: A Commitment for Action in 1998", adopted by the Administrative Committee on Coordination at its regular session of 1998 (Geneva, 27 and 28 March 1998),¹

recognizing

- a) that society as a whole will benefit from equal participation of women and men in policy and decision-making and in the access by women and men to communications services;
- b) that making better use of human resources and skills of women significantly adds to the pool of talent that will be needed in the new information society;
- c) that women constitute a substantial consumer market for information and communication technologies,

further recognizing

- a) that the recommendations of the first meeting of the Task Force on Gender Issues (TFGI) held on 1 and 2 September 1998 identified priority activities to be undertaken by ITU-D aimed at ensuring that the benefits of telecommunications and the emerging information society are made available to all women and men in developing countries on a fair and equitable basis;
- b) that the Secretary-General has recently appointed a Focal Point for Gender Issues in ITU;
- c) that action is required in light of the decision taken by the UN General Assembly to convene a special session from 5 to 9 June 2000 to appraise and assess the progress achieved in the implementation of the Nairobi Forward-looking Strategies for the Advancement of Women and the Beijing Platform for Action five years after its adoption,

noting

- a) that there is a need for ITU to investigate, analyse and further the understanding of the impact of telecommunication technologies on women and men;
- b) that there is a need to ensure that the Gender Perspective is included in all ITU policies, work programmes, information dissemination, publication, study groups, seminars, workshops and conferences,

recommends that Member States and Sector Members

- a) review and revise, as appropriate, their respective policies and practices to ensure that recruitment, employment, training and advancement of women and men alike are undertaken on a fair and equitable basis;
- b) facilitate the employment of women and men equally in the telecommunications field including at senior levels of responsibility in the telecommunications administrations, government and regulatory bodies, intergovernmental organizations and in the private sector,

¹ "Gender Perspective": Mainstreaming a Gender Perspective is the process of assessing the implications for women and men of any planned action, including legislation, policies or programmes in all areas and at all levels. It is a strategy for making women's as well as men's concerns and experiences an integral dimension of the design, implementation, monitoring and evaluation so that women and men benefit equally and inequality is not perpetuated. The ultimate goal is to achieve gender equality. (Source: Report of the Inter-Agency Committee on Women and Gender Equality of its Third Session, New York, 25-27 February 1998.)

resolves

- 1 to endorse Resolution 7 adopted at the World Telecommunication Development Conference in Malta;
- 2 to incorporate the Gender Perspective in the implementation of the ITU Strategic Plan, Operational Plan, Financial Plan and the approved recommendations of ITU-2000;
- 3 that the language in the Basic Instruments of the Union (Convention and Constitution) shall be considered henceforth as neutral gender,

instructs the Council

to ensure that, within available resources, appropriate funding is included in each budget for Gender Perspective initiatives,

instructs the Secretary General

- 1 to facilitate the work programme of the ITU Focal Point on Gender Issues by providing the necessary means to carry out the work and to report to the Council in 2000 on progress made in this respect;
- 2 to ensure that the General Secretariat and the Sectors through their Directors, incorporate the Gender Perspective in their work programmes and leadership and human resource development activities;
- 3 to report back to the next ITU Plenipotentiary Conference on the results and progress made on the inclusion of a Gender Perspective in the work of ITU,

instructs the Director of BDT

to facilitate the full implementation of Resolution 7 adopted at the WTDC in Malta,

instructs the Secretary-General and Directors of the Bureaux

to report to Council each year on progress made to incorporate the Gender Perspective in the work of the General Secretariat and the respective Sector Operational Plan.

INTERNATIONAL TELECOMMUNICATION UNION



PLENIPOTENTIARY CONFERENCE (PP-98)

Document 148-E
22 October 1998
Original: French

MINNEAPOLIS, 12 OCTOBER - 6 NOVEMBER 1998

COMMITTEE 6

SUMMARY RECORD

OF THE

SECOND MEETING OF COMMITTEE 6

(CONSTITUTION AND CONVENTION)

Friday, 16 October 1998, at 0935 hours

Chairperson: Mr. A. BERRADA (Morocco)

Subjects discussed

- 1 General introduction of proposals (continued)
- 2 Detailed consideration of proposals

Documents

21(Add.1), 41 + Add.1,
59(Rev.1) + Corr.1,
66, 69, 70 + Corr.1, 77
15, 19, 20, 21(Add.1),
32(Corr.1), 41 + Add.1,
59(Rev.1) + Corr.1, 66
69, 70 + Corr.1, 77;
DT/9

1 General introduction of proposals (continued) (Documents 21 (Addendum 1), 41 + Addendum 1, 59(Rev.1) and Corrigendum 1, 66, 69, 70 + Corrigendum 1, 77)

1.1 The **representative of Australia**, introducing Addendum 1 to Document 21, said that his country's proposal was reproduced in Document 70 containing the proposals of the Asia-Pacific Region and that it therefore had the support of the 15 countries of that region. The proposal was based on recommendations 24 and 25 of the ITU-2000 Group and the detailed analysis of the functions of the Radiocommunication Assembly carried out by RAG in January 1998, and on the need to harmonize existing arrangements in the Standardization Sector and the Radiocommunication Sector, and its essential point was to extend the interval between radiocommunication assemblies from two to four years.

1.2 The **representative of Argentina**, introducing Document 41 and Addendum 1, said that his country's first proposal that concerned the work of the Committee (ARG/41/4), reproduced in the proposals by CITELE (Document 59), aimed to ensure that the requirement of one full day between a vote and a repetition of the vote did not apply on the last day of a meeting. The second (ARG/41/5) aimed to stabilize election procedures by including them in the Rules of Procedure. The third (ARG/41/8) contained a draft resolution which, under "*instructs the Secretary-General*", provided a solution to the problems related to the revision and publication both of the Union's basic texts and of the decisions, resolutions, recommendations and opinions of plenipotentiary conferences. The fourth (ARG/41/9), contained in Addendum 1, had the ambitious aim of enabling the Union, through an examination of its mission, structure and functioning, to be in a position to take up the challenges of the 21st century. The fifth proposal (ARG/41/10) had been prompted by the wish to ensure that the World Telecommunication Policy Forum continued to exist, since it was the forum best suited to combined action by the private sector and administrations with a view to implementing new telecommunication media, within the framework of memorandums of understanding for which ITU would serve as depositary. Lastly, an Addendum 2, to be published, contained a draft resolution for the establishment of rules of procedure which would be independent of the Constitution and the Convention.

1.3 The **representative of Ecuador**, introducing Document 59(Rev.1) and Corrigendum 1 on behalf of the member States of CITELE, said that the document was the outcome of work conducted since November 1996, with which representatives from supranational organizations and other regional groups had been associated. The proposals largely endorsed those of the ITU-2000 Group but with a few nuances and additions. In particular, CITELE was not in favour of the recommendation to replace the term "Member" by "Member State". The general practice in the specialized agencies and the United Nations itself should be followed. The proposals also aimed to facilitate the broadest possible participation of the entities grouped together under the term "Sector Members", provided that the treaty-making bodies were reserved solely for the Members of the Union. It was also of the utmost importance not to amend the provisions stipulating that frequencies and orbit were a limited resource to be used equitably by all nations of the world. The document also contained a draft decision (IAP/59/122) on the numbering of resolutions, recommendations and decisions.

1.4 The **representative of the Islamic Republic of Iran**, introducing Document 66, said that his country's proposals, which took account of the recommendations of the ITU-2000 Group and the amendments to the Constitution and the Convention they entailed, had been prompted by the desire to safeguard the sovereign rights of Member States. He also drew attention to a number of editorial changes to be made to Document 66.

1.5 The **representative of Senegal**, introducing Document 69, said that his country endorsed the great majority of the recommendations of the ITU-2000 Group and had objections to only a few recommendations which raised the matter of the intergovernmental nature of the Union and the principle of solidarity among the Sectors. Recommendation 11, which referred to Article 3 of the Constitution and Article 32 of the Convention, caused him some concern because it could lead to a situation in which Sector Members would have a higher status in the Council than Member States of the Union which were not Members of the Council. The same was true of recommendation 9/4, which ran counter to the principle of solidarity among the Sectors. Were it to be applied, the Development Sector would have to be treated as a horizontal rather than a vertical entity like the other two Sectors. BDT would need to have the necessary resources to carry out activities entrusted to it which fell within the purview of radiocommunications and telecommunications.

1.6 The **representative of the Republic of Korea**, introducing proposals APT/70/16 to 31 set out in Document 70 containing the APT common proposals, stressed the need to ensure that the concerns of developing countries were taken into account in all RAG and TSAG activities, and not only with regard to the guidelines governing the work of study groups. The amendments to the Convention proposed by APT were aimed at that objective, which would enable the Union to contribute to the development of telecommunications in all countries in the world.

1.7 The **representative of Japan**, introducing part 12 of Document 70, pointed out that the proposals set out in it aimed to introduce amendments to the Constitution and the Convention which would enable the recommendations of the ITU-2000 Group to be implemented as quickly as possible.

1.8 The **delegate of India**, introducing Document 77, said that his country's proposals aimed to provide appropriate clarification of the recommendations of the ITU-2000 Group to ensure that the participation of Sector Members in the Union's activities, which was a necessity, was not detrimental to its intergovernmental nature. The proposals had also been prompted by the wish to establish a clear distinction between the treaty-making bodies and the others. Document 77 also contained proposals concerning non-geostationary orbits and the economical use of the spectrum.

2 Detailed consideration of proposals (Documents 15, 19, 20, 21(Add.1), 32(Corr.1), 41 + Addendum 1, 59(Rev.1) + Corrigendum 1, 66, 69, 70 + Corrigendum 1, 77; DT/9)

2.1 The **Chairperson** proposed that the Committee begin the detailed consideration of proposals on the basis of Document DT/9, in other words, in the order of the articles and numbers of the Constitution and the Convention to which amendments had been proposed. He invited the Committee first to consider Article 1 of the Constitution.

Provision 3

2.2 The **representative of Greece**, referring to the new terminology proposed by the ITU-2000 Group (recommendation 3), stressed that the Union was composed only of States. If the intent had been to avoid all possible confusion with the so-called Sector Members, a chapter or part of the Constitution should have been devoted to them, or, alternatively, another term should have been adopted. There must be no confusion in the use of the terms "Member States", "Members" and "Sector Members": the matter was one of substance, as the Union had to maintain its intergovernmental nature. Observers, moreover, should be dealt with separately. In his view, a

handbook should be prepared for ITU meetings setting out all the arrangements of a practical nature. Statutory provisions would be transferred to the Constitution, in which case the Convention would no longer serve any purpose.

2.3 The **representative of Ecuador**, speaking on behalf of CITEL, stressed that Member States were also Sector Members. In all United Nations agencies, States were designated by the term "Members". There was therefore no need to amend the Union's instruments to specify "Member State". As the representative of Greece had said, emphasis should be placed on the intergovernmental nature of the Union as the United Nations specialized agency responsible for the standardization, regulation and development of telecommunications.

2.4 The **Chairperson**, as former Chairman of the ITU-2000 Group, explained that following the request made by the Kyoto Plenipotentiary Conference in its Resolution 15, the review of the rights and obligations of members had brought to light a number of legal problems. Some had proposed using the terms "States" and "Sector Members". That proposal had not been accepted, as the Union remained an intergovernmental organization. Others, the Arab countries in particular, had pointed out that the difference between "Member" and "member" was impossible to express in Arabic. It had therefore been necessary to find a term to designate entities which cooperated daily in the Union's activities. That was how the ITU-2000 Group had come to opt for the terms "Member States" and "Sector Members".

2.5 The **delegate of Turkey** considered that the old terminology was confusing and that a distinction must be made between States and other entities. Consequently, he was in favour of the terms proposed by the ITU-2000 Group and of their inclusion in the Constitution and Convention.

2.6 The **delegate of Philippines** shared that view and preferred use of the terms "Member States" and "Sector Members" in order to avoid any confusion during discussions. He was supported by the **delegates of France, Kuwait and Lesotho**.

2.7 The **delegate of Ecuador**, while recognizing the problem of the old terminology for the Arab countries, pointed out that Document 59(Rev.1) contained a proposal by CITEL (IAP/59/1) to use the term "Members" to designate States and "Sector Members" to designate other entities.

2.8 The **delegate of Argentina** said that he was prepared to accept, in a spirit of conciliation, use of the terms "Member States" and "Sector Members".

2.9 The **delegates of Mali, India, Switzerland and Spain** said that they were in favour of adopting the terms proposed by the ITU-2000 Group.

2.10 The **delegate of Ecuador** said that, after informal consultations, the CITEL countries had agreed to accept the terminology proposed by the ITU-2000 Group.

2.11 The **Chairperson** noted that the majority of speakers had expressed their support for the ITU-2000 Group's recommendation 3.

2.12 The **delegate of Greece** said, on the subject of provision 3, that "Members of the Union" had to be defined; he therefore proposed that provision 3 should read as follows: "to maintain and extend international cooperation between all Member States for the improvement ..."

2.13 It was so **agreed**.

2.14 The **delegate of the United States** said that provision 3 concerned cooperation not only among Member States but also with Sector Members (USA/15/1). Given that cooperation between Member States and Sector Members was mentioned in other provisions, his delegation was inclined to request only that "between" be replaced by "among" in the English text.

2.15 It was so **agreed**.

Provision 3A

2.16 The **delegate of India** wished to make a slight amendment (IND/77/3) to the text proposed by the ITU-2000 Group, specifying that cooperation and partnership were aimed at the fulfilment of the overall objectives as embedded in the purposes of the Union, since the development of cooperation among Member States and other entities which participated in its work was not the sole objective of ITU. The proposal was supported by the delegates of the **Islamic Republic of Iran** and **Kuwait** and by the **delegate of Luxembourg**, who added that the European countries' proposal regarding provision 3A was on the same lines as India's.

2.17 It was **agreed** that the European countries would draw up a joint text with India.

2.18 The **delegate of Japan** said that her country, with the countries of the Asia-Pacific region, had submitted a proposal concerning provision 3A which was not shown in Document DT/9. She therefore requested that the proposal, which was to delete provision 3A since it duplicated provision 19A of Article 1 of the Constitution, should be included in Document DT/9. Some of the terms of provision 3A could be included in provision 19A.

2.19 The **delegate of Greece** said that the Union's purpose was not to extend the participation of private entities. He also made it clear that his country had not subscribed to all the European proposals.

2.20 The **delegate of Cuba** said that certain terms used in provision 3A were repeated in other provisions of the Constitution (for example, provision 8). It was not necessary to repeat "promote fruitful cooperation and partnership" in several places.

2.21 The **Chairperson**, speaking as former Chairman of the ITU-2000 Group, said that provisions 3A and 19A proposed by the Group had different objectives. Provision 3A related to cooperation between Member States and Sector Members whereas provision 19A concerned cooperation between the Union and regional organizations. It would be possible to combine the two provisions, as suggested by Japan.

2.22 The **delegate of France** said that his delegation would study the matter with the other European countries and indicate its position subsequently.

2.23 The **delegate of Ecuador** saw no reason why provisions 3A and 19A should not be combined, provided that the wording of the new text was appropriate.

2.24 The **delegate of Japan** thought that the new provision thus obtained should become No. 19.

2.25 The **delegate of Argentina** said that there was good reason to deal with the two points covered in 3A and 19A separately. Consequently, he supported retaining provisions 3A and 19A as they had been proposed by the ITU-2000 Group.

2.26 The **Chairperson** said that it would be advisable to await the new wording of provision 3A to be prepared by the European countries and India before deciding whether to merge provision 3A and provision 19A and on where to place the new text thus obtained.

2.27 The **delegate of Greece** emphasized that, in general, a clear distinction had to be made in the texts between inter-State organizations on the one hand and other entities or organizations on the other.

Provision 4

2.28 The **Chairperson** said that Kuwait, Mali and the CITEL countries proposed adding the adjective "human" to the phrase "mobilization of the material and financial resources".

2.29 It was so **agreed**.

2.30 The **delegate of Kuwait** stressed the vital importance of the various kinds of resources, particularly human resources, for telecommunication development in the developing countries.

2.31 The **delegate of Ecuador** said that the CITEL countries also wished to add a reference to "information resources". Many countries needed to have improved access to information, whether through written or electronic media, in order to be able to exercise their right to information.

2.32 The **Vice-Chairperson** proposed wording the end of No. 4 as follows: "...the mobilization of the human, material and financial resources, and access to information, needed for implementation".

2.33 That proposal was **approved** subject to drafting amendments.

Provision 8

2.34 Proposal IND/77/4, in which cooperation and partnership between Member States and Sector Members were described not only as fruitful, as in the other proposals, but also as constructive, was **approved**.

Provisions 11 and 12

2.35 The **delegate of Luxembourg**, introducing European proposal EUR/32/230, said that the problem of frequency allocation and the use of frequencies by non-geostationary satellite systems was an extremely complex one, as had been shown by the last two WRCs. For that reason, the European countries proposed the deletion of any explicit reference to the geostationary-satellite orbit alone, so as to make the purpose of the Union set out in No. 11 applicable to all services, whether stationary, geo-stationary or terrestrial.

2.36 The **delegate of China** supported the European proposal.

2.37 The **delegate of Greece** proposed replacing "any associated orbital positions in the geostationary-satellite orbit" by "associated orbital positions" (No. 11), and "the geostationary-satellite orbit" (No. 12) by "satellite orbits".

2.38 The **delegate of Colombia** said that the American countries strongly opposed any modification of No. 11. That provision, together with Nos. 12, 78 and 196 of the Constitution and Nos. 151 and 177 of the Convention, had been drawn up to avoid harmful interference between satellite networks and terrestrial networks and, more importantly, to ensure the equitable use of the geostationary-satellite orbit and to take account of developing countries' requirements. The provisions concerned exclusively with the geostationary orbit were indispensable. In that connection, the last WRC had instructed RRB to draw up provisions aimed at applying those principles, which unfortunately had not been taken into account in the processes of notification and registration of orbital positions. That being the case, the American countries were not opposed to the formulation of further provisions to govern the use of other forms of communication such as the GMPCS, which used non-geostationary orbits and posed totally different problems.

2.39 The **delegate of Algeria** endorsed the views expressed by the delegate of Colombia.

2.40 The **delegate of Kuwait** supported the inter-American proposal.

2.41 The **delegate of Cuba** said that his delegation would be prepared to support the inter-American proposal provided that a new paragraph was added dealing with the registration of non-geostationary orbital positions and equally intended to avoid harmful interference. The **delegate of Morocco** supported the views expressed by the delegate of Cuba.

2.42 The **delegate of Portugal** supported the European proposal and proposed that a wording should be sought which covered both the geostationary-satellite orbit and non-geostationary satellite orbits.

2.43 The **Chairperson** suggested that the text should be kept as it stood, with the addition of the words "or other orbital positions" after the passage which the European countries wished to delete, so as to cover all orbits, whether low or high.

2.44 The **delegate of Luxembourg** pointed out that provisions 11 and 12 dealt not with the equitable use of orbits, a matter covered by other provisions, but with the allocation of frequency bands and the allotment of frequencies in order to avoid harmful interference. The European countries considered that such interference was unrelated to orbital position, whether of geostationary or non-geostationary satellites. That was why it was proposed to delete any reference to geostationary satellites. The European countries would study the proposal by the Chairperson, which appeared in substance to be quite similar to their own, and would give their reply at the next meeting.

2.45 The **delegate of Spain** supported the European proposal. However, he felt that a consensus could be found in as much as there appeared to be general agreement on the need to take account of non-geostationary satellites in connection with the elimination of harmful interference.

2.46 The **delegate of Greece** supported the European proposal. However, it would be more logical to consider provisions 10, 11 and 12 in conjunction with provisions 195 and 196 of the Constitution. Moreover, the question of the positioning of the different satellite systems did not come within the purview of ITU but was covered by the Treaty on the use of outer space.

2.47 The **delegate of the United States** supported the inter-American proposal. Any amendment to provisions 11 and 12 might have serious regulatory consequences.

2.48 The **Chairperson** invited the delegate of Luxembourg and the delegate of Colombia to join him in seeking a compromise solution.

The meeting rose at 1245 hours.

The Secretary:
A. GUILLOT

The Chairperson:
A. BERRADA

INTERNATIONAL TELECOMMUNICATION UNION



**PLENIPOTENTIARY
CONFERENCE (PP-98)**

**Document 149-E
21 October 1998
Original: French**

MINNEAPOLIS, 12 OCTOBER - 6 NOVEMBER 1998

PLENARY MEETING

Note by the Secretary-General

TRANSFER OF POWERS

COMOROS - MADAGASCAR

The delegation of the Islamic Federal Republic of the Comoros announced that it will not be present at the Conference on the afternoon of Wednesday 21 October 1998.

Pursuant to No. 336 of the Geneva Convention (1992), the delegation of the Islamic Federal Republic of the Comoros has given to the delegation of the Republic of Madagascar a mandate to exercise its vote on the afternoon of Wednesday 21 October 1998.

**Pekka TARJANNE
Secretary-General**



PLENIPOTENTIARY CONFERENCE (PP-98)

Document 150-E
23 October 1998

MINNEAPOLIS, 12 OCTOBER - 6 NOVEMBER 1998

LIST OF DOCUMENTS (101 -150)

Doc. No.	Origin	Title	Destination
101	TUN	Proposals for the work of the Conference	C5
102	MRC	Considerations relating to quorum and votes at the Conference	PL
103	CTR	Proposals for the work of the Conference	C5
104	UGA	Telecommunications reforms in Uganda	C5
105	UGA	Preparations for year 2000 in Uganda Telecom Limited (UTL)	C5
106+Cor.1	¹	Admission of Palestine as a Member State of the Union	C5
107	S	Proposals for the work of the Conference	C5
108	SG	Situation of the accounts of the Plenipotentiary Conference (PP-98) as at 9 October 1998	C3
109(Rév.1)	C5	First series of texts from Committee 5 to the Editorial Committee	C4
110	C5	Report by the Chairperson of Committee 5 to the Committee 6	C6
111+Cor.1	LBN	Proposals for the work of the Conference	PL, C5, C6, C7
112	SG	Minutes of the second Plenary Meeting	PL
113	SG	Information Paper from the Palestinian Authority	PL
114	C5	Report by the Chairperson of Committee 5 to the Plenary	PL
115	ISR	Proposals for the work of the Conference	PL
116	ISR	Proposals for the work of the Conference	PL

¹ ALG/ARS/BHR/EGY/UAE/IRN/JOR/MRC/MTN/OMA/QAT/SYR/SDN/TUN/YEM

Doc. No.	Source	Title	Destination
117(Rev.1)	SG	General schedule of the work of the Conference	-
118	C7	Note by the Chairperson of Committee 7 (Finance)	C7
119	C5	Report by the Chairperson of Committee 5 to the Committee 7	C7
120	SG	Minutes of the third Plenary Meeting	PL
121	C7	Report by the Chairperson of Committee 7 (Finance) to the Plenary Meeting	PL
122+Cor.1	²	Proposals for the work of the Conference	C7
123+Cor.1	³	Proposals for the work of the Conference	C7
124(Rev.1)	⁴	Proposals for the work of the Conference	C7
125	SG	Transfer of powers - Croatia-Germany	PL
126+Cor.1	⁵	Proposals for the work of the Conference	C5
127	-	<i>Not attributed</i>	-
128	C5	Second series of texts from Committee 5 to the Editorial Committee	C4
129	C7	First series of texts from Committee 7 to the Editorial Committee	C4
130+Cor.1	⁶	Proposals for the work of the Conference	C5
131	SG	Minutes of the fourth Plenary Meeting	PL
132	SG	Summary record of the first meeting of Committee 3	C3
133	SG	Summary record of the first meeting of Committee 2	C2
134	Chairperson	Deadline for the deposit of candidatures	-
135	C7	Committee 7 meetings on 20 october 1998	C7
136	SG	Summary record of the first meeting of Committee 5	C5

² ALG/BUL/CPV/CTR/GAB/GRC/HNG/IND/KWT/MLI/SYR/RUS/SUI/TZA/VEN.

³ ALG/CPV/CTR/GAB/GRC/HNG/KWT/MLI/SYR/TZA/VEN.

⁴ ALG/CPV/CTR/GAB/GRC/HNG/IND/KWT/MLI/SYR/SUI/TZA/VEN.

⁵ BRB/BIH/BDI/CAN/CYP/DNK/USA/FIN/GAB/GUY/I/KWT/LBN/MLI/NPL/PHL/POL/G/LCA/SEN/SVN/SUI

⁶ AUT/BUL/DNK/E/F/NOR/POR/G/SUI

Doc. No.	Source	Title	Destination
137(Rev.1)	SG	Information note on the voting process	PL
138	G	Proposals for the work of the Conference	C5
139	SG	Summary record of the first meeting of Committee 7	C7
140	SG	Summary record of the second meeting of Committee 7	C7
141	SG	Summary record of the second meeting of Committee 5	C5
142	SG	Guidelines for follow-up on the Intergovernmental Conference on Emergency Telecommunications (ICET-98)	C5
143	SG	Summary record of the first meeting of Committee 6	C6
144	SG	Contributions by Members of the Union: Azerbaijani Republic	C7
145	SG	Contributions by Members of the Union - Sierra Leone	C7
146	CAN	Representation of women in the ITU staffing process	C7
147 + Cor.1,2	⁷	Draft Resolution: Inclusion of gender perspective in the work of ITU	PL
148	SG	Summary record of the second meeting of Committee 6	C6
149	SG	Transfer of Powers - Comoros - Madagascar	PL
150	SG	List of documents (101-150)	-

⁷ ALG/ARS/ARG/AUS/BFA/BRB/B/BUL/CME/CAN/CPV/FIN/F/GAB/GHA/IND/INS/JMC/J/JOR/KEN/KWT/MLA/MLI/MLT/MRC/MEX/NMB/NGR/NOR/UGA/HOL/PHL/SYR/G/RUS/SEN/SNG/SVN/AFS/S/SUR/TZA/THA/TRD/TUN/VEN

INTERNATIONAL TELECOMMUNICATION UNION



PLENIPOTENTIARY CONFERENCE (PP-98)

Document 151-E
21 October 1998
Original: French/English

MINNEAPOLIS, 12 OCTOBER - 6 NOVEMBER 1998

PLENARY MEETING

Democratic Republic of the Congo

INFORMATION DOCUMENT

INTERNATIONAL CALL FOR TENDERS FOR THE SALE OF A 900 MHz GSM MOBILE TELEPHONE LICENCE

The Government of the Democratic Republic of the Congo announces the sale, to take place by the end of December 1998, of a 900 MHz GSM mobile telephone licence covering 2 345 000 square kilometres of this vast and rich country situated in the heart of Africa.

On 15 October 1998, His Excellency Kinkela Vi Kan'sy, Minister of Posts and Telecommunications, published order 029/CAB/MIN/PTT/01/98, issuing a call for tenders for the establishment and operation of a GSM mobile telephone network.

The order sets out the terms of reference for bidders, who are invited to submit their tenders to the General Secretariat of the Ministry of Posts and Telecommunications in Kinshasa by Saturday, 14 November 1998, at 10 a.m.

Prospective bidders may obtain a copy of the terms of reference from the offices of the General Secretariat of the Ministry of Posts and Telecommunications, located at 4484 Avenue des Huileries in Kinshasa-Gombé. Copies may also be requested by fax, addressed to the General Secretariat of the Ministry of Posts and Telecommunications at +243 880 2651 or +243 880 2332. A document providing information on the general context of telecommunication development in the Democratic Republic of the Congo will also be sent to prospective bidders.

Mr. Frédéric Bola Ki-Khuabi, Adviser to the Minister of Posts and Telecommunications and Head of the delegation of the Democratic Republic of the Congo to the ITU Plenipotentiary Conference being held in Minneapolis from 12 October to 6 November 1998, affirmed that today more than ever before, in spite of the aggression to which his country is subject, the Democratic Republic of the Congo offers a unique opportunity that investors should seize, for clearly the telecommunication market of the Democratic Republic of the Congo, with more than 10 million potential users identified, holds out the prospect of immense profits.

Mr. Bola added that the conflict in the eastern part of the Democratic Republic of the Congo is being resolved in favour of President Laurent Kabila, who unquestionably enjoys the fullest support of the country's population as well as the confidence of many foreign investors including AFRITEL,

which has built up a national market in wireless local loop telephony in the 1 900 MHz band. Just this month (October 1998), AFRITEL has announced the establishment of its network in Kinshasa.

With the sale of this GSM licence, the Government of National Salvation of the Democratic Republic of the Congo is taking a giant stride forward, propelling the country into the era of advanced technology with a view to speeding up economic recovery and growth, and ensuring that the country will be better equipped to meet the development challenges of the twenty-first century.

Lastly, it should be noted that the Government of the Democratic Republic of the Congo has set the floor price for the licence at \$US 150 million. This figure was established taking into account the fact that operating a network of this kind in so vast a country as the Democratic Republic of the Congo is sure to be highly profitable in the short term.

The bid amounts will be used as one of the main factors for comparing the various tenders received by the deadline (14 November 1998 at 10 a.m.), so that the GSM licence can be awarded.

INTERNATIONAL TELECOMMUNICATION UNION



PLENIPOTENTIARY CONFERENCE (PP-98)

Corrigendum 1 to
Document 152-E
28 October 1998
Original: English

MINNEAPOLIS, 12 OCTOBER - 6 NOVEMBER 1998

COMMITTEE 5

SUMMARY RECORD OF THE THIRD MEETING OF COMMITTEE 5 (STRATEGIC POLICY AND PLANS)

Thursday, 15 October 1998, at 1435 hours

Chairperson: Mr. M. BOSSA (Argentina)

Please replace paragraph 1.18 by the following text:

"1.18 The **delegate of Russia** said that the matter of the interval between world radiocommunication conferences was linked with that of the periodicity of radiocommunication assemblies and the preparation of the technical reports for the conferences. In his view, the assembly should be held after the conference, so as to start up studies in study groups and to give sufficient time to prepare those technical reports. He suggested that the role of RAG should be further strengthened by making that body responsible for submitting the technical reports to WRCs."

INTERNATIONAL TELECOMMUNICATION UNION



PLENIPOTENTIARY CONFERENCE (PP-98)

Document 152-E
26 October 1998
Original: English

MINNEAPOLIS, 12 OCTOBER - 6 NOVEMBER 1998

COMMITTEE 5

SUMMARY RECORD

OF THE

THIRD MEETING OF COMMITTEE 5

(STRATEGIC POLICY AND PLANS)

Thursday, 15 October 1998, at 1435 hours

Chairperson: Mr. M. BOSSA (Argentina)

Subjects discussed

- 1 Consideration of recommendations of the ITU-2000 Group and related proposals (continued)
- 2 Consideration of the draft Strategic Plan for the Union 1999-2003

Documents

- 9(Add.1), 21, 32,
37, 59(Rev.1), 70;
DT/7
- 9 + Add.1 + Add.2, 20, 26,
59(Rev.1) + Corr.1

1 Consideration of recommendations of the ITU-2000 Group and related proposals (continued) (Documents 9 (Addendum 1), 21, 32, 37, 59(Rev.1), 70; DT/7)

Recommendation 26 (continued)

1.1 The **delegate of the United Kingdom** said that recommendation 26 was the basis for the European proposed amendments in Part I of Document 32. More than two years between WRCs was needed to allow for proper preparation, particularly by the study groups, which under the present arrangement were often forced to submit studies to later conferences, thereby overburdening WRC agendas. The European common proposal for a two and a half to three year period was intended to give some scheduling flexibility to avoid having to hold two major conferences within a short period.

1.2 The **delegate of Syria** said that his Administration had not yet taken a position on the question of intervals. Regarding the proposals introduced by Australia at the Committee's second meeting, he said that the role envisaged for RAG was unacceptable. RAG was not the appropriate forum for conference-related business other than organizational matters and its terms of reference were limited to advisory functions.

1.3 The **delegate of Canada** said that the Committee should not discuss the question of intervals between WRCs in conjunction with Australia's proposal to enhance the effectiveness of WRCs. Furthermore, it would be unwise to change the interval before the full financial and other impacts of such a change, including the possible delay in implementing new technology and services, were properly assessed. She therefore suggested that RAG be requested to address those implications in cooperation with the Bureau and the secretariat. Canada was also in favour of limiting WRC agendas and not repeating items at every conference.

1.4 The **delegate of New Zealand** said that for the reasons given by the United Kingdom and because of the high costs of attending conferences, his delegation supported the proposal to extend the interval between WRCs to two and a half to three years.

1.5 The **delegates of South Africa, Turkey, Pakistan and Germany** were in favour of extending the interval to two and a half to three years in the interests of flexibility.

1.6 The **delegate of Russia** suggested that a three-year interval between WRCs would give time for adequate preparation, and a six-year interval between Plenipotentiary Conferences would fit in well with the two-year budget cycles.

1.7 The **delegate of Switzerland** said that he and the delegation of Liechtenstein which he was representing at the Conference also preferred a three-year interval.

1.8 The **delegate of Saudi Arabia** said that while he had no objection to extending the interval to allow more time for preparation, it should be for a fixed period of two and a half or three years. In extending the interval, however, care should be taken to ensure that RAG was not given powers reserved for radio conferences or vice versa.

1.9 The **delegate of China** said that a change of interval from two to three years, as proposed by China (CHN/37/2), would give time for proper preparation and ease the financial burden on administrations, particularly those of the developing countries, as well as on ITU itself. It would also allow for greater continuity in the Radio Regulations. A thorough study should be made into ways of improving the efficiency of WRCs.

1.10 The **delegate of Senegal** was in favour of flexibility, provided that the interval did not exceed three years.

1.11 The **delegate of Colombia** said that, as a sponsor of the CITELE proposal IAP/59/16, his delegation considered that the relevant provision as it stood was sufficiently flexible - a view supported by the **delegate of the United States**.

1.12 The **delegate of the United Kingdom**, observing that most speakers had been in favour of an extension, suggested that the interval between sessions should be more than two years but should not exceed three.

1.13 The **delegate of Australia** pointed out that an extension of the interval between conferences might only complicate matters, as the real problem lay in the length and complexity of the agenda. It was important to make a more rigorous selection of priority issues in order to produce an agenda and corresponding workload which could be handled within the two-year period. He recalled that at the Committee's previous meeting he had submitted a proposal (AUS/21/2) comprising a draft resolution which included the proposal that RAG should examine the matter of preparations for WRCs and should submit recommendations to WRC-2000 concerning improved procedures. The **delegates of the Netherlands and the United States** supported that proposed draft resolution.

1.14 The **delegate of Syria**, reiterating his view that RAG was not empowered to examine such matters, said that he would be prepared to agree to the setting up of a working group of the Council to study the matter, provided that it was representative in terms of regional distribution.

1.15 The **delegate of Australia** pointed out that the matter had already been included in the RAG agenda and that operative paragraph 3 of the draft resolution did no more than instruct the Director of the Radiocommunication Bureau to seek advice from RAG on ways of improving preparations for world radiocommunication conferences.

1.16 The **delegate of Syria** said that, in view of that explanation, he would be prepared to accept the Australian proposal, on the understanding that RAG was authorized to consider the matter only on that one occasion, as a result of a decision made by the Plenipotentiary Conference.

1.17 The **representative of Saudi Arabia** doubted whether RAG would succeed in solving the problem, which was one of substance.

1.18 The **delegate of Russia** said that the matter of the interval between world radiocommunication conferences was linked with that of the periodicity of radiocommunication assemblies and the preparation of the technical reports for the conferences. In his view, the assembly should be held before the conference, so as to give sufficient time to prepare those technical reports. He suggested that the role of RAG should be further strengthened by making that body responsible for submitting the technical reports to WRCs.

1.19 The **Chairperson** suggested that, first, as most speakers had agreed upon the principle of flexibility, the United Kingdom proposal to establish an interval between two and three years might be accepted, and that his report to Committee 6 could include the recommendation that consideration should be given by future WRCs to the need to allow sufficient time for thorough conference preparations, when recommending the agenda and the date for the succeeding WRC, noting that the Convention allowed for flexibility in that respect. Secondly, if there were no objection, he would take it that the draft resolution submitted by Australia (AUS/21/2) and ultimately accepted by the delegate of Syria, whose comments would be noted, was approved for submission to Committee 4.

1.20 It was so **agreed**.

2 Consideration of the draft Strategic Plan for the Union 1999-2003 (Documents 9 + Addendum 1 + Addendum 2, 20, 26, 59(Rev.1) + Corrigendum 1)

2.1 The **Chairperson of the Council** introduced the draft Strategic Plan for the Union 1999-2003, contained in Document 26, and briefly reviewed the five parts of the text.

2.2 The **Chairperson** invited the Committee to comment on the draft Strategic Plan.

2.3 The **delegate of the Netherlands**, speaking also on behalf of the CEPT countries, said that the draft Strategic Plan, although rather dense, was acceptable, being better than the previous Plan. He would like to see a streamlined linkage among strategic, operational and financial aspects.

2.4 The **delegate of Mexico**, speaking on behalf of the CITEL countries, said that the draft Strategic Plan was generally acceptable and in line with the proposals contained in Document 59(Rev.1).

2.5 The **delegate of Canada**, referring to his Administration's proposals contained in Document 9 and the addenda thereto, stressed the need to translate strategy into action by identifying priorities, and to establish a clear linkage among strategic, financial and operational aspects. His delegation would propose certain amendments to the text, relating to ITU's partnership with financial and development agencies.

2.6 The **delegate of Syria**, speaking on behalf of the group of Arab States, said that the draft Strategic Plan represented a rational approach. Certain minor points would be raised later, but one basic matter should be noted at the outset. Responsibility for implementing the Union's strategy rested first and foremost with the Member States themselves; therefore, Part V, dealing with goals, strategies and priorities for the General Secretariat and three Bureaux, should be considered separately from the rest of the text.

2.7 The **delegate of Mali** said that his delegation generally approved the text, subject to certain comments reflected in his Administration's proposals contained in Document 20, one of which was that the implementation aspects, and especially the financial implications, needed to be known.

2.8 The **delegate of Italy** supported the previous speakers' observations. It was important to establish and maintain the linkage among strategic, financial and operational aspects.

2.9 The **Chairperson**, responding to a suggestion by the **delegate of Saudi Arabia**, invited the Committee to approve the draft Strategic Plan in principle as a whole, on the clear understanding that matters of detail remained open to debate at a later stage.

2.10 It was so **agreed**.

2.11 The **Chairperson** then invited the Committee to consider the various parts of the draft Strategic Plan in turn. Since Part I (Introduction) would obviously be affected by any amendments to the subsequent parts, he proposed that discussion should begin with Part II.

2.12 The **delegate of the Netherlands** proposed that Part II should be deleted.

2.13 The **delegate of Argentina** said that, although specific points might be amended, to delete an entire part would be too drastic.

2.14 The **delegate of Syria** said that the proposal should be considered at a later meeting, since his delegation would need time to consider it.

- 2.15 The **delegate of the Philippines** said that the analysis contained in Part II, even if not deemed an essential part of the document, contained data extremely useful to the developing countries in particular. Since the information had been painstakingly compiled, it might as well be retained and used.
- 2.16 The **delegate of Mali** said that Part II was very informative and should be retained.
- 2.17 The **delegate of Saudi Arabia** supported the two previous speakers.
- 2.18 The **delegate of the United Kingdom** suggested that the analysis currently shown as Part II could appear as an annex, a note being added in the Introduction to the effect that the Plan was based on such an analysis.
- 2.19 The **delegate of Argentina**, speaking on a point of order, said that the Netherlands' proposal to delete Part II had not been supported; he therefore moved closure of the debate.
- 2.20 The **Chairperson** said that, since there appeared to be no consensus in favour of deleting Part II, he took it that the Committee agreed to retain it.
- 2.21 The **delegate of Colombia**, speaking on a point of order, said that his delegation was dissatisfied with the way in which the discussion was being terminated, and wished to know on what rule of procedure the Chairperson had acted.
- 2.22 The **Chairperson** said that, since the meeting had already overrun its allotted deadline, he would clarify the matter when the Committee next met.

The meeting rose at 1635 hours.

The Secretary:
D. SCHUSTER

The Chairperson:
M. BOSSA

INTERNATIONAL TELECOMMUNICATION UNION



PLENIPOTENTIARY CONFERENCE (PP-98)

Document 153-E
26 October 1998
Original: English

MINNEAPOLIS, 12 OCTOBER - 6 NOVEMBER 1998

COMMITTEE 5

SUMMARY RECORD

OF THE

FOURTH MEETING OF COMMITTEE 5

(STRATEGIC POLICY AND PLANS)

Friday, 16 October 1998, at 0935 hours

Chairperson: Mr. M. BOSSA (Argentina)

Subjects discussed

- 1 Consideration of the draft Strategic Plan for the Union 1999-2003
(continued)
- 2 First report by the Chairperson of Committee 5 to the Chairperson
of Committee 6
- 3 World Telecommunication Policy Forum

Documents

9 + Add.1 + Add.2,
26, 59(Rev.1), 70

68; DT/8

9(Add.1), 18 + Corr.1,
32 + Corr.1 + Corr.2,
70

1 Consideration of the draft Strategic Plan for the Union 1999-2003 (continued) (Documents 9 + Addendum 1 + Addendum 2, 26, 59(Rev.1), 70)

1.1 The **Chairperson** recalled that, at the Committee's previous meeting, the debate on Part II of the draft Strategic Plan (Document 26) had been closed, the Committee having agreed to retain that part of the Plan. In response to the concerns expressed by the **delegate of Colombia**, he asked the delegate of Argentina to explain why he had moved closure of the debate.

1.2 The **delegate of Argentina** said that, as the Netherlands' proposal to delete Part II of the draft Strategic Plan had not been supported, he had moved closure of the debate at the previous meeting in accordance with No. 382 of the Convention.

1.3 Part II of the draft Strategic Plan was **approved**.

1.4 The **Chairperson** invited the Committee to continue its consideration of the draft Strategic Plan, as set out in Document 26.

Part III

1.5 Part III of the draft Strategic Plan was **approved**.

Part IV

1.6 The **Chairperson** recalled that the Committee's task was to discuss the substantive aspects of the draft Strategic Plan, rather than the form, and noted that the issues addressed in the Plan had already been discussed in each of the Sectors and had been the subject of overall consensus.

1.7 The **delegate of Finland** expressed general satisfaction with the draft Strategic Plan. With regard to the first indent of paragraph 34, he said that in Europe and the United States some administrations had begun to manage the spectrum in such a way that it was sold by auction to the highest bidder. The money for such auctions came from the end-user, although the spectrum should be available to users as freely and cheaply as possible. He trusted that the wording of the paragraph in no way implied ITU's support for such spectrum auctions.

1.8 The **Chairperson** recalled that it was the sovereign right of each State to regulate its telecommunications and confirmed that the wording of the text did not present ITU's position on the best way to manage the spectrum.

1.9 The **delegate of Saudi Arabia**, supported by the **delegates of Malaysia, Oman, Djibouti and Jordan**, said that it would be more appropriate to refer to satellite orbits in general in the first sub-indent of the sixth indent of paragraph 34, rather than specifying the geostationary-satellite orbit.

1.10 The **delegate of Syria** said that the word "deregulated" in the third indent of paragraph 34 should be replaced by the word "liberalized", as increased private sector participation brought about greater regulation. In order to take account of the concerns of the previous speakers, he suggested that reference to the non-geostationary-satellite orbit should also be included in the paragraph to which the delegate of Saudi Arabia had referred. The **delegate of the United States** supported that suggestion.

1.11 The **delegate of New Zealand** said that, in his opinion, the private sector's increased participation in the telecommunication market did not necessarily involve increased regulation.

1.12 The **delegate of Finland** said that it would be premature at the present juncture for ITU to start coordinating non-geostationary-satellite orbits; further study was required before a decision was taken in that regard.

1.13 The **delegate of Sweden** said he would prefer the text of the first sub-indent of the sixth indent of paragraph 34 to remain as it stood; it was not simply a matter of equity between geostationary and non-geostationary-satellite orbits.

1.14 The **delegate of Canada** thought that the issue raised by the delegate of Saudi Arabia should probably be taken up in Committee 6, as there were several instances where the phrase geostationary-satellite orbit was used in the Constitution and Convention. Section F.4 of the draft Strategic Plan on the priorities of ITU-T should include a reference to the new relationship between that Sector and the Internet Society, and he suggested that the first sub-indent of the first indent of paragraph 41 should be amended to read "covering the emergence of Internet protocol-based networks including the Internet, and the interoperability of existing network infrastructures with such networks". Lastly, he introduced proposals CAN/9/32 and 33 which were to be included in Section G.4 of the draft Strategic Plan and related to partnership arrangements such as acquainting various ministries with the work of the Union and inviting donor agencies to join the activities of ITU.

1.15 The **delegate of Syria** said that he had some difficulties with the proposals CAN/9/32 and 33. It was important to ensure that no ministry went beyond its jurisdiction; furthermore, all the organizations that worked with the Union had to establish a clear link with its activities. An informal working group should be set up to consider the Canadian proposals further. The **delegate of South Africa** supported that suggestion.

1.16 The **delegate of the Netherlands** said that Part IV of the draft Strategic Plan should refer to operational planning by the Sectors, which ITU-T and ITU-D had not yet embarked upon.

1.17 The **delegate of Canada** said that the issue of operational planning could be taken up by Committee 7, and drew attention to the proposal IAP/59/125 in that regard.

1.18 The **Director of BDT** said that intersectoral activities were being undertaken in the current study period. Although it was true that ITU had the authority to work only with ministries involved with telecommunications, ad hoc arrangements existed for cooperation with other international organizations. Action plans, which were nothing other than operational plans, had already been launched in the Development Sector; the Valletta Action Plan would become the operational plan for ITU-D.

1.19 The **delegate of Indonesia** endorsed the comments made by the delegate of the Netherlands, and expressed support for the proposals CAN/9/32 and 33; it was important that education and health in particular were taken into account in the development of telecommunication networks in the developing countries. Lastly, he shared the views expressed by the delegate of Saudi Arabia.

1.20 The **delegate of India**, having endorsed the views of the delegate of Saudi Arabia, expressed support in principle for the proposals CAN/9/32 and 33. Many developing countries were already taking steps to develop telecommunications for areas including health and education, and any action on the part of the Development Sector in support of such activities was welcome.

1.21 The **delegate of Pakistan**, having supported the views expressed by the delegate of Saudi Arabia, said that efforts to increase the general representation of developing countries in the Union should be increased, for example by reducing the costs of information from ITU, which were becoming prohibitive, and by establishing a pool of ITU experts from developing countries.

1.22 The **Chairperson** observed that the points raised by the delegate of Pakistan should be addressed to Committee 7 rather than Committee 5. He suggested that the words "non-geostationary-satellite orbit" should be added in the first sub-indent of the sixth indent of paragraph 34, and said that there was no need for the matter to be taken up in Committee 6, as the amendment related to strategy rather than a change to the Constitution and Convention. He further suggested that the word "deregulated" should be replaced by "liberalized" in the third indent of paragraph 34. Finally, he suggested that an informal working group, to be chaired by Canada, should be established to consider the Canadian proposals and the comments of the Netherlands regarding operational planning, with a view to formulating specific proposals for the Committee's consideration.

1.23 It was so **agreed**.

1.24 On that understanding, Part IV of the draft Strategic Plan as a whole, as amended, was **approved**.

Part V

1.25 The **delegate of Syria**, speaking on behalf of the Arab group, proposed that the Strategic Plan should include preparations for the convening of a world conference on international telecommunications, similar to the 1988 Melbourne Conference. So many changes had taken place in the telecommunication environment in recent years that the agreements reached in Melbourne were now completely outdated. He was uncertain as to where in the Plan such a reference should be inserted but would appreciate the Committee's reaction. The proposal was supported by the **delegate of Viet Nam**.

1.26 The **delegate of the Netherlands** considered the proposal an interesting one but in view of its financial and other implications believed it should be approached with caution. The **delegate of New Zealand** said that he would like to know more about the purposes, intended outcomes and costs of such a conference. The **delegate of the United States** pointed out that ITU was already conducting a variety of activities addressing the changed telecommunication environment, such as the current negotiations on a memorandum of understanding with WTO regarding the agreement on basic services, work in Study Group 3 and the Focus Group on the financial aspects of telecommunications, in particular accounting rates, and the new relationship between ITU-T and the engineering forum of the Internet Society. He too asked for clarification concerning the precise purpose of the proposed conference, and recommended caution. The **delegate of Norway** considered that it would be difficult to revise the International Telecommunication Regulations at a time when Member States were at different stages in their efforts to liberalize and deregulate their regulatory regimes.

1.27 The **delegate of Australia** pointed out that the Asia-Pacific countries had addressed the same issue in a different way in their common proposal APT/70/1. So while supporting the delegate of Syria on the need to review the situation, he felt reluctant to enter into a commitment to the costly and lengthy process of a world conference if satisfactory alternative methods of dealing with the problem were available.

1.28 The **delegate of Syria** drew attention to the third indent of paragraph 28.4 of the draft Strategic Plan - already approved - which gave priority to deciding on the need to revise the International Telecommunication Regulations in the light of developments in the telecommunication environment. The Arab group was aware of other proposals and was not suggesting a precise date for a conference. On the basis of an approved text it was proposing a way of moving forward.

1.29 The **Chairperson** suggested that the Syrian delegate should prepare a text of the Arab proposal which the Committee would take up at a later stage.

1.30 It was so **agreed**.

1.31 The **delegate of Viet Nam** said that he supported the proposal in paragraph 50.5 to extend operational planning to the three Sectors but suggested that priority should be given to reinforcing cooperation among them, especially in the regions, and that steps should be taken to improve coordination between ITU and regional bodies such as APT and CITELE.

1.32 The **delegate of Canada** also expressed his support for extending operational planning to all the Sectors and drew attention to proposal CAN/9/29 which would be taken up in Committee 7.

1.33 The **Chairperson** recalled the decision taken under Part IV to set up an ad hoc group chaired by Canada and suggested that the delegates of Viet Nam and Canada should join it in order to produce a specific proposal.

1.34 It was so **agreed**.

1.35 The **delegate of South Africa** proposed that the word "effectiveness" should be added to paragraph 49.1; that paragraph 49.3 should read: "Create conditions that will enable the development of a cadre ..."; that the first indent of paragraph 49.4 should read: "that is representative of and values ..."; and that the end of the first indent of paragraph 50.2 should read: "... while paying attention to the need for more representative geographic, gender and other balances". Those amendments were supported by the **delegates of Syria and Saudi Arabia**.

1.36 The amendments proposed by the delegate of South Africa were **approved**.

1.37 Part V as a whole, as amended, was **approved**.

1.38 The **delegate of Syria** proposed on behalf of the Arab group that Part V of the draft Strategic Plan, which was addressed to the Secretariat, should be separated from Parts I to IV and included in a resolution.

1.39 The **delegates of Brazil and Saudi Arabia** supported that proposal. The **delegates of the United States, Norway and Canada** asked to see the proposal in writing before finally approving it.

1.40 The **Chairperson** suggested that the delegate of Syria should draft a text for submission to the Committee at a later stage.

1.41 It was so **agreed**.

2 First report by the Chairperson of Committee 5 to the Chairperson of Committee 6 (Documents 68; DT/8)

2.1 The **Chairperson** invited the Committee to consider his first report to the Chairperson of Committee 6 (Document DT/8).

2.2 The **delegate of Spain**, noting that the words "tariffs and accounting rates issues" were to be added to paragraph 7 of ITU-2000 recommendation 17, enquired about the question of numbering.

2.3 The **delegate of Syria** recalled that the numbering issue also arose in connection with the proposal in Document 68. He had understood that recommendation 17 would not be finally approved until the ad hoc group chaired by Brazil had met.

2.4 The **Chairperson** recalled that the ad hoc group had been set up to consider whether the alternative approval process should also apply to the Radiocommunication Sector.

2.5 After a discussion in which the **delegates of South Africa, Turkey and Syria** and the **Chairperson** took part, it was **agreed** that the ad hoc group should also consider the numbering issue.

2.6 The **delegate of Syria** noted that ITU-2000 recommendation 26 was addressed only to WRCs although it was in fact the Council that had the final say on such matters as the agenda and timing. He therefore considered that it would be advisable to refer to future competent bodies in ITU rather than to future WRCs.

2.7 The **Chairperson** recalled that it had been agreed to allow some degree of flexibility and thought that Committee 6 could be left to devise suitable legal wording.

2.8 It was so **agreed**.

2.9 Document DT/8 was **approved**, subject to consideration of paragraph 7 of recommendation 17 by the ad hoc group.

3 World Telecommunication Policy Forum (Documents 9 (Addendum 1), 18 + Corrigendum 1, 32 + Corrigendum 1 + Corrigendum 2, 70)

3.1 The **delegate of Spain**, introducing the European common proposal EUR/32/242 for a draft resolution, said that experience gained with the two previous forums had been very constructive. The sponsors of the draft resolution therefore called for the activity to be continued, with the Council deciding upon the duration, dates, venue, agenda and themes of any future forum as and when the need arose.

3.2 The **delegate of Canada**, introducing proposals CAN/9/11 to 14, said that ITU was uniquely placed to provide a forum for discussing and exchanging views and information on telecommunication policy and regulatory matters. The forum should therefore be retained, without binding outputs, on an ad hoc basis, with the Council deciding on the arrangements. The concept should be reconfirmed in a resolution but not reflected in an amendment to the Constitution or Convention.

3.3 The **delegate of Japan**, introducing Document 18 and its Corrigendum 1, said that the two forums so far held had proved to be of great value and the concept should therefore be retained. It was not necessary, however, to amend the Constitution and Convention; instead, he suggested revising Resolution 2 (Kyoto, 1994). He referred participants to proposal APT/70/14, which was supported by 18 administrations of Asia and the Pacific.

The meeting rose at 1240 hours.

The Secretary:
D. SCHUSTER

The Chairperson:
M. BOSSA



**PLENIPOTENTIARY
CONFERENCE (PP-98)**

**Document 154-E
21 October 1998
Original: French**

MINNEAPOLIS, 12 OCTOBER - 6 NOVEMBER 1998

PLENARY MEETING

Note by the Secretary-General

TRANSFER OF POWERS

MONACO - FRANCE

The delegation of the Principality of Monaco announced that it will not be present at the Conference on the afternoon of Thursday 22 October, on Friday 23 October and during the week from Monday 26 October to Monday 2 November 1998.

Pursuant to No. 336 of the Geneva Convention (1992), the delegation of the Principality of Monaco has given to the delegation of France a mandate to exercise its vote at the present Conference on the afternoon of Thursday 22 October, on Friday 23 October and during the week from Monday 26 October to Monday 2 November 1998.

**Pekka TARJANNE
Secretary-General**

INTERNATIONAL TELECOMMUNICATION UNION



PLENIPOTENTIARY CONFERENCE (PP-98)

Document 155(Rev.1)-E
23 October 1998
Original: English

MINNEAPOLIS, 12 OCTOBER - 6 NOVEMBER 1998

PLENARY MEETING

Note by the Secretary-General

TRANSFER OF POWERS

SAO TOME AND PRINCIPE - PORTUGAL

The Government of the Democratic Republic of Sao Tome and Principe has informed me that it cannot send a delegation to the Conference.

Pursuant to No. 335 of the Geneva Convention (1992), it has given the delegation of Portugal powers to vote on its behalf.

The instrument for the transfer of powers has been deposited with the Secretariat of the Credentials Committee.

Pekka TARJANNE
Secretary-General



Documents of the Plenipotentiary Conference (Minneapolis, 1998)

Document No. 155

Not available

Pas disponible

No disponible

INTERNATIONAL TELECOMMUNICATION UNION



PLENIPOTENTIARY CONFERENCE (PP-98)

Document 156-E
22 October 1998
Original: Spanish

MINNEAPOLIS, 12 OCTOBER - 6 NOVEMBER 1998

COMMITTEE 5

Spain

PROPOSALS FOR THE WORK OF THE CONFERENCE

APPROVAL OF QUESTIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

In its recommendation 17, the ITU-2000 Group recommends that "considering the need for approval of some Recommendations in a more flexible way than others, each Sector may extend its own working methods and procedures for the adoption of Questions and Recommendations to meet such needs using an alternative approval process".

As can be seen, ITU-2000 itself recognizes that the flexible - also referred to as - "alternative" procedure should not be used to approve certain types of Recommendation, for example those having policy or regulatory implications.

In addition, recommendation 17 proposes that Recommendations approved using the alternative process should have the same status as those approved otherwise - a principle that is reflected in No. 247A of the draft amendments to the Convention (see Document 13 of this Conference).

Nevertheless, it is our view that neither recommendation 17 nor No. 247A of the draft amendments to the Convention makes any provision for resolving possible contradictions between Recommendations approved solely by Member States and others approved by Sector Members. Where any such contradictions arise, Spain considers that Recommendations approved solely by Member States should take precedence over those approved by Sector Members.

Consequently, in order to ensure that the above-mentioned circumstances are provided for in the Convention, Spain proposes that the following provisions be added to the Convention:

246D

1. The alternative procedure for the approval of recommendations to which Nos. 246A and 246B above refer shall not apply to drafts which have, or might have, policy or regulatory implications, such as those relating to numbering plans, tariffs or accounting and financial matters, nor shall it apply to draft questions or recommendations relating to radiocommunications which may themselves have, or come to have, policy or regulatory implications. Such recommendations shall be approved exclusively by the Member States.

2. Where there is any doubt regarding the scope of a draft, the latter shall be approved by the Member States.

247B

In the event of any discrepancy between recommendations approved by Member States and recommendations approved by Sector Members, the recommendations approved by Member States shall take precedence over those approved by Sector Members.

INTERNATIONAL TELECOMMUNICATION UNION



PLENIPOTENTIARY CONFERENCE (PP-98)

Corrigendum 1 to
Document 157(Rev.1)-F/E/S
27 October 1998
Original: French/English/
Spanish

MINNEAPOLIS, 12 OCTOBER - 6 NOVEMBER 1998

COMMITTEE 7

**Arménie (République d'), Azerbaïdjanaise (République), Bélarus (République du),
Chine (République populaire de), Géorgie, Kazakstan (République du), Mongolie, Ouzbékistan
(République d'), République kirghize, Russie (Fédération de)**

PROJET DE RÉVISION DE LA RÉSOLUTION 62 (KYOTO, 1994)

**LIMITES PROVISOIRES À L'UTILISATION DES LANGUES
OFFICIELLES ET DE TRAVAIL DE L'UNION**

Ajouter "**Moldova (République de)**" dans la liste des pays signataires de ce document.

* * * * *

**Armenia (Republic of), Azerbaijani Republic, Belarus (Republic of),
China (People's Republic of), Georgia, Kazakstan (Republic of), Mongolia,
Uzbekistan (Republic of), Kyrgyz Republic, Russian Federation**

DRAFT REVISION OF RESOLUTION 62 (KYOTO, 1994)

**INTERIM LIMITATIONS IN THE USE OF OFFICIAL
AND WORKING LANGUAGES OF THE UNION**

Add "**Moldova (Republic of)**" to the list of signatories for this document.

* * * * *

**Armenia (República de), Azerbaiyana (República), Belarús (República de),
China (República Popular de), Georgia, Kazakstán (República de), Mongolia,
Uzbekistán (República de), República Kirguisa, Rusia (Federación de)**

PROYECTO DE REVISIÓN DE LA RESOLUCIÓN 62 (KYOTO, 1994)

**LIMITACIONES PROVISIONALES DE LA UTILIZACIÓN DE LOS IDIOMAS
OFICIALES Y DE TRABAJO DE LA UNIÓN**

Añádase "**Moldova (República de)**" a la lista de países firmantes de este documento.

INTERNATIONAL TELECOMMUNICATION UNION



PLENIPOTENTIARY CONFERENCE (PP-98)

Document 157(Rev.1)-E
22 October 1998
Original: English/Russian

MINNEAPOLIS, 12 OCTOBER - 6 NOVEMBER 1998

COMMITTEE 7

**Armenia (Republic of), Azerbaijani Republic, Belarus (Republic of),
China (People's Republic of), Georgia, Kazakstan (Republic of), Mongolia,
Uzbekistan (Republic of), Kyrgyz Republic, Russian Federation**

DRAFT REVISION OF RESOLUTION 62 (KYOTO, 1994)

INTERIM LIMITATIONS IN THE USE OF OFFICIAL AND WORKING LANGUAGES OF THE UNION

The Plenipotentiary Conference of the International Telecommunication Union (~~Kyoto, 1994~~)
(Minneapolis, 1998),

having regard

to Article 29 of the Constitution and Article 35 of the Convention of the International
Telecommunication Union (Geneva, 1992),

recalling

Resolution 59 of the Plenipotentiary Conference (Nice, 1989) and Resolution 62 of the
Plenipotentiary Conference (Kyoto, 1994),

conscious

- a) of the desirability of making greater use of the official and working languages of the Union, so as to enable a larger number of Members to participate more actively in the work of the Union;
- b) of the technological, administrative, financial and staffing advantages thereof;
- c) of the need for greater use of the official and working languages in order to permit greater understanding among Members and to achieve fully the Union's purposes,

considering

that the full-scale use of all official and working languages of the Union in the present structure of the Union could involve significant resources which can now hardly be provided,

having examined

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the report of the Council established in application of Resolution 62 of the Plenipotentiary Conference (Kyoto, 1994).

pursuant to

the provisions of No. 172 of the Constitution (Geneva, 1992),

resolves

1 that the following documents of the Union shall be drawn up in English, French and Spanish only*:

- ~~— all documents of conferences and assemblies of the Union except* the final texts of Final Acts, protocols, resolutions, questions, recommendations, opinions and handbooks;~~
- ~~— the preparatory documents of the study groups of the three Sectors of the ITU except* the final texts of questions, recommendations and handbooks;~~
- the proposals and contributions to conferences, assemblies and meetings of the three Sectors of the ITU communicated to Members, the originals of which have been submitted in any of the working languages of the Union;
- all other documents for general distribution prepared by the Secretary-General in the course of his duties, except** the weekly circulars of the Radiocommunication Bureau, the circular-letters of the Secretary-General and the Directors of the Bureaux of the three Sectors of the ITU, by agreement between the Secretary-General and the Members or group of Members concerned;

2 that the following documents of the Union shall be drawn up in English only:

- the preparatory documents of the study groups of the three Sectors of the ITU except** the final texts of questions, recommendations and handbooks;

23 that at meetings of the three Sectors of the ITU other than the world conferences, assemblies and study groups included in the programme of work approved by a conference or an assembly, which are governed by Article 29 of the Constitution (Geneva, 1992) and at which all six working languages shall be used, reciprocal interpretation between English, French and Spanish is provided if those Members which require interpretation for one of these languages give at least 90 days notice of their participation in these meetings;

34 that, should the need arise, and by agreement between the Secretary-General and the Members or group of Members concerned, proposals and contributions to a regional development conference should be drawn up in a different subset of the official and working languages, taking into account the working languages of the ITU used in the region, limited to a maximum of three languages;

45 that the total expenditure incurred shall remain within the financial limits fixed in Decision 1, from *resolves* 1 to 4 above shall be included in the budget;

6 that ways need to be studied and implemented, in consultation with the countries concerned, to enable them to take appropriate measures for financing other mechanisms intended to enhance the utilization of languages other than official and working in the Union.

* In these other cases, Article 29 of the Constitution shall apply; namely, all six working languages shall be used, and all texts shall be translated.

** In these cases, Article 29 of the Constitution shall apply; namely, all six working languages shall be used.

instructs the Secretary-General

1 ~~to organize, after consulting the Members or groups of Members concerned, preparation of the documents of the Union in Arabic, Chinese and Russian as efficiently and economically as possible;~~ to submit a report to the Council identifying the ways and means referred to in *resolves* 1 to 6 above.

2 ~~to submit a report to the Council on the progress made in this field;~~

instructs the Council

1 to consider the report of the Secretary-General;

2 to take any necessary action to ensure the general circulation, in the official and working languages of the Union, of the documents chosen by the Members or groups of Members concerned within the credit limits fixed by this Conference.

INTERNATIONAL TELECOMMUNICATION UNION



PLENIPOTENTIARY CONFERENCE (PP-98)

Document 157-E
22 October 1998
Original: English/Russian

MINNEAPOLIS, 12 OCTOBER - 6 NOVEMBER 1998

COMMITTEE 7

**Armenia (Republic of), Azerbaijani Republic, Belarus (Republic of), Georgia,
Kazakhstan (Republic of), Mongolia, Uzbekistan (Republic of),
Kyrgyz Republic, Russian Federation**

DRAFT REVISION OF RESOLUTION 62 (KYOTO, 1994)

INTERIM LIMITATIONS IN THE USE OF OFFICIAL AND WORKING LANGUAGES OF THE UNION

The Plenipotentiary Conference of the International Telecommunication Union (~~Kyoto, 1994~~)
(Minneapolis, 1998),

having regard

to Article 29 of the Constitution and Article 35 of the Convention of the International
Telecommunication Union (Geneva, 1992),

recalling

Resolution 59 of the Plenipotentiary Conference (Nice, 1989) and Resolution 62 of the
Plenipotentiary Conference (Kyoto, 1994),

conscious

- a) of the desirability of making greater use of the official and working languages of the Union, so
as to enable a larger number of Members to participate more actively in the work of the Union;
- b) of the technological, administrative, financial and staffing advantages thereof;
- c) of the need for greater use of the official and working languages in order to permit greater
understanding among Members and to achieve fully the Union's purposes,

considering

that the full-scale use of all official and working languages of the Union in the present structure of
the Union could involve significant resources which can now hardly be provided,

having examined

the report of the Council established in application of Resolution 62 of the Plenipotentiary Conference (Kyoto, 1994).

pursuant to

the provisions of No. 172 of the Constitution (Geneva, 1992),

resolves

1 that the following documents of the Union shall be drawn up in English, French and Spanish only*:

- ~~— all documents of conferences and assemblies of the Union except[†] the final texts of Final Acts, protocols, resolutions, questions, recommendations, opinions and handbooks;~~
- ~~— the preparatory documents of the study groups of the three Sectors of the ITU except[‡] the final texts of questions, recommendations and handbooks;~~
- the proposals and contributions to conferences, assemblies and meetings of the three Sectors of the ITU communicated to Members, the originals of which have been submitted in any of the working languages of the Union;
- all other documents for general distribution prepared by the Secretary-General in the course of his duties, except** the weekly circulars of the Radiocommunication Bureau, the circular-letters of the Secretary-General and the Directors of the Bureaux of the three Sectors of the ITU, by agreement between the Secretary-General and the Members or group of Members concerned;

2 that the following documents of the Union shall be drawn up in English only:

- ~~— the preparatory documents of the study groups of the three Sectors of the ITU except** the final texts of questions, recommendations and handbooks;~~

23 that at meetings of the three Sectors of the ITU other than the world conferences, assemblies and study groups included in the programme of work approved by a conference or an assembly, which are governed by Article 29 of the Constitution (Geneva, 1992) and at which all six working languages shall be used, reciprocal interpretation between English, French and Spanish is provided if those Members which require interpretation for one of these languages give at least 90 days notice of their participation in these meetings;

34 that, should the need arise, and by agreement between the Secretary-General and the Members or group of Members concerned, proposals and contributions to a regional development conference should be drawn up in a different subset of the official and working languages, taking into account the working languages of the ITU used in the region, limited to a maximum of three languages;

45 that the total expenditure incurred shall remain within the financial limits fixed in Decision 1, from resolves 1 to 4 above shall be included in the budget;

6 that ways need to be studied and implemented, in consultation with the countries concerned, to enable them to take appropriate measures for financing other mechanisms intended to enhance the utilization of languages other than official and working in the Union.

* In these cases, Article 29 of the Constitution shall apply; namely, all six working languages shall be used, and all texts shall be translated.

** In these cases, Article 29 of the Constitution shall apply; namely, all six working languages shall be used.

instructs the Secretary-General

1 ~~to organize, after consulting the Members or groups of Members concerned, preparation of the documents of the Union in Arabic, Chinese and Russian as efficiently and economically as possible; to submit a report to the Council identifying the ways and means referred to in *resolves* 1 to 6 above.~~

2 ~~to submit a report to the Council on the progress made in this field,~~

instructs the Council

1 to consider the report of the Secretary-General;

2 to take any necessary action to ensure the general circulation, in the official and working languages of the Union, of the documents chosen by the Members or groups of Members concerned within the credit limits fixed by this Conference.

**INTERNATIONAL TELECOMMUNICATION
UNION**



**PLENIPOTENTIARY
CONFERENCE (PP-98)**

**Document 158-E
22 October 1998
Original: English**

MINNEAPOLIS, 12 OCTOBER - 6 NOVEMBER 1998

COMMITTEE 4

**FIRST SERIES OF TEXTS SUBMITTED BY THE PLENARY MEETING
TO THE EDITORIAL COMMITTEE**

The Plenary Meeting has adopted the attached text, which it submits to the Editorial Committee for consideration.

Thomas SIEBERT
Chairperson

DRAFT RESOLUTION [PLEN/1]

INCLUSION OF GENDER PERSPECTIVE IN THE WORK OF ITU

The Plenipotentiary Conference of the International Telecommunication Union
(Minneapolis, 1998),

recalling

- a) the initiative taken by the Development Sector at the World Telecommunication Development Conference 1998 (WTDC-98, Malta) in adopting Resolution 7, transmitted to the 1998 ITU Plenipotentiary Conference (Document 30) in which it resolved to establish a task force on gender issues (hereinafter "Resolution 7");
- b) the purposes of ITU as stated in Article 1 of the Constitution (Geneva, 1992) which include promoting "the extension of the benefits of the new telecommunication technologies to all the world's inhabitants";
- c) UN resolution 52/96 of 6 February 1998 adopted by the General Assembly on the Improvement of the Status of Women in the Secretariat;
- d) the statement on "Gender Equality and Mainstreaming in the Work of the United Nations System: A Commitment for Action in 1998", adopted by the Administrative Committee on Coordination at its regular session of 1998 (Geneva, 27 and 28 March 1998),¹

recognizing

- a) that society as a whole will benefit from equal participation of women and men in policy and decision-making and in the access by women and men to communications services;
- b) that making better use of human resources and skills of women significantly adds to the pool of talent that will be needed in the new information society;
- c) that women constitute a substantial consumer market for information and communication technologies,

further recognizing

- a) that the recommendations of the first meeting of the Task Force on Gender Issues (TFGI) held on 1 and 2 September 1998 identified priority activities to be undertaken by ITU-D aimed at ensuring that the benefits of telecommunications and the emerging information society are made available to all women and men in developing countries on a fair and equitable basis;
- b) that the Secretary-General has recently appointed a Focal Point for Gender Issues in ITU;

¹ "Gender Perspective": Mainstreaming a Gender Perspective is the process of assessing the implications for women and men of any planned action, including legislation, policies or programmes in all areas and at all levels. It is a strategy for making women's as well as men's concerns and experiences an integral dimension of the design, implementation, monitoring and evaluation so that women and men benefit equally and inequality is not perpetuated. The ultimate goal is to achieve gender equality. (Source: Report of the Inter-Agency Committee on Women and Gender Equality of its Third Session, New York, 25-27 February 1998.)

c) that action is required in light of the decision taken by the UN General Assembly to convene a special session from 5 to 9 June 2000 to appraise and assess the progress achieved in the implementation of the Nairobi Forward-looking Strategies for the Advancement of Women and the Beijing Platform for Action five years after its adoption,

noting

- a) that there is a need for ITU to investigate, analyse and further the understanding of the impact of telecommunication technologies on women and men;
- b) that there is a need to ensure that the Gender Perspective is included in all ITU policies, work programmes, information dissemination, publication, study groups, seminars, workshops and conferences,

recommends that Member States and Sector Members

- a) review and revise, as appropriate, their respective policies and practices to ensure that recruitment, employment, training and advancement of women and men alike are undertaken on a fair and equitable basis;
- b) facilitate the employment of women and men equally in the telecommunications field including at senior levels of responsibility in the telecommunications administrations, government and regulatory bodies, intergovernmental organizations and in the private sector,

resolves

- 1 to endorse Resolution 7 adopted at the World Telecommunication Development Conference in Malta;
- 2 to incorporate the Gender Perspective in the implementation of the ITU Strategic Plan, Operational Plan, Financial Plan and the approved recommendations of ITU-2000;
- 3 that the language in the Basic Instruments of the Union (Convention and Constitution) shall be considered henceforth as neutral gender,

instructs the Council

to ensure that, within available resources, appropriate funding is included in each budget for Gender Perspective initiatives,

instructs the Secretary General

- 1 to facilitate the work programme of the ITU Focal Point on Gender Issues by providing the necessary means to carry out the work and to report to the Council in 2000 on progress made in this respect;
- 2 to ensure that the General Secretariat and the Sectors through their Directors, incorporate the Gender Perspective in their work programmes and leadership and human resource development activities;
- 3 to report back to the next ITU Plenipotentiary Conference on the results and progress made on the inclusion of a Gender Perspective in the work of ITU,

instructs the Director of BDT

to facilitate the full implementation of Resolution 7 adopted at the WTDC in Malta,

instructs the Secretary-General and Directors of the Bureaux

to report to Council each year on progress made to incorporate the Gender Perspective in the work of the General Secretariat and the respective Sector Operational Plan.

INTERNATIONAL TELECOMMUNICATION UNION



PLENIPOTENTIARY CONFERENCE (PP-98)

Corrigendum 1 to
Document 159-E
28 October 1998
Original: English

MINNEAPOLIS, 12 OCTOBER - 6 NOVEMBER 1998

PLENARY MEETING

MINUTES

OF THE

FIFTH PLENARY MEETING

Friday, 16 October 1998, at 1435 hours

Chairperson: Mr. Thomas SIEBERT (United States)

Please **replace** paragraph 2.15 with the following text:

2.15 **H.E. Mr. Michel Auchere, Head of delegation, France**, said that to enable ITU to continue to perform the tasks assigned to it by the Constitution, the Plenipotentiary Conference should make the decisions and reforms necessary to ensure that the structures and functioning of the Union were adapted to the developments of the telecommunication world, taking due account of the interests of the various regions. To that end, the participation of the private sector and intra- and interregional cooperation should be strengthened, particularly in standardization. It was also important that WRCs should be able to continue their work of updating the Radio Regulations to give all users effective, equitable and non-discriminatory access to frequencies and orbit spectrum resources. Those objectives could only be attained if the Union's financial management was healthy, transparent and well balanced. On a more general level, ITU should adopt the corresponding means and objectives to meet the challenges of the information society, in particular by promoting appropriate participation in work relating to the Internet and management thereof.

INTERNATIONAL TELECOMMUNICATION UNION



PLENIPOTENTIARY CONFERENCE (PP-98)

Document 159-E
23 October 1998
Original: English

MINNEAPOLIS, 12 OCTOBER - 6 NOVEMBER 1998

PLENARY MEETING

MINUTES

OF THE

FIFTH PLENARY MEETING

Friday, 16 October 1998, at 1435 hours

Chairperson: Mr. Thomas SIEBERT (United States)

Subjects discussed

- | | |
|---|---|
| 1 | Report by the Chairperson of Committee 7 |
| 2 | General policy statements (continued) |
| 3 | Working methods of committees (continued) |

Documents

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1 Report by the Chairperson of Committee 7

1.1 The **Chairperson** read out the following report from the Chairperson of Committee 7:
"Committee 7 has considered the announcement of the class of contributions in the light of ITU-2000 recommendation 22, which states that it is recommended that the announcement of class of contribution should take place during the Plenipotentiary Conference, and in the light of relevant proposals from Member States, Committee 7 has arrived at the following conclusions:

- 1) In the event that it is agreed that the announcement of the class of contributions from Member States should take place during Plenipotentiary Conferences, this decision would have effect from the next Plenipotentiary Conference and would not apply to the present Plenipotentiary Conference. Consequently, the urgency of rapid resolution of this issue is diminished.
- 2) The existing situation has led to a continuous erosion of the number of contributory units, in spite of the increasing number of Member States, which is detrimental to the interests of Member States and of the Union as a whole, and which should be considered. In the light of the above and observing that this issue is closely related to a number of other financial issues under consideration by the Committee, such as the draft Financial Plan, the Committee has established an ad hoc group to further discuss the timing of the announcement of contribution classes and related issues, with a view to putting recommendations before the Committee".

2 General policy statements (continued)

2.1 **The Hon. Mr. Ernest Nyanda, Minister for Communications and Transport, Tanzania**, said that since 1994 the major objectives in telecommunication development had been to narrow the gap between developed and developing countries and to seek appropriate technologies to ensure universal access to the telephone. Despite immense technological advances, however, that gap remained - the "missing link" in telecommunication services in developing countries was still there, especially in Africa. If those objectives were to be attained, clear vision, guidelines and strong partnerships with industrialized countries were required in order to create a global network and free flow of information, particularly in areas such as education and health. Since 1994 the Government of Tanzania had restructured and modernized the telecommunication sector, doubling the capacity of the network and reducing prices. Africa now needed strong partnerships in order to overcome language barriers in communication technology and to improve access to the telephone network.

2.2 **The Hon. Mr. Radha Krishna Mainali, Minister for Information and Communications, Nepal**, stressing the vital role of telecommunications in national economic development, said that his country, as one of the least developed countries, had made great efforts to develop its telecommunication structure through the use of digital technology and satellite communication. Access to the telephone was of major importance, especially in the rural communities. After giving details of telecommunication developments in his country, he expressed the hope that cooperation between ITU and Nepal would further expand in the field of technology transfer, human resources development and sector reform and urged ITU to consider preferential treatment in telecommunications trade in favour of least developed countries in order to enable them to expand their telecommunication networks.

2.3 **Mr. Charles Ntakirutinka, Minister of Transport and Communications, Rwanda**, said that, as a result of the devastating genocide and massacres from which his country was only beginning to emerge, all the basic infrastructures, including that of telecommunications, had been

destroyed or badly damaged. There was also a lack of resources, both human and material. Thanks to international support, intercity telecommunication links and direct links with neighbouring countries had now been set up, but much remained to be done, especially in rural areas. Nevertheless, the Government of Rwanda was committed to join with other nations in developing the global information infrastructure. New technologies were beginning to be available in his country, in particular the Internet thanks to the intervention of the United States, and efforts were being made within the framework of liberalization to encourage private investment. Expressing appreciation of ITU's support in assisting Rwanda to rehabilitate the telecommunication infrastructure, his Government requested cancellation of his country's unpaid contributions to ITU, on the understanding that regular payments would be made as from 1999. He also requested the renewal of the Kyoto resolution regarding Rwanda as its implementation had not begun on account of lack of qualified personnel in his country. He urged that balanced regional representation should be ensured within ITU and that BDT, whose support had proved invaluable to his country, should be strengthened in order to help narrow the gap between nations.

2.4 H.E. Mr. Julio Marti, Minister of Transport and Communications, Venezuela, stressed the importance of the principle that all individuals anywhere in the world should benefit from global information systems. That result could be achieved through liberalization accompanied by regulations adapted to technological developments, global and universal access, and funding mechanisms for development. Flexibility involving cooperation between the government and the private sector was essential. Countries must also make use of the experience gained by other countries in developing their telecommunication infrastructures, seeking to achieve reasonable prices, fair competition, and transparent and fair mechanisms for universal access. He gave a brief outline of government and private sector cooperation in his country through which telecommunications in the rural sector had been improved and education and training programmes provided. Venezuela had submitted its candidacy for membership of the ITU Council in order to cooperate in the globalization process in which ITU played a leading role.

2.5 H.E. Mr. Otinielu Tautele Tausi, Minister of Works, Energy and Communication, Tuvalu, stressed the importance of telecommunications for social, cultural and economic life in all countries, but especially in the least developed countries and in small developing island countries where distance and remoteness were exacerbated by difficult environmental conditions and economic limitations. Efficient communication at affordable cost was therefore a vital factor in effective local and national administration. The Government of Tuvalu had identified a number of clear objectives in the telecommunication field in its effort to improve internal and external communication and provide an adequate local telephone network to meet the needs of the administration and the public. He gave a brief description of the situation in his country regarding telecommunication services which had been developed partly through the generous assistance of the Government of Australia. One area in which Tuvalu would appreciate assistance and advice from ITU was that of access to the Internet, in order to develop appropriate technical expertise and guidelines for policy making. With the assistance and continuing support of its partners in ITU, his country hoped to improve its services both nationally and internationally and continue to play an active role in the Union.

2.6 H.E. Mr. George Calixte, Minister of Communications, Works, Transport and Public Utilities, Saint Lucia, expressed strong support for ITU's major programmes for the restructuring and modernization of telecommunications in developing countries, which were of particular importance for small island States like his own. He particularly emphasized the value of the studies and publications of BDT. Modern telecommunication services were vital to socio-economic, cultural and political development, and full use must be made of the opportunities offered by new

technologies. He expressed appreciation of ITU's assistance in addressing major issues relating to policy and tariff structures. In order to resolve problems connected with liberalization in the coming century, it had been decided by the Caribbean countries to tackle any obstacles on a regional basis. Stressing the importance of the Tampere Convention on the Provision of Telecommunication Resources for Disaster Mitigation and Relief Operations (1998), he urged all ITU Member States to become signatories to the Convention, and to ensure the timely provision of technical assistance. He welcomed the proposals submitted to the Plenipotentiary Conference for two resolutions on emergency telecommunications. His country had been nominated by the Caribbean group to represent them at the next ITU Council and he hoped that delegates would support that nomination. It was important that, in the new millennium, globalization should include the differential incorporation of small developing countries and not lead simply to a uniform, unilinear global order.

2.7 H.E. Mr. Vincent Galea, Minister for Transport and Communications, Malta, said that his Government was committed to providing the country with a world-class telecommunication system which was essential to ensuring its future as a dynamic European and Mediterranean services hub. The infrastructure had been modernized and new legislation enacted to allow for the orderly introduction of competition. New information technologies allied to communication, the basis of any society, promoted the emergence of the so-called global information society, with its attendant social and economic benefits, such as those provided by telemedicine, distance learning and the free flow of information between peoples. Progress was further assisted by such instruments as the WTO agreement on basic telecommunications. Any risk that such advances could unintentionally widen the information gap between rich and poor should be countered by greater commitment of resources at national, regional and global levels. ITU's mandated task to provide information about advances in telecommunication, especially those applicable to developing countries, was therefore extremely important. Malta, despite its limitations, was assisting ITU wherever possible, for example through its initiative to promote gender equality. Furthermore, he was confident that the current Plenipotentiary Conference would endorse the recommendations of the Valletta Conference.

2.8 H.E. Mr. Phillip Goddard, Minister of International Trade and Business, Barbados, said that his country strongly supported efforts to strengthen ITU's finances and to widen its membership and thereby the inputs to its decision-making. ITU must respond dynamically to convergence issues, while being sensitive to the problems of small and developing economies. In a new age of interconnectivity and interdependence, in which geographical location had little bearing on business transactions, national regulation alone would not suffice. The emergence of global regulatory systems was essential, for example in the area of intellectual property rights, concerning which ITU should work with WIPO to develop a global clearing-house. In future, national regulators and the Union would have to interact more closely, and ITU should strengthen its capacity to assist the developing countries. The Caribbean countries' approach aimed at making the existing monopoly carrier more open to fair, transparent competition, with a view to establishing cost-effective systems to overcome the traditional constraints of distance and remoteness. Barbados thanked ITU for the technical assistance provided in the past, which it hoped would be continued. It fully supported the candidacy of Saint Lucia for election to the Council.

2.9 H.E. Mr. Langi Kavaliku, Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Education and Civil Aviation, Tonga, said that the growing global structure of telecommunications was becoming a major market force in communications and information. In many areas, however, the gap between the developed and developing countries was still widening, and the growth of market forces was not being matched by regard for the broader economic and social perspective. In that respect, the draft

Strategic Plan for 1999-2003 was a move in the right direction. While some details might remain open to debate, it sought to meet the challenges of the coming century, *inter alia* by promoting the use of common global resources and providing a system of checks and balances. ITU should continue to work in close collaboration with other relevant organizations and the communication industry towards the goals set forth in the Constitution and Convention. While his Administration could accept Resolution 49 (WRC-97), and Resolution 113 and Decision 480 of the Council, relating to satellite network filing and a related system of costs, he hoped that the measures envisaged would be applied in line with ITU principles. Those instruments were not, however, enough; the aim should be not simply access but participation, if integrity and fairness were to be ensured. Financing alone could not create a level playing field; the real challenge was to establish equity and complementarity. To that end, his country wished ITU every success in its efforts.

2.10 H.E. Mr. Ebrima Ceesay, Minister of Works, Communications and Information, Gambia, said that the main challenge stemming from telecommunication development in recent years was to provide a legal and administrative environment which would help to make the goal of telecommunications for all a reality as speedily as possible. A recent meeting held in South Africa had reflected the African continent's commitment to that end, and he hoped that the current Plenipotentiary Conference would help to achieve that objective. In seeking to expand telecommunication services, the Conference had before it the crucial problem of striking a balance between the aims of industry on one hand and social needs on the other. In that regard, the work of ITU, and BDT in particular, was most relevant and should be strengthened. One current issue was the change in accounting rates, which together with the effects of globalization and liberalization was reducing the developing countries' revenue base and thus their capacity for network expansion. Those countries, therefore, advocated a more realistic rate. Their efforts to establish more reliable and extensive communication systems included work in collaboration with UNDP. Gambia, for example, had recently commissioned its own Internet gateway and was finalizing the requisite licensing arrangements for GMPCS. Gambia reiterated its confidence that ITU would work on behalf of Africa and all other regions in meeting the challenges of the twenty-first century.

2.11 H.E. Mr. Samson Chemai, Ambassador of Kenya to the United States, speaking on behalf of the Minister of Transport and Communications, said that his Government recognized that telecommunication development was of the greatest importance to all States, and was committed to supporting ITU's vital role in integrating all countries, and all economic partners, into the global information infrastructure. If ITU was to succeed, it must be responsive to its members' needs, and foster partnership among Member States, Sector Members and the private sector. It must also seek to establish a strong financial base, for which purpose the Kenyan Administration had decided to increase its contribution from 1/4 to one contributory unit. ITU must seek a common vision, among its entire membership, so as to be able to face the many new challenges before it. Kenya was committed to promoting a new, reformed ITU, responsive to the needs of its entire membership.

2.12 Mr. K.C. Logeswaran, Secretary, Ministry of Posts, Telecommunications and the Media, Sri Lanka, said that his country was proud of the history of its telecommunications service, which had begun in 1896, and in particular of the extensive developments over the past five years, some of which he briefly outlined. The telecommunication ministers of the South Asian region, conscious of the vast importance of telecommunications for developing social cohesion and closer economic cooperation, had agreed upon a cooperation strategy, in May 1998. The strategy was aimed *inter alia* at promoting links within the region, minimizing disparities in national systems, harnessing the latest technology and promoting a coordinated approach on issues of common concern. A plan of action had been drawn up accordingly. In addition, Sri Lanka had, pursuant to

the 1998 Tampere Convention, produced a report on telecommunication services for disaster relief work; the report would be submitted to the Conference at a later date.

2.13 Mr. Lazaros S. Savvides, Director of Telecommunications, Ministry of Communications and Works, Cyprus, said that ITU, since its restructuring, had fulfilled the expectations of Member States and would doubtless continue to do so. Cyprus was among the many countries pursuing policies aimed at making the most of the rapidly evolving technical innovations, so as to improve national information structures for the benefit of the economic community and society as a whole. As an example of developments in Cyprus, the digital network currently served 92 per cent of customers, comprising 98 per cent of total transmission and 90 per cent of switching capacity. Cyprus was establishing networks with neighbouring countries in order to improve regional interconnectivity, and had also established links for connections as far as Australia. Cyprus planned to become a centre of excellence, especially for business communications, providing the most up-to-date facilities as well as the full spectrum of traditional services. Cyprus was also in the process of harmonizing the relevant institutional and legal frameworks, including the removal of regulatory restrictions, with a view to eventual full membership of the European Union. All those strides could not have been made, of course, without ITU's unstinting assistance over the years.

2.14 Mr. A. Saleem, Assistant Under-Secretary, Planning and Development Sector, Ministry of Communications, Kuwait, said that the current Conference would be a landmark in the progress of telecommunications. During the next century, ITU should continue its tasks of the equitable allocation and regulation of frequencies, standard-setting and harmonization of the roles of Member States and the manufacturing community. The Kyoto Plenipotentiary Conference had been a launching pad for the new structure, which had been further enhanced by WRC-95 and WRC-97 resolutions. Kuwait attached great importance to supporting the development of the telecommunication sector; it had been a Member of the Council since 1990, was active in all ITU forums and affirmed its continued contribution to Union activities. In addition to promoting its own national development, Kuwait had invested in other countries and promoted international alliances in order to strengthen the regional network and thus contribute to establishing the "global village". He outlined a number of suggestions which would be put forward by the Administration of Kuwait to assist the ITU in its efforts, including recognition of Arabic on an equal footing with the other languages of the Union, a further strengthening of BDT, and attention to matters such as more equitable financial allocations and measures to deal with telecommunications during disasters. Other proposals would seek to promote flexibility and market opportunities, and guarantee universal access to global services.

2.15 H.E. Mr. Michel Auchere, Head of delegation, France, said that to enable ITU to continue to perform the tasks assigned to it by the Constitution, the Plenipotentiary Conference should make the decisions and reforms necessary to ensure that the structures and functioning of the Union were adapted to the developments of the telecommunication world, taking due account of the interests of the various regions. To that end, the participation of the private sector and intra- and interregional cooperation should be strengthened, particularly in standardization. It was also important that WRCs should be able to continue their work of updating the Radio Regulations to give all users effective, equitable and non-discriminatory access to frequencies and orbit spectrum resources. Those objectives could only be attained if the Union's financial management was healthy, transparent and well balanced.

2.16 Mr. Abdul M. Youssef, Head of delegation, Lebanon, warned against allowing vested interests to destroy the basis of solidarity on which ITU had been founded, and of the danger of the ensuing loss of confidence and disinterest in the Union's activities. It was important and urgent to

democratize the discussion process in ITU still further. All Member States should understand that, whereas the industrialized world was concerned with expanding markets and liberalization, the concerns of the developing world remained focused on development and a more balanced distribution of the huge revenues which they generated for their industrialized partners. Lebanon fully supported the guidelines for the future development of telecommunications as defined by the Vice-President of the United States at the opening ceremony, and the important role of ITU in that context. Lebanon had made great strides in the area of telecommunications in the past four years. To mark its first post-war Plenipotentiary Conference, it had decided to increase its contribution to ITU from 1/4 to two contributory units, and with a view to playing a more active part in the management of the Union had submitted its candidacy for the Council.

2.17 **Mr. B. Uguccioni, Head of delegation, Italy**, said that Italy fully shared the positions of the group of European countries. His country was particularly concerned to ensure that no new social discrimination emerged from the rapid development of communication technology between the countries able to exploit the opportunities and the weaker countries still struggling to obtain a basic telecommunication infrastructure. The Union should therefore be given new strategies and structures, and reinforced political capacity, to enable it to establish rules valid for all and to ensure their respect. Good reforms needed a solid basis that could only be provided by persons with extensive experience in the working of the Union. Italy's candidate for the post of Deputy Secretary-General had the necessary qualities and merited the endorsement of the Conference.

2.18 **Mr. Seonarine Persaud, Chief Executive Officer, National Frequency Management Unit, Guyana**, said that Guyana looked to ITU for technical support as it faced the challenge of opening its markets to competition. It was actively involved in the Caribbean Telecommunication Union and closely followed the work of ITU. It strongly supported the establishment of a task force on gender issues, the new draft Strategic Plan and a strong ITU with creative leadership. It also hoped to see the World Telecommunication Policy Forum continue as an instrument for dialogue and leverage within the Union. Guyana was strongly in favour of strengthening the regional presence of ITU and of funding centres of excellence in the developing countries, particularly in the Caribbean, as a means of building up the human resources infrastructure. Consistent with its interests in promoting regional development, Guyana urged the Conference to support Saint Lucia's candidacy for the Council. Guyana looked forward to programmes of assistance under the new BDT programme on finance and trade.

2.19 **Mr. Abdel-Fattah Abu-Sere, Chairman of the Board of Directors, Egypt Telecom, Egypt**, said that the Middle East region looked forward to promoting further development through modern telecommunication networks and services that would improve the living standards of its populations. It also looked toward non-discriminatory communication projects. ITU could play a crucial role in those areas by convening more regional conferences and providing advanced training courses, particularly in tele-education and telemedicine. Egypt had taken full account of the decisions of the 1994 Plenipotentiary Conference in Kyoto in developing its telecommunications, and intended to continue to increase its telephone capacity and provide a vital link between the countries of Europe and South East Asia. Egypt called on all Member States to support its continued membership of the Council.

2.20 **H.E. Mr. Elfatih M.A. Irwa, Ambassador, Permanent Representative of Sudan to the United Nations, New York**, said that telecommunications were vital to the development of Sudan, which, although occupying the largest geographic area in Africa, was establishing a modern telecommunication network thanks to national and foreign private sector investment. It was to be hoped that the Plenipotentiary Conference would decide on the necessary internal and external

changes in ITU to enable the Union respond to political realities, and to continue as a neutral forum and leader in spectrum distribution and standardization. The Union should also be able to support sustainable development, promote investment, establish cooperation between administrations and above all facilitate the introduction of a system favourable to the developing countries. Sudan's candidate for the post of Director of BDT had extensive regional and international experience and merited the support of Member States.

2.21 The **Chairperson** acknowledged the presence of the representatives of IMO and ICAO, observing that their attendance at the Conference reflected the significance of telecommunications in shipping and aviation. As there had been no time to hear their statements at the present meeting and as they would not be present the following week, they were invited to submit their statements in writing so that they could be circulated at the Conference.

3 Working methods of committees (continued) (Document 102)

3.1 The **Chairperson** invited comments on Morocco's proposals, as set out in Document 102.

3.2 The **delegates of Syria, Saudi Arabia, Algeria, Cuba, Bahrain, China, the Islamic Republic of Iran, Mauritania and Viet Nam** supported the document.

3.3 The **delegate of Spain** also supported the document but suggested that the phrase "greater than two-thirds" in subparagraph 6a) should be amended to read "at least two-thirds", in line with No. 227 of the Constitution.

3.4 It was so **agreed**.

3.5 The **delegates of India, Guinea, Egypt and Lebanon** supported Document 102 as amended.

3.6 The **delegate of the Philippines** said that her delegation approved Document 102 in principle but was concerned about the problems which might arise, owing to the different quorums required, if an amendment to the Convention was successfully approved while a parallel amendment to the Constitution was not. She therefore suggested that the words "present in the plenary" be inserted in subparagraph 6a), to be consistent with Article 55 of the Constitution; that the phrase "provided that the approval of the said amendments shall in no case be in conflict with the provisions of the Constitution" be inserted after "formal vote" in subparagraph 6b); and that the last sentence be deleted.

3.7 The **delegate of Morocco** said that the problem could only be solved by inserting a new paragraph in the text to address that specific case. Alternatively, where amendments to the Convention and Constitution were linked, the chairpersons of the committees and plenary could, by referring to the minutes of the present meeting, only allow the provisional approval of an amendment to the Convention until the relevant amendment to the Constitution was approved.

3.8 The **delegate of the Philippines** said that, as the problem had clearly been understood, she would not press her point.

3.9 The **delegate of Syria** observed that the Philippines' concerns might be met by using the wording of No. 525 of the Convention.

3.10 The **Chairperson** said that, with additional clarification, he took it that the plenary wished to approve Document 102, as amended.

3.11 It was so **agreed**.

3.12 The **delegate of the United Kingdom** said that it was his understanding that Committee 6 would be drafting amendments to the Constitution and Convention on the basis of decisions taken by Committees 5 and 7. However, discussions on policy issues appeared to be taking place in Committee 6 prior to their consideration in Committee 5.

3.13 The **Chairperson of Committee 6** said that Committee 6 had decided to delay its consideration of any provisions not yet discussed by Committee 5. He would nevertheless discuss the matter with the Chairperson of Committee 5 to ensure that no further problem arose.

3.14 The **delegate of Syria** considered that issues which had not been allocated to Committee 5 or Committee 7 should be discussed by Committee 6.

The meeting rose at 1735 hours.

The Secretary-General:
Pekka TARJANNE

The Chairperson:
Thomas SIEBERT

INTERNATIONAL TELECOMMUNICATION UNION



PLENIPOTENTIARY CONFERENCE (PP-98)

Document 160(Rev.1)-E
23 October 1998
Original: Spanish

MINNEAPOLIS, 12 OCTOBER - 6 NOVEMBER 1998

PLENARY MEETING

Note by the Secretary-General

TRANSFER OF POWERS

NICARAGUA - COSTA RICA

The delegation of Nicaragua has announced that it has to leave the Conference on 24 October 1998.

The delegation of Nicaragua has given the delegation of Costa Rica a mandate to exercise its vote at the present Conference. Pursuant to No. 336 of the Geneva Convention (1992), the delegation of Costa Rica will be able to exercise this vote when Costa Rica has recovered its own right to vote.

Pekka TARJANNE
Secretary-General

INTERNATIONAL TELECOMMUNICATION UNION



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INTERNATIONAL TELECOMMUNICATION UNION



PLENIPOTENTIARY CONFERENCE (PP-98)

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MINNEAPOLIS, 12 OCTOBER - 6 NOVEMBER 1998

COMMITTEE 7

Note by the Secretary-General

CONTRIBUTIONS BY MEMBERS OF THE UNION

DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC OF THE CONGO

1 In a letter dated 22 October 1998 (see Annex A), the Democratic Republic of the Congo reported a persistently difficult economic situation which has been exacerbated by war. For these reasons, the Democratic Republic of the Congo requests:

- a) that interest on its arrears accrued over the years be cancelled;
- b) that its arrears in respect of contributions and publications be transferred to a special arrears account;
- c) that the Democratic Republic of the Congo be authorized to settle its arrears in respect of contributions and publications, amounting to 1 266 128.65 Swiss francs, in 15 annual instalments beginning on 31 August 1999.

2 A statement of the amounts owed to the Union by the Democratic Republic of the Congo is given in Annex B.

3 The Plenipotentiary Conference is requested to take a decision on this country's request in the light of the recommendations made by the Conference (see Document 121).

Pekka TARJANNE
Secretary-General

Annexes: 2

ANNEX A

Kinshasa, 22 October 1998

From: Ministry of Posts and Telecommunications,
Democratic Republic of the Congo

To: ITU Plenipotentiary Conference, Minneapolis, USA

Subject: Democratic Republic of the Congo's debt to ITU

When the Congolese people, united in the AFDL, came to power on 17 May 1997, the Government of National Salvation inherited a chaotic social and economic situation, which was the unprecedented result of a policy of 32 years of dictatorship, corruption and poor management of financial and human resources.

The new authorities borne of the revolution of 17 May 1997 immediately embarked upon a vast policy of reconstruction, focusing on the social welfare of the populations and restoration of the country's image within the international community. It is with this in mind that the Democratic Republic of the Congo instituted a plan to settle the arrears on its outstanding contributions to international organizations which had long remained unpaid by the outgoing dictatorial power. The payment made to CAPTAC in August 1997, only four months after we came to power, testifies to our commitment in this regard.

All these efforts deployed by the Congolese people have now been undermined by the unjust war which a coalition of forces of evil has been waging on us since 2 August 1998, ravaging and reaping destruction throughout part of our country. As a result, the Democratic Republic of the Congo is finding it impossible to honour its financial commitments to the international organizations, including ITU. For this reason, we are obliged to request the Plenipotentiary Conference kindly to:

- 1) cancel the interest on our arrears accumulated over the years;
- 2) place our arrears for contributions and publications in a special arrears account bearing no interest;
- 3) authorize the Democratic Republic of the Congo to settle the amounts it owes for contributions and publications, amounting to 1 266 128.65 Swiss francs, in 15 annual instalments beginning on 31 August 1999.

We hope that our request will receive a favourable response, and remain

Yours faithfully

(signed)

Judge Frédéric BOLA KI-KHUABI
Head of delegation
Adviser to the Minister of PTT

ANNEX B

Democratic Republic of the Congo

Situation at 21 October 1998

Year	Contributions	Interest at 31.12.1997	Total owed Swiss francs	Class of contribution
1991	123 029.65	59 985.70	183 015.35	1/2
1992	153 000.00	60 156.00	213 156.00	1/2
1993	155 300.00	48 974.80	204 274.80	1/2
1994	159 600.00	38 604.70	198 204.70	1/2
1995	165 000.00	28 465.20	193 465.20	1/2
1996	166 000.00	17 766.15	183 766.15	1/2
1997	167 000.00	7 515.00	174 515.00	1/2
1998	164 000.00	0.00	164 000.00	1/2
	1 252 929.65	261 467.55	1 514 397.20	
Publications				
1995	2 568.00	154.05	2 722.05	
1996	7 693.00	0.00	7 693.00	
1997	2 938.00	0.00	2 938.00	
	13 199.00	154.05	13 353.05	
	1 266 128.65	261 621.60	1 527 750.25	

INTERNATIONAL TELECOMMUNICATION UNION



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COMMITTEE 7

Note by the Secretary-General

CONTRIBUTIONS BY MEMBERS OF THE UNION

COSTA RICA

- 1 In a letter dated 22 October 1998 (see Annex A), Costa Rica reports serious economic problems as a result of its growing debt. Consequently, Costa Rica requests:
 - a) that the interest on its arrears accrued over the years be cancelled;
 - b) that its arrears in respect of contributions be transferred to a special arrears account; and
 - c) that Costa Rica be authorized to settle its arrears in respect of contributions, amounting to 547 219.90 Swiss francs, in four equal annual instalments.
- 2 A statement of the amounts owed to the Union by Costa Rica is given in Annex B.
- 3 The Plenipotentiary Conference is requested to take a decision on this country's request in the light of the recommendations made by the Conference (see Document 121).

Pekka TARJANNE
Secretary-General

Annexes: 2

ANNEX A

Minneapolis
22 October 1998

International Telecommunication Union
Plenipotentiary Conference
Minneapolis, Minnesota
United States of America

On behalf of the Government of Costa Rica, I wish to present our greetings to the representatives of the Member States.

It is my honour to transmit the official position of Costa Rica to this most distinguished body, the Plenipotentiary Conference of the International Telecommunication Union, now meeting in the city of Minneapolis.

Ladies and gentlemen,

Because of the serious economic problems that Costa Rica has had to face in recent years, particularly as a result of its growing domestic and foreign debt, the Government of Costa Rica has not been able to settle its annual contributions to the International Telecommunication Union as it would have wished.

Nevertheless, we intend to fulfil our obligations towards the International Telecommunication Union; and to this end we are willing to pay our contribution for 1998 immediately, and to undertake the commitment to pay the remainder of our arrears as to principal in four equal annual instalments.

In order that we may carry out this plan, we request that the interest accrued over the arrears period be written off, and that the appropriate special arrears account be opened.

In addition, we request that the restrictions placed on Costa Rica's right to vote by reason of the arrears be lifted.

(signed)

Juan Manuel CAMPOS ÁVILA
Acting Head of the Costa Rican delegation

cc: Mr. Pekka Tarjanne, Secretary-General, ITU

ANNEX B

Situation of Costa Rica's account at 21 October 1998

Year	Contributions	Interest at 21.10.98	Total owed (Swiss francs)	Class of contribution
1989	0.00	151.85	151.85	1/4
1990	0.00	14 476.55	14 476.55	1/4
1991	64 269.90	34 908.80	99 178.70	1/4
1992	76 500.00	30 078.00	106 578.00	1/4
1993	77 650.00	24 487.45	102 137.45	1/4
1994	79 800.00	19 302.40	99 102.40	1/4
1995	82 500.00	14 232.50	96 732.50	1/4
1996	83 000.00	8 883.10	91 883.10	1/4
1997	83 500.00	3 757.50	87 257.50	1/4
	547 219.90	150 278.15	697 498.05	
1998	82 000.00	0.00	82 000.00	1/4
	629 219.90	150 278.15	779 498.05	
Publications				
1990	120.00	11.30	131.30	
1991	120.00	0.00	120.00	
1992	194.00	50.25	244.25	
1993	120.00	0.00	120.00	
	554.00	61.55	615.55	
Total owed	629 773.90	150 339.70	780 113.60	

**INTERNATIONAL TELECOMMUNICATION
UNION**



**PLENIPOTENTIARY
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COMMITTEE 4

**THIRD SERIES OF TEXTS FROM COMMITTEE 5
TO THE EDITORIAL COMMITTEE**

Committee 5 has adopted the attached texts, which it submits to the Editorial Committee for consideration and subsequent transmission to the Plenary Meeting.

Mauricio BOSSA
Chairperson

Annexes: 2

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ANNEX 1

Draft Strategic Plan for the Union 1999-2003

I. Introduction

1. The purposes of the Union are set out in Article 1 of the Constitution (Geneva, 1992). Essentially, they are to provide a forum in which the Union's membership can cooperate for the improvement and rational use of telecommunications of all kinds in the following domains:
 - 1.1 a technical domain - to promote the development, efficient operation, usefulness and general availability of telecommunication facilities and services;
 - 1.2 a development domain - to promote the development of telecommunications in developing countries and the extension of the benefits of telecommunications to people everywhere;
 - 1.3 a policy domain - to promote the adoption of a broader approach to telecommunication issues in the global information economy and society¹.
2. The objective of the strategic plan for the Union for 1999-2003 is to indicate how these purposes will be achieved in this period of time by identifying key issues, goals, strategies and priorities for the Union as a whole, for each of the Sectors, and for the secretariat.
3. The ITU strategic plan for 1995-1999 was based on an ambitious goal - to establish the Union as the international focal point for all matters relating to telecommunications in the global information economy and society. This goal was to be achieved through the following overall strategies:
 - 3.1 to strengthen the foundations of the Union - by enhancing the participation of Sector Members and increasing synergy between the activities of the Sectors;
 - 3.2 to broaden the Union's activities - by creating the World Telecommunication Policy Forum and using ITU resources and information systems more effectively;
 - 3.3 to increase the Union's leverage in international affairs - by establishing strategic alliances with other concerned international and regional organizations, and communicating more effectively with the public.²
4. The report of the Council to PP-98 on the activities of the Union since PP-94 provides a detailed assessment of the results of the 1995-99 strategic plan. Each of these strategies has been successful, to a greater or lesser degree. However, the overall goal as referred to in § 3 above has not been entirely realized, largely because of developments outside the control of the Union and its membership.
5. The telecommunication environment has evolved in ways that were not completely foreseen when the 1995-1999 strategic plan was being crafted. In particular, the forces of liberalization, competition and globalization have been stronger than anticipated. They have resulted in a shift in the way telecommunications is viewed - by policy-makers and regulators, by customers, and by the industry itself. These forces will be further strengthened by the implementation in 1998 of agreements liberalizing trade in telecommunications at the international and regional levels.

¹ This summary of the purposes of the Union has been retained from Resolution 1 (Kyoto, 1994).

² This summary of the 1995-99 strategic plan is extracted from Resolution 1 (Kyoto, 1994).

6. In this new environment, it is no longer realistic to believe that the Union can be the focal point for all matters relating to telecommunications in the global information economy and society. The world is now too complex and telecommunications too pervasive for a single organization to be the focus of all issues of concern to the international community. New goals must be set and new strategies devised. That is the purpose of this document, which is organized as follows:

- 6.1 Part II identifies key trends and developments in the telecommunication environment and assesses their implications for ITU;
- 6.2 Part III proposes general strategic orientations, goals and priorities for achieving the purposes of the Union in the new environment in the 1999-2003 time-frame;
- 6.3 Part IV presents goals, strategies and priorities for the Sectors;
- 6.4 Part V proposes goals, strategies and priorities for the ITU secretariat.

7. The financial plan for the Union for 2000-2003 estimates the cost of ITU activities, identifies revenue options and establishes expenditure priorities on the basis of the provisions of the draft strategic plan.

II. Environmental Analysis

A. Trends and Developments in the Telecommunication Environment

8. The global market for telecommunications is expanding rapidly. It is not a question of "demand pull" or "supply push". Both are happening. The interaction of these two forces has made telecommunications one of the leading growth sectors in the world economy. It has also made telecommunications one of the most important components of social, cultural and political activity.

- 8.1 On the demand side, growth is pulled by an increasing reliance on telecommunications and information technology in every area of human life - in all sectors of economic and social activity; in government, in the provision of public services, and in the management of public infrastructures; in the pursuit of knowledge and the expression of culture; in the control of the environment; and in response to emergencies, whether natural or man-made.
- 8.2 On the supply side, growth is pushed by rapid technological developments which continuously improve the efficiency of existing products, systems and services, and provide the foundation for a continuing stream of innovations in each of these areas. Particularly noteworthy is the convergence of telecommunication, information, broadcasting and publishing technologies, which has greatly enriched the communication choices available to consumers.

9. The effect of the fundamental forces driving demand and supply has been amplified by the worldwide trend to liberalize markets for telecommunication and information technology goods and services. As a result of this trend, the majority of telecommunication networks are now privately owned and operated. Significant developments have also taken place to introduce competition at the national, regional and international levels. Of particular importance is the World Trade Organization (WTO) agreement to liberalize trade in basic telecommunication services which was concluded in February 1997 by 69 countries which together account for more than 90% of global telecommunication revenues. The agreement entered into force on 5 February 1998.

10. The new framework developed by WTO to govern trade and regulation of telecommunication services will facilitate further globalization of the telecommunication equipment and services industries, as well as the closely-related information technology industry.

10.1 In the 1995-1999 planning period, "globalization" was more a slogan than a reality, since it referred mainly to alliances between major operators to provide end-to-end services to multinational enterprises. Public networks and residential customers were relatively unaffected by this kind of globalization, although various forms of "alternative calling procedures" provided consumers in countries which allowed such practices a "poor-man's version" of the benefits enjoyed by big business users.

10.2 In the 1999-2003 planning period, globalization is likely to become much more of a reality. The WTO agreement will make it possible for foreign operators to have direct access through interconnection and interoperability to public networks in most of the world's major telecommunication markets, as well as to make direct investments in the development of those networks.

11. Five years ago, few would have predicted that the Internet would emerge so rapidly as a serious competitive force in telecommunications. However, today's Internet is only a precursor to the new competitive forces that are likely to emerge in the next 5 to 10 years in the new "communications and information sector" which will result from technological convergence.

12. The essential lesson to be learned from the Internet phenomenon is that competition is no longer a public policy tool which can be introduced in a completely controlled fashion and regulated within the confines of the traditional telecommunication sector. Competition in telecommunications is rapidly becoming a true market force whose evolution cannot be planned by policy-makers, a force which increasingly is seen as best regulated on the basis of principles that are not specific to telecommunications, but derived from a broader economic, social and cultural perspective.

13. Although far from universally accepted, the sweeping changes in telecommunications described above have broad support among many countries, including a number of developing countries who see it as the best way forward in developing their telecommunication networks and services to the benefit of their overall economic and social development.

14. The liberalization of telecommunications does not mean an end to regulation - but it has changed both the role of government and the nature of telecommunication regulation:

14.1 In the past, most ITU administrations tended to be "all-purpose" creatures - policy-makers and operators which both provided and regulated telecommunications on the basis of a "public utility" model.

14.2 The liberalization of telecommunications has been accompanied by a separation of these functions. The trend now is for ITU administrations to be policy-makers, nested within a general department of government (e.g. industry and trade); for telecommunications to be operated by corporations - whether public, private or mixed; and for "the public interest" in telecommunications to be protected by an independent regulatory authority.

14.3 In countries that have introduced partial or full competition, the model for regulating telecommunications is changing. Principles derived from competition law are taking their place alongside the classical precepts of public utility regulation. In some jurisdictions, sector-specific telecommunication regulation has been abandoned.

- 14.4 Again, the WTO agreement will amplify these regulatory trends. More than 60 signatories accounting for more than 90% of global telecommunication revenues have made commitments to apply in whole or in part a set of regulatory principles including interconnection, transparency and anti-competitive safeguards. These regulatory commitments, and indeed all other commitments, are subject to the WTO dispute resolution mechanism. They are therefore more than a voluntary code of conduct. They are binding commitments which are enforceable under the WTO dispute resolution mechanism.
15. In the 1999-2003 planning period, it is likely that the trends noted above with respect to liberalization, competition and globalization will begin to combine in new ways that may ultimately change the way the telecommunication industry sees itself and is seen by its regulator(s) and customers.
- 15.1 Countries that began permitting competition in telecommunications 10 or 20 years ago generally introduced it in a planned and orderly manner: first in terminal equipment; then in value-added services; then in the long-distance service; and finally in local and international services. In addition, competition was generally permitted among different service providers using the same infrastructure before being allowed between different infrastructure providers. Even today, most countries that permit competition do so on a highly regulated basis.
- 15.2 In this environment the regulator must implement competitive safeguards, nurture competition, ensure interconnection/interoperability and ensure broad and affordable access to necessary services.
- 15.3 As a result of technological progress, convergence and market liberalization, countries only now beginning to introduce competition are less likely to be in a position to plan an evolution of this kind.
- 15.4 Even in those countries that have experience with competition, service providers and regulators which have based their respective plans on an orderly evolution of this kind are finding that the "rules of the game" are suddenly changing, that competition is coming from unforeseen directions, and that it cannot be regulated as it was in the past.
- 15.5 More than any other phenomenon, the Internet symbolizes the changing nature of telecommunications. It is based on different technologies, network architectures, standardization and addressing schemes. Its economic foundations and charging principles are diametrically opposed to those of public telecommunication operators. It has experienced phenomenal growth and it has largely been outside government regulation. Yet it is emerging as a serious alternative to the traditional services provided by the telecommunication industry in every market segment from intra-corporate communications to public voice.
16. From one point of view, encouraging progress has been made in the 1995-1999 period in certain countries and some regions in forging the "missing link" identified by the Maitland Commission. Overall, the gap between developed and developing countries in access to basic telecommunication services is closing. However, from other points of view, new gaps are beginning to appear:
- 16.1 In general, the majority of the least developed countries (LDCs) have made little progress in the past five years in closing the gap in access to basic telecommunication services. In some cases, teledensity (the number of telephone lines per 100 people) has

fallen, as population growth has outstripped telecommunication growth. New technologies such as global mobile personal communications by satellite (GMPCS) may help close the "telecommunication gap". This will only be possible, however, if their services are affordable to inhabitants of the LDCs.

- 16.2 There is currently an enormous gap between developed and developing countries in access to the Internet. Even as the telecommunication gap which has preoccupied the Union for so many years is beginning to close, an "information gap" of even greater proportions is opening up.
- 16.3 A difference in regulatory practices is emerging between countries which have decided to liberalize their telecommunication markets under the WTO agreements, and those that have not. If competition brings the first group of countries the anticipated benefits in terms of investment, technology transfer, innovative services and lower prices, these regulatory differences may become a new development gap. In this regard, it is important to recall that although the 119 ITU Member States that are not yet part of the WTO basic telecommunications agreement generate less than 10% of global telecommunication revenues, they include more than 45% of the world's people.

17. On the eve of the 21st century, the Union thus finds itself in a dynamic situation. On the one hand, the goal established by the Maitland Commission of achieving universal access to basic telecommunications will be technically achieved, and the overall gap between developed and developing countries is steadily narrowing. However, at the same time, new differences are developing, for example within the developing world, between the LDCs and other developing countries, between liberalized and non-liberalized countries which may be either developed or developing, and between countries that are moving rapidly towards competition and those moving at a slower pace.

18. This raises important questions in relation to the vision of the global information society (GIS). This vision was the subject of considerable discussion during the 1995-1999 period, initially in the G-7 group of advanced industrial economies, then in the broader international community. Today, the basic ideas behind the concept of the GIS have been broadly accepted and indeed endorsed. In this vision, all forms of economic, social, cultural and political activity will increasingly depend on access to the telecommunication and information services provided by the global information infrastructure (GII). The rapid development of electronic commerce on the Internet is one tangible example of how the GIS is becoming a reality. The challenge facing the international community is to find ways to ensure that the GIS is truly global, and that people everywhere are able to share in its benefits.

B. Impact on ITU

19. As a result of these trends and developments, demand for the products and services provided by ITU has risen in the 1995-1999 period and is expected to continue to rise in the 1999-2003 time-frame. This is the case for the services provided to the ITU membership (e.g. meetings, recommendations, assistance in applying regulations, frequency and number registrations, technical and development assistance) as well as those provided to the international telecommunication community as a whole (e.g. exhibitions, forums, development indicators, trend reports, information services).

20. One of the most important strategic issues facing the Union in the 1999-2003 period is how to respond to these rising demands:
- 20.1 The ITU functions within the framework of the United Nations common system. Since the ITU budget has been based on "zero growth" for a number of years, it has only been possible to respond to increased demand for products and services through productivity improvements. Further improvements can and will continue to be made.
 - 20.2 The 1995-1999 strategic plan noted that assessed contributions from Member States had "reached a plateau; income from these sources appears unlikely to grow dramatically and may begin to decline". Four years later, it is clear that this was an accurate assessment. This is the financial reality the membership faces in preparing a strategic and financial plan for 1999-2003.
 - 20.3 While unquestioned, the intergovernmental nature of ITU is acknowledged by Member States and Sector Members alike as placing certain limits on enhancing Sector Members' rights and obligations. It does limit the role of Sector Members in decision-making, and although Sector Member rights have been somewhat enhanced, the intergovernmental nature of ITU might limit Sector Members' willingness to make increased financial contributions which they cannot control. Implementation of recommendations deriving from Resolution 15 (Kyoto, 1994) and Resolution 39 (Kyoto, 1994) can lessen these constraints and facilitate cooperation between Member States and Sector Members.
 - 20.4 The solution to strengthening the Union lies in treating the Sector Members more as partners in appropriate work of the Union. The Union will have to see itself as seeking to satisfy the needs of its customers by providing products and services of superior value in a competitive environment. Many Sector Members have had to transform their organizational cultures in this fashion, and it is natural that they will expect to see similar changes in the Union.
 - 20.5 Another factor affecting the future effectiveness of the Union is the process of decision-making. Even as ITU has supported some improvements during 1995-1999, including the use of web technology, advanced electronic communication and document exchange facilities, the number of ITU meetings, meeting days, participants and pages of documents produced per meeting has continued to grow. That the membership has turned to ITU to satisfy their diverse needs should be seen as an indication of the value that can be provided by the Union. Therefore, appropriate changes in the working methods are required, along with financial responsibility based on a transparent budget process and generally accepted accounting principles.
21. There are clearly major challenges facing the Union as it seeks to respond to rising demand for its products and services. However, each of these challenges has a positive side which provides an opportunity to build on ITU's "core competencies":
- 21.1 The Union is an acknowledged leader in the movement to reform international organizations by enhancing the participation of non-government players, increasing efficiency, and adopting innovative approaches to achieving its purposes.
 - 21.2 The Union has a comprehensive membership and "high approval rating" among the members of the international telecommunication community. The vast majority of the Union's Member States freely choose to contribute more than they would if they were assessed under some measure such as GDP or teledensity. And during the 1995-1999 period, Sector membership almost doubled as new players on the international

telecommunication scene and companies from convergent industries were added to the ranks of established players.

- 21.3 Member States, Sector Members and the international community have shown a continuing willingness to pay for many ITU products and services. Demand has remained strong for established publications and TELECOM events. In addition, customers have responded well to the innovative range of ITU information products and services which have been introduced in the past four years.
- 21.4 In every major test of its decision-making ability in the 1995-1999 period, the Union has been able to respond with activities that have led to beneficial results for all concerned.
22. The strategic challenge facing the Union in the 1999-2003 time-frame is to remain a pre-eminent international forum where Member States and Sector Members work together to enable the development of telecommunication networks and to facilitate universal access to communication and information services, so that people everywhere can participate in and benefit from the global information economy and society.

III. General Goals, Strategies and Priorities

23. The purposes of the Union are achieved through the activities of its three Sectors, through the Sector conferences and assemblies, and through general-purpose activities such as the Plenipotentiary Conference, the World Conference on International Telecommunications and the Council, as well as the World Telecommunication Policy Forum and TELECOM exhibitions and forums.
24. The ITU is a federal organization. Although financial resources are centrally controlled, each Sector has its own "governance structure" which defines the goals, strategies and activities necessary to achieve its mission in a given period of time. However, just as the purposes of the Union set out in Article 1 of the Constitution apply to all Sectors, so they share a number of strategic orientations and goals.

C. Strategic Orientations

25. "Strategic orientations" are principles intended to provide coherence, focus and direction to all of the activities undertaken by the Union. It is impossible to forecast the future completely in the rapidly changing telecommunication environment and to plan for every contingency. Strategic orientations therefore help to ensure consistency of purpose and action in the face of inevitable uncertainty.
26. The following strategic orientations are proposed for the 1999-2003 strategic plan. They build on the experience of the 1995-1999 period, particularly the results of implementation of Resolution 15 (Kyoto, 1994) and Resolution 39 (Kyoto, 1994), and they seek to apply that experience to the anticipated requirements of the new environment analysed in part II of this document, in addition to encouraging development of access to basic telecommunication and information services:
- 26.1 *improve customer service* - by identifying the specific needs of the Union's membership and other customers, establishing priorities, and providing the highest quality of service possible with available resources;

- 26.2 **innovate** - by continuing to develop new activities, products and services under the supervision of the Member States and Sector Members and in accordance with their agreed needs;
- 26.3 **strengthen the Union's financial foundations** - by determining and applying appropriate funding mechanisms for ITU activities, products and services (e.g. assessed contribution based on free choice of contributory unit, voluntary contribution, partial or full cost recovery, revenue generation), together with transparent budgetary measures;
- 26.4 **enhance participation by Sector Members** - by implementing the recommendations deriving from Resolution 15 (Kyoto, 1994) and Resolution 39 (Kyoto, 1994) as quickly and fully as possible, and by actively marketing ITU membership to all entities and organizations with a potential interest in participating actively in the work of the Union;
- 26.5 **establish partnerships** - by concluding a range of formal and informal cooperation agreements with other intergovernmental organizations and with other organizations at the national and regional levels, including non-governmental organizations (NGOs), in cases where such cooperation would further the purposes of the Union based upon the identification of specific subjects for cooperation;
- 26.6 **maintain solidarity** - between the ITU's Member States and Sector Members in partnership in pursuit of the purposes of the Union;
- 26.7 **inform** - by sharing and disseminating information related to the development of economically efficient public telecommunications;
- 26.8 **promote the principle and implementation of a competitive telecommunication environment** - by encouraging flexible regulatory systems that provide for a variety of telecommunication services;
- 26.9 produce Recommendations in timely response to market demand - by streamlining development and approval procedures by each Sector, as appropriate.

D. Goals and Priorities

27. In addition to these strategic orientations, the Sectors of the Union share a number of goals for the 1999-2003 period, and will undertake priority actions to achieve these goals.

D.1 Goal 1 - Strengthen the multilateral foundations of international telecommunications

28. The trends and developments analysed in part II of this document illustrate the multilateral nature of key ITU activities. Since the most basic purpose of the Union is to maintain and extend international cooperation between all its members for the improvement and rational use of telecommunications, the central goal of the Union's strategy must be to take this into account and strengthen multilateral cooperation in areas where its effectiveness may be in question. To this end, the following priority actions are proposed:

28.1 ITU-R

- Considering the implications of the large increase in workload for preparation of, participation in and follow-up work of WRCs, and taking appropriate action.
- Further enhancing the structure of ITU-R through clarification of the roles of the RAG, RA and WRC, and in particular establishing clearer linkages between advisory, decision-making and budgetary responsibilities.

28.2 ITU-T

- Producing high-quality Recommendations quickly in response to market demands.
- Broadening participation and enhancing involvement by non-administration entities in the Sector's standardization process.
- Developing Recommendations to achieve accounting rate reform and proposing means to encourage their implementation.

28.3 ITU-D

- Developing new approaches to the provision of multilateral telecommunication assistance, *inter alia* by building partnerships for telecommunication development in priority areas, with special emphasis on telecommunication sector restructuring, regulatory reform, finance and resource mobilization, technology applications and human resource development.

28.4 General activities

- Developing the World Telecommunication Policy Forum (WTPF) as a forum convened on an ad hoc basis for developing a non-binding shared vision on cross-Sectoral policy issues.
- Where agreed by the membership, developing innovative mechanisms for international cooperation outside the formal structures defined in the Constitution and Convention (e.g. MoUs).
- Deciding on the need to revise the International Telecommunication Regulations (ITR) to take account of developments in the telecommunication environment, particularly the WTO agreements.
- Extending cooperative participation to an increasing number of administrations and organizations, by encouraging the participation of Member States not currently active in ITU activities, encouraging and facilitating the participation of additional entities and organizations, including small or narrowly-focused entities, and increasing coordination and cooperation with other relevant international and regional organizations.

D.2 Goal 2 - In addition to development of access to basic telecommunication and information services, promote global connectivity to the global information infrastructure (GII) and global participation in the global information society (GIS)

29. The vision of the GIS will become a reality only if the networks and services of the converging telecommunication and information industries are able to interconnect and interwork seamlessly, and if they are accessible to people everywhere at affordable rates. Facilitating development of the GII and promoting universal access to basic telecommunication and information services is a goal that unites all ITU Sectors. Priority actions proposed for 1999-2003 include:

29.1 ITU-R

- Accommodating the global and regional spectrum requirements of innovative telecommunication and information services.

29.2 ITU-T

- Developing Recommendations for new technologies and applications such as appropriate aspects of the GII and global multimedia and mobility.

29.3 ITU-D

- Promoting the development, expansion and operation of telecommunication networks and services, particularly in developing countries, taking into account the activities of other relevant bodies, with universal access as the objective.
- Developing and/or sponsoring projects designed to connect developing countries to the GII (e.g. Africa ONE, Internet access).
- Promoting the development of technology applications (e.g. tele-health, tele-education, electronic commerce, environmental protection, disaster relief) in cooperation with other international and regional organizations and NGOs.

29.4 General activities

- Connecting ITU Member States, Sector Members and other members of the international telecommunity to the Union's information resources and to each other through an "ITU-II" (ITU information infrastructure), to help them develop the GII in their own areas of responsibility.
- Pursuing implementation of the United Nations system-wide project on universal access to basic communication and information services - the "right to communicate".
- Facilitate access to telecommunications through the promotion of cost effective technologies and low price services to end users, that comply with standards and quality requirements.

D.3 Goal 3 - Coordinate international action to manage scarce telecommunication resources

30. Although we are living in an era of technological abundance, some communication resources remain scarce. The coordination of international action to manage resources such as the radio-frequency spectrum, satellite orbital positions and telecommunication numbers is a well-established and core role of ITU. In addition, human resources and information are becoming recognized as scarce resources of a different kind that are critical to developing countries in the new environment. The following priority actions are therefore proposed for 1999-2003:

30.1 ITU-R

- Improving the frequency coordination and planning framework for satellite networks.

30.2 ITU-T

- Developing and implementing administrative procedures for numbering plans for international networks and services.

30.3 ITU-D

- Contributing to and coordinating actions between Member States and Sector Members aimed at developing human resources, especially in the associated regulatory and economic domains.

30.4 General activities

- Serving as the depository of cooperative international arrangements consistent with the purposes of ITU.

D.4 Goal 4 - Encourage and enable Member States, especially developing countries, to draw maximum benefit from technical, financial and regulatory changes in the telecommunication environment

31. As indicated in part II, the current telecommunication environment is a dynamic one, characterized by rapid technological progress but also by emerging differences, for example within the developing countries, between liberalized and non-liberalized countries, and between countries that are moving more rapidly towards competition and those moving at a slower pace. Countries will be assisted in adapting to this environment if they have available good information not only on the global environment but also on the issues and options they face. Each ITU Sector, and ITU as a whole, has a role to play in providing this information. The following priority actions are therefore proposed for 1999-2003:

31.1 ITU-R

- Providing assistance to all Member States, and especially the developing countries, through the dissemination of information and know-how, in particular on spectrum management.

31.2 ITU-T

- Producing Recommendations responding to technological developments, in accordance with the priorities shown in § 41 below.
- Working with BDT with special attention to telecommunication development in developing countries, and cooperating with the other Sectors in the organization of information meetings, seminars and workshops, and in the development of case studies, guidelines and handbooks.

31.3 ITU-D

- Continuing to develop the telecommunication indicators and regulatory databases, and to add value to the information they contain through partnerships with other Sectors and organizations.
- Assisting developing countries in addressing policy and regulatory issues arising from the liberalization, convergence and globalization of telecommunications, while taking account of the GATS principles inherent in the WTO basic telecommunication agreement and Reference Paper (e.g. through studies, workshops, missions and cooperative mechanisms).
- Providing information about mechanisms for financing telecommunication development and assisting developing countries with the mobilization of resources for telecommunication investment.
- Disseminating information about ITU-R and ITU-T activities that are of particular importance for developing countries.

31.4 General activities

- Providing opportunities for the sharing of information and experience regarding relevant issues, such as convergence, globalization, regulatory principles and universal service, and regarding benefits to the public interest, investors and the national economy.
- Assisting countries most in need to draw maximum benefit from technical, financial and regulatory changes in the telecommunication environment.

D.5 Goal 5 - Improve the efficiency and effectiveness of Union structures, activities and processes

32. To remain a pre-eminent international and market-relevant focal point for matters related to the rapidly changing telecommunication environment, ITU must regularly review and, as appropriate, update its structure, activities and processes, ensuring that they are effective and efficient in the light of the current needs of its membership. To this end, the following items are proposed for 1999-2003:

32.1 ITU-R

- Fostering the cost effective processing of information received from administrations in the application of the provisions of the Radio Regulations, the orderly recording and registration of frequency assignments and orbital positions and the development of Recommendations, handbooks and other relevant outputs in a rapidly changing environment, while continuing to evaluate Sector structure, activities and processes with a view to remaining effective and efficient.

32.2 ITU-T

- Continuing to improve the working methods of the Sector, including the accelerated development of Recommendations, the fostering of cooperative relationships with other relevant standardization organizations and the increased use both of EDH and project teams (see § 41 below).
- Assisting in developing, for the Telecommunication Standardization Sector, an open and transparent "bottom up" budget proposal that incorporates financial management principles and techniques, including cost recovery as appropriate.

32.3 ITU-D

- Strengthening BDT's advisory capabilities through redistribution of its resources, to respond to requests in priority areas such as international agreements and national regulation, tariffs and finance, new and convergent technologies and the feasibility stage of negotiations.
- Developing its catalytic role in encouraging all actors, including global, regional and national organizations, to work together in assisting developing countries in their development and reform process as well as in their adaptation to the liberalized market.
- Strengthening regional presence by increasing the decentralization of functions and authority to field offices and by strengthening the coordination functions of headquarters.

32.4 General activities

- Increasing the use of modern methods of telecommunication, including electronic handling of submissions to ITU such as frequency and orbit notifications/registrations, and providing information to its customers.
- Streamlining the development, approval and publication processes for Recommendations in each Sector, as appropriate.
- Increasing the use of task-oriented activities using the working methods agreed to in each Sector, such as rapporteur, focus and correspondence groups, while ensuring transparency.

- Developing a clear, transparent budget, encouraging each Sector and the General Secretariat to develop "bottom up" budgets, and working to implement cost recovery, as appropriate.
- Improving the financial accountability of activities within ITU by more clearly linking costs with the related activity through annual Sector operational and financial plans consistent with the biennial budget.

IV. Goals, Strategies and Priorities for the Sectors

E. Radiocommunication Sector (ITU-R)

E.1 The Radiocommunication Sector mission

33. Under the provisions of the Constitution and Convention (Geneva, 1992), the mission of the ITU Radiocommunication Sector is, inter alia, to ensure rational, equitable, efficient and economical use of the radio-frequency spectrum by all radiocommunication services, including those using satellite orbits, and to carry out studies and adopt Recommendations on radiocommunication matters.

E.2 The Radiocommunication Sector environment

34. This mission is to be undertaken in an environment that is characterized by:
- Growing recognition of the economic value of frequency spectrum and the application of economic principles in the management of that resource, recognizing the rapid market-driven and user-oriented technological development.
 - The ever increasing demand for the limited radio-frequency spectrum for space and terrestrial radiocommunication systems.
 - The growing role of regional organizations and private-sector activities in a liberalized environment.
 - The limited financial resources available to support the Sector's activities.
 - Growing convergence among many radio services, integration with wired telecommunication services and converging terrestrial and satellite applications.
 - Increased interest, in particular on the part of the developing countries, in:
 - access to the radiocommunication spectrum and the geostationary and non-geostationary satellite orbit in support of their national requirements;
 - worldwide radiocommunication system standards to achieve overall system economy;
 - handbooks;
 - the rapid technological development and widespread application of digital techniques to most space and terrestrial systems, including mobile communications and new television and sound broadcasting systems.

E.3 The Radiocommunication Sector strategic objectives

35. Within its overall mission, the strategic objectives of ITU-R are to carry out the functions laid down in the Constitution and Convention, and specifically, in the period 1999-2003:

- to maintain and enhance the relevance of ITU-R in the efficient management of the usable radio-frequency spectrum, free from harmful interference, and to ensure that the Radio Regulations and the rights of Member States are respected;
- to continue developing enhanced criteria for frequency sharing and coordination of new and existing systems in both space and terrestrial environments, with a view to increasing the efficiency of use of the usable frequency spectrum;
- to continue improving the working methods and cost-effective operation of ITU-R in a flexible organizational structure; to aim at more efficient and more clearly defined roles of the RAG, radiocommunication assemblies and radiocommunication conferences to ensure clear linkages between advisory, decision-making and budgetary responsibilities as new and more efficient working methods evolve; and to further develop the Sector's quality of service and enhance its use of electronic document handling;
- to ensure that the Radio Regulations Board carries out its functions, particularly those concerning the application of the Radio Regulations, in a manner which maintains the confidence of Member States;
- to undertake, in project teams, the study of approved Questions limited in scope and time, as appropriate; and urgent studies decided by WRCs, in preparation for future WRCs;
- in close collaboration with ITU-D and ITU-T, as appropriate, to assist developing countries in spectrum management and disseminate information and know-how through information meetings, seminars, handbooks and the provision of tools for automated spectrum management;
- to provide information on widely accepted spectrum management concepts and related regulatory frameworks, particularly with a view to assisting developing countries, and to assist in the application of relevant ITU-R Recommendations providing guidance on the most economical and timely implementation of radiocommunication systems;
- to issue Recommendations on, *inter alia*, the characteristics and performance of radio systems;
- to implement efficient measures to promote broader participation by Member States, particularly developing countries, and Sector Members in all ITU-R activities.

E.4 Priorities of the Radiocommunication Sector

36. The priorities of the Radiocommunication Sector for 1999-2003, in addition to those that may be identified by future conferences, are:

- to review the world radiocommunication conference process to ensure that it is effective and efficient, that the agendas developed do not unduly burden Member States and Sector Members and consequently burden Secretariat resources, and that the intervals between conferences are appropriate;
- to accommodate the global and regional spectrum requirements of innovative services that will provide communication and information services "any time, any place" (e.g. GMPCS, IMT-2000 and high altitude platform stations, all of which include

innovative terrestrial and space applications), by the appropriate consideration of such matters at WRCs and by issuing appropriate Recommendations to facilitate their development and implementation;

- to study and apply, as appropriate, improved international spectrum management techniques;
- to facilitate timely coordination between new and existing active and passive systems in both space and terrestrial environments and to develop spectrum regulation initiatives to better harmonize frequency allocations and the use of satellite orbits, while continuing work to improve the frequency coordination and planning process for satellite networks;
- to expand the assistance offered to Member States in coordinating and registering frequency assignments and in applying the Radio Regulations, with special attention to developing countries and Member States that have recently joined the Union;
- to collaborate as needed with ITU-T and ITU-D and the General Secretariat to ensure that studies are appropriately coordinated and that no duplication of work occurs;
- to provide assistance to the Telecommunication Development Bureau (BDT) for the introduction of modern radio systems in developing countries, particularly in rural areas, conduct information meetings and world and regional seminars and give assistance to Member States, with special attention to developing countries, e.g. through the development of handbooks;
- in improving the working methods of the Sector, to strive for:
 - greater use of user-friendly document exchange capabilities;
 - the accelerated development of Recommendations and improvement in publication mechanisms (reduction of unit cost and time taken to publish, wider distribution and greater electronic availability);
 - increased use of information technology for the notification and processing of frequency assignments;
 - a flexible organizational structure in the Radiocommunication Bureau (BR) with special attention to the training and development of the Bureau's staff;
 - periodic study group reviews of work programmes to re-establish priorities and improve effectiveness;
- to encourage greater participation by Member States, Sector Members and other organizations in ITU-R activities, *inter alia* by concluding formal and informal task-oriented cooperation arrangements.

F. Telecommunication Standardization Sector (ITU-T)

F.1 The Telecommunication Standardization Sector mission

37. Under the provisions of the Constitution and Convention (Geneva, 1992), the mission of the ITU Telecommunication Standardization Sector is to fulfil the purposes of the Union relating to telecommunication standardization by studying technical, operating and tariff questions and adopting Recommendations on them with a view to standardizing telecommunications on a worldwide basis.

38. Taking account of rapid change in the telecommunication environment, the mission of the Telecommunication Standardization Sector for the period of 1999-2003 will include:

- maintaining and strengthening its pre-eminence in international telecommunication standardization by developing Recommendations rapidly, for example through increased Sector Member participation and use in appropriate cases of a faster alternative approval process;
- developing Recommendations that acknowledge market- and trade-related considerations;
- playing a leading role in the promotion of cooperation among international and regional standardization organizations and forums and consortia concerned with telecommunications;
- addressing important issues related to changes due to competition, tariff principles and accounting practices; and
- developing Recommendations for new technologies and applications such as appropriate aspects of the GII and global multimedia and mobility.

F.2 The Telecommunication Standardization Sector environment

39. The mission is to be undertaken in an environment characterized by:

- rapid technological change and shortened innovation cycles, development and convergence of telecommunication, broadcasting, computer and information technology, and growth of new products and services;
- a worldwide trend towards a "market-driven" approach to standardization, with an emphasis on rapid implementation of high quality Recommendations;
- an era of explosive growth in worldwide information transfer;
- the changing role of governments, and the increased involvement of Sector Members, in the standardization process;
- the strong influence of relevant regional standardization organizations and forums and consortia;
- an increased number of network operators and service providers due to deregulation and/or privatization;
- increasing privatization and heightened competition between and among network operators, service providers and equipment suppliers;
- increasing number of global telecommunication operators, systems and alliances;
- greatly increasing demand of developing countries for infrastructure development;
- potential changes to the financial resources available to support Sector activities.

F.3 The Telecommunication Standardization Sector objectives

40. The overall mission of the Telecommunication Standardization Sector can be realized by targeting the following strategic objectives in ITU-T activities:

- to produce high-quality Recommendations quickly in response to market demands;
- to broaden participation and enhance involvement by non-administration entities in the Sector's standardization process;

- to enhance Sector Member participation in the standardization process, including their involvement in appropriate decision-making;
- to continue to improve the working methods of ITU-T, including the improved and accelerated development and approval of Recommendations;
- to develop appropriate arrangements and cooperative relationships with regional and national standardization organizations and forums and consortia;
- to respond to the impacts of increased privatization and competition in network operation and service provision, and to the reforms in the accounting rate system;
- to encourage the participation of developing countries in telecommunication standardization activities;
- to encourage cooperation with the Telecommunication Development Sector through timely responses to relevant requests;
- to actively involve TSAG in financial aspects of the Telecommunication Standardization Sector.

F.4 Priorities of the Telecommunication Standardization Sector

41. The priorities of the Telecommunication Standardization Sector for 1999-2003, in addition to those that may be identified by future conferences, are:

- to produce Recommendations responding to technological developments, including Recommendations:
 - covering IP (Internet Protocol)-related aspects as well as the interoperability and convergence of IP-based networks, the Internet, with existing network infrastructures;
 - covering the multimedia applications arising from the convergence of telecommunication, broadcasting, computer and information technology;
 - covering the further evolution of network infrastructures, for example in the areas of network access, signalling and control, interfaces, security and optical networking;
 - facilitating the interworking of global personal radiocommunication systems with public telecommunication networks;
 - facilitating the integration of existing and new transmission media in public networks, in cooperation with ITU-R for radio transmission aspects;
- to continue to improve the working methods of the Sector through the:
 - accelerated development of Recommendations to keep pace with rapid technical progress and market demand;
 - fostering of cooperative relationships with other relevant standardization organizations and with forums and consortia to avoid duplication of work, identify gaps in work programmes and encourage work sharing where possible;
 - increased use of electronic document handling (EDH) techniques to increase efficiency and productivity;
 - greater use of project teams for the study of urgent issues in a relatively short time-frame;

- to develop Recommendations to achieve accounting rate reform and to propose means to encourage their implementation;
- to work with BDT with special attention to telecommunication development in developing countries, and to cooperate with the other Sectors in the organization of information meetings, seminars and workshops and in the development of case studies, guidelines and handbooks;
- to assist in developing for ITU-T an open and transparent "bottom up" budget proposal that incorporates financial management principles and techniques, including cost recovery as appropriate.

G. Telecommunication Development Sector (ITU-D)

G.1 The Development Sector mission

42. The mission of the Development Sector, as set out in the Constitution and the Convention, encompasses the Union's dual responsibility as a United Nations specialized agency and executing agency for implementing projects under the United Nations development system or other funding arrangements, so as to facilitate and enhance telecommunication development by offering, organizing and coordinating technical cooperation and assistance activities.

The work of ITU-D will reflect the various resolutions of the world telecommunication development conference. It will place emphasis on gender balance in its programmes and will reflect the needs of other aspects of global society such as youth and the needs of indigenous peoples. Emergency telecommunications is another area where renewed efforts are required. Collaboration with the private sector should be more clearly defined and expanded so as to reflect the changing roles of public and private entities in the telecommunication sector. The "Year 2000" problem should be urgently addressed. ITU-D should also use the mechanisms for advancing Sector goals included in Opinion B of the World Telecommunication Policy Forum (Geneva, 1998) and the opportunities provided by the ITU programme funded by the surplus funds from TELECOM exhibitions.

In fulfilling its mission, ITU-D will cover the five major areas of telecommunication development: ***telecommunication sector reform, technologies, management, finance and human resources***. It is supported by the four main modes of action by which the Sector carries out its work: ***direct assistance (including project execution), resource development and mobilization, partnerships and information sharing***, which are reflected in the organizational structure of BDT.

G.2 The Telecommunication Development Sector environment

43. The telecommunication development environment is characterized by the following features:

- The restructuring and liberalization of the telecommunication sector at the national and international level, and the three agreements on basic telecommunications services, financial services and information, technology products concluded through the World Trade Organization, have increasing consequences for the provision of international and national telecommunication services. Competition is rapidly becoming the rule rather than the exception.
- The above factors are straining the accounting rate system beyond its limits, calling for a rapid revision of accounting rates and causing major changes in traditional income flows which are of critical importance to certain countries.

- While the development gap has narrowed slightly in terms of access to basic telephone services, it is widening at a fast rate for advanced telecommunication services and access to information.
- However, the emergence of a global information society is creating new opportunities to close the gap. Political, technical and cultural factors are combining to promote these opportunities.
- The rapid development of telecommunications in some countries is associated with general economic growth, particularly where some form of restructuring, liberalization and competition is introduced; however, other countries witness modest and uneven progress.
- Many different development players, including non-governmental organizations (NGOs), are invited to play a more important role.
- Business practices, including development activities, are being revolutionized by information and communication technologies. This can be expected to have a significant impact on telecommunication development activities such as planning and training.
- Technology-based convergence of telecommunications, informatics and mass media offers new opportunities for cooperation between the formerly different parts of the telecommunication sector.
- Due to increased emphasis on policy and regulatory frameworks that create open markets and encourage private investment, both domestic and foreign, development programmes rely less on technical assistance and more on partnerships and trade agreements. Private capital flows in several countries now exceed official development aid resources, but in others concessional finance is required to meet development needs.
- Limited funds available to ITU, as compared with developing country needs, require ITU to play a catalytic development role. This envisioned catalytic role of ITU is developed further below.

G.3 The Development Sector strategy

44. The following points define a strategy for the Development Sector that is consistent with its mission and the changing telecommunication environment. ITU-D will:

- pay special attention to the requirements of the developing countries, with particular emphasis on the least developed among them, and the need for well-differentiated and tailored responses to situations arising in transition economies, countries affected by conflicts or natural disasters, etc.;
- work with governments to assist them in establishing appropriate telecommunication policies and regulatory structures. Strategies for the development of telecommunications may be fostered by liberalization, private investment and competition in appropriate circumstances. The goal of these policies and structures should be to:
 - create a stable and transparent environment to attract investment and guarantee the rights of users, operators and investors;
 - facilitate access of service providers to the telecommunication network within a framework that promotes fair competition while protecting network integrity;

- ensure the provision of universal access and universal service, promoting innovation and the introduction of new services and technologies to unserved and under-served users;
- promote partnerships and cooperation between telecommunication entities in developing and developed countries, and with appropriate international institutions, consistent with their respective interests;
- play a creative catalytic role in identifying and providing resource support, in the new telecommunication environment, to help meet the requirements of developing countries in close collaboration with global, regional and national organizations and agencies and the private sector;
- maintain close cooperation with ITU-R and ITU-T reflecting the significant role played by those two Sectors in telecommunication development;
- include matters pertaining to information technology and broadcasting in its activities, as key factors in promoting economic, social and cultural development;
- promote training in human resources development and human resources management in order to meet the challenges of the rapidly changing telecommunication environment;
- seek innovative ways to rationalize its internal costs, optimize its resources and improve efficiency.

G.4 Priorities of the Development Sector

45. The experience of four successful years has given the Development Sector a solid basis from which to forecast the following priorities for 1999-2003:

- respond effectively, rapidly and in a flexible way to requests for direct assistance from developing countries, including through the use of a significant part of TELECOM surplus funds, primarily for LDCs;
- develop and mobilize resources, including human and financial, technology, HRD/HRM tools and systems, information and expertise for telecommunication development;
- create partnership arrangements that benefit all parties, avoiding purely commercial approaches and concentrating on long-term benefits (as opposed to short-term gains):
 - by establishing strategic alliances and cooperation agreements with other concerned international and regional organizations;
 - by taking the initiative to acquaint ministries responsible for agriculture, health, education, transport, industry, human settlement, trade and transfer of information with the role of telecommunications for social welfare and general economic and social progress, in particular with the work of the Union in rural and remote areas;
 - by inviting relevant bilateral development and donor agencies to join the activities of the ITU in order to cooperate within the Sector to maximize synergistic efforts toward sustainable universal access to telecommunication services;
- promote partnership arrangements in and between the public and private sectors in both developed and developing countries;
- strengthen the ITU regional presence and enhance collaboration with regional and subregional telecommunication organizations, including broadcasting organizations;

- collaborate with the private sector in implementing the Valletta Action Plan, including partnerships with related entities in developing countries;
- improve the working methods of the Sector, to strive for:
 - greater use of user-friendly document exchange capabilities;
 - greater participation by Sector Members and other organizations in ITU-D activities;
 - the accelerated development of outputs and improvement of publication mechanisms, in particular through the wider use of information technology;
 - a flexible organizational structure in the Bureau, with special attention to the training and development of BDT staff.

46. During the period 1999-2003, the strategic processes of the Development Sector will incorporate all resolutions and recommendations adopted by WTDC-98, as well as all other relevant ITU resolutions and recommendations of ITU conferences.

ANNEX 2

Goals, strategies and priorities for the General Secretariat and three Bureaux

A. The Secretariat Mission

47. The mission of the secretariat (meaning the General Secretariat and the three Bureaux) is to provide high quality, efficient services to the Union's membership and customers in response to the needs they have identified and within the limits of the resources made available by the membership.

B. The Secretariat Environment

48. The secretariat shares the environmental challenges, constraints and opportunities identified in part II above. The main challenge it faces is to maintain established standards of quality and efficiency while responding to steadily increasing service demands in an environment characterized by:

- "zero-growth" in the financial resources derived from assessed contributions which finance the bulk of the Union's activities;
- organizational and managerial rules derived from the United Nations common system;
- a situation in which any significant undertaking beyond the responsibilities outlined in the Convention should be identified, approved specifically by the Council in advance and coordinated with the membership.

C. Goals for Improved Management of the Secretariat

49. To address these challenges, the secretariat should follow these strategic objectives:

49.1 Efficiency, transparency, openness, customer service and effectiveness.

49.2 Quick, efficient and high-quality response to membership needs.

49.3 Create conditions that would enable development of:

- a shared view of the ITU's fundamental purposes;
- a common understanding of the priorities of the Union as they may change from time to time;
- a willingness and a capacity to act in concert, supporting one another in the achievement of departmental and organizational objectives;
- a common organizational culture;
- a customer orientation that includes responsiveness, efficiency, flexibility and accountability.

49.4 Instil an organizational climate:

- that is representative of diversity of cultures, backgrounds, opinions and values;
- that supports risk taking;
- in which delegation is encouraged and responsibility accepted;
- in which communication and information flow are facilitated;

- in which committees are properly used and decisions are taken by appropriate managers;
- in which managers exercise flexibility and rules are used not to inhibit but to facilitate.

49.5 Build essential skills so that staff acquire the required competencies:

- to exercise good interpersonal skills;
- to function effectively in ambiguous situations;
- to manage resources for the achievement of results.

49.6 Set objectives that move the organization forward in a time of great change so that:

- all staff are evaluated and rewarded for the achievement of agreed objectives;
- staff anticipate and manage change.

D. Priorities of the Secretariat

50. To achieve the above strategic objectives, the following priorities have been set for 1999-2003:

50.1 To improve the quality and efficiency of services provided to the ITU membership and the Union's other customers by:

- using the cost attribution framework for ITU products and services which was created in response to the recommendations of ITU-2000 to develop a comprehensive set of quality, efficiency and productivity indicators for all ITU activities;
- outsourcing products and services if the result is a net benefit to the Union's membership.

50.2 To improve the development and management of human resources by:

- recruiting people with the skills required to serve the Union's members and customers in the new telecommunication environment, while paying attention to the need for a more representative geographic, gender and other balance;
- improving training policies and programmes for staff at all levels so that they have the competencies needed in the new environment and are fully prepared to assume new roles and responsibilities;
- ensuring greater flexibility in the deployment of human resources to respond to emerging requirements and enrich career opportunities;
- continuing to develop middle level and senior management skills in the secretariat.

50.3 To improve the management of secretariat resources through:

- improvements to formal planning, management and reviewing systems;
- greater delegation of authority to managers, with appropriate accountability and control mechanisms;
- enhanced coordination between strategic, financial and performance management systems.

- 50.4 To adapt the secretariat's organizational culture to the new environment by:
- continuing improvements to internal communication;
 - instilling a culture of customer service, entrepreneurship, accountability, recognition of performance and continuous learning.
- 50.5 To extend operational planning to the three Sectors and General Secretariat as a mechanism to enhance accountability and transparency and link this management tool to the strategic planning and budgeting process, given the symmetry required between the objectives and priority activities outlined in the strategic plan and the costing analysis of ITU products and services specified in the financial plan.
-



**CONFÉRENCE DE
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5 novembre 1998
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MINNEAPOLIS, 12 OCTOBRE - 6 NOVEMBRE 1998

COMMITTEE 5

Algérie, Arabie saoudite, Australie, Bangladesh, Bosnie-Herzégovine, Botswana, Brésil, Bulgarie, Canada, Cap-Vert, Chine, Egypte, Etats-Unis d'Amérique, Grèce, Indonésie, République islamique d'Iran, Koweït, Malaisie, Maroc, Pakistan, Sénégal, Slovénie, Suisse, Turquie

PROPOSITIONS POUR LES TRAVAUX DE LA CONFÉRENCE

PROJET DE RÉSOLUTION

**ASSISTANCE ET APPUI À LA BOSNIE-HERZÉGOVINE POUR LA RECONSTRUCTION DE
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Ajouter "Bahreïn (Etat de)" dans la liste des pays signataires de ce document.

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**ASSISTANCE AND SUPPORT TO BOSNIA AND HERZEGOVINA
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UNION INTERNATIONALE DES TÉLÉCOMMUNICATIONS



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ASSISTANCE ET APPUI À LA BOSNIE-HERZÉGOVINE POUR LA RECONSTRUCTION DE SON RÉSEAU DE TÉLÉCOMMUNICATION

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PLENIPOTENTIARY CONFERENCE (PP-98)

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Ajouter "**Maroc**" dans la liste des pays signataires de ce document.

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DRAFT RESOLUTION

ASSISTANCE AND SUPPORT TO BOSNIA AND HERZEGOVINA FOR REBUILDING ITS TELECOMMUNICATION NETWORK

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PROYECTO DE RESOLUCIÓN

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PROJET DE RÉSOLUTION [*-1]

ASSISTANCE ET APPUI À LA BOSNIE-HERZÉGOVINE POUR LA RECONSTRUCTION DE SON RÉSEAU DE TÉLÉCOMMUNICATION

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Algeria, (People's Democratic Republic of), Saudi Arabia (Kingdom of), Australia, Bangladesh (People's Republic of), Bosnia and Herzegovina (Republic of), Botswana (Republic of), Brazil (Federative Republic of), Bulgaria (Republic of), Canada, Cape Verde (Republic of), China (People's Republic of), Egypt (Arab Republic of), United States of America, Kuwait (State of), Malaysia, Pakistan (Islamic Republic of), Senegal (Republic of), Slovenia (Republic of), Switzerland (Confederation of), Turkey

PROPOSALS FOR THE WORK OF THE CONFERENCE

DRAFT RESOLUTION [*-1]

**ASSISTANCE AND SUPPORT TO BOSNIA AND HERZEGOVINA
FOR REBUILDING ITS TELECOMMUNICATION NETWORK**

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PROPUESTAS PARA LOS TRABAJOS DE LA CONFERENCIA

PROYECTO DE RESOLUCIÓN [*-1]

**ASISTENCIA Y APOYO A BOSNIA Y HERZEGOVINA PARA LA RECONSTRUCCIÓN
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INTERNATIONAL TELECOMMUNICATION UNION



PLENIPOTENTIARY CONFERENCE (PP-98)

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PROPOSALS FOR THE WORK OF THE CONFERENCE

***164/1**

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DRAFT RESOLUTION [*-1]

ASSISTANCE AND SUPPORT TO BOSNIA AND HERZEGOVINA FOR REBUILDING ITS TELECOMMUNICATION NETWORK

The Plenipotentiary Conference of the International Telecommunication Union
(Minneapolis, 1998),

recalling

- a)* the efforts of the United Nations to promote sustainable development and the relevant United Nations Security Council resolutions concerning the situation in Bosnia and Herzegovina;
- b)* the purposes of the Union as enshrined in Article 1 of its Constitution (Geneva, 1992),

noting

- a)* the report of the Secretary-General on the implementation *inter alia* of Resolution 33 (Kyoto, 1994);
- b)* with appreciation the efforts deployed by the ITU Secretary-General and the Director of BDT towards the implementation of Resolution 33;

* ALG/ARS/AUS/BGD/BIH/BOT/B/BUL/CAN/CPV/CHN/EGY/USA/KWT/MLA/PAK/
SEN/SVN/SUI/TUR

c) that the key role played by ITU in the rebuilding of the country's telecommunication sector has been widely recognized;

d) with appreciation that a special initiative using funds from "Telecom Surplus" has been launched recently,

recognizing

a) that considerable progress has been made in the implementation of this Resolution since its adoption in 1994;

b) that, under the present conditions and in the foreseeable future, Bosnia and Herzegovina will not be able to bring its telecommunication system up to an acceptable level without help from the international community, bilaterally or through international organizations,

resolves

that the Plan of Action initiated after Kyoto within the framework of the activities of the Telecommunication Development Sector of the Union, with specialized assistance from the two other Sectors, should be continued to provide appropriate assistance and support to Bosnia and Herzegovina in rebuilding its telecommunication network,

calls upon Members

to offer all possible assistance and support to the Government of Bosnia and Herzegovina, either bilaterally or through - and at any rate in coordination with - the special action of the Union referred to above,

instructs the Secretary-General

to ensure that the ITU action with regard to Bosnia and Herzegovina is as effective as possible and to report on the matter to the Council.

INTERNATIONAL TELECOMMUNICATION UNION



PLENIPOTENTIARY CONFERENCE (PP-98)

Document 165-E
23 October 1998
Original: French

MINNEAPOLIS, 12 OCTOBER - 6 NOVEMBER 1998

COMMITTEE 7

**Benin (Republic of), Djibouti (Republic of), Kenya (Republic of), Niger (Republic of the),
Nigeria (Federal Republic of), Uganda (Republic of), Syrian Arab Republic,
Democratic Republic of the Congo, Senegal (Republic of), Sierra Leone,
Sudan (Republic of the), South Africa (Republic of), Togolese Republic,
Trinidad and Tobago, Tunisia, Zimbabwe (Republic of)**

***165/1
ADD**

DRAFT RESOLUTION [*-1]

INTERNAL INVOICING OF THE COSTS OF ACTIVITIES UNDERTAKEN BY BDT AT THE REQUEST OF THE GENERAL SECRETARIAT OR AN ITU SECTOR

The Plenipotentiary Conference of the International Telecommunication Union
(Minneapolis, 1998),

considering

- a)* that Resolution 39 (Kyoto, 1994) provided for the introduction of a cost attribution framework to determine clearly the respective costs of ITU's various functions and activities;
- b)* that No. 119 (Article 21) of the Constitution (Geneva, 1992) recognizes that the activities of the three ITU Sectors shall be the subject of close cooperation with regard to matters relating to development;
- c)* that ITU-2000 recommendation 9/4 stipulates that the financial contributions of Sector Members should be allocated to the Sector for which they are intended;
- d)* that the ITU Financial Plan 2000-2003 provides for adopting a bottom-up approach to the budget based on an annual operational plan with upper limits on resources, apart from those originating from activities subject to full cost recovery,

* BEN/DJI/KEN/NGR/NIG/UGA/SYR/COD/SEN/SRL/SDN/AFS/TGO/TRD/TUN/ZWE

noting

- a) that the cost attribution framework established by ITU already allows for the internal invoicing of certain activities;
- b) that bodies such as world telecommunication policy forums, radiocommunication assemblies, world telecommunication standardization assemblies and ITU-T and/or ITU-R study groups may ask BDT to conduct development activities (e.g. case studies, seminars and other types of activity);
- c) that usually the related expenses are only partially covered by voluntary contributions from Members and the part not covered is borne by BDT, to the detriment of the other activities for which it is responsible;
- d) that, unlike the other ITU Sectors and the General Secretariat, BDT derives no revenue from cost recovery for its external activities, other than the marginal revenue from sales of its publications and from support costs in respect of projects funded by UNDP,

resolves

- 1 that any development activity undertaken by BDT following a decision taken in another Sector or in the General Secretariat should be evaluated at cost price and invoiced to the requester (Sector or GS) by BDT;
 - 2 to instruct the Secretary-General, in collaboration with the Directors of the Bureaux, to implement *resolves* 1 above and to report it to the Council.
-

INTERNATIONAL TELECOMMUNICATION UNION



PLENIPOTENTIARY CONFERENCE (PP-98)

Document 166-E
26 October 1998
Original: English

MINNEAPOLIS, 12 OCTOBER - 6 NOVEMBER 1998

COMMITTEE 5

SUMMARY RECORD

OF THE

FIFTH MEETING OF COMMITTEE 5

(STRATEGIC POLICY AND PLANS)

Monday, 19 October 1998, at 0935 hours

Chairperson: Mr. M. BOSSA (Argentina)

Subjects discussed

- 1 World Telecommunication Policy Forum (continued)
- 2 Memoranda of understanding and the
depository and registry role of the Secretary-General
- 3 Resolution 16 (Kyoto, 1994)
- 4 Periodicity of meetings

Documents

41(Add.2), 45, 70
9(Add.1), 25, 52, 57
25, 48
34

1 World Telecommunication Policy Forum (continued) (Documents 41 (Addendum 2), 45, 70)

1.1 The **delegate of France**, speaking as Chairperson of the Council, introduced Document 45, which contained the report of the Chairperson of the Council on the World Telecommunication Policy Forum. He recalled that two policy forums had been held. The first, in 1996, had discussed policy and regulatory issues raised by the introduction of GMPCS and had adopted five Opinions, including the Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) to facilitate the free circulation of GMPCS user terminals. The second Policy Forum, held in 1998, had dealt with trade in telecommunication services and had adopted three Opinions, dealing in particular with the implications of the General Agreement on Trade in Services (GATS) with respect to basic telecommunication services for the ITU membership and for developing countries, and the international telecommunication accounting and settlement system. That these forums had been extremely useful was indicated by the many suggestions for convening a third.

1.2 The **delegate of Morocco** observed that the Constitution and Convention provided that reports of the kind just presented by the Chairperson of the Council should emanate from the Council itself. He regretted that there had been insufficient time for the Council to consider the report.

1.3 The **delegate of New Zealand** suggested that, as the conclusions of the forums were neither prescriptive nor binding, *resolves* 3 of Resolution 2 (Kyoto, 1994) should be amended so that Sector Members would no longer be excluded from certain sessions.

1.4 The **delegate of Singapore** said that the exchange of views and the open dialogue of the previous forums had been fruitful and suggested that WTPFs should be retained in view of their increasingly important role in distilling policy and regulatory issues. Her delegation supported proposal APT/70/14 to amend Resolution 2 (Kyoto, 1994), put forward by Japan, and suggested that consideration should be given to formalizing discussions at the regional level so that regional deliberations could serve as the cornerstone for the larger global discussions at the forums.

1.5 The **delegate of Syria** said that, while his Administration had been satisfied with the outcome of the 1996 WTPF, that had not been the case with regard to the second Forum, which had not been adequately prepared and had disregarded the positions of many countries. The forums should pay attention to countries' real interests.

1.6 The **delegate of Argentina** requested that the Argentine proposal ARG/41/11 contained in Addendum 2 to Document 41 be considered with regard to the forums. He supported the continuation of WTPFs, and suggested that the adoption of MoUs, with ITU as depositary, should be added to its powers, provided that such powers did not violate the Constitution. The forum should be held at no expense to ITU, and its timing should be decided by the Council, not necessarily on a strictly periodic basis.

1.7 The **delegate of Indonesia**, endorsing Document 45, emphasised that GMPCS had the potential to narrow the telecommunication gap between developing and developed countries, and that insufficient attention had been given to the request that ITU should advise and assist developing countries on issues relating to the introduction of GMPCS. He endorsed Singapore's suggestion for regional preparation for WTPFs, as there was a need for adequate information to enable those countries to prepare for global meetings and to make them aware of the advantages of GMPCS.

1.8 The **delegate of Australia** endorsed proposal APT/70/14 and Syria's remark concerning the need for adequate preparation procedures, especially in view of the increased complexity of policy issues. Approaches differed, depending on the degree of liberalization or of government involvement. There should be an adequate mechanism to ensure that the forum covered the different concerns in addressing policy issues.

1.9 The **delegate of Morocco** said that the success of the two forums had been largely due to ITU's decision to open them to Sector Members as well as Member States. He therefore suggested that the proposed draft resolution should refer, under *considering*, to the input of Sector Members. He also suggested that the preparation procedure for WTPFs should be decided by the Council, since the Plenipotentiary Conference lacked the time to do so.

1.10 The **delegate of Lebanon** welcomed the proposed draft resolution. The ideal way of addressing the concerns expressed with regard to preparation of the forums was for participating administrations to assume greater responsibility.

1.11 The **delegate of China**, speaking as a co-sponsor of proposal APT/70/14, supported retention of WTPFs, the themes and timing of which should be determined by world developments.

1.12 The **delegate of Bahrain** agreed that, in view of the short duration of the forums, the Secretary-General should produce a single input document for it, as proposed in the draft resolution. He however supported the suggestion that regional input should be taken into account. Given the rapid development of telecommunications, the nature and timing of the forums should remain informal and be linked to other ITU meetings. He requested clarification of the invitation to the Secretary-General, contained in Opinion A of the 1998 Forum, to cooperate with WTO in identifying areas of common interest. Given the informality of the forums, if urgent issues relating to cooperation between the two organizations arose, he wondered whether it would be necessary for a decision to be deferred to the next WTPF, and how Member States would be duly informed of any urgent action taken.

1.13 The **delegate of Cape Verde** said that she agreed with previous speakers on the need for judicious preparation of the forums and the importance of regional preparation for their success. The Council should monitor telecommunication development and decide on the dates of the forums and the topics to be addressed.

1.14 In the light of the discussion, the **Chairperson** suggested that a drafting group should be set up, chaired by Japan, to draft an amendment to Resolution 2 (Kyoto, 1994), on the basis of proposal APT/70/14 and the various comments made.

1.15 It was so **agreed**.

1.16 The **delegates of Japan, Syria and Spain** indicated their willingness to participate in the drafting group.

2 Memoranda of understanding and the depositary and registry role of the Secretary-General (Documents 9 (Addendum 1), 25, 52, 57)

2.1 The **Chairperson** invited the Committee to consider Document 52, dealing with requests for the Secretary-General to act as depositary for memoranda of understanding.

2.2 The **delegate of Canada** fully supported the Council's decision that the current Plenipotentiary Conference should provide the policy and strategy guidelines to determine when MoUs were beneficial to ITU, and the criteria for evaluating requests for the Secretary-General of ITU to serve as the MoU depositary. As stated in Addendum 1 to Document 9, the principle of full cost recovery should be applied to any activities that ITU undertook in that role.

2.3 The **delegate of Morocco**, introducing Document 25, presented by a number of Arab countries, endorsed the views expressed by the delegate of Canada with regard to cost recovery. It was unnecessary, however, for the Plenipotentiary Conference to discuss the details of the conditions for the deposit of MoUs with ITU, as reference to Article 42 of the Constitution would suffice. He therefore proposed the addition of a new provision to the Constitution to authorize the Secretary-General to be a depositary of MoUs, and another to the Convention to ensure that the cost of the management of any such deposit be borne by the signatories, by agreement between them and the Secretary-General.

2.4 The **delegate of Senegal**, supported by the **delegate of Switzerland**, stressed that the Secretary-General should be authorized to act as a depositary only if the MoU reflected the concerns of the international community as a whole. Also, pursuant to Resolution 39 (Kyoto, 1994), any costs relating to the deposit of an MoU presented by a group rather than the community as a whole must be borne entirely by the parties concerned.

2.5 The **delegate of the Philippines** endorsed the view expressed by the delegate of Senegal. She stressed that under no circumstances should full respect for the sovereignty of national administrations be impaired.

2.6 The **delegate of Saudi Arabia** said that if ITU was to be responsible for the management of MoUs, it was necessary to adopt a precise and widely accepted definition of an MoU, and of its legal status.

2.7 The **delegate of Syria**, a co-sponsor of Document 25, said that the decision to be taken was whether to accept the Canadian proposal that the Conference itself should establish the guiding principles, or whether it should simply request the Council to do so. He favoured amending the Constitution and the Convention, as proposed in Document 25. He stressed that cost recovery should be understood to mean full cost recovery.

2.8 The **delegate of Mali** said that ITU should not simply act as a depositary, but should play a catalytic role, doing its utmost to foresee problems in fields such as use of the Internet and digital radio.

2.9 The **delegate of the United States** said that, despite some successful experiments, considerable uncertainty persisted as to the role of ITU with respect to MoUs. Before any proposals for amendments to the Constitution and Convention were approved, full consideration needed to be given to the important role of the Council in overseeing MoUs, as well as to guidelines for their implementation. In the latter regard, the United States supported the criteria set out in paragraph 4.3 of Document 25.

2.10 The **delegate of the Islamic Republic of Iran** endorsed the views expressed by the delegate of Saudi Arabia concerning the need for a clear definition of MoUs, and by the delegate of the Philippines concerning the need for full respect for the sovereignty of national administrations.

2.11 The **Secretary-General** said that Document 52 discussed, not merely the three pending requests for the Secretary-General to serve as depositary of an MoU, but the whole principle of MoUs. The success of the GMPCS MoU had generated interest in the MoU as an innovative means of developing international consensus and practical working relationships involving governments, the private sector and international organizations. As a result, at its 1998 session the Council had been asked to consider three further requests for the Secretary-General to serve as depositary of MoUs in the fields of Digital Radio Mondiale (DRM), Internet generic top-level domain names (gTLD) and dispute resolution in telecommunications (DRT). After discussing the proposals at some length, the Council had requested the Secretary-General to develop draft criteria and guidelines to evaluate such requests, for submission - together with the MoUs in question - to the Plenipotentiary Conference. Document 52 set forth the proposed criteria and guidelines. The DRM MoU was described in Document 57. Deliberations concerning the other two MoUs had reached a far less advanced stage; consequently, it had not yet been possible to prepare documents that would assist delegates in making decisions concerning them.

2.12 The **Chairperson** said that there seemed to be a degree of consensus that the Secretary-General had a role to play as depositary of MoUs. Consequently, that principle could be accepted without further debate. However, attention had also been drawn to the need to identify guiding principles. Moreover, the delegate of Morocco had specifically proposed amending the Constitution and the Convention so as to incorporate that role in the legal framework of the Union. The Conference must thus establish what principles were to guide the Secretary-General in his role as depositary. He suggested that a small working group, chaired by the Vice-Chairperson from Singapore, should be established to identify those principles and advise the Committee whether there was a need to amend the Constitution and the Convention. Any proposal for a change could then be sent to Committee 6 for final drafting.

2.13 The **delegate of Morocco** said that it was for the Council to instruct the Secretary-General on such matters; the Plenipotentiary Conference should limit itself to policy matters. The policy issue in the present instance was that the Conference accepted the principle of the Secretary-General serving as the depositary of MoUs. If principles were to be defined, they should be defined by the Council, not by the Plenipotentiary Conference. His delegation had proposed slight modifications to the Constitution and Convention to deal with that problem. The delegate of the United States had subsequently proposed involving the Council more fully in the matter. His delegation supported that approach, and was ready to modify its own approach accordingly. If the Plenipotentiary Conference accepted the proposed procedure, it could then be used by the Council when identifying principles and taking decisions on specific MoUs to be deposited with the Secretary-General.

2.14 The **delegate of Syria**, speaking on a point of order, said that the proposal contained in Document 25 was one put forward, not by Morocco, but by a number of Arab States.

2.15 The **delegate of Pakistan** said he agreed that there should be a provision in the Constitution, the Convention, or both, enabling the Union to fulfil its role as depositary. In addition to formalizing arrangements within ITU, such a provision would also assist countries in completing their domestic formalities in connection with MoUs.

2.16 The **delegate of Syria** said that three principles or guidelines set forth in Document 25 had been supported: first, any MoU should be based on the purpose of the Union; secondly, it should embrace both Sector Members and Member States; thirdly, the spirit of Article 42 should be respected. A compromise solution might be to leave the decision on MoUs to the Council, while drawing its attention to those three principles.

2.17 The **delegate of Senegal** said that the best course would be for the Plenipotentiary Conference to try to reach agreement on three basic issues, namely: that the Secretary-General should serve as depositary; that the Council should be requested to determine the conditions in which the Secretary-General could best discharge that new responsibility; and that there was a need to respect the objectives of the Union and its basic texts. The decision on MoUs should then be left to the Council.

2.18 The **delegate of Lesotho** endorsed the proposal by Morocco that the Conference should agree on the general principle that the Secretary-General should act as depositary, and that it should be left to the Council to work out the details. There was thus no need to set up a working group.

2.19 The **delegate of Canada** said that the principle of full cost recovery, to which his delegation had referred earlier and which had commanded a degree of support, should not be overlooked.

2.20 The **Chairperson** said that he would be happy if agreement could be reached without recourse to a working group. There appeared to be consensus on four points: that the Secretary-General should serve as depositary; that that role should take account of the objectives of the Union; that it should be for the Council to determine on a case-by-case basis whether MoUs were compatible with those objectives; and that the principle of full cost recovery should be applied. The Conference should also decide whether it wished to approve the changes in the Constitution and Convention proposed in Document 25.

2.21 The **delegate of Morocco** suggested that the Vice-Chairperson from Singapore should be requested to prepare a draft resolution instructing the Council to develop procedures on the basis of principles listed therein.

2.22 The **delegate of the United States** supported the Chairperson's summary and endorsed the suggestion made by Morocco.

2.23 The **Chairperson** said that account would be taken of the principles referred to by the delegate of Syria, and of the need for a precise definition of MoUs. He suggested that, on the basis of the principles that commanded consensus, the Vice-Chairperson from Singapore should be requested to prepare a draft resolution, and to include therein an assessment of the desirability of changing the Constitution and the Convention, for consideration by Committee 5 and subsequent transmittal to Committee 6.

2.24 It was so **agreed**.

3 Resolution 16 (Kyoto, 1994) (Documents 25, 48)

3.1 The **Director of TSB** introduced Document 48, on the refinement of ITU-R and ITU-T. In response to the requirements of Resolution 16 (Kyoto, 1994), a RAG/TSAG Joint Working Party (JWP) had been established. In the framework of the consultation procedure subsequently initiated by Resolution 28 of WTSC-96, about sixty contributions had been received. Proposals for transfer of Questions from ITU-R to ITU-T were set forth in Annex A to Document 48, and had been successfully implemented. Annex B, detailing suggestions for a more substantive restructuring, had as yet resulted in no clear consensus. The conclusions reached by the RAG/TSAG JWP and submitted to the Council in June 1997 were detailed in paragraph 3 of Document 48. Work on Resolution 16 was thus terminated, and the Resolution had been successfully implemented.

3.2 The **delegate of Morocco** said that in Document 25 some Arab countries considered the exercise carried out pursuant to Resolution 16 and the results obtained thus far, and concluded that the time had come to envisage a modification of activities in that regard. It bore noting that Resolution 16 had instructed the Council to prepare a report to the Minneapolis Plenipotentiary Conference - a report that had not been forthcoming. Following the recommendations of the High Level Committee for a new structure for the Union, the tasks assigned to ITU-R and ITU-T had been defined in provisions of the Constitution and, in response to strong reactions from a group of countries wishing to give ITU a structure similar to that adopted by other standardization organizations, the Additional Plenipotentiary Conference (Geneva, 1992) had called for continuing consultation and study in order to review the distribution of tasks between the two Sectors - the so-called "refinement". The Director of TSB had given some indication of the many meetings held and of the many reports submitted to the Council. The time had now come to terminate that exercise. The Moroccan delegation thus proposed that Resolution 16 should be modified and the matter left in the hands of the WTSC and RA. If, as a result of the consultations, any Member State wished to modify the Constitution and the Convention, it was free to make proposals to the Plenipotentiary Conference. However, the Council already had enough tasks to address, and it should be relieved of that additional burden.

3.3 The **delegate of Syria** said that it was to be hoped that the Committee's conclusion on the issue would coincide with the one reached by the signatories of Document 25.

3.4 The **delegates of Japan, India and the Islamic Republic of Iran** supported the comments made by the two previous speakers and the proposals put forward by the Arab countries in Document 25.

3.5 The **Chairperson** noted that there had been consensus among those delegates who had spoken on Documents 48 and 25. He therefore suggested that the Committee should take note of Document 48 and approve proposal KWT/MRC/SYR/25/45, a draft resolution modifying Resolution 16, contained in Document 25.

3.6 It was so **agreed**.

4 Periodicity of meetings (Document 34)

4.1 The **delegate of Russia**, introducing Document 34, said that his Administration favoured changing the periodicity of plenipotentiary conferences from four to six years, experience having shown that insufficient material accumulated over four years to warrant discussion at such a high level. Likewise, the periodicity of world radiocommunication conferences should be changed from two to three years, thus affording adequate time for preparation of the conferences. Radiocommunication assemblies should be scheduled to follow world radiocommunication conferences.

4.2 The **delegate of Morocco** said that he could support the proposals contained in Document 34 only with reservations. The proposals drew attention to important problems that needed to be addressed. For instance, the requirement to participate in a large number of ITU meetings placed a considerable burden on small and developing countries. The idea of holding a plenipotentiary conference every six years was thus an attractive one. However, such a periodicity might not permit justice to be done to the many problems arising in a rapidly evolving telecommunication sector. Russia had also made proposals concerning the sequence of WRCs and RAs. He supported those proposals, but would prefer to leave it to the competent bodies - namely, the WRC and RA - to take the necessary decisions.

4.3 The **delegate of China** supported the proposal of Russia to change the periodicity of WRCs from two to three years. He also agreed that the RA should be held after the WRC, thereby helping the assembly to adopt more relevant research themes and to make better preparations for the WRC.

The meeting rose at 1230 hours.

The Secretary:
D. SCHUSTER

The Chairperson:
M. BOSSA

INTERNATIONAL TELECOMMUNICATION UNION



PLENIPOTENTIARY CONFERENCE (PP-98)

Document 167-E
23 October 1998
Original: English

MINNEAPOLIS, 12 OCTOBER - 6 NOVEMBER 1998

PLENARY MEETING COMMITTEE 7

NOTE BY THE CHAIRPERSON OF COMMITTEE 5

REALLOCATION OF DOCUMENTS

Further to the discussion in the Steering Committee, the documents relating to the regional presence, cooperation with other international organizations and functioning of ITU-T and intersectoral coordination have been reallocated to Committee 7 for consideration as appropriate.

The above documents are listed in DT/12(Rev.1) under items 17, 18 and 19.

The proposals by administrations

J/18/4
RUS/34/ch.5
KWT/MRC/SYR/25/44
IAP/59/122

relating to the "Management of Kyoto resolutions" are reallocated to the Plenary Meeting for consideration.

These documents are listed in DT/12(Rev.1) under item 5.

Mauricio BOSSA
Chairperson

INTERNATIONAL TELECOMMUNICATION UNION



PLENIPOTENTIARY CONFERENCE (PP-98)

Document 168-E
23 October 1998
Original: English

MINNEAPOLIS, 12 OCTOBER - 6 NOVEMBER 1998

COMMITTEE 4

FOURTH SERIES OF TEXTS FROM COMMITTEE 5 TO THE EDITORIAL COMMITTEE

Committee 5 has adopted the following Resolution, which it submits to the Editorial Committee for consideration and subsequent transmission to the Plenary Meeting.

Mauricio BOSSA
Chairperson

Annex: 1

DRAFT RESOLUTION [COM5/3]

**TELECOMMUNICATIONS IN THE SERVICE OF
HUMANITARIAN ASSISTANCE**

The Plenipotentiary Conference of the International Telecommunication Union
(Minneapolis, 1998),

endorsing

- a) Resolution 644 of the World Radiocommunication Conference (Geneva, 1997) on telecommunication resources for disaster mitigation and relief operations;
- b) Resolution 19 of the World Telecommunication Development Conference (Valletta, 1998) on telecommunication resources for disaster mitigation and relief operations;
- c) the Valletta Declaration of the World Telecommunication Development Conference (Valletta, 1998), drawing the attention of ITU Member States and Sector Members to the importance of emergency telecommunications and the need for an international convention on this subject,

considering

that the Intergovernmental Conference on Emergency Telecommunications (Tampere, 1998) has adopted the Tampere Convention on the provision of telecommunication resources for disaster mitigation and relief operations,

noting

- a) the Final Acts of the Intergovernmental Conference on Emergency Telecommunications (Tampere, 1998), reflecting the recognition by the Conference of the extraordinary impact of disasters on societies and the environment and of the need for providing timely, effective telecommunication assistance and resources for disaster mitigation and relief;
- b) the report of the Secretary-General on the implementation *inter alia* of Resolution 36 (Kyoto, 1994);
- c) with appreciation the efforts deployed by the ITU Secretary-General towards the adoption of the Tampere Convention;
- d) with appreciation the close cooperation between **the United Nations Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs** and the ITU during the past four years,

recognizing also

the seriousness and dimension of potential disasters that may cause dramatic human suffering,

convinced

that the unhindered use of telecommunications equipment and services is an indispensable element for the effectiveness and appropriateness of humanitarian assistance,

further convinced

that the Tampere Convention provides the necessary framework for such application of telecommunications resources,

instructs the Secretary-General

to closely work with the United Nations Emergency Relief Coordinator on the development of practical arrangements for the implementation of the Tampere Convention,

urges administrations

to work towards the earliest possible ratification, acceptance, approval or final signature of the Convention by the appropriate national authorities,

further urges administrations

to take all practical steps for the application of the Tampere Convention and to closely work with the operational coordinator as requested by the Convention.

INTERNATIONAL TELECOMMUNICATION UNION



PLENIPOTENTIARY CONFERENCE (PP-98)

Document 169-E
23 October 1998
Original: English

MINNEAPOLIS, 12 OCTOBER - 6 NOVEMBER 1998

COMMITTEE 4

FIFTH SERIES OF TEXTS FROM COMMITTEE 5 TO THE EDITORIAL COMMITTEE

Committee 5 has adopted the following Resolution, which it submits to the Editorial Committee for consideration and subsequent transmission to the Plenary Meeting.

Mauricio BOSSA
Chairperson

Annex: 1

DRAFT RESOLUTION [COM5/4]

**COPING WITH THE DECREASED USE OF
INTERNATIONAL TELEX SERVICE**

The Plenipotentiary Conference of the International Telecommunication Union
(Minneapolis, 1998),

considering

- a) that the number of subscribers to international telex service is decreasing due to the introduction of the more convenient Internet, facsimile and SWIFT made possible by technological advancements;
- b) that the World Telecommunication Development Report issued by the ITU in 1998 shows that the worldwide number of telex subscribers has decreased about 15% at compound annual growth rate over the 1990-1996 period,

noting

- a) we need to take measures to cope with the decrease in the use of international telex service, which was once the only worldwide text service available;
- b) since countries have different schedules for suspending the use of international telex services, a considerable amount of financial as well as human resources is expected to be put into maintaining telex facilities such as telex switches in countries that already switched to alternative services to keep pace with the countries that have yet to do so,

resolves that the Secretary-General should

- 1 survey the decrease in the use of international telex service and investigate into when it will become possible for international telex service to be replaced by new means of telecommunication;
 - 2 study the measures to assist countries in their swift transformation from international telex service to more developed means of telecommunication;
 - 3 also study practical steps - for example work to encourage interoperability between telex networks and IP networks, which could be particularly of value to those countries with extensive legacy telex networks - and applications to other low-bandwidth data technology;
 - 4 submit a report to the Council for their review;
 - 5 take the necessary measures to enable implementation of the results of the report.
-

INTERNATIONAL TELECOMMUNICATION UNION



PLENIPOTENTIARY CONFERENCE (PP-98)

Document 170-E
23 October 1998
Original: French

MINNEAPOLIS, 12 OCTOBER - 6 NOVEMBER 1998

COMMITTEE 6

REPORT BY THE CO-CHAIRPERSON OF COMMITTEE 7 (STAFF MATTERS) TO THE CHAIRPERSON OF COMMITTEE 6

The Co-Chairperson of Committee 7 (Staff matters) is pleased to inform the Chairperson of Committee 6 that Committee 7 has adopted the proposal transcribed below, which was submitted by the Canadian delegation in Document 146.

ARTICLE 4 (CV)

[...]

CAN/146/2
MOD 69

(3) take decisions to ensure equitable geographical distribution ~~of~~and representation of women in the Professional and higher categories in the staff of the Union and monitor the implementation of such decisions;

In accordance with its terms of reference, Committee 7 hereby submits to Committee 6 this draft amendment of No. 69 of the Convention of the International Telecommunication Union (Geneva, 1992).

Adolar MAPUNDA
Co-Chairperson

INTERNATIONAL TELECOMMUNICATION UNION



PLENIPOTENTIARY CONFERENCE (PP-98)

Corrigendum 1 to
Document 171-E
30 October 1998
Original: English

MINNEAPOLIS, 12 OCTOBER - 6 NOVEMBER 1998

PLENARY MEETING

United States of America

PROPOSALS FOR THE WORK OF THE CONFERENCE

RESOLUTION XX

AN URGENT REQUEST FOR PROMPT ACTION TO ADDRESS THE YEAR 2000 PROBLEM

- 1) Please **add** the following paragraph after *considering g*):
 - h*) that a Year 2000 Task Force was established by ITU-T, which in cooperation with ITU-D and ITU-R has been active since the beginning of 1998,
 - 2) Please **modify** paragraph 1 of *instructs the Secretary-General to instruct the Director of the Telecommunication Standardization Bureau* as follows:
 - 1 to join with the Directors of the Radiocommunication and Telecommunication Development Bureaux, to encourage telecommunications operators, carriers, and manufacturers to take prompt, comprehensive, and effective action to address the Year 2000 problem, i.e. by supporting the ongoing work of the Year 2000 Task Force and by identifying additional areas for its activity as appropriate;
-

INTERNATIONAL TELECOMMUNICATION UNION



PLENIPOTENTIARY CONFERENCE (PP-98)

Document 171-E
23 October 1998
Original: English

MINNEAPOLIS, 12 OCTOBER - 6 NOVEMBER 1998

United States of America

PROPOSALS FOR THE WORK OF THE CONFERENCE

THE YEAR 2000 CHALLENGE

*"The millennium bug is a vivid and powerful reminder of the ways
that we are growing ever more interdependent as we rise to the
challenges of this new era ..."*

President Clinton
14 July 1998

Summary

If not addressed effectively by the private and public sectors in all countries, the Year 2000 (Y2K) Problem may cause more than minor disruptions in data processing; it could jeopardize international operations in key economic sectors. Its potential impact is much greater than a mere technical glitch - it is a threat to the backbone of the world's interdependent economic stability. Consequently, the United States Government wishes to encourage business and government representatives attending the 1998 Plenipotentiary Conference of the International Telecommunication Union to focus the attention of their national leaders on the Year 2000 challenge. Assessing vulnerabilities, correcting critical systems and preparing contingency plans for potential system failures are essential measures to ensure a smooth transition of the global economy into the new millennium.

Background

The "Year 2000 Problem" arose because early computer programmers, working to conserve memory space, used two digits to define the year in both hardware and software products. When a computer system or part of a system built on a two digit date assumption encounters "double zero" with the millennial change, they may recognize it as 1900 rather than 2000. As a result, many networks and systems that use computers to process, manage, calculate, display, store, retrieve or otherwise manipulate dates may not work properly. The Year 2000 problem is often associated with large computer systems; however, it is also likely to affect personal computers, local area networks, telecommunications networks, electric power and systems and equipment that use embedded microprocessor technology, such as fire alarms, automobiles, heating and cooling systems and public works water and sewer control systems.

Problems are developing today, even before the start of the new millennium. Many programmers, originally assuming that their software would be outdated by the turn of the century, installed applications that would terminate once the date struck "99" or "09-09-99". Already, many banks have had to correct loan processing software that could not calculate ten-year loans because there was no differentiation between 2003 and 1903.

Some recent predictions indicate a 60% possibility of a global economic slowdown if appropriate computer systems are not brought into compliance before 2000.¹ Systems must be brought into compliance, including many of the local systems which feed into national then international systems. One economist used the analogy of the 1973-74 recession - just as the supply of oil caused a global recession, a disruption in the flow of information might similarly affect the economy. Others have estimated that post-2000 recovery expenses will be more than double the costs of the initial fix to prevent malfunctions.² While expenditures for Year 2000 resolution may require difficult commitments of human and financial resources today, the cost of advance preparation and failure prevention may be a fraction of the price of inadequate attention to developing Y2K solutions.

The original Gartner Group study on the global cost of millennium fixes estimated a figure between \$400 billion and \$600 billion. The latest Giga Information Group forecasts Y2K costs of \$1 trillion, while Software Productivity Research estimates an upper figure of \$3.6 trillion.³ In addition to the cost of technical fixes, others have estimated that the costs of *lawsuits* stemming from disruptions caused by the Year 2000 problem could amount to at least as much.

Widespread effects

Several key economic sectors, besides telecommunications could potentially face severe disruptions as well, if the proper remedial action is not taken. Virtually every industry has developed integrated, interdependent information systems and relies upon computer-controlled processes. Our focus at the ITU Plenipotentiary Conference, however, is upon telecommunications, perhaps the most important sector affected by the millennium bug. As the telecommunications and information sector depends upon a seamless interconnection of networks, the global reliance on communications for the world economy cannot be overstated. Consequently, it is especially important for the telecommunications industry to prevent potential Y2K disruptions since, among other things, it: 1) enables the electronic transfer of funds, the distribution of electronic power, and the control of gas and oil pipeline systems; 2) is essential to the service economy, manufacturing, and efficient delivery of raw materials and finished goods; and 3) is imperative for responsive emergency services.

Contingency planning

When preparing for Y2K compliance, some important fixes may be unanticipated, overlooked, ignored, or incomplete before the millennium change. Consequently, organizations must focus on preparing well-defined and executable contingency plans to address unexpected disruptions. Ideally,

¹ Kaplan, Adam; "Dr. Edward Yardeni Raises his Y2K Recession Prediction: Now Sees 60% Chance of Economic Slowdown Caused By Millennium Bug" Westergaard Year 2000, 27 March 1998; <http://www.y2ktimebomb.com/Economy/Predictions/yardni9812.htm>

² Jones, Capers; "Contingency Planning for the Year 2000 Software Problem"; <http://www.erols.com/steve451/Capers.html>

³ <http://www.churchlink.com.au/churchlink/y2k/scope.htm>

contingency plans should identify alternative methods for completing mission critical tasks, as well as the resources and lead time needed to launch and sustain such processes.

While conventional contingency plans for disaster recovery typically address an isolated event, Y2K contingency plans must include a broad range of factors, including day-to-day operations, suppliers, business and data partners, as well as vital infrastructure components. This requires identifying key operations, their interdependencies, the probable points of technical and programmatic break-down, and the potential impact of a failure. Because a significant number of automated processes are vulnerable to some aspect of the Y2K Problem, all organizations should prepare back-up procedures to reinforce their highest priority activities.

Addressing the risks

United States Government and private industry

In the United States, the President has set Y2K compliance as a priority, requiring every component of government to prepare its operations for the millennium date change. To support these activities, the President established the Year 2000 Conversion Council in February 1998, with the mandate of coordinating all Federal Government Y2K efforts. The Council works with Federal agencies to ensure that they have the appropriate financial and personnel resources to bring their critical systems into compliance.

International community

Many international efforts are raising awareness, providing information resources and offering support for countries struggling to bring their systems into Y2K compliance. For example, the International Telecommunications Union (ITU) has a task force that is addressing the problem in a number of ways:

- Surveying ITU membership to assess Y2K readiness.
- Publishing articles and a useful ITU "ToolKit" on its website⁴.
- Establishing regional Y2K ambassadors.
- Developing "best practices" approaches to Y2K fixes and contingency planning.
- Conducting seminars and presentations.
- Coordinating testing activities.

The World Bank has set up a Year 2000 fund to provide resources to help developing countries. Administered through the Information for Development Program, the fund will help these nations bring their systems into Y2K compliance.⁵ In addition to generous contributions from many other countries, this effort recently received a \$12 million pledge from the United States. Similarly, pursuant to the 1998 Birmingham Summit, Year 2000 Coordinators from the G-8 nations agreed to work with businesses and international organizations to help other countries prepare for the millennium change.

⁴ <http://www.itu.int/y2k>

⁵ <http://www.worldbank.org/y2k>

Conclusion

To solve the Year 2000 problem, governments and businesses must regard this as more than a mere technical issue, but a matter of economic well-being. The complexities of the Y2K problem make its likely impact difficult to predict. Consequently, as host of the ITU Plenipotentiary Conference, the United States Government wishes to encourage leaders in the international telecommunications community to help each nation's private and public-sector leaders to understand the scope of this situation, so that our global society can transition smoothly into the new millennium.

U.S. Y2K RESOLUTION

RESOLUTION XX

**AN URGENT REQUEST FOR PROMPT ACTION TO
ADDRESS THE YEAR 2000 PROBLEM**

The Plenipotentiary Conference of the International Telecommunication Union
(Minneapolis, 1998),

recognizing

that automated and intelligent systems, components, and software, including those involved with the provision of telecommunications services, were not designed to take into account the millennial change that will occur on 1 January 2000; and that nations have a vital interest in ensuring the continuous and reliable provision of telecommunications services,

considering

- a) that virtually all sectors of the global economy depend upon reliable telecommunications networks and failure to avert significant network failures could be calamitous;
- b) that telecommunication operators and carriers have an important role to play in assuring the general public and users who rely on the telecommunications network that their telecommunications services will not be disrupted on 1 January 2000;
- c) that the lack of Year 2000 readiness could have a huge impact on international trade, foreign investment, the global economy, and even national security;
- d) that the operability of the global telecommunications network is critical to public safety, emergency preparedness, and personal communications;
- e) that there is a relatively short time-frame of just over 14 months remaining to address the problem, and that telecommunications operators and carriers need to accelerate and amplify efforts to do so;
- f) that the international Year 2000 problem is especially significant because global telecommunications rely upon a seamless interconnection of networks;
- g) that the earth stations of satellite systems, which interface with virtually every aspect of the global economy, are especially vulnerable to Year 2000 exposure because they are date-dependent,

resolves

that the Union shall give every possible encouragement and support to the efforts of telecommunications operators and carriers around the world to address the Year 2000 problem, and calls upon them to take the necessary steps to prevent Year 2000 system failures,

urges administrations of Member States

- 1 to take all steps to highlight the problem, motivate telecommunications operators and carriers to address the Year 2000 problem speedily, and facilitate the exchange of information that is essential to tackling the problem;
- 2 to work closely with the telecommunications industry to ensure that the Year 2000 challenge is addressed promptly and that adequate resources are dedicated to addressing it,

urges Member States

- 1 to assist the Secretary-General and the Council in the implementation of this resolution and to undertake and accelerate to the extent possible all actions needed to meet the Year 2000 challenge;
- 2 specifically, to urge telecommunications operators and carriers to:
 - 1) inventory and assess whether their systems and/or components should be reprogrammed to address the Y2K issue;
 - 2) reprogram and "fix" those systems and/or components which are not Year 2000 compliant;
 - 3) test systems and/or components to determine whether the Year 2000 problems have been satisfactorily remedied;
 - 4) test systems and/or components together in their operating environments;
 - 5) throughout all of these phases, establish adequate contingency plans,

instructs the Secretary-General to instruct the Director of the Telecommunication Standardization Bureau

- 1 to join with the Directors of the Radiocommunication and Telecommunication Development Bureaux, to encourage telecommunications operators, carriers, and manufacturers to take prompt, comprehensive, and effective action to address the Year 2000 problem;
 - 2 to take the necessary steps to continue to raise awareness of and to provide educational information on the Year 2000 problem, including information on international compliance standards established by international organizations such as the British Standards Institute (BSI), for all telecommunications operators, carriers, and manufacturers, and to develop "best practices" contingency plans;
 - 3 to report to the Council in May 1999 regarding progress on the above and on the work of the Y2K Task Force.
-

UNION INTERNATIONALE DES
TELECOMMUNICATIONS



CONFERENCE DE
PLENIPOTENTIAIRES (PP-98)

Corrigendum 1 au
Document 172-F/E/S
26 octobre 1998

MINNEAPOLIS, 12 OCTOBRE - 6 NOVEMBRE 1998

COMMISSION 4
COMMITTEE 4
COMISIÓN 4

SIXIÈME SÉRIE DE TEXTES DE LA COMMISSION 5
SOU MIS À LA COMMISSION DE RÉDACTION

PROJET DE RESOLUTION [COM5/5]

Sous charge le Directeur du Bureau des radiocommunications, après consultation du GCR,
remplacer le paragraphe 2, qui se lira comme suit:

2 de traiter les autres questions relatives à la participation des Membres des Secteurs lors des conférences mondiales des radiocommunications et de proposer à la CMR-2000 de prendre toute mesure qui pourrait être nécessaire,

* * * * *

SIXTH SERIES OF TEXTS FROM COMMITTEE 5
TO THE EDITORIAL COMMITTEE

DRAFT RESOLUTION [COM5/5]

Under instructs the Director of the Radiocommunication Bureau with advice from RAG, replace paragraph 2 to read as follows:

2 to address other issues related to the participation of Sector Members at world radiocommunication conferences and propose to WRC-2000 any action as necessary,

* * * * *

SEXTA SERIE DE TEXTOS QUE LA COMISIÓN 5 SOMETE A LA CONSIDERACIÓN
DE LA COMISIÓN DE REDACCIÓN

PROYECTO DE RESOLUCIÓN [COM/5]

En la parte dispositiva del Documento 172, donde dice encarga al Director de la Oficina de Radiocomunicaciones, con asesoramiento del GAR, sustitúyase el párrafo 2 por el siguiente texto:

2 que aborde otras cuestiones relativas a la participación de los Miembros de los Sectores en las Conferencias Mundiales de Radiocomunicaciones y proponga a la CMR-2000 cualesquiera medidas que considere necesarias,

* * * * *

INTERNATIONAL TELECOMMUNICATION
UNION



**PLENIPOTENTIARY
CONFERENCE (PP-98)**

**Document 172-E
23 October 1998
Original: English**

MINNEAPOLIS, 12 OCTOBER - 6 NOVEMBER 1998

COMMITTEE 4

SIXTH SERIES OF TEXTS FROM COMMITTEE 5
TO THE EDITORIAL COMMITTEE

Committee 5 has adopted the following resolution, which it submits to the Editorial Committee for consideration and subsequent transmission to the Plenary Meeting.

Mauricio BOSSA
Chairperson

DRAFT RESOLUTION [COM5/5]

**PARTICIPATION OF THE RADIOCOMMUNICATION SECTOR MEMBERS
AT WORLD RADIOCOMMUNICATION CONFERENCES**

The Plenipotentiary Conference of the International Telecommunication Union
(Minneapolis, 1998),

considering

- a) that there are divergences in the provisions of the Convention concerning the participation of Sector Members in plenipotentiary and radiocommunication conferences;
- b) that this Conference considered a recommendation to widen the representation of Radiocommunication Sector participants at world radiocommunication conferences;
- c) that the matter of rights and obligations of Radiocommunication Sector Members has been addressed by the Radiocommunication Advisory Group (RAG), which has supported wider participation by Sector Members in WRCs;
- d) [that this Conference adopted amendments to the relevant provisions of the Constitution and Convention so as to admit all Sector Members to world radiocommunication conferences],* and that international and regional organizations referred to in Nos. 278 and 279 of the Convention now have the right to request the floor at world radiocommunication conferences;
- e) the provisions of CS178,

instructs the Director of the Radiocommunication Bureau with advice from RAG

- 1 to study and propose to the WRC-2000 procedures under which the Sector Members (except the Sector Members referred to under No. 278 and 279 of the Convention) may request the floor at world radiocommunication conferences;
- 2 to address other issues related to the participation of Sector Members at world radiocommunication conferences,

invites WRC-2000

- 1 to adopt appropriate measures for the participation of the Sector Members at WRC-2000;
- 2 to propose to the Council any action which could be considered by the next plenipotentiary conference on the application of this resolution.

* For editorial adjustments after consideration in Committee 6.

INTERNATIONAL TELECOMMUNICATION UNION



PLENIPOTENTIARY CONFERENCE (PP-98)

Document 173-E
23 October 1998
Original: English

MINNEAPOLIS, 12 OCTOBER - 6 NOVEMBER 1998

COMMITTEE 6

NOTE BY THE CHAIRPERSON OF COMMITTEE 5 TO THE CHAIRPERSON OF COMMITTEE 6

PARTICIPATION OF RADIOCOMMUNICATION SECTOR MEMBERS IN WORLD RADIOCOMMUNICATION CONFERENCES

Further to the early approval of ITU-2000 recommendation R.15, you may wish to note that draft Resolution [COM5/5] on the same subject has been approved by Committee 5 and submitted to the Editorial Committee (see Document 172).

Mauricio BOSSA
Chairperson

INTERNATIONAL TELECOMMUNICATION UNION



PLENIPOTENTIARY CONFERENCE (PP-98)

Document 174(Rev.1)-E
29 October 1998
Original: French

MINNEAPOLIS, 12 OCTOBER - 6 NOVEMBER 1998

SUMMARY RECORD OF THE THIRD MEETING OF COMMITTEE 7 (MANAGEMENT OF THE UNION)

Monday, 18 October 1998, at 0935 hours

Finance

Chairperson: Mr. U. MOHR (Germany)

Later: Staff matters

Chairperson: Mr. A. MAPUNDA (Tanzania)

Subjects discussed

Documents

1	Arrears: requests submitted by Mauritania, Grenada, Nicaragua and Azerbaijan	DT/11
2	Statement by the Chairman of the Staff Council	-
3	Organization of the work of the Committee (continued)	DT/6
4	Financial situation of the ITU Staff Superannuation and Benevolent Funds	44
5	Human resources management and development	55

1 Arrears: requests submitted by Mauritania, Grenada, Nicaragua and Azerbaijan (Document DT/11)

1.1 The **Chairperson**, having recalled that the Plenary would be meeting the next day to elect the Secretary-General, said that it was a matter of urgency for the Committee to take a decision on the requests submitted by four Member States of the Union, namely, Mauritania, Grenada, Nicaragua and Azerbaijan. Those requests, together with the question of arrears, had already been the subject of a lengthy discussion at the Committee's second meeting, and he therefore suggested that the Committee should approve the recommendations in his report to the Plenary set out in Document DT/11.

1.2 The **Secretary** emphasized that the four recommendations in Document DT/11 did not prejudge Committee 7's recommendation on future arrangements relating to arrears. A draft resolution on that subject would be submitted to a subsequent meeting.

1.3 The **Chairperson** observed that the recommendations in Document DT/11 took account of the Union's legal obligations as well as of the decisions taken by previous Plenipotentiary Conferences. In no way did they prejudge the Committee's subsequent discussion of Document 33 and recommendation 13 (second paragraph) of the ITU-2000 Group. For the time being, special arrears accounts did exist. With regard to Mauritania, he suggested that the Committee should recommend to the Plenary to transfer the unpaid contributions (509 458.45 Swiss francs) to a special arrears account bearing no interest, so that Mauritania could recover the right to vote; the Council would be authorized to write off the interest on overdue payments, amounting to 809 352.10 Swiss francs, on condition that Mauritania complied strictly with the agreed repayment schedule.

1.4 It was so **agreed**.

1.5 The **delegate of Algeria** asked whether Mauritania would be able to exercise its right to vote immediately if the Plenary adopted the Committee's recommendation.

1.6 The **Chairperson** replied in the affirmative. With regard to Grenada, he suggested that the Committee should recommend to the Plenary to transfer Grenada's unpaid contributions (721 572.65 Swiss francs) to a special arrears account bearing no interest, on condition that Grenada submitted a repayment schedule and complied strictly with it.

1.7 It was so **agreed**.

1.8 The **delegate of the United States**, referring to the difficulties caused by special arrears accounts, suggested that, in the case of each request under consideration, the establishment of a special arrears account should be recommended on condition not only that the State concerned submitted a repayment schedule but that it negotiated a schedule which was acceptable to the Council and provided for repayment of the outstanding amounts within one year.

1.9 The **Chairperson** said that that suggestion would be noted in the draft resolution to be submitted to the Plenary in due course. There was no need for it to be taken into consideration in connection with the requests by Member States seeking to recover the right to vote in order to take part in the elections.

1.10 The **delegate of the United States** questioned the expediency of allowing certain countries to recover the right to vote before the Plenary had taken a decision on arrears and special arrears accounts.

1.11 The **Secretary** observed that the recommendations to be submitted by the Committee to the next Plenary Meeting concerned only two States which would thus recover the right to vote. In the

case of Mauritania, the concern of the United States delegate had already been met as arrangements had been made for that State to comply strictly with the repayment schedule drawn up. The broad issue of repayment schedules and special arrears accounts would be addressed in a draft resolution outlining the policy to be followed in that respect.

1.12 The **delegate of Spain** considered, in the interests of clarity, that the Plenary should formally consider the Committee's recommendations before proceeding with the elections; the recommendations should therefore be placed on the Plenary's agenda.

1.13 The **Chairperson** said that such indeed was the plan.

1.14 The **delegate of the United States** said that he could accept the solution put forward by the Secretary, namely, that the United States proposal would be incorporated in the draft resolution on special arrears accounts, it being understood that the contents of the draft resolution would apply to all States.

1.15 The **Chairperson** took note of that comment. With regard to Nicaragua, he suggested that the Committee should recommend to the Plenary to transfer the unpaid contributions (1 225 814.65 Swiss francs) to a special arrears account bearing no interest, so that Nicaragua could recover the right to vote; the Council would be authorized to write off the interest on overdue payments, amounting to 851 657.90 Swiss francs, on condition that Nicaragua complied strictly with the agreed repayment schedule.

1.16 It was so **agreed**.

1.17 With regard to Azerbaijan, the **Chairperson** suggested that the Committee should recommend to the Plenary not to accede to the request; the Plenipotentiary Conference might wish, however, in agreement with Azerbaijan, to authorize the Council to write off the interest on overdue payments for the years 1992 to 1997, amounting to 70 966.80 Swiss francs.

1.18 It was so **agreed**.

1.19 The **delegate of Nicaragua** thanked the Committee for its recommendation to the Plenary and confirmed that his country was determined to meet its commitments.

Mr. Mapunda took the Chair.

2 Statement by the Chairman of the Staff Council

2.1 The **Chairman of the Staff Council** made the statement reproduced in Annex A.

3 Organization of the work of the Committee (continued) (Document DT/6)

3.1 Document DT/6 was **noted**.

4 Financial situation of the ITU Staff Superannuation and Benevolent Funds (Document 44)

- 4.1 The **Secretary** recalled that for many years the Provident Fund had needed financial support from the Union. The Nairobi Plenipotentiary Conference had resolved that the annual contribution of 350 000 Swiss francs from the ordinary budget to the Provident Fund would be continued until such time as the Fund was able to meet its obligations. The Nice Plenipotentiary Conference had resolved to reduce the annual contribution to 250 000 Swiss francs, and the Kyoto Plenipotentiary Conference had further reduced it to 200 000 Swiss francs. In view of the way in which the Fund's financial situation was developing, it was proposed that the annual contribution of 200 000 Swiss francs from the ordinary budget should be reduced to 70 000 Swiss francs and maintained at the necessary level until the such time as the Fund was able to meet its obligations. That proposal was set out in the draft resolution in Annex A to Document 44.
- 4.2 The **delegate of Japan** supported the draft resolution.
- 4.3 In reply to a question by the **delegate of the Netherlands**, the **Secretary** said that the amount of the proposed contribution was such as to enable the Fund to meet its obligations.
- 4.4 The draft resolution in Annex A to Document 44 was **approved**.

5 Human resources management and development (Document 55)

- 5.1 The **Secretary-General** introduced Document 55, which dealt with the important issue of human resources management and development. The document reported on implementation of the Kyoto resolutions on staff matters, which were concerned essentially with the following areas: recruitment, performance management, human resources development, job classification, human resources planning, compensation/remuneration and staff/management relations. It contained three draft resolutions relating, respectively, to human resources management and development, compensation matters and staff participation in conferences of the Union. He invited the Committee to approve the draft resolutions and to give the secretariat the benefit of its advice and suggestions for improving the Union's management.
- 5.2 The **delegate of Spain** observed that the document under consideration reported on the comments and proposals made by the Council at its previous session with regard to implementation of the resolutions of the Kyoto Plenipotentiary Conference. One of the subjects which had given rise to much discussion was that of managed renewable term (MRT) contracts. The Council had called for the strict application of its Resolution 1080, in particular with respect to the number of such contracts granted and the criteria on which they were based. In order to follow up the implementation of that type of contract, it had asked for a report on the matter to be submitted to it each year.
- 5.3 The **delegate of Cameroon** said that, overall, a certain number of incentive measures had been taken in favour of the staff since the last Plenipotentiary Conference. Since ITU was subject to the rules governing the United Nations common system, it was clear that those measures could not immediately provide full satisfaction. After stressing the fact that the reclassification of certain posts to D.2 had been accepted, he said that as a result of that decision it should be possible for the entire grading situation to be reviewed so that the incentives adopted for one category of staff could be extended to all categories. That would serve to dissipate the frustration felt by some at what was perceived to be the injustice of adopting specific rather than global measures.

5.4 The **delegate of the United States**, referring to proposal 3 of Document 55, and in particular to the issue of encouraging the appointment of women to posts in the Professional category, asked whether the International Civil Service Commission (ICSC) had produced its report on the representation of female staff; if not, that document should be communicated to the Council as soon as it was issued. With regard to proposal 14, it was his understanding that the ITU retirement scheme permitted staff members to retire at either 60 or 62; in his view, there should be a single age limit of 62. It was worth emphasizing that the skills of staff members nearing retirement age were often very precious to the Union.

5.5 The **delegate of Canada** said that the question of appointing women to posts in the Professional category had been raised at the Kyoto Plenipotentiary Conference. Recalling that the High Level Committee had adopted a recommendation on the subject in 1991, he noted that little progress had been made over the past seven years.

5.6 The **delegate of the Netherlands** expressed disappointment at the way in which the situation of short-term contracts had developed in ITU. It was in the interests of the organization for staff to be offered long-term career prospects as well as fixed-term contracts. With regard to proposal 13 concerning MRT contracts, it would appear that the efforts to introduce greater flexibility in the Union had not been successful; the question therefore arose whether or not Annex A could be interpreted as promoting renewed efforts to back up proposal 13.

5.7 The **Secretary**, replying to the delegate of Spain, said that the secretariat too considered it important to clarify the conditions in which MRT contracts were and would be granted, and would not fail to submit a report on the subject to the Council. In reply to the delegate of the Netherlands, he said that MRT contracts were just another tool at ITU's disposal to meet a wide range of rapidly changing needs. The Union could and should be able to offer various types of contract; at the same time it should seek to strike a balance between the types of contract proposed having regard to requirements, available budgetary resources and the possibilities offered by the United Nations common system. The secretariat was endeavouring to strike such a balance and was in the process of studying the outcome of a study on the matter which had just been completed. The recruitment problems that caused concern to the delegates of the United States, Canada and Cameroon were related to types of contract, in so far as some were more attractive than others.

5.8 With regard to the appointment of women, ITU was following the ICSC's work on the subject very closely. There was also a focal point in the Union to address the issue. However, while the secretariat was aware of the need to facilitate women's access to posts in the Professional category, it could not produce applications where none existed. What it could do was encourage such applications by disseminating vacancy notices more widely.

5.9 With regard to the question of retirement age, the Union was bound by the rules of the United Nations system. Currently, staff members who had taken up service before 1 January 1990 were obliged to retire within one month of their sixtieth birthday, whereas those who had assumed their duties after 1 January 1990 could remain in service until the end of the month in which they turned 62. That United Nations rule was applied strictly and without discrimination. Of course, the Secretary-General could extend the age limit in exceptional cases and within reason, in the light of specific ITU requirements. There were many young, highly competent graduates on the labour market seeking first employment or wishing to further their careers by participating in ITU activities. The fact that the Union was keen to recruit such people obviously had repercussions on decisions relating to the extension or not of contracts of staff members reaching retirement age.

5.10 Finally, he informed the United States delegate that the ICSC report had not yet been published.

5.11 The **delegate of Algeria** asked whether the secretariat intended to submit further documents on human resources management and development or whether all the related issues were dealt with in the document currently under discussion.

5.12 The **Secretary** replied that there were no other general documents on the subject; however, there were a number of draft resolutions which the Staff Council had prepared with the support of some delegations, as well as a draft resolution on the introduction of a long-term care insurance scheme in the Union.

5.13 The **delegate of Algeria** said he wished to know exactly how staff matters were to be taken up and discussed. At the 1998 session of the Council, Document 55 had been the subject of lengthy discussion in respect of certain elements that were essential for the future and for the Union's functioning. In both 1997 and 1998 Algeria had steadfastly defended certain questions of principle, with the support of a majority of Council members. His country wanted there to be more transparency in the management and development of human resources, since examples abounded of a lack of transparency that was incompatible with the purposes of a Union committed to universality. Algeria did not recognize the quotas applied for staff members recruited without its agreement, and that position of principle applied to all types of recruitment. It was surprising that ITU should have distanced itself from the United Nations common system in that respect and it was to be hoped that the Union would revert to the common practice, which respected the sovereignty of States. The lack of transparency to which he was referring related also to the procedure for abolishing or converting posts, which was left to the discretion of the Secretary-General. It was to be hoped that the present Plenipotentiary Conference would put a stop to that practice.

5.14 The Plenipotentiary Conference (Kyoto, 1994) had adopted Resolution 49, which was the result of a compromise. His delegation would have liked Document 55 to reflect the nature and spirit of the compromise on which that resolution was based, so that all delegations would be made aware of the conditions in which it had been implemented by the secretariat. Noting that there was a link between Resolution 49 and proposal 14 concerning retirement practices, he said that although his delegation shared the concern of some staff members who wished to remain in service beyond retirement age, it held the view that the specific case of officials occupying D.2 posts in the conditions laid down by the Council in 1998 should be considered separately, within the framework of the retirement principles spelt out at the 1998 Council session by the official in charge of staff management; those posts should be advertised openly. Finally, he reserved his delegation's right to revert to the matter in Plenary.

5.15 The **Chairperson** said that the Chief of the Personnel Department would prepare a comprehensive document on D.2 posts. If there was no objection, he would take it that the Committee was ready to take up the draft resolution on human resources management and development in Annex A to the document.

5.16 The **Secretary** introduced the draft resolution, which was a revised version of Resolution 48 (Kyoto, 1994) and took up most of the points dealt with in Document 55.

5.17 The **delegate of the United States** suggested, in the interests of objectivity, that the words "young specialists" in *considering a)* should be replaced by "specialists at the entry level". Turning to *considering b)*, he questioned the inclusion of the phrase "in each Sector", which placed an unnecessary restriction on flexibility within the Union. With regard to *resolves 2*, he proposed the addition of the words "within existing resources and to the extent consistent with the United Nations common system" at the end of the paragraph.

5.18 The **delegate of Germany** supported the United States proposals, particularly in respect of *considering a)* and *b)*. Referring to *considering b)* in particular, he considered that the expression

"in each Sector" implied excessively narrow subdivisions which might deprive the Union of the specialists it needed.

5.19 The **delegate of Algeria** proposed that the words "in each Sector" in *considering b)* should be deleted, as they might have a restrictive effect on the concept of geographical distribution, which should be regarded as applying globally within the Union.

5.20 The **delegate of the United States** said that his comments on the term "young specialists" applied also to paragraph 5 under *instructs the Secretary-General*. The words "improving the situation in the Professional category" in that paragraph required explanation.

5.21 The **delegate of Algeria**, referring to the French-language version of paragraph 4 under *instructs the Secretary-General*, considered that the term "représentation géographique" should be retained in preference to "répartition géographique", as it was better suited to the context of recruitment policy.

5.22 The **Secretary**, having observed that ITU did not apply a quota policy and that the term "representación" was used in the Spanish-language version of the document, suggested that the English and French texts should be aligned to the Spanish.

5.23 The **delegate of Spain**, supported by the **delegates of Algeria and Cameroon**, considered that "*requests the Council*" should be replaced by "*instructs the Council*". The phrase which had been added to the end of paragraph 4 of that section should be amended to read: "taking account, in particular, of *considering b)* and *c)* above", for the Council would have to take account of all the *considering* paragraphs in adopting the measures it deemed necessary to secure an adequate number of qualified candidates for Union posts.

5.24 The **delegate of the Netherlands** suggested, in keeping with the proposal made by the United States delegate and supported by the delegate of Germany, that reference should be made to the provisions of the United Nations common system.

5.25 The **delegate of the United States** considered that it should be spelt out in paragraph 3 under *requests the Council* that the credits for in-service training should represent no more than 3% of the budget allocated to staff costs. The **Secretary** replied that the 3% figure was absolutely necessary to secure training for the staff and that it was not a good idea for the Union to give the impression that such expenditure was limited.

5.26 The **Chairperson** said that the matter could be left to the judgement of the General Secretariat. He suggested that the draft resolution in Annex A should be approved subject to the proposed amendments and transmitted to the Plenary.

5.27 It was so **agreed**.

5.28 The **Chairperson** invited the Committee to take up the draft resolution on compensation matters in Annex B.

5.29 The **delegate of Australia**, referring to paragraph 3.60 of the document, asked exactly when the ITU secretariat had informed ICSC about specific posts where recruitment and retention difficulties were experienced. The wording of the *recalling* paragraph of the draft resolution suggested that the United Nations General Assembly had taken a firm decision to introduce special occupational rates in the common system and that ICSC had delayed applying that decision.

5.30 The **Secretary** said that ICSC had not yet taken a decision to introduce special occupational rates but was in the process of compiling data on the structure and level of the special rates applied to similar posts in the comparator civil service, namely, that of the United States of America.

5.31 The **delegate of the United Kingdom**, supported by the **delegate of the United States**, agreed that the wording of the *recalling* paragraph was unsatisfactory, in view of its implied criticism of slow action within the United Nations system. That shortcoming could be remedied by deleting the phrase "which still remains to be implemented".

5.32 The **delegate of Algeria** noted with regret that the new wording of *considering a)* weakened the initial purpose of the text, which had been to emphasize that common system remuneration levels in the Professional and higher categories were no longer competitive when compared to a number of other international civil services. He proposed to replace the verb "ensure" by the verb "restore" in the amended part of the text. The **delegate of the United Kingdom** pointed out that the Union was not competent to restore common system remuneration levels.

5.33 The **delegate of Switzerland**, supported by the **delegate of the United States**, said that he too was in favour of keeping the original text of *considering a)*. The question had been discussed at length over the past two years in the Tripartite Working Group set up by the Council. It was indisputable in the case of certain - but not all - posts that the Union did not offer conditions which could compete with private sector offers and that some adjustments would have to be made.

5.34 The **Chairperson** said that the secretariat would revise the text in order to remove any wording with negative connotations for the United Nations system. With regard to *considering a)*, he suggested that the verb "ensure" should be retained, since the verb "restore" seemed to be rather strong.

5.35 It was so agreed.

5.36 With regard to paragraph 2 under *instructs the Council*, the **delegate of the United States**, supported by the **delegate of the Netherlands**, asked for an explanation of the type of step contemplated in the proposed amendment.

5.37 The **Secretary** replied that the Council, in making that change, had certainly not intended to suggest that the Union should leave the United Nations common system; its only aim had been to enable the Union to meet its legal obligations with regard to the implementation of common system decisions, and enable it to put precise requests to the organs of that system so that its specific needs would be taken into account by those organs during the preparation of such decisions.

5.38 The **delegate of the Netherlands** having observed that the proposed text was rather vague, the **Chairperson** suggested that further thought should be given to the matter before the Committee's next meeting, with a view to improving the wording of the paragraph.

5.39 Subject to the amendments made, it was **agreed** that the draft resolution in Annex B, now considered as approved, would be transmitted to the Plenary.

5.40 The **Chairperson** invited the Committee to take up the draft resolution on staff participation in conferences of the Union in Annex C.

5.41 The **delegate of Switzerland**, wishing to emphasize even more strongly that the Union's riches lay in its staff, proposed the addition of a new paragraph *d)* under *considering* to read: "*d)* that it is important for the Staff Council to be consulted by the Secretary-General before any decision is taken on the management of human resources and working conditions at ITU". The intention was not to set up a new structure but to ensure, within the existing structures, that the staff representatives were consulted by the Secretary-General when decisions had to be taken concerning the staff.

5.42 The **delegate of Tanzania** also stressed the need for consultation between the staff and the Secretary-General. She supported the Swiss delegate's proposal.

5.43 The **delegate of Cameroon**, supported by the **delegates of Kuwait and Benin**, said that the substance of the proposed paragraph was perfectly acceptable; however, wording should be found which left it in no doubt that the highest authority was vested in the Secretary-General.

5.44 The **delegates of Cuba, Algeria and France** supported the Swiss proposal.

5.45 The **delegate of the Netherlands**, supported by the **delegate of the United Kingdom**, supported the proposal by the delegate of Switzerland on condition that the consultations concerned would apply only to global decisions.

5.46 The **delegate of Japan** said that consultations were obviously a good thing in certain cases; however, caution must be exercised in choosing the wording.

5.47 The **Secretary** observed that Chapter VIII of the ITU Staff Regulations and Staff Rules entitled "Staff Relations" contained the very provisions now being discussed. The secretariat could prepare a text which simply made reference to the provisions of that chapter.

5.48 The **Chairperson** suggested that further consideration of Annex C should be deferred and that the delegations of Switzerland, Cameroon and the United Kingdom should prepare a new draft text for submission to the Committee at its next meeting.

5.49 It was so **agreed**.

The meeting rose at 1250 hours.

The Secretaries:
A. TAZI-RIFFI
A. DESCALZI

The Chairpersons:
U. MOHR
A. MAPUNDA

Annex: 1

ANNEX A

Statement by the Chairman of the Staff Council

Mr Chairperson,
Distinguished delegates,
Colleagues,

At its last meeting in Geneva in June 1998, the International Labour Organization, which is responsible under its Constitution for drawing up international labour standards and promoting fundamental labour rights, reiterated some of its constitutional principles, namely the right of association and effective recognition of the right of collective negotiation.

It is four years since the Plenipotentiary Conference in Kyoto, where you, the Member States, and we, the staff and the administration, undertook to open a new era in our working relations. Resolution 51 was unanimously adopted by your delegations in Kyoto. It was a resolution that filled the staff with hope. It states, among other things, "the importance of fruitful working relations between the staff and its employer and of staff participation in the management of the Union".

If this resolution had been put into practice, we could have avoided much waste of time, energy and money and some litigation and disputes. But it has not. The internal committees in which we participate give only advisory opinions, and only one committee is a joint one. Since Kyoto, at all events, resource management has continued to go ahead without any real participation on the part of the staff.

However, the ITU staff's aim here today is not just to take stock of the situation, but also to participate in shaping an organization capable of meeting the demands of the world telecommunication market and at the same time anxious to develop and motivate its staff, by respecting their fundamental rights.

This state of mind can be construed as a sign of the Union's confidence and vitality.

Thanks to the activity of its Staff Council, which we have the honour to represent before you, the staff of ITU has been behind the revitalization of the Tripartite Group on Human Resources Management (for the delegates who did not participate in the work of the ITU Council, let us reiterate that this group has an ad hoc status and was responsible for preparing some of the proposals which have been presented in Document 55). The Tripartite Group represents a step forward in terms of the rational use of ITU resources. In only five days of meetings that were held between November 1996 and February 1998, this group, in which delegations from the Member States participated, enabled the staff and the administration to give substance to a number of projects.

These include the creation of unestablished posts aimed at reducing the growing lack of job security, the appointment of a focal point for gender issues in ITU, and the setting up of a mechanism for personal promotion based on seniority and performance evaluation. The latter mechanism has now been introduced. Other less advanced projects are awaiting the go-ahead from the new management team which you will be called upon to elect. They include the introduction of the function of mediator, the setting up of a mechanism for *à la carte* retirement (55-62 years), and making working hours flexible enough to be compatible with family obligations.

As regards the situation of women, ITU is lagging behind all the other international organizations. We would like to believe that the recent appointment of a "focal point for gender issues" will result in a genuine political will towards equality through the recruitment and internal promotion of women.

Here we would draw your attention to the conclusions of the Task Force on Gender Issues, and ask you to adopt the measures which will be proposed to you.

As we continue our survey of the whole situation, we will mention briefly some aspects of staff management policy.

- **Lack of job security/economy measures**

The policy of cuts in the budget contains two main strands: 1) Significant lapse of time between staff retiring and being replaced; 2) lack of security in contracts for permanent posts, and in the tasks performed thereunder. At the end of 1997, 6% of posts provided for in the budget had not been filled.

Conferences have been shortened in order to save money. But the agendas are just as heavy and the need for speed and high quality is still there. The increase in workload brings with it an increase in levels of stress.

Reference is often made to the working methods of the private sector, while it is reasonable for ITU to follow the example of the private sector in order to improve the services it provides for its membership, however, the fact remains that the Union is unable for the time being to offer the same benefits. For instance, ITU is not covered by any legislation relating to social welfare; with the growing lack of job security, what are staff members who lose their jobs supposed to do? Unlike in any given national context, they are faced with having to leave the country of their duty station within a very short time, with no possibility of recourse to a system for finding a new job or of retraining, without any unemployment benefit and without any health insurance. In the past many officials were seconded by their respective national administrations, but this is no longer the case. It is our view, therefore, that ITU must shoulder its responsibilities if it wishes to attract and retain qualified staff, by setting up a mechanism for social welfare.

- **Compliance with and implementation of decisions taken by the Member States**

You have adopted a number of measures the application of which was left to discretion of the administration. Unfortunately, the administration has displayed a distinct lack of both diligence and imagination.

In 1994, the Plenipotentiary Conference recognized the need for the "provision of career guidance, planning and counselling" for ITU staff (Resolution 1). This should have resulted in practice in the creation of a P.4 post of Career Counsellor and a G.5 post of assistant. As no funding was provided for these posts, the ITU Council recommended in 1996 that posts be redeployed to meet this need. No post was redeployed for this purpose. The Tripartite Group asked Council-98 to take a decision on this matter or to refer the question to the Plenipotentiary Conference. So, four years after the recommendation you made in Kyoto, here we are in Minneapolis debating this issue again.

On the other hand, it may be pointed out that at the last Council session in May this year, you, the Members of the ITU Council, took two decisions: the creation of D.2 posts with a special post allowance for the current incumbents, and review of MRT contracts already granted. While one can but welcome the promptness with which, only a few days after the Council, the special post allowance at D.2 was granted to the incumbents of the posts in question, the fact that the revision of MRT contracts is still pending can only be deplored.

It can be seen therefore that in practice your decisions are given different treatment, depending on whether they are in the administration's interests or not.

What measures do you envisage taking to ensure that all your decisions, without exception, are followed up in practice?

- **Salaries**

We would certainly have preferred not to have to raise the question of salaries. Nevertheless, we are obliged to remind you that the salaries of our colleagues in the General Service category have been frozen or have fallen by 7.4% since 1995 and the salaries of our Professional colleagues, frozen since 1985, have incurred a loss in purchasing power of around 42.2%. It has been estimated that the salary freeze has saved ITU some 9 million Swiss francs, or the equivalent of 28 contributory units, at the current rate. Hence the ITU staff are, without doubt, one of the largest contributors to the Union's budget. This is a further reason why the staff should be treated with dignity, rewarded for its efforts by an intelligent career development policy and, above all, be associated with the management of the Union.

Mr. Chairperson,
Distinguished delegates,
Colleagues,

So there we have it: the growing lack of job security, the lack of transparency in certain staff management actions, the freeze in salaries, the lack of a career development policy, in addition to a number of cases of harassment of staff representatives, plus the lack of negotiation and the disregard shown for our opinions, are creating a heavy atmosphere which does nothing to help meet the increasing and legitimate demands of the Member States and of the users of our services.

So what do we want? We want to be players, not spectators.

We demand the right to negotiate. The Tripartite Group should be institutionalized. The Secretary-General should make sure that we are always consulted before decisions are taken concerning staff management. For example, we should be actively involved in the forthcoming appointment of the Chief of the Staff and Social Protection Department.

We ask that there be the fullest and widest possible compliance with Article 22 of the Headquarters Agreement signed by the Swiss Federal Council and ITU, namely that social welfare at least equivalent to Swiss social welfare be provided, especially as regards unemployment insurance.

A number of resolutions have been prepared for your consideration. Adopt them, because they are all concerned with the respect that you owe to your staff, who remain the ITU's greatest asset.

The ITU staff are aware that the organization is having to change to adapt to the world of business and the global market in telecommunication services and that to do this it has a limited budget for an international public service which is in ever greater demand.

According to our Secretary-General's estimates, the value of the world telecommunication services market represents maybe slightly less than 3 000 billion US dollars at present, rising to 10 000 billion dollars in a few years' time.

The ITU's annual budget is around 220 million US dollars.

At present, therefore, the cost of ITU corresponds to a mere 0.00007 per cent of the global telecommunications market.

In view of the role it plays, there appears to be an obvious gulf between ITU's activity and the value of the world telecommunication services market which it is supposed to help function. Yet the work done by ITU is useful. The fact that there are so many of you here at this Plenipotentiary Conference testifies to this.

We are therefore convinced that the ITU staff - your staff - display an excellent cost/benefit ratio and we ask you to bear this in mind when you have to consider and adopt resolutions relating to staff matters during this Plenipotentiary Conference.

INTERNATIONAL TELECOMMUNICATION UNION



PLENIPOTENTIARY CONFERENCE (PP-98)

Document 174-E
27 October 1998
Original: French

MINNEAPOLIS, 12 OCTOBER - 6 NOVEMBER 1998

COMMITTEE 7

SUMMARY RECORD OF THE THIRD MEETING OF COMMITTEE 7 (MANAGEMENT OF THE UNION)

Monday, 18 October 1998, at 0935 hours

Finance

Chairperson: Mr. U. MOHR (Germany)

Staff matters

Chairperson: Mr. A. MAPUNDA (Tanzania)

Subjects discussed

Documents

1	Arrears: requests submitted by Mauritania, Grenada, Nicaragua and Azerbaijan	DT/11
2	Statement by the Chairman of the Staff Council	-
3	Organization of the work of the Committee (continued)	DT/6
4	Financial situation of the ITU Staff Superannuation and Benevolent Funds	44
5	Human resources management and development	55

1 Arrears: requests submitted by Mauritania, Grenada, Nicaragua and Azerbaijan (Document DT/11)

1.1 The **Chairperson**, having recalled that the Plenary would be meeting the next day to elect the Secretary-General, said that it was a matter of urgency for the Committee to take a decision on the requests submitted by four Member States of the Union, namely, Mauritania, Grenada, Nicaragua and Azerbaijan. Those requests, together with the question of arrears, had already been the subject of a lengthy discussion at the Committee's second meeting, and he therefore suggested that the Committee should approve the recommendations in his report to the Plenary set out in Document DT/11.

1.2 The **Secretary** emphasized that the four recommendations in Document DT/11 did not prejudice Committee 7's recommendation on future arrangements relating to arrears. A draft resolution on that subject would be submitted to a subsequent meeting.

1.3 The **Chairperson** observed that the recommendations in Document DT/11 took account of the Union's legal obligations as well as of the decisions taken by previous Plenipotentiary Conferences. In no way did they prejudice the Committee's subsequent discussion of Document 33 and recommendation 13 (second paragraph) of the ITU-2000 Group. For the time being, special arrears accounts did exist. With regard to Mauritania, he suggested that the Committee should recommend to the Plenary to transfer the unpaid contributions (509 458.45 Swiss francs) to a special arrears account bearing no interest, so that Mauritania could recover the right to vote; the Council would be authorized to write off the interest on overdue payments, amounting to 809 352.10 Swiss francs, on condition that Mauritania complied strictly with the agreed repayment schedule.

1.4 It was so **agreed**.

1.5 The **delegate of Algeria** asked whether Mauritania would be able to exercise its right to vote immediately if the Plenary adopted the Committee's recommendation.

1.6 The **Chairperson** replied in the affirmative. With regard to Grenada, he suggested that the Committee should recommend to the Plenary to transfer Grenada's unpaid contributions (721 572.65 Swiss francs) to a special arrears account bearing no interest, on condition that Grenada submitted a repayment schedule and complied strictly with it.

1.7 It was so **agreed**.

1.8 The **delegate of the United States**, referring to the difficulties caused by special arrears accounts, suggested that, in the case of each request under consideration, the establishment of a special arrears account should be recommended on condition not only that the State concerned submitted a repayment schedule but that it negotiated a schedule which was acceptable to the Council and provided for repayment of the outstanding amounts within one year.

1.9 The **Chairperson** said that that suggestion would be noted in the draft resolution to be submitted to the Plenary in due course. There was no need for it to be taken into consideration in connection with the requests by Member States seeking to recover the right to vote in order to take part in the elections.

1.10 The **delegate of the United States** questioned the expediency of allowing certain countries to recover the right to vote before the Plenary had taken a decision on arrears and special arrears accounts.

1.11 The **Secretary** observed that the recommendations to be submitted by the Committee to the next Plenary Meeting concerned only two States which would thus recover the right to vote. In the

case of Mauritania, the concern of the United States delegate had already been met as arrangements had been made for that State to comply strictly with the repayment schedule drawn up. The broad issue of repayment schedules and special arrears accounts would be addressed in a draft resolution outlining the policy to be followed in that respect.

1.12 The **delegate of Spain** considered, in the interests of clarity, that the Plenary should formally consider the Committee's recommendations before proceeding with the elections; the recommendations should therefore be placed on the Plenary's agenda.

1.13 The **Chairperson** said that such indeed was the plan.

1.14 The **delegate of the United States** said that he could accept the solution put forward by the Secretary, namely, that the United States proposal would be incorporated in the draft resolution on special arrears accounts, it being understood that the contents of the draft resolution would apply to all States.

1.15 The **Chairperson** took note of that comment. With regard to Nicaragua, he suggested that the Committee should recommend to the Plenary to transfer the unpaid contributions (1 225 814.65 Swiss francs) to a special arrears account bearing no interest, so that Nicaragua could recover the right to vote; the Council would be authorized to write off the interest on overdue payments, amounting to 851 657.90 Swiss francs, on condition that Nicaragua complied strictly with the agreed repayment schedule.

1.16 It was so **agreed**.

1.17 With regard to Azerbaijan, the **Chairperson** suggested that the Committee should recommend to the Plenary not to accede to the request; the Plenipotentiary Conference might wish, however, in agreement with Azerbaijan, to authorize the Council to write off the interest on overdue payments for the years 1992 to 1997, amounting to 70 966.80 Swiss francs.

1.18 It was so **agreed**.

1.19 The **delegate of Nicaragua** thanked the Committee for its recommendation to the Plenary and confirmed that his country was determined to meet its commitments.

Mr. Mapunda took the Chair.

2 Statement by the Chairman of the Staff Council

2.1 The **Chairman of the Staff Council** made the statement reproduced in Annex A.

3 Organization of the work of the Committee (continued) (Document DT/6)

3.1 Document DT/6 was **noted**.

4 Financial situation of the ITU Staff Superannuation and Benevolent Funds (Document 44)

- 4.1 The **Secretary** recalled that for many years the Provident Fund had needed financial support from the Union. The Nairobi Plenipotentiary Conference had resolved that the annual contribution of 350 000 Swiss francs from the ordinary budget to the Provident Fund would be continued until such time as the Fund was able to meet its obligations. The Nice Plenipotentiary Conference had resolved to reduce the annual contribution to 250 000 Swiss francs, and the Kyoto Plenipotentiary Conference had further reduced it to 200 000 Swiss francs. In view of the way in which the Fund's financial situation was developing, it was proposed that the annual contribution of 200 000 Swiss francs from the ordinary budget should be reduced to 70 000 Swiss francs and maintained at the necessary level until the such time as the Fund was able to meet its obligations. That proposal was set out in the draft resolution in Annex A to Document 44.
- 4.2 The **delegate of Japan** supported the draft resolution.
- 4.3 In reply to a question by the **delegate of the Netherlands**, the **Secretary** said that the amount of the proposed contribution was such as to enable the Fund to meet its obligations.
- 4.4 The draft resolution in Annex A to Document 44 was **approved**.

5 Human resources management and development (Document 55)

- 5.1 The **Secretary-General** introduced Document 55, which dealt with the important issue of human resources management and development. The document reported on implementation of the Kyoto resolutions on staff matters, which were concerned essentially with the following areas: recruitment, performance management, human resources development, job classification, human resources planning, compensation/remuneration and staff/management relations. It contained three draft resolutions relating, respectively, to human resources management and development, compensation matters and staff participation in conferences of the Union. He invited the Committee to approve the draft resolutions and to give the secretariat the benefit of its advice and suggestions for improving the Union's management.
- 5.2 The **delegate of Spain** observed that the document under consideration reported on the comments and proposals made by the Council at its previous session with regard to implementation of the resolutions of the Kyoto Plenipotentiary Conference. One of the subjects which had given rise to much discussion was that of managed renewable term (MRT) contracts. The Council had called for the strict application of its Resolution 1080, in particular with respect to the number of such contracts granted and the criteria on which they were based. In order to follow up the implementation of that type of contract, it had asked for a report on the matter to be submitted to it each year.
- 5.3 The **delegate of Cameroon** said that, overall, a certain number of incentive measures had been taken in favour of the staff since the last Plenipotentiary Conference. Since ITU was subject to the rules governing the United Nations common system, it was clear that those measures could not immediately provide full satisfaction. After stressing the fact that the reclassification of certain posts to D.2 had been accepted, he said that as a result of that decision it should be possible for the entire grading situation to be reviewed so that the incentives adopted for one category of staff could be extended to all categories. That would serve to dissipate the frustration felt by some at what was perceived to be the injustice of adopting specific rather than global measures.

5.4 The **delegate of the United States**, referring to proposal 3 of Document 55, and in particular to the issue of encouraging the appointment of women to posts in the Professional category, asked whether the International Civil Service Commission (ICSC) had produced its report on the representation of female staff; if not, that document should be communicated to the Council as soon as it was issued. With regard to proposal 14, it was his understanding that the ITU retirement scheme permitted staff members to retire at either 60 or 62; in his view, there should be a single age limit of 62. It was worth emphasizing that the skills of staff members nearing retirement age were often very precious to the Union.

5.5 The **delegate of Canada** said that the question of appointing women to posts in the Professional category had been raised at the Kyoto Plenipotentiary Conference. Recalling that the High Level Committee had adopted a recommendation on the subject in 1991, he noted that little progress had been made over the past seven years.

5.6 The **delegate of the Netherlands** expressed disappointment at the way in which the situation of short-term contracts had developed in ITU. It was in the interests of the organization for staff to be offered long-term career prospects as well as fixed-term contracts. With regard to proposal 13 concerning MRT contracts, it would appear that the efforts to introduce greater flexibility in the Union had not been successful; the question therefore arose whether or not Annex A could be interpreted as promoting renewed efforts to back up proposal 13.

5.7 The **Secretary**, replying to the delegate of Spain, said that the secretariat too considered it important to clarify the conditions in which MRT contracts were and would be granted, and would not fail to submit a report on the subject to the Council. In reply to the delegate of the Netherlands, he said that MRT contracts were just another tool at ITU's disposal to meet a wide range of rapidly changing needs. The Union could and should be able to offer various types of contract; at the same time it should seek to strike a balance between the types of contract proposed having regard to requirements, available budgetary resources and the possibilities offered by the United Nations common system. The secretariat was endeavouring to strike such a balance and was in the process of studying the outcome of a study on the matter which had just been completed. The recruitment problems that caused concern to the delegates of the United States, Canada and Cameroon were related to types of contract, in so far as some were more attractive than others.

5.8 With regard to the appointment of women, ITU was following the ICSC's work on the subject very closely. There was also a focal point in the Union to address the issue. However, while the secretariat was aware of the need to facilitate women's access to posts in the Professional category, it could not produce applications where none existed. What it could do was encourage such applications by disseminating vacancy notices more widely.

5.9 With regard to the question of retirement age, the Union was bound by the rules of the United Nations system. Currently, staff members who had taken up service before 1 January 1990 were obliged to retire within one month of their sixtieth birthday, whereas those who had assumed their duties after 1 January 1990 could remain in service until the end of the month in which they turned 62. That United Nations rule was applied strictly and without discrimination. Of course, the Secretary-General could extend the age limit in exceptional cases and within reason, in the light of specific ITU requirements. There were many young, highly competent graduates on the labour market seeking first employment or wishing to further their careers by participating in ITU activities. The fact that the Union was keen to recruit such people obviously had repercussions on decisions relating to the extension or not of contracts of staff members reaching retirement age.

5.10 Finally, he informed the United States delegate that the ICSC report had not yet been published.

5.11 The **delegate of Algeria** asked whether the secretariat intended to submit further documents on human resources management and development or whether all the related issues were dealt with in the document currently under discussion.

5.12 The **Secretary** replied that there were no other general documents on the subject; however, there were a number of draft resolutions which the Staff Council had prepared with the support of some delegations, as well as a draft resolution on the introduction of a long-term care insurance scheme in the Union.

5.13 The **delegate of Algeria** said he wished to know exactly how staff matters were to be taken up and discussed. At the 1998 session of the Council, Document 55 had been the subject of lengthy discussion in respect of certain elements that were essential for the future and for the Union's functioning. In both 1997 and 1998 Algeria had steadfastly defended certain questions of principle, with the support of a majority of Council members. His country wanted there to be more transparency in the management and development of human resources, since examples abounded of a lack of transparency that was incompatible with the purposes of a Union committed to universality. Algeria did not recognize the quotas applied for staff members recruited without its agreement, and that position of principle applied to all types of recruitment. It was surprising that ITU should have distanced itself from the United Nations common system in that respect and it was to be hoped that the Union would revert to the common practice, which respected the sovereignty of States. The lack of transparency to which he was referring related also to the procedure for abolishing or converting posts, which was left to the discretion of the Secretary-General. It was to be hoped that the present Plenipotentiary Conference would put a stop to that practice.

5.14 The Plenipotentiary Conference (Kyoto, 1994) had adopted Resolution 49, which was the result of a compromise. His delegation would have liked Document 55 to reflect the nature and spirit of the compromise on which that resolution was based, so that all delegations would be made aware of the conditions in which it had been implemented by the secretariat. Noting that there was a link between Resolution 49 and proposal 14 concerning retirement practices, he said that although his delegation shared the concern of some staff members who wished to remain in service beyond retirement age, it held the view that the specific case of officials occupying D.2 posts in the conditions laid down by the Council in 1998 should be considered separately, within the framework of the retirement principles spelt out at the 1998 Council session by the official in charge of staff management; those posts should be advertised openly. Finally, he reserved his delegation's right to revert to the matter in Plenary.

5.15 The **Chairperson** said that the Chief of the Personnel Department would prepare a comprehensive document on D.2 posts. If there was no objection, he would take it that the Committee was ready to take up the draft resolution on human resources management and development in Annex A to the document.

5.16 The **Secretary** introduced the draft resolution, which was a revised version of Resolution 48 (Kyoto, 1994) and took up most of the points dealt with in Document 55.

5.17 The **delegate of the United States** suggested, in the interests of objectivity, that the words "young specialists" in *considering a)* should be replaced by "specialists at the entry level". Turning to *considering b)*, he questioned the inclusion of the phrase "in each Sector", which placed an unnecessary restriction on flexibility within the Union. With regard to *resolves 2*, he proposed the addition of the words "within existing resources and to the extent consistent with the United Nations common system" at the end of the paragraph.

5.18 The **delegate of Germany** supported the United States proposals, particularly in respect of *considering a)* and *b)*. Referring to *considering b)* in particular, he considered that the expression

"in each Sector" implied excessively narrow subdivisions which might deprive the Union of the specialists it needed.

5.19 The **delegate of Algeria** proposed that the words "in each Sector" in *considering b)* should be deleted, as they might have a restrictive effect on the concept of geographical distribution, which should be regarded as applying globally within the Union.

5.20 The **delegate of the United States** said that his comments on the term "young specialists" applied also to paragraph 5 under *instructs the Secretary-General*. The words "improving the situation in the Professional category" in that paragraph required explanation.

5.21 The **delegate of Algeria**, referring to the French-language version of paragraph 4 under *instructs the Secretary-General*, considered that the term "représentation géographique" should be retained in preference to "répartition géographique", as it was better suited to the context of recruitment policy.

5.22 The **Secretary**, having observed that ITU did not apply a quota policy and that the term "representación" was used in the Spanish-language version of the document, suggested that the English and French texts should be aligned to the Spanish.

5.23 The **delegate of Spain**, supported by the **delegates of Algeria** and **Cameroon**, considered that "*requests the Council*" should be replaced by "*instructs the Council*". The phrase which had been added to the end of paragraph 4 of that section should be amended to read: "taking account, in particular, of *considering b)* and *c)* above", for the Council would have to take account of all the *considering* paragraphs in adopting the measures it deemed necessary to secure an adequate number of qualified candidates for Union posts.

5.24 The **delegate of the Netherlands** suggested, in keeping with the proposal made by the United States delegate and supported by the delegate of Germany, that reference should be made to the provisions of the United Nations common system.

5.25 The **delegate of the United States** considered that it should be spelt out in paragraph 3 under *requests the Council* that the credits for in-service training should represent no more than 3% of the budget allocated to staff costs. The **Secretary** replied that the 3% figure was absolutely necessary to secure training for the staff and that it was not a good idea for the Union to give the impression that such expenditure was limited.

5.26 The **Chairperson** said that the matter could be left to the judgement of the General Secretariat. He suggested that the draft resolution in Annex A should be approved subject to the proposed amendments and transmitted to the Plenary.

5.27 It was so **agreed**.

5.28 The **Chairperson** invited the Committee to take up the draft resolution on compensation matters in Annex B.

5.29 The **delegate of Australia**, referring to paragraph 3.60 of the document, asked exactly when the ITU secretariat had informed ICSC about specific posts where recruitment and retention difficulties were experienced. The wording of the *recalling* paragraph of the draft resolution suggested that the United Nations General Assembly had taken a firm decision to introduce special occupational rates in the common system and that ICSC had delayed applying that decision.

5.30 The **Secretary** said that ICSC had not yet taken a decision to introduce special occupational rates but was in the process of compiling data on the structure and level of the special rates applied to similar posts in the comparator civil service, namely, that of the United States of America.

5.31 The **delegate of the United Kingdom**, supported by the **delegate of the United States**, agreed that the wording of the *recalling* paragraph was unsatisfactory, in view of its implied criticism of slow action within the United Nations system. That shortcoming could be remedied by deleting the phrase "which still remains to be implemented".

5.32 The **delegate of Algeria** noted with regret that the new wording of *considering a)* weakened the initial purpose of the text, which had been to emphasize that common system remuneration levels in the Professional and higher categories were no longer competitive when compared to a number of other international civil services. He proposed to replace the verb "ensure" by the verb "restore" in the amended part of the text. The **delegate of the United Kingdom** pointed out that the Union was not competent to restore common system remuneration levels.

5.33 The **delegate of Switzerland**, supported by the **delegate of the United States**, said that he too was in favour of keeping the original text of *considering a)*. The question had been discussed at length over the past two years in the Tripartite Working Group set up by the Council. It was indisputable in the case of certain - but not all - posts that the Union did not offer conditions which could compete with private sector offers and that some adjustments would have to be made.

5.34 The **Chairperson** said that the secretariat would revise the text in order to remove any wording with negative connotations for the United Nations system. With regard to *considering a)*, he suggested that the verb "ensure" should be retained, since the verb "restore" seemed to be rather strong.

5.35 It was so **agreed**.

5.36 With regard to paragraph 2 under *instructs the Council*, the **delegate of the United States**, supported by the **delegate of the Netherlands**, asked for an explanation of the type of step contemplated in the proposed amendment.

5.37 The **Secretary** replied that the Council, in making that change, had certainly not intended to suggest that the Union should leave the United Nations common system; its only aim had been to enable the Union to meet its legal obligations with regard to the implementation of common system decisions, and enable it to put precise requests to the organs of that system so that its specific needs would be taken into account by those organs during the preparation of such decisions.

5.38 The **delegate of the Netherlands** having observed that the proposed text was rather vague, the **Chairperson** suggested that further thought should be given to the matter before the Committee's next meeting, with a view to improving the wording of the paragraph.

5.39 Subject to the amendments made, it was **agreed** that the draft resolution in Annex B, now considered as approved, would be transmitted to the Plenary.

5.40 The **Chairperson** invited the Committee to take up the draft resolution on staff participation in conferences of the Union in Annex C.

5.41 The **delegate of Switzerland**, wishing to emphasize even more strongly that the Union's riches lay in its staff, proposed the addition of a new paragraph *d)* under *considering* to read: "*d)* that it is important for the Staff Council to be consulted by the Secretary-General before any decision is taken on the management of human resources and working conditions at ITU". The intention was not to set up a new structure but to ensure, within the existing structures, that the staff representatives were consulted by the Secretary-General when decisions had to be taken concerning the staff.

5.42 The **delegate of Tanzania** also stressed the need for consultation between the staff and the Secretary-General. She supported the Swiss delegate's proposal.

5.43 The **delegate of Cameroon**, supported by the **delegates of Kuwait and Benin**, said that the substance of the proposed paragraph was perfectly acceptable; however, wording should be found which left it in no doubt that the highest authority was vested in the Secretary-General.

5.44 The **delegates of Cuba, Algeria and France** supported the Swiss proposal.

5.45 The **delegate of the Netherlands**, supported by the **delegate of the United Kingdom**, supported the proposal by the delegate of Switzerland on condition that the consultations concerned would apply only to global decisions.

5.46 The **delegate of Japan** said that consultations were obviously a good thing in certain cases; however, caution must be exercised in choosing the wording.

5.47 The **Secretary** observed that Chapter VIII of the ITU Staff Regulations and Staff Rules entitled "Staff Relations" contained the very provisions now being discussed. The secretariat could prepare a text which simply made reference to the provisions of that chapter.

5.48 The **Chairperson** suggested that further consideration of Annex C should be deferred and that the delegations of Switzerland, Cameroon and the United Kingdom should prepare a new draft text for submission to the Committee at its next meeting.

5.49 It was so **agreed**.

The meeting rose at 1250 hours.

The Secretaries:
A. TAZI-RIFFI
A. DESCALZI

The Chairpersons:
U. MOHR
A. MAPUNDA

Annex: 1

INTERNATIONAL TELECOMMUNICATION UNION



PLENIPOTENTIARY CONFERENCE (PP-98)

Document 175-E
25 October 1998
Original: English

MINNEAPOLIS, 12 OCTOBER - 6 NOVEMBER 1998

PLENARY MEETING

Israel (State of)

RESPONSE TO PROPOSAL BY THE ARAB GROUP CONCERNING THE PLO/PALESTINE OBSERVER

The Wye River Memorandum, signed by Israel and the Palestinians in Washington D.C. on October 23, 1998, deepens the commitment of the two parties to the peace process and opens new prospects for Israeli-Palestinian dialogue. The State of Israel ardently hopes that this momentum will further facilitate the bilateral handling of telecommunications matters in a spirit of trust and cooperation.

With regard to the proposal for admission of the PLO/Palestine observer as a Member State of the Union, presented in Document 106, Israel submits that any such initiative would be in violation of the ITU Constitution, which permits only sovereign States to apply for membership and to become Member States of the Union. The current status of the Palestinian Authority, as mutually agreed by Israel and the Palestinians in the Interim Agreement of 1995, rules out any form of "State" status for the Palestinian side pending permanent status negotiations, and hence precludes any such intervening initiative on the part of ITU. Accordingly, Israel reiterates its position as presented to this Conference in Document 115, and opposes any change in the status of the PLO/Palestine observer within ITU.

INTERNATIONAL TELECOMMUNICATION UNION



PLENIPOTENTIARY CONFERENCE (PP-98)

Document 176-E
24 October 1998
Original: English

MINNEAPOLIS, 12 OCTOBER - 6 NOVEMBER 1998

COMMITTEE 5

LIAISON STATEMENT FROM THE CO-CHAIRPERSON OF COMMITTEE 7 (GENERAL MANAGEMENT) TO THE CHAIRPERSON OF COMMITTEE 5

The second meeting of Committee 7 dealing with general management issues, held on 23 October 1998, addressed two issues of interest to the work of Committee 5: cooperation with other international organizations and the functioning of the ITU-T and inter-Sector coordination.

With respect to cooperation between ITU and other international organizations, Canadian proposal CAN/9/17 suggests the need for the Sector advisory bodies to identify the essential components of formal and informal cooperation agreements with other intergovernmental organizations as well as with other organizations at the international, national and regional levels, including non-governmental entities. In considering the current and future roles and functions of the advisory bodies, it was concluded that Committee 5 should examine the matter. Secondly, in considering Canadian proposal CAN/9/18, the matter of the role of ITU in the future development and evolution of electronic commerce issues was raised, including the identification of partnership arrangements with other international and/or regional bodies concerned. Specifically, the need to clarify the membership status of entities such as the ISOC/IETF was highlighted. The meeting noted that, in the interests of efficiency, it would be feasible to refer these matters to Committee 5, and in particular to ad hoc Group 5/7, in order to determine an appropriate course of action.

With regard to the functioning of ITU-T and inter-Sector coordination, Documents 107 from Sweden and proposal CAN/9/27 from Canada highlighted the need to address new roles and responsibilities of Sector Members and Member States in the functioning of ITU-T in particular, pursuant to the recommendations of ITU-2000 dealing with rights and obligations of non-Member States in ITU activities. Given current discussions in this area in Committee 5, the meeting agreed that this matter should be taken into account there. The wider question of rights and obligations for ITU Sector Members, as outlined in Document 107, should also be considered by Committee 5.

INTERNATIONAL TELECOMMUNICATION UNION



PLENIPOTENTIARY CONFERENCE (PP-98)

Document 177-E
24 October 1998
Original: French

MINNEAPOLIS, 12 OCTOBER - 6 NOVEMBER 1998

COMMITTEE 4

FIRST SERIES OF TEXTS FROM COMMITTEE 6 TO THE EDITORIAL COMMITTEE

Committee 6 has adopted the attached texts, which it submits to the Editorial Committee for consideration and subsequent transmission to the Plenary Meeting.

A. BERRADA
Chairperson

CONSTITUTION

- MOD 3** *a)* to maintain and extend international cooperation ~~between~~among all its Member States~~Members of the Union~~ for the improvement and rational use of telecommunications of all kinds;
- ADD 3A** *abis)* to promote and enhance participation of entities and organizations in the activities of the Union and foster fruitful cooperation and partnership between them and Member States for the fulfilment of the overall objectives as embodied in the purposes of the Union;
- MOD 4** *b)* to promote and to offer technical assistance to developing countries in the field of telecommunications, and also to promote the mobilization of the material, human and financial resources ~~needed for implementation and access to information~~;
- MOD 8** *f)* to harmonize the actions of Member States and promote fruitful and constructive cooperation and partnership between Member States and Sector Members in the attainment of those ends;
- MOD 12** *b)* coordinate efforts to eliminate harmful interference between radio stations of different countries and to improve the use made of the radio-frequency spectrum for radiocommunication services and of the geostationary-satellite and other satellite orbits ~~for radiocommunication services~~;
- MOD 14** *d)* foster international cooperation and solidarity in the delivery of technical assistance to the developing countries and the creation, development and improvement of telecommunication equipment and networks in developing countries by every means at its disposal, including through its participation in the relevant programmes of the United Nations and the use of its own resources, as appropriate;
- MOD 16** *f)* foster collaboration among Members States and Sector Members with a view to the establishment of rates at levels as low as possible consistent with an efficient service and taking into account the necessity for maintaining independent financial administration of telecommunication on a sound basis;
- ADD 19A** *j)* promote participation of concerned national entities in the activities of the Union and cooperation with regional and other organizations for the fulfilment of the purposes of the Union.
- MOD 20** The International Telecommunication Union is an intergovernmental organization in which Member States and Sector Members, having well-defined rights and obligations, cooperate for the fulfilment of the purposes of the Union. It shall, having regard to the principle of universality and the desirability of universal participation in the Union, be composed of:

- MOD 21** a) any State which is a Member State of the International Telecommunication Union as a Party to any International Telecommunication Convention prior to the entry into force of this Constitution and the Convention;
- MOD 23** c) any other State, not a Member of the United Nations, which applies for membership of the Union and which, after having secured approval of such application by two-thirds of the Members States of the Union, accedes to this Constitution and the Convention in accordance with Article 53 of this Constitution. If such application for membership is made during the interval between two plenipotentiary conferences, the Secretary-General shall consult the Members States of the Union; a Member State shall be deemed to have abstained if it has not replied within four months after its opinion has been requested.

ARTICLE 3

MOD Rights and Obligations of Member States and Sector Members

- MOD 24** 1. Member States and Sector Members ~~of the Union~~ shall have the rights and shall be subject to the obligations provided for in this Constitution and the Convention.
- MOD 25** 2. Rights of Member States~~Members~~ in respect of their participation in the conferences, meetings and consultations of the Union are:
- [MOD 26** a) all Member States~~Members~~ shall be entitled to participate in conferences, shall be eligible for election to the Council subject to the provisions of No. 169 of this Constitution, and shall have the right to nominate candidates for election as officials of the Union or as members of the Radio Regulations Board;]

NOTE - No consensus emerged from the discussion in Committee 5. At the proposal of a number of Member States, Committee 5 decided to refer the recommendation to the Plenary Meeting for consideration. Committee 6 therefore leaves consideration of the provision to the Plenary Meeting.

- MOD 27** b) subject to the provisions of Nos. 169 and 210 of this Constitution, each Member State~~Member~~ shall have one vote at all plenipotentiary conferences, all world conferences and all radiocommunication assemblies and study group meetings and, if it is a Member of the Council, all sessions of that Council. At regional conferences, only the Member States~~Members~~ of the region concerned shall have the right to vote;
- MOD 28** c) subject to the provisions of Nos. 169 and 210 of this Constitution, each Member State~~Member~~ shall also have one vote in all consultations carried out by correspondence. In the case of consultations regarding regional conferences, only the Member States~~Members~~ of the region concerned shall have the right to vote.

- MOD 31** 3. The provisions of both this Constitution and the Convention are further complemented by those of the Administrative Regulations, enumerated below, which regulate the use of telecommunications and shall be binding on all Member States~~Members~~:
- International Telecommunication Regulations,
 - Radio Regulations.
- MOD 37** 1. The Member States~~Members~~ are bound to abide by the provisions of this Constitution, the Convention and the Administrative Regulations in all telecommunication offices and stations established or operated by them which engage in international services or which are capable of causing harmful interference to radio services of other countries, except in regard to services exempted from these obligations in accordance with the provisions of Article 48 of this Constitution.
- MOD 38** 2. The Member States~~Members~~ are also bound to take the necessary steps to impose the observance of the provisions of this Constitution, the Convention and the Administrative Regulations upon operating agencies authorized by them to establish and operate telecommunications and which engage in international services or which operate stations capable of causing harmful interference to the radio services of other countries.
- MOD 44** e) the Telecommunication Standardization Sector, including world telecommunication standardization ~~conferences~~assemblies;
- MOD 54** f) elect the Member States~~Members of the Union~~ which are to serve on the Council;
- MOD 57** i) consider and adopt, if appropriate, proposals for amendments to this Constitution and the Convention, put forward by Member States~~Members of the Union~~, in accordance with the provisions of Article 55 of this Constitution and the relevant provisions of the Convention, respectively;
- MOD 59C** b) should two-thirds of the Member States~~Members of the Union~~ individually so request the Secretary-General;
- MOD 59D** c) at the proposal of the Council with the approval of at least two-thirds of the Member States~~Members of the Union~~.
- MOD 62** b) the Secretary-General, the Deputy Secretary-General, the Directors of the Bureaux and the members of the Radio Regulations Board shall be elected among the candidates proposed by Member States~~Members~~ as their nationals and shall all be nationals of different Member States~~Members~~, and at their election due consideration should be given to equitable geographical distribution amongst the regions of the world; as far as the elected officials are concerned, due consideration should also be given to the principles embodied in No. 154 of this Constitution;
- MOD 63** c) the members of the Radio Regulations Board shall be elected in their individual capacity; each Member State~~Member~~ may propose only one candidate.

- [CS64] NOTE - Awaiting the results of the work of Committee 5.
- MOD 65 1. (1) The Council shall be composed of ~~Member States~~Members of the Union elected by the Plenipotentiary Conference in accordance with the provisions of No. 61 of this Constitution.
- MOD 69 4. (1) The Council shall take all steps to facilitate the implementation by the ~~Member States~~Members of the provisions of this Constitution, of the Convention, of the Administrative Regulations, of the decisions of the Plenipotentiary Conference, and, where appropriate, of the decisions of other conferences and meetings of the Union, and perform any duties assigned to it by the Plenipotentiary Conference.
- MOD 78 1. (1) The functions of the Radiocommunication Sector shall be having regard to the concerns of developing countries, to fulfil the purposes of the Union, as stated in Article 1 of this Constitution, relating to radiocommunication:
- by ensuring the rational, equitable, efficient and economical use of the radio-frequency spectrum by all radiocommunication services, including those using the geostationary-satellite or other satellite orbits, subject to the provisions of Article 44 of this Constitution, and
 - by carrying out studies without limit of frequency range and adopting recommendations on radiocommunication matters.
- MOD 87 a) of right, the administrations of all ~~Member States~~Members of the Union;
- MOD 88 b) any entity or organization ~~authorized~~which becomes a Sector Member in accordance with the relevant provisions of the Convention.
- MOD 95 a) the approval of Rules of Procedure, which include technical criteria, in accordance with the Radio Regulations and with any decision which may be taken by competent radiocommunication conferences. These Rules of Procedure shall be used by the Director and the Bureau in the application of the Radio Regulations to register frequency assignments made by ~~Member States~~Members. These Rules shall be open to comment by administrations and, in case of continuing disagreement, the matter shall be submitted to a forthcoming world radiocommunication conference;
- MOD 97 c) the performance of any additional duties, concerned with the assignment and utilization of frequencies, as indicated in No. 78 of this Constitution, in accordance with the procedures provided for in the Radio Regulations, and as prescribed by a competent conference or by the Council with the consent of a majority of the ~~Member States~~Members of the Union, in preparation for, or in pursuance of the decisions of, such a conference.

- MOD 99** (2) No member of the Board shall request or receive instructions relating to the exercise of his duties for the Union from any government or a member thereof, or from any public or private organization or person. Members of the Board shall refrain from taking any action or from participating in any decision which may be incompatible with their status defined in No. 98 above.
- MOD 107** a) world telecommunication standardization ~~conferences~~ assemblies;
- MOD 111** a) of right, the administrations of all Member States ~~Members of the Union~~;
- 112** b) any entity or organization ~~authorized~~ which becomes a Sector Member in accordance with the relevant provisions of the Convention.
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INTERNATIONAL TELECOMMUNICATION UNION



PLENIPOTENTIARY CONFERENCE (PP-98)

Document 178(Rev.1)-E
2 November 1998
Original: English

MINNEAPOLIS, 12 OCTOBER - 6 NOVEMBER 1998

PLENARY MEETING

Note by the Secretary-General

TRANSFER OF POWERS

JAMAICA - BELIZE

The delegation of Jamaica has announced that it will not be present at the Conference from Monday 26 October 1998.

Pursuant to No. 336 of the Geneva Convention (1992), the delegation of Jamaica has given to the delegation of Belize a mandate to exercise its vote at the present Conference from Monday 26 October 1998.

Pekka TARJANNE
Secretary-General

INTERNATIONAL TELECOMMUNICATION UNION



PLENIPOTENTIARY CONFERENCE (PP-98)

Document 178-E
23 October 1998
Original: French

MINNEAPOLIS, 12 OCTOBER - 6 NOVEMBER 1998

PLENARY MEETING

Note by the Secretary-General

TRANSFER OF POWERS

JAMAICA - BELIZE

The delegation of Jamaica has announced that it will not be present at the Conference from Monday 26 October to Monday 2 November 1998.

Pursuant to No. 336 of the Geneva Convention (1992), the delegation of Jamaica has given to the delegation of Belize a mandate to exercise its vote at the present Conference from Monday 26 October to Monday 2 November 1998.

Pekka TARJANNE
Secretary-General

INTERNATIONAL TELECOMMUNICATION UNION



PLENIPOTENTIARY CONFERENCE (PP-98)

Document 179-E
23 October 1998
Original: English

MINNEAPOLIS, 12 OCTOBER - 6 NOVEMBER 1998

PLENARY MEETING

Note by the Secretary-General

TRANSFER OF POWERS

VANUATU - FIJI

The delegation of the Republic of Vanuatu has announced that it has to leave the Conference.

Pursuant to No. 336 of the Geneva Convention (1992), the delegation of the Republic of Vanuatu has given the delegation of the Republic of Fiji a mandate to exercise its vote at the present Conference for the Council elections.

Pekka TARJANNE
Secretary-General

INTERNATIONAL TELECOMMUNICATION UNION



PLENIPOTENTIARY CONFERENCE (PP-98)

Document 180-E
23 October 1998
Original: English

MINNEAPOLIS, 12 OCTOBER - 6 NOVEMBER 1998

PLENARY MEETING

Note by the Secretary-General

TRANSFER OF POWERS

SAINT LUCIA - BAHAMAS

The delegation of Saint Lucia has announced that it has to leave the Conference on 28 October 1998.

Pursuant to No. 336 of the Geneva Convention (1992), the delegation of Saint Lucia has given the delegation of the Commonwealth of the Bahamas a mandate to exercise its vote at the present Conference.

Pekka TARJANNE
Secretary-General

INTERNATIONAL TELECOMMUNICATION UNION



PLENIPOTENTIARY CONFERENCE (PP-98)

Document 181-E
23 October 1998
Original: English

MINNEAPOLIS, 12 OCTOBER - 6 NOVEMBER 1998

PLENARY MEETING

Note by the Secretary-General

TRANSFER OF POWERS

SAINT VINCENT AND THE GRENADINES - TRINIDAD AND TOBAGO

The delegation of Saint Vincent and the Grenadines has announced that it has to leave the Conference.

Pursuant to No. 336 of the Geneva Convention (1992), the delegation of Saint Vincent and the Grenadines has given the delegation of Trinidad and Tobago a mandate to exercise its vote at the present Conference.

Pekka TARJANNE
Secretary-General

INTERNATIONAL TELECOMMUNICATION UNION



PLENIPOTENTIARY CONFERENCE (PP-98)

Document 182-E
26 October 1998
Original: French

MINNEAPOLIS, 12 OCTOBER - 6 NOVEMBER 1998

PLENARY MEETING

Note by the Secretary-General

TRANSFER OF POWERS

CENTRAL AFRICAN REPUBLIC - GABON

The delegation of the Central African Republic has announced that it has to leave the Conference on 27 October 1998.

Pursuant to No. 336 of the Geneva Convention (1992), the delegation of the Central African Republic has given the delegation of the Gabonese Republic a mandate to exercise its vote at the present Conference.

Pekka TARJANNE
Secretary-General

INTERNATIONAL TELECOMMUNICATION UNION



PLENIPOTENTIARY CONFERENCE (PP-98)

Document 183-E
26 October 1998
Original: English

MINNEAPOLIS, 12 OCTOBER - 6 NOVEMBER 1998

COMMITTEE 5

**Bahamas (Commonwealth of the), Barbados, Belize, Canada, Dominican Republic,
Finland, Guyana, Iran (Islamic Republic of), Jamaica, Saint Lucia,
Sri Lanka (Democratic Socialist Republic of),
Switzerland (Confederation of)**

PROPOSALS FOR THE WORK OF THE CONFERENCE

**BAH/BRB/BLZ/
CAN/DOM/FIN/
GUY/IRN/JMC/
LCA/CLN/SUI/183/1
ADD**

DRAFT RESOLUTION [BAH/BRB/BLZ/CAN/DOM/FIN/GUY/IRN/JMC/LCA/CLN/SUI-1]

THE USE OF TELECOMMUNICATIONS FOR THE SAFETY AND SECURITY OF HUMANITARIAN PERSONNEL IN THE FIELD

The Plenipotentiary Conference of the International Telecommunication Union
(Minneapolis, 1998),

recognizing

that, in fulfilling their duties, humanitarian personnel are frequently exposed to a high degree of risk,

gravely concerned

about the increasing number of tragic incidents of injury or loss of life involving humanitarian personnel in the field,

noting

a) the provisions of Nos. 9, 17 and 191 of the Constitution of the International Telecommunication Union which state, respectively, that the Union has the purpose to promote, at the international level, the adoption of a broader approach to the issues of telecommunications in the global information economy and society by cooperating with other organizations; that the Union

shall in particular promote the adoption of measures for ensuring the safety of life through the

cooperation of telecommunication services; and that international telecommunication services must give absolute priority to all telecommunications concerning safety of life;

b) the Tampere Convention on the Provision of Telecommunication Resources for Disaster Mitigation and Relief Operations which recalls the essential role of telecommunication resources in facilitating the safety of humanitarian relief and assistance personnel;

c) the Convention on the Safety and Security of United Nations and Associated Personnel, adopted by the 49th session of the United Nations General Assembly, laying down principles and duties to ensure the safety and security of United Nations and associated personnel,

convinced

that the unhindered use of telecommunication equipment and services can greatly improve the safety and security of humanitarian personnel in the field,

recalling

a) Resolution 644 of the World Radiocommunication Conference (Geneva, 1997) which recognizes the vital role of telecommunications for safety and security of relief workers in the field;

b) Resolution 19 of the World Telecommunication Development Conference (Valletta, 1998) which recognizes the vital role of telecommunications for the safety and security of relief workers in the field,

desiring

to ensure the full application of telecommunication technology and services for the safety and security of humanitarian personnel,

instructs the Secretary-General

to study the possibilities for an increased use of telecommunications for the safety and security of humanitarian personnel in the field and to report to the Council at its 1999 session,

instructs the Council

to address the issue of the use of telecommunications for the safety and security of humanitarian personnel in the field and to take appropriate actions towards its improvement,

urges administrations

to ensure that humanitarian personnel have unhindered and uninterrupted use of telecommunication resources as relates to their safety and security in accordance with the national rules and regulations of the States concerned.

UNION INTERNATIONALE DES TELECOMMUNICATIONS



**CONFERENCE DE
PLENIPOTENTIAIRES (PP-98)**

**Corrigendum 4 au
Document 184-F/E/S
5 novembre 1998
Original: anglais**

MINNEAPOLIS, 12 OCTOBRE - 6 NOVEMBRE 1998

COMMISSION 5

**Algérie, Brésil, Burkina Faso, Cameroun, Cap-Vert, Côte d'Ivoire, Gabonaise (Rép.), Haïti,
Mali, Pakistan, Sénégal, Sudafricaine (Rép.), Suisse**

PROPOSITIONS POUR LES TRAVAUX DE LA CONFÉRENCE

Ajouter "Liban" dans la liste des pays signataires de ce document.

* * * * *

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Gabonese Rep., Haiti, Mali, Pakistan, Senegal, South Africa, Switzerland**

PROPOSALS FOR THE WORK OF THE CONFERENCE

Add "Lebanon" in the list of signatories for this document.

* * * * *

**Argelia, Brasil, Burkina Faso, Camerún, Cabo Verde, Côte d'Ivoire,
Gabonesa, Haití, Malí, Pakistán, Senegal, Sudafricana, Suiza**

PROPUESTAS PARA LOS TRABAJOS DE LA CONFERENCIA

Añádanse "Líbano" a la lista de países firmantes de este documento.

UNION INTERNATIONALE DES
TELECOMMUNICATIONS



CONFERENCE DE
PLENIPOTENTIAIRES (PP-98)

Corrigendum 3 au
Document 184-F/E/S
3 novembre 1998
Original: anglais

MINNEAPOLIS, 12 OCTOBRE - 6 NOVEMBRE 1998

COMMISSION 5

**Algérie, Brésil, Burkina Faso, Cameroun, Cap-Vert, Côte d'Ivoire, Gabonaise (Rép.), Haïti,
Mali, Pakistan, Sénégal, Sudafricaine (Rép.), Suisse**

PROPOSITIONS POUR LES TRAVAUX DE LA CONFÉRENCE

Ajouter "**République arabe syrienne, Turquie**" dans la liste des pays signataires de ce document.

" dans la liste des pays signataires de ce document.

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**Algeria, Brazil, Burkina Faso, Cameroon, Cape Verde, Côte d'Ivoire,
Gabonese Rep., Haiti, Mali, Pakistan, Senegal, South Africa, Switzerland**

PROPOSALS FOR THE WORK OF THE CONFERENCE

Add "**Syrian Arab Republic, Turkey**" in the list of signatories for this document.

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Gabonesa, Haití, Malí, Pakistán, Senegal, Sudafricana, Suiza**

PROPUESTAS PARA LOS TRABAJOS DE LA CONFERENCIA

Añádanse "**República Árabe Siria, Turquía**" a la lista de países firmantes de este documento.

UNION INTERNATIONALE DES
TELECOMMUNICATIONS



CONFERENCE DE
PLENIPOTENTIAIRES (PP-98)

Corrigendum 2 au
Document 184-F/E/S
2 novembre 1998
Original: anglais

MINNEAPOLIS, 12 OCTOBRE - 6 NOVEMBRE 1998

COMMISSION 5

**Algérie, Brésil, Burkina Faso, Cameroun, Cap-Vert, Côte d'Ivoire, Gabonaise (Rép.), Haïti,
Mali, Pakistan, Sénégal, Sudafricaine (Rép.), Suisse**

PROPOSITIONS POUR LES TRAVAUX DE LA CONFÉRENCE

Ajouter "**Emirats arabes unis, Oman, Qatar**" dans la liste des pays signataires de ce document.

* * * * *

**Algeria, Brazil, Burkina Faso, Cameroon, Cape Verde, Côte d'Ivoire,
Gabonese Rep., Haiti, Mali, Pakistan, Senegal, South Africa, Switzerland**

PROPOSALS FOR THE WORK OF THE CONFERENCE

Add "**United Arab Emirates, Oman, Qatar**" in the list of signatories for this document.

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**Argelia, Brasil, Burkina Faso, Camerún, Cabo Verde, Côte d'Ivoire,
Gabonesa, Haití, Malí, Pakistán, Senegal, Sudafricana, Suiza**

PROPUESTAS PARA LOS TRABAJOS DE LA CONFERENCIA

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UNION INTERNATIONALE DES
TELECOMMUNICATIONS



CONFERENCE DE
PLENIPOTENTIAIRES (PP-98)

Corrigendum 1 au
Document 184-F
28 octobre 1998
Original: anglais

MINNEAPOLIS, 12 OCTOBRE - 6 NOVEMBRE 1998

COMMISSION 5

**Algérie, Brésil, Cameroun, Cap-Vert, Côte d'Ivoire, Gabonaise (Rép.), Haïti, Mali,
Pakistan, Sénégal, Sudafricaine (Rép.), Suisse**

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PROPOSALS FOR THE WORK OF THE CONFERENCE

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INTERNATIONAL TELECOMMUNICATION UNION



PLENIPOTENTIARY CONFERENCE (PP-98)

Document 184-E
26 October 1998
Original: English

MINNEAPOLIS, 12 OCTOBER - 6 NOVEMBER 1998

COMMITTEE 5

**Algeria (People's Democratic Republic of), Brazil (Federative Republic of),
Cameroon (Republic of), Cape Verde (Republic of), Côte d'Ivoire (Republic of),
Gabonese Republic, Haiti (Republic of), Mali (Republic of),
Pakistan (Islamic Republic of), Senegal (Republic of),
South Africa (Republic of), Switzerland (Confederation of)**

PROPOSALS FOR THE WORK OF THE CONFERENCE

**ALG/B/CME/CPV/
CTI/GAB/HTI/
MLI/PAK/SEN/
AFS/SUI/184/1
ADD**

DRAFT RESOLUTION [ALG/B/CME/CPV/CTI/GAB/HTI/MLI/PAK/SEN/AFS/SUI-1]

ASSISTANCE AND SUPPORT TO BURUNDI, LIBERIA, RWANDA AND SOMALIA FOR REBUILDING THEIR TELECOMMUNICATION NETWORKS

The Plenipotentiary Conference of the International Telecommunication Union
(Minneapolis, 1998),

recalling

- a)* the noble principles, purpose and objectives embodied in the Charter of the United Nations and in the Universal Declaration of Human Rights;
- b)* the efforts of the United Nations to promote sustainable development;
- c)* the purposes of the Union as enshrined in Article 1 of its Constitution (Geneva, 1992),

recognizing

- a)* that a reliable telecommunication network is indispensable for promoting the socio-economic development of countries, in particular those having suffered from natural disasters, domestic conflicts or war;

b) that telecommunication facilities in [Burundi], Liberia, Rwanda and Somalia have been severely damaged due to the wars in those countries;

c) that, under the present conditions and in the foreseeable future, these countries will not be able to bring their telecommunication systems up to an acceptable level without help from the international community, bilaterally or through international organizations,

noting

a) the report of the Secretary-General on the implementation *inter alia* of Resolution 34 (Kyoto, 1994);

b) the efforts deployed by the ITU Secretary-General and the Director of BDT towards the implementation of Resolution 34,

noting further

that the conditions of order and security sought by United Nations resolutions have been only partially achieved and hence Resolution 34 was only partially implemented,

resolves

that the special action initiated by the Secretary-General and the Director of BDT with specialized assistance from the two other Sectors should be continued in order to provide appropriate assistance and support to Liberia, Rwanda and Somalia, and also now Burundi, in rebuilding their telecommunication networks, as and when the conditions of order and security sought by United Nations resolutions are met,

calls upon Members

to offer all possible assistance and support to the Governments of Burundi, Liberia, Rwanda and Somalia, either bilaterally or through - and at any rate in coordination with - the special action of the Union referred to above,

instructs the Council

to allocate the necessary funds within available resources and initiate the action,

instructs the Secretary-General

to coordinate the activities carried out by the three Sectors in accordance with *resolves* above, to ensure that the ITU action in favour of Burundi, Liberia, Rwanda and Somalia is as effective as possible and to report on the matter to the Council.

INTERNATIONAL TELECOMMUNICATION UNION



PLENIPOTENTIARY CONFERENCE (PP-98)

Document 185-E
26 October 1998
Original: French

MINNEAPOLIS, 12 OCTOBER - 6 NOVEMBER 1998

PLENARY MEETING

Note by the Secretary-General

TRANSFER OF POWERS

CAPE VERDE - MOZAMBIQUE

The delegation of the Republic of Cape Verde has announced that it has to leave the Conference on 27 October 1998.

Pursuant to No. 336 of the Geneva Convention (1992), the delegation of the Republic of Cape Verde has given the delegation of the Republic of Mozambique a mandate to exercise its vote at the present Conference.

Pekka TARJANNE
Secretary-General

INTERNATIONAL TELECOMMUNICATION UNION



PLENIPOTENTIARY CONFERENCE (PP-98)

Document 186-E
2 November 1998
Original: French

MINNEAPOLIS, 12 OCTOBER - 6 NOVEMBER 1998

COMMITTEE 6

SUMMARY RECORD

OF THE

THIRD MEETING OF COMMITTEE 6

(CONSTITUTION AND CONVENTION)

Monday, 19 October 1998, at 1435 hours

Chairperson: Mr. A. BERRADA (Morocco)

Subjects discussed

- 1 Detailed consideration of proposals (continued)

Documents

12, 13, 15, 19, 20,
21(Add.1), 25, 32, 34,
37, 41(Add.1 and 2), 59(Rev.1),
66, 69, 70, 77; DT/9; DL/6

1 Detailed consideration of proposals (continued) (Documents 12, 13, 15, 19, 20, 21(Add.1), 25, 32, 34, 37, 41(Add.1 and 2), 59(Rev.1), 66, 69, 70, 77; DT/9; DL/6)

1.1 The **Chairperson** invited the Committee to continue its consideration of proposals concerning the Constitution, on the basis of Document DT/9.

ARTICLE 1 (CS) (continued)

Provision 3A (continued)

1.2 The **Chairperson** said that France and the European countries had endorsed India's proposal (IND/77/3) relating to provision 3A.

1.3 It was **agreed** to amend the ITU-2000 Group's provision 3A in accordance with the proposal by India.

1.4 The **delegate of Japan** said she would not press for the merging of proposals 3A and 19A.

1.5 It was **agreed** to keep provisions 3A and 19A separate.

Provisions 11 and 12 (continued)

1.6 The **Chairperson** invited participants to consider the texts of the provisions set out in Document DL/6.

1.7 Replying to a question from the **delegate of the United States** concerning the meaning of the word "characteristics" in provision 11, the **Chairperson** said that they were the characteristics adopted by WRC-95 for LEO satellite systems, which were registered with the frequency assignments.

1.8 The **delegate of Sweden** said he wished to have more time to study in detail the Chairperson's proposals in Document DL/6 since they were likely to have legal implications. To avoid any ambiguity, he suggested referring to "other associated orbital characteristics".

1.9 The **Chairperson** stated that the adjective "associated" applied to the geostationary-satellite orbit as well as to other orbits. In any event, a decision would be taken on the subject later by the Plenary.

1.10 The **delegate of Colombia**, speaking on behalf of the CITEL countries, endorsed the solution proposed in Document DL/6.

1.11 The **delegate of Greece** suggested repeating the term "registration" in order to avoid any confusion in respect of the Union's competence regarding orbital position or orbit.

1.12 The **delegate of Spain** said that the text of provision 11 in Document DL/6, as worded in Spanish, referred in fact to the geostationary-satellite orbit, whereas reference to other orbits was required. He was supported by the **delegate of Mexico**, who requested that the three language versions of the text should be aligned.

1.13 The **delegate of Luxembourg**, speaking on behalf of the European countries, proposed that, in order to avoid any ambiguity, provision 11 should be worded "... or any other satellite orbits ...". He was supported by the **delegates of Spain and the United States**.

1.14 The **Chairperson** requested the delegate of Luxembourg to submit a text to be circulated in a DL document, on which participants would take a decision subsequently.

1.15 It was so **agreed**.

Provision 14

1.16 The **delegate of Mali**, introducing his Administration's proposal (MLI/20/12), spoke of the importance of solidarity at the international level, considering that it ought to be mentioned in provision 14. That view was shared by the **delegate of Côte d'Ivoire**, who suggested the provision should be worded as follows: "foster international cooperation and solidarity".

1.17 The proposal by Mali, as amended by Côte d'Ivoire, was **approved**.

Provision 16

1.18 The **delegate of France**, speaking on behalf of the European countries, said that proposal EUR/32/11 answered the need to refer in the Constitution to the strengthening of collaboration between Member States and Sector Members on rate-setting. He was supported by the **delegate of Belgium**.

1.19 The **delegate of Cuba** pointed out that entities other than Sector Members were also concerned with rate-setting.

1.20 The **delegate of Greece** emphasized that it was impossible to deny States the right to set rates. Furthermore, when a State set rates, it did so in collaboration with the Sector Members in that country or, more precisely, with Members of Sector assemblies.

1.21 The **delegate of the United Kingdom** supported the European proposal but suggested that it be amended as follows: "foster collaboration among Member States and with Sector Members...".

1.22 The **delegate of Denmark** supported the European proposal as amended by the United Kingdom.

1.23 The **delegate of Spain** supported the European proposal, while noting the relevance of the observation by the delegate of Cuba.

1.24 The **delegate of Ecuador** stressed that, as indicated by the delegate of Cuba, it would be difficult to cite all the entities which set rates. In many countries, moreover, rate-setting was the sole prerogative of the State. He therefore thought it inappropriate to include Sector Members in the provision under consideration.

1.25 The **delegate of Algeria** suggested that, to cover all eventualities, different levels of collaboration should be mentioned, e.g. among Member States, between Member States and Sector Members, and with other operators.

1.26 The **Chairperson** requested the delegate of France to submit a text taking into account the suggestions concerning the European proposal. To that end, he suggested mentioning collaboration at the international level with regard to rate-setting.

1.27 It was **agreed** that the text of the European countries' final proposal concerning provision 16 should be issued as a DL document.

Provision 16A

1.28 After the **delegate of Ecuador** had introduced the CITELE proposal (IAP/59/5), which was identical to the United States proposal (USA/15/2), the **Chairperson** said that the ideas in question were covered in provision 8. It would, however, be possible to amend provision 8 to include the wording "increased participation of entities".

1.29 The **delegate of Ecuador** said he could agree to that suggestion provided it was also acceptable to the other CITELE countries.

1.30 It was **agreed** to leave pending the matter of additional wording to provision 16A.

Provision 19A

1.31 The **delegate of India** said that his delegation had proposed (IND/77/5) adding the word "concerned" before "national entities" in order to make the text proposed by the ITU-2000 Group more specific. He was supported by the **delegates of Algeria** and **Saudi Arabia**.

1.32 The **delegate of Greece** said that the text could refer only to concerned national entities. That view was shared by the delegate of the United Kingdom, who added that the term "concerned" had several meanings in English. The **delegate of Bangladesh** proposed using the word "relevant" rather than "concerned" in the English version.

1.33 The **delegate of Argentina** said that all the ITU-2000 Group's proposals had been discussed at length and should not be amended hastily.

1.34 It was **agreed** to add the term "concerned" in provision 19A.

ARTICLE 2 (CS)

Provision 20

1.35 The **delegate of Greece** pointed out that Sector Members were not full members of all Sectors. It was therefore pointless to include Sector Members in a statutory provision as they had not the same status as Member States. He suggested devoting a chapter of the Constitution to Members of Sector assemblies.

1.36 The **Chairperson** observed that the provision had been debated at length by the ITU-2000 Group. Sector Members should therefore be mentioned alongside Member States.

1.37 Provision 20, as proposed by the ITU-2000 Group, was **approved**.

Provision 23

1.38 The **delegate of Mali** said that it would be useful to bring out the concept of Member State in the provision, as his delegation had proposed (MLI/20/13).

1.39 It was so **agreed**.

ARTICLE 3 (CS)

Rights and obligations of Members

1.40 As all the amendments proposed to the title of Article 3 were identical to that of the ITU-2000 Group, the latter was **approved**.

Provision 24

1.41 As all the amendments proposed to the provision were identical to that of the ITU-2000 Group, the latter was **approved**.

Provision 25

1.42 The **delegate of France** observed that the list of rights continued in Article 3 was not exhaustive. The **Chairperson** suggested that it would only be necessary to consult the other articles of the Constitution and Convention, where the rights were set out.

1.43 Following that clarification, the proposal by the ITU-2000 Group to amend No. 25 was **approved**.

Provision 26

1.44 At the proposal of the **Chairperson**, it was **agreed** to defer consideration of the proposal relating to the provision pending the outcome of the other committees' work on the subject.

Provisions 27 and 28

1.45 As all the proposals relating to the provisions were identical to those by the ITU-2000 Group, the latter were **approved**.

Provisions 28A, 28B, 28C and 28D

1.46 The **delegate of the United States** said that her delegation endorsed the proposal by CITELE (IAP/59/9) in Document 59(Rev.1).

1.47 The **delegate of Kuwait** said that his Administration's proposals (KWT/19/16 and 17) aimed to draw a distinction between the rights of Member States and the rights of Sector Members.

1.48 The **delegate of India** said that although his delegation supported in principle the recommendations of the ITU-2000 Group, it had nonetheless put forward provisions (IND/77/10, 11 and 12) to define clearly and specifically the extent of the participation of Sector Members with a view to enhancing their rights, while maintaining the status of Member States, in view of the intergovernmental character of the Union.

1.49 The **delegate of Greece** said that the rights of Sector Members should be defined more precisely.

1.50 The **delegate of Mexico** said that the choice of chairpersons and vice-chairpersons was a matter solely for Member States.

1.51 The **delegate of the Islamic Republic of Iran** said that the reason for his Government's proposal (IRN/66/19) that Sector Members should not be entitled to take part in the adoption of certain Questions and Recommendations was that most LDCs and developing countries lacked the

means to participate in the ITU study groups dealing with those matters. It was therefore unfair that Sector Members should have rights which many countries were not in a position to exercise.

1.52 The **delegate of Cuba**, referring to provision 28B, said that only Sector Members belonging to a delegation of a Member State should be entitled to stand for election as chairpersons or vice-chairpersons.

1.53 The **Chairperson** suggested deferring consideration of provisions 28A, 28B, 28C and 28D until the Committee knew what recommendations had been made by the other committees on the matter.

1.54 The proposal was **approved**.

1.55 The **delegate of Saudi Arabia** said that he agreed with that decision. He nonetheless considered that the Committee should refrain from abusing that practice and avoid becoming a drafting committee which systematically awaited the outcome of the other committees' work before taking decisions.

1.56 The **Chairperson** said that the Steering Committee would consider the matter.

ARTICLE 4 (CS)

Provision 29

1.57 The **delegate of Greece** said that it might be necessary to amend the provision should the Conference adopt rules of procedure for conferences and other meetings of ITU, which would be placed in a separate document. The **delegate of Spain** said that such a document would not have the status of an international treaty and should therefore not be mentioned in Article 4 of the Constitution.

Provision 31

1.58 As all the proposals relating to the provision were identical to that by the ITU-2000 Group, the latter was **approved**.

ARTICLE 5 (CS)

1.59 There were no proposals relating to the article.

ARTICLE 6 (CS)

Provisions 37 and 38

1.60 As all the proposals relating to the provisions were identical to those by the ITU-2000 Group, the latter were **approved**.

ARTICLE 7 (CS)

Provision 44

1.61 As all the proposals relating to the provision were identical to that by the ITU-2000 Group, the latter was **approved**.

ARTICLE 8 (CS)

Provisions 47, 48 and 50

1.62 At the proposal of the **Chairperson**, it was **agreed** to defer consideration of the proposals relating to the provisions pending the outcome of Committee 5's work.

Provisions 54 and 57

1.63 As all the proposals relating to the provisions were identical to those by the ITU-2000 Group, the latter were **approved**.

Provision 58A

1.64 At the proposal of the **Chairperson**, it was **agreed** to defer consideration of the proposals to add the provision pending the decision by the Plenary on a new instrument to contain the rules of procedure of conferences and other meetings of the Union.

Provisions 59C and 59D

1.65 As the proposals to add the two provisions were identical to those by the ITU-2000 Group, the latter were **approved**.

ARTICLE 9 (CS)

Provisions 62 and 63

1.66 As all the proposals relating to the provisions were identical to those by the ITU-2000 Group, the latter were **approved**.

Provision 64

1.67 At the proposal of the **Chairperson**, it was **agreed** to defer consideration of the proposals relating to the provision pending the outcome of Committee 5's work.

ARTICLE 10 (CS)

Provisions 65 and 69

1.68 As all the proposals relating to the provisions were identical to those by the ITU-2000 Group, the latter were **approved**.

Provision 70

1.69 At the proposal of the **Chairperson**, it was **agreed** to defer consideration of the proposal to amend the provision pending the outcome of Committee 5's work.

ARTICLE 11 (CS)

1.70 At the proposal of the **Chairperson**, it was **agreed** to defer consideration of the proposals to amend certain provisions of the article and to add others, pending the outcome of Committee 5's work.

1.71 The **delegate of Canada** said that she would submit non-sexist wording for Article 11 to the Committee, in accordance with the relevant decisions of the Union.

ARTICLE 12 (CS)

1.72 At the request of the **delegate of Spain**, in order to avoid any confusion, it was **agreed** to remove from the next version of the basic document, (DT/9(Rev.1)), the symbols ADD and MOD, where they referred to additions or amendments already adopted by the Kyoto Conference.

Provision 78

1.73 The **delegate of Luxembourg**, speaking on behalf of the European countries, proposed adding, as for provisions 11 and 12, the words "or any other satellite orbits" after "those using the geostationary-satellite orbit".

1.74 The **Chairperson** proposed that delegations wishing to amend the provisions of the Constitution or the Convention referring to the geostationary-satellite orbit submit to the Committee a document containing all the amendments relating to the matter in order to provide delegations with an overall view of the problem and that, in the meantime, the Committee defer consideration of provision 78.

1.75 The proposal was **approved**.

Provisions 83 and 84A

1.76 At the proposal of the **Chairperson**, it was **agreed** to defer consideration of the provisions pending the outcome of Committee 5's work.

Provision 87

1.77 The **delegate of Greece** proposed replacing the words "the administrations of all Member States" by "all Member States". With the liberalization of telecommunications, Member States were now able to choose to be represented in the Radiocommunication Sector by persons who did not belong the public service.

1.78 The **Chairperson** said that, while Member States did have that option, the persons so appointed nonetheless acted as representatives of administrations. The amendment proposed by the delegate of Greece was therefore unnecessary.

1.79 As all the other proposals relating to provision 87 were identical to that of the ITU-2000 Group, the latter was **approved**.

Provision 88

1.80 At the proposal of the **Chairperson**, it was **agreed** to defer consideration of the provision pending the outcome of Committee 5's work.

ARTICLE 13 (CS)

Provisions 90 and 91

1.81 At the proposal of the **Chairperson**, it was **agreed** to defer consideration of the proposals relating to the provisions pending the outcome of Committee 5's work.

ARTICLE 14 (CS)

Provisions 95, 97, 99 and 100

1.82 As all the amendments proposed to the provisions were identical to those proposed by the ITU-2000 Group, the latter were **approved**.

1.83 The **delegate of Japan**, referring to provision 100, said that the countries of the Asia-Pacific Region proposed the deletion of the reference to Sector Members in the text proposed by the ITU-2000 Group, because No. 38 of the Constitution placed Member States under the obligation to impose observance of the provisions of the Constitution and the Convention upon operating agencies. It was therefore logical that provision 100 should be addressed only to Member States.

1.84 The **Chairperson** observed that some Sector Members, e.g. international organizations, did not come under the authority of any Member State; that was the reason for the addition proposed by the ITU-2000 Group.

1.85 The **delegates of the Islamic Republic of Iran and Greece** supported the Japanese proposal.

1.86 The **delegate of France**, speaking on behalf of CEPT, said that he was in favour of the text proposed by the ITU-2000 Group.

1.87 At the proposal of the **Chairperson**, it was **agreed** to defer consideration of provision 100 so that the exponents of the two points of view expressed could hold consultations.

ARTICLE 15 (CS)

1.88 At the proposal of the **Chairperson**, it was **agreed** to defer consideration of the proposals relating to the article pending the outcome of Committee 5's work.

ARTICLE 16 (CS)

1.89 No amendments were proposed to the article.

ARTICLE 17 (CS)

Provision 107

1.90 The **Chairperson** said that the ITU-2000 Group proposed that world telecommunication standardization conferences should in future be called world telecommunication standardization assemblies. That change would have no effect on their responsibilities but would merely avoid their being treated like intergovernmental bodies such as world radiocommunication conferences, which were empowered to conclude legal instruments having treaty status.

1.91 The **delegates of the United Kingdom, Mali, Russia, India and the United States** supported the ITU-2000 Group's proposal, which enabled a clearer distinction to be made between bodies whose decisions had treaty status (conferences) and those which merely issued recommendations (assemblies).

1.92 The **delegate of Saudi Arabia** also supported the ITU-2000 Group's proposal but considered that the underlying principle should not apply to the Development Sector.

1.93 The amendment proposed to provision 107 by the ITU-2000 Group was **approved**.

Provision 108A

1.94 At the proposal of the **Chairperson**, it was **agreed** to defer consideration of the proposals relating to the provision pending the outcome of Committee 5's work.

Provision 111

1.95 As all the proposals relating to the provision were identical to that of the ITU-2000 Group, the latter was **approved**.

Provision 112

1.96 At the proposal of the **Chairperson**, it was **agreed** to defer consideration of the proposals relating to the provision pending the outcome of Committee 5's work.

Article 18 (CS)

1.97 As all the proposals relating to the article were identical to those of the ITU-2000 Group, the latter were **approved**.

Article 19 (CS)

1.98 At the proposal of the **Chairperson**, it was **agreed** to defer consideration of the proposals relating to the article pending the outcome of Committee 5's work.

Article 20 (CS)

1.99 No amendments were proposed to the article.

ARTICLE 21 (CS)

Provision 122

1.100 The **delegate of Mali** said that his country's proposal (MLI/20/14) was aimed at introducing the idea of partnership, which had been discussed at length at the Valletta Conference and was of crucial importance to the developing countries.

1.101 The **delegate of Algeria** supported the proposal by Mali and proposed that the word "especially" should be inserted before the words "by means of partnership".

1.102 The proposal by Mali, as amended by Algeria, was **approved**.

Provision 126

1.103 The **delegate of Côte d'Ivoire** considered that the proposal by Mali (MLI/20/15) was rather restrictive and that a phrase such as "relevant views" would be preferable to "guidelines".

1.104 The **delegate of Colombia** and the **Chairperson** observed that Mali's proposal, as amended by Côte d'Ivoire, added nothing to the existing text of the provision, which should therefore be kept as it stood.

1.105 It was so **agreed**.

Provision 132A

1.106 At the proposal of the **Chairperson**, it was **agreed** to defer consideration of the proposals relating to the provision pending the outcome of Committee 5's work.

Provision 135

1.107 As the proposals relating to the provision were identical to that of the ITU-2000 Group, the latter was **approved**.

Provision 136

1.108 At the proposal of the **Chairperson**, it was **agreed** to defer consideration of the proposals relating to the provision pending the outcome of Committee 5's work.

ARTICLE 22 (CS)

1.109 No amendments were proposed to the article.

ARTICLE 23 (CS)

1.110 At the proposal of the **Chairperson**, it was **agreed** to defer consideration of the proposals relating to the article pending the outcome of Committee 5's work.

ARTICLES 24, 25 and 26 (CS)

1.111 No amendments were proposed to the articles.

ARTICLE 27 (CS)

Provision 151

1.112 At the proposal of the **delegate of Japan**, it was **agreed** to defer consideration of the proposals relating to the provision until further consultations had taken place.

Provision 153

1.113 As the proposal by Mali (MLI/20/16) received no support, the proposal of the ITU-2000 Group was **approved**.

ARTICLE 28 (CS)

1.114 At the proposal of the **Chairperson**, it was **agreed** to defer consideration of the proposals relating to the article pending the outcome of Committee 7's work.

ARTICLES 29 and 30 (CS)

1.115 No amendments were proposed to the articles.

ARTICLE 31 (CS)

1.116 As the only proposal relating to the article was identical to that of the ITU-2000 Group, the latter was **approved**.

ARTICLE 32 (CS)

1.117 The **Chairperson** said that the action to be taken with regard to the article depended on the decision the Conference would take concerning the establishment of a new instrument of the Union.

ARTICLE 33 (CS)

1.118 As the only proposal relating to the article was identical to that of the ITU-2000 Group, the latter was **approved**.

ARTICLE 34 (CS)

Provision 180

1.119 The **delegate of Mali** said that his country's proposal (MLI/20/17) was aimed at extending the scope of the provision, which currently related only to telegrams, to all documents of a private nature. The proposal was supported by the **delegate of Uganda**.

1.120 The **delegate of Greece** observed that Article 34, like Article 37, raised the broader problem of "modernizing" the vocabulary used in the Union's basic texts, as well as the problem of protecting privacy.

1.121 The **delegate of Argentina** said that he was not in favour of Mali's proposal, as it would extend the principle of open correspondence to all documents, precisely at a time when the principle of confidentiality prevailed.

1.122 The **delegate of Algeria** considered that a group of experts or other suitable body should be requested after the Conference to consider the problems of that kind raised by new technologies and the emergence of worldwide networks that were not subject to national regulation.

1.123 The **Chairperson** observed that provisions 180 and 181 were couched in almost identical terms and that it might be best to delete provision 180, retaining only provision 181 without the word "also". In any event, consideration of Article 34 would have to be deferred pending a decision by the Plenary on other proposals which raised the same type of difficulty.

1.124 It was so **agreed**.

ARTICLES 35 and 36 (CS)

1.125 The **Chairperson** said that the Committee, in taking its decision on the use of the term "Member States", had disposed of the proposals relating to both articles.

ARTICLE 37 (CS)

1.126 At the request of the **delegate of Greece**, it was **agreed** to follow the same course as for Article 34.

The meeting rose at 1730 hours.

The Secretary:
A. GUILLOT

The Chairperson:
A. BERRADA

INTERNATIONAL TELECOMMUNICATION UNION



PLENIPOTENTIARY CONFERENCE (PP-98)

Document 187-E
2 November 1998
Original: English

MINNEAPOLIS, 12 OCTOBER - 6 NOVEMBER 1998

COMMITTEE 6

SUMMARY RECORD

OF THE

FOURTH MEETING OF COMMITTEE 6

(CONSTITUTION AND CONVENTION)

Tuesday, 20 October 1998, at 1430 hours

Chairperson: Mr. A. BERRADA (Morocco)

Subjects discussed

- 1 Detailed consideration of proposals (continued)

Documents

9, 15, 20, 21(Add.1),
25, 32 + Corr.1 +
Corr.2, 34, 37, 59(Rev.1)
+ Corr.1, 66, 70 + Corr.2, 77;
DT/9(Rev.1)

1 Detailed consideration of proposals (continued) (Documents 9, 15, 20, 21(Add.1), 25, 32 + Corrigendum 1 + Corrigendum 2, 34, 37, 59(Rev.1) + Corrigendum 1, 66, 70 + Corrigendum 2, 77; DT/9(Rev.1))

1.1 The **Chairperson** proposed resuming detailed consideration of the provisions of the Constitution, on the basis of Document DT/9(Rev.1), starting with Article 38. Once consideration of the proposals had been completed, a new document would be issued indicating all the provisions of the Constitution approved by the Committee. Those provisions requiring further consideration or awaiting the conclusions of other committees would be indicated in square brackets. The Committee would then embark on a second reading of the Constitution.

ARTICLES 38-53 (CS)

1.2 The **Chairperson** observed that the amendments proposed to provisions 186, 188, 189, 194, 197-199, 201, 202, 207-210, 212 and 213 related only to recommendation 3 of the ITU-2000 Group, that Members and members be named, respectively, Member States and Sector Members. Consideration of provision 193 would be deferred pending the outcome of deliberations in Committee 5. Consideration of provisions 195 and 196 would be deferred pending the submission of a consolidated document containing all the provisions relating to geostationary-satellite orbits. There were no proposals relating to Articles 40, 41, 46, 49 and 50, or to provision 211.

ARTICLE 54 (CS)

Provisions 215, 216, 216A, 216B, 217-223

1.3 The **Chairperson**, speaking in his capacity as the delegate of Morocco, introduced proposals KWT/MRC/SYR/25/22 to 29 relating to Article 54. Before the Additional Plenipotentiary Conference (Geneva, 1992), ITU had had a non-permanent Convention, the practice being that each plenipotentiary conference in turn abrogated the Convention in force and replaced it with a new Convention. The Administrative Regulations were annexed to the Convention, and when a new Convention was ratified or acceded to, that ratification was binding with respect to the Administrative Regulations as revised by administrative conferences that had taken place before the plenipotentiary conference in question. In the Constitution and Convention adopted in 1992, the Administrative Regulations continued to be an instrument of the Union. However - taking the Radio Regulations as an example - only the Radio Regulations in force at the date of ratification were considered binding on Member States ratifying or acceding to the new Constitution and Convention. Modifications to the Radio Regulations were governed by Article 54 of the Constitution, pursuant to which situations might arise in which a country might decide not to be bound by the revised Regulations. The purpose of the proposals relating to provisions 215 to 223 was to rectify that anomaly by reverting to the arrangements that had prevailed before 1992, whereby if a country ratified or acceded to modifications of the Constitution or Convention, it was considered to be bound by any revised Regulations adopted up to the date of the plenipotentiary conference that modified the Constitution or Convention. That situation had an important bearing on the Radio Regulations because, by adopting the report of the Voluntary Group of Experts on the simplification of the Radio Regulations, WRC-95 had completely changed the Radio Regulations. Thus, Article 54 applied to that revision of the Radio Regulations.

1.4 The **representative of BR** said that in Document 71 the Secretary-General drew attention to Resolution 24 of WRC-95, which dealt with the same issue.

1.5 The **Chairperson** noted that WRC-95 had addressed that problem and had requested the Minneapolis Plenipotentiary Conference to review the provisions of Article 54. He invited comments on the approach proposed in Document 25.

1.6 The **delegate of Japan** said that her country supported proposals KWT/MRC/SYR/25/23 and 28. The provisions concerning provisional application of the Administrative Regulations, the deletion of which was proposed, should however be retained, as they would contribute to the stable application of the Administrative Regulations.

1.7 The **delegate of the United States** said that in principle her country could support the approach outlined in Document 25, although it had some concerns which might require clarification on an article-by-article basis.

1.8 The **delegate of Spain** said that the proposal to revert to the situation that had prevailed prior to the 1992 Additional Plenipotentiary Conference was extremely interesting. In the arduous discussions held on the question in Nice, his Administration had argued against the procedure that was currently in force in the Constitution and Convention, application of which was extremely complicated, particularly in the Radiocommunication Sector. Thus, in principle Spain could agree with the proposals. However, adoption of the proposals in their current form would cause Spain well-nigh insuperable problems. Although, under the current Constitution, entry into force of the Administrative Regulations, particularly the Radio Regulations, did not require ratification, all international treaties, whether or not provisionally applied, required ratification under Spanish legislation. Spain was in the process of ratifying Regulations adopted by WRC-95. Thus, it had clearly not embarked on ratification of WRC-97. Consequently, if his delegation were to return to Spain with a new modification of the Constitution and Convention to enter into force on a given date, without having completed ratification of the two previous Conventions, chaos would ensue. Thus, while in principle it supported a proposal it had itself advocated in Nice, Spain saw obstacles to its immediate application.

1.9 The **delegate of Ecuador** said that the delegate of Spain had just drawn attention to a domestic legislative problem that might well also affect Ecuador. Consequently, he would need more time to consider the proposals.

1.10 The **delegate of Colombia** said that the situation with respect to ratification of international treaties by Colombia was identical to that outlined by the delegate of Spain.

1.11 The **delegate of Turkey** said that he supported the approach outlined in Document 25, but had a number of reservations with regard to the details of the proposals. He suggested that the proposals should be discussed in some smaller forum.

1.12 The **delegates of the United States, Portugal and Switzerland** supported the suggestion by the delegate of Turkey, that a small working group should be established to look into the details of the proposal, and that the issue should be deferred for consideration at a later meeting.

1.13 The **Chairperson** said that, pursuant to the working methods set forth in Document DT/5, it had been his intention to set up an ad hoc group, rather than a working group. Any delegation that so wished would be free to participate in the ad hoc group, which would meet over the weekend without interpretation facilities, and come up with a final result by the following Monday.

1.14 The **delegate of France** said that he wished to consult with his delegation before accepting a proposal to conduct the ad hoc group's proceedings in English only. The **delegate of Spain** shared those concerns. He doubted whether it was wise to apply too rigidly the principle of creating only ad hoc groups: the importance of the proposals to be considered warranted the setting up of an official working group, rather than an ad hoc group.

1.15 The **delegate of Greece** endorsed the comments of the delegates of France and Spain regarding the working language of the ad hoc group. He recalled that French continued to be the official language of ITU.

1.16 The **Chairperson** said that he had no objection to the establishment of an official working group. Nonetheless, it should be borne in mind that the meetings of such a group would have to take place in time that would otherwise be available to the Committee. He therefore suggested that Article 54 should be considered initially in an ad hoc group. If problems arose subsequently, the group could then be transformed into an official group.

1.17 It was so **agreed**.

ARTICLE 55 (CS)

Provisions 224-227, 227A, 228, 229, 229A, 230-232

1.18 The **Chairperson**, speaking in his capacity as the delegate of Morocco, introduced the proposals in Document 25 relating to Article 55. He recalled that Article 55 of the Constitution covered amendments thereto, while amendments to the Convention were covered by Article 42 of the latter instrument. Thus, while Article 52 of the Constitution made it mandatory to ratify, accept or approve both instruments simultaneously, separate articles covered the ratification or acceptance of modifications to the Constitution or Convention. Having regard to the discussions under Article 54 on modifications to the Administrative Regulations, he felt that the legal unity of the three instruments had been somewhat diluted, and might eventually disappear altogether. Hence the proposal to have a single article dealing with modifications to all three instruments.

1.19 Speaking in his capacity as Chairperson, he noted that those proposals concerning Article 55 relating to ITU-2000 recommendation 3 could be considered approved. He invited the Committee to consider the acceptability of the proposals contained in Document 25, from the standpoint of their general approach.

1.20 The **delegate of Greece** welcomed the proposals, which would put an end to an aberration that impaired the concept of legal certainty within the Union. Any proposal to work towards unification of the basic instruments was to be welcomed. At a later date he would revert to his proposal that provisions of the Convention of a statutory nature should be embodied in the Constitution, while procedural provisions of the Convention should be embodied in the Administrative Regulations, thereby avoiding the need to change the Convention at each plenipotentiary conference.

1.21 The **delegate of Portugal**, supported by the **delegate of France**, said that more time was needed in which to analyse such a sensitive issue. The proposals relating to Article 55 merited consideration by the newly created ad hoc group.

1.22 The **Chairperson** said that, if he heard no objection, he would take it that the Committee wished to consider the proposals in Document 25 relating to Article 55 in the framework of the ad hoc group.

1.23 It was so **agreed**.

1.24 The **delegate of Canada** introduced proposals CAN/9/1 and 2 concerning Article 55 of the Constitution and Article 42 of the Convention. Their purpose was to shorten the deadlines for submission of proposals pertaining only to amendments to the Constitution and Convention. There was no intention to shorten the deadlines for submission of other proposals for the work of plenipotentiary conferences. While appreciating that ample time was needed for consideration of such proposals, her delegation felt that the present arrangements resulted in countries missing the deadline.

1.25 The **Chairperson** said that the provisions in question had been the subject of lengthy debate in the Council. He considers that the wording of the provisions did not limit the capacity of a plenipotentiary conference to accept any proposal; the eight-month deadline was simply intended to afford the secretariat sufficient time in which to process proposals.

1.26 The **delegate of Spain**, agreeing that the time limits imposed unwarranted constraints on administrations, suggested amending the provision by changing the obligatory form "shall" in the second sentence to the less restrictive "should".

1.27 The **delegate of France** said that, under the impression that the time limit for submission of proposals was binding, his delegation had submitted its proposals in February 1998 as prescribed. In the light of the comments made by the delegate of Canada, he would request the Legal Adviser to inform the Committee whether such a time limit was specific to ITU or whether any precedent could be found in other organizations of the United Nations.

1.28 The **delegate of Greece**, speaking on a point of order, said that in accordance with the Constitution and Convention, only the Secretary-General could act as Legal Adviser to the Plenipotentiary Conference. He therefore advised the delegate of France to await the legal opinion issued either by the Secretary-General himself or by an ITU official designated by him.

1.29 The **Chairperson**, upholding the point of order, said that his personal research had shown that, while a few organizations required Member States to distribute their proposals in an official language of the organization at least 24 hours before their conference or assembly, a time limit of the kind prescribed in No. 224 of the Constitution was specific to ITU. He would, however, request the Legal Affairs Unit to verify that finding.

1.30 The **delegate of Cuba** said that while No. 224 was imperative in nature, there were in fact two provisions for the submission of proposals. He suggested that No. 224 could be applied by those Member States wishing the Secretary-General to transmit their proposals to all Members of the Union within the prescribed time limit; others who felt burdened by the time constraint could use No. 225 of the Constitution as a way of submitting amendments.

1.31 The **delegate of Saudi Arabia**, supported by the **delegate of Mali**, while endorsing the spirit of the Canadian proposal, suggested that one week before a plenipotentiary conference should be set as the time limit for the submission of proposals for amendments.

1.32 The **delegate of Greece** confirmed that no other United Nations agency followed a practice similar to ITU as regards deadlines. Unlike the situation in ITU, however, it was virtually impossible to amend the basic instruments of other United Nations bodies. While the eight-month time limit was no longer justified at a time of extremely rapid communications, what was needed was a rigid procedure for amending the Constitution and Convention.

1.33 The **delegate of the Philippines** observed that the word "shall" in the second sentence of No. 224 of the Constitution was modified by the clause that followed, and was therefore not mandatory for Member States. The word "shall" in the third sentence was, however, binding on the Secretary-General. If the term "shall" was interpreted as mandatory in both those sentences, he would support the Canadian proposal.

1.34 The **delegate of the United States**, supported by the **delegate of the United Kingdom**, agreed with the delegates of Spain and France that the wording of No. 224 made it mandatory for Member States to submit their proposals eight months in advance, and for the Secretary-General to submit those proposals to the other Member States six months in advance. While it would be preferable to retain the original time limit, for practical reasons she was prepared to support the Canadian proposal.

1.35 The **delegate of Turkey** interpreted No. 224 as being flexible in its requirement for the submission of the proposals to the Secretary-General. Neither in practice nor in principle were Member States prevented from doing so at a later date. Groups of countries, such as CITES, APT and CEPT, needed time for preparation and consolidation and were therefore not always in a position to submit their proposals on time.

1.36 The **delegate of India** cautioned that, while flexibility was important, any radical reduction in the time limit might result in administrations receiving documents even later than they did at present.

1.37 The **delegate of Viet Nam** agreed that there was a need to amend No. 224, and considered it politic to establish a specific time limit. In his view, which was endorsed by the **delegate of Greece**, the only requirement was that the Secretary-General should receive the proposals in sufficient time for them to be transmitted to Member States so that they, in turn, could consider them before the opening of the plenipotentiary conference.

1.38 The **delegate of Botswana** considered unacceptable any reduction of the time limit set in No. 224. Article 55 of the Constitution and Article 42 of the Convention imposed obligations on those Member States proposing amendments and on the Secretary-General, but not on Member States wishing to submit modifications to those amendments, a task that could be effected at any time. Member States wishing to amend the Constitution were aware that they must submit their proposals eight months in advance.

1.39 The **delegate of Argentina** supported the Canadian proposal concerning No. 224 of the Constitution but did not consider that it should be linked to a similar proposal regarding the corresponding provision in the Convention. The two instruments had been separated precisely to enable the Constitution to be endowed with greater permanence.

1.40 The **Chairperson** invited the delegate of Canada to draft an amendment to No. 224 of the Constitution, possibly with dates in square brackets, following consultation with other interested delegations, for subsequent consideration by the Committee.

1.41 The **delegate of Switzerland** called for clarification of the fundamental question of whether No. 224 was, as had been claimed, binding on the Secretary-General but not on the Member States, before the discussion could be pursued.

ARTICLES 56, 57 (CS)

Provisions 233, 234, 235, 236

1.42 The **Chairperson** observed that all the proposals relating to those provisions referred to ITU-2000 recommendation 3 which involved replacing "Members" and "members" by "Member States" and "Sector Members", respectively.

ARTICLE 58 (CS)

Provision 238

1.43 The **Chairperson**, referring to proposal MLI/20/21, observed that it appeared to deal only with the entry into force of the Constitution and Convention and not to the entry into force of amendments. The **delegate of the United States** said that the proposal required clarification.

ANNEX

Provisions 1001-1008

1.44 The **Chairperson** observed that all the proposed amendments related to ITU-2000 recommendation 3.

Provision 1013

1.45 The **delegate of Greece** entered a reservation in respect of the term "telegram", recalling that a proposed amendment would be submitted in respect of a number of provisions in which that term appeared. The **Chairperson** said that the provision would be held in abeyance pending the submission of a revised text.

1.46 The **Chairperson** invited the Committee to consider the articles and provisions of the Convention on the basis of Document DT/9(Rev.1). He noted that there were no proposals in respect of provisions 10, 11, 31, 32, 35-38, 40, 41, 43, 45, 48-52, 54, 56-59, 62, 63, 64-74, 76-78, 80, 82-85, 88-99, 101, 103-108, 110, 112-116, 119, 120, 124-128 of the Convention. All the proposals in respect of provisions 2, 4, 6, 7, 8, 9, 12, 30, 33, 34, 39, 42, 44, 46, 47, 50A, 53, 55, 60, 75, 79, 81, 100, 102, 109, 111, 121 and 123 referred to recommendation 3 of the ITU-2000 Group. Consideration of the proposals in respect of provisions 5, 6A, 12A, 12B, 13-19, 19A, 19B, 20, 21, 22, 23-29, 61, 86, 86A, 87A and 102A would be deferred pending the outcome of deliberations in Committee 5.

ARTICLE 4 (CV)

Provision 60A

1.47 Proposal EUR/32/225 was **approved**.

Provision 63bis

1.48 It was **agreed** that consideration of proposal EUR/32/227 should be deferred pending the outcome of deliberations in Committee 7.

ARTICLE 5 (CV)

1.49 The **delegate of Israel** requested clarification of the interpretation of No. 91 of the Convention which stated that the Secretary-General shall provide legal advice to the Union. He trusted that the provision did not preclude the possibility of any Member State seeking advice independently and directly from the Legal Affairs Unit.

1.50 The **Chairperson**, referring also to No. 76 of the Constitution which stated that the Secretary-General shall act as the legal representative of the Union, said that the Secretary-General might be asked to give an interpretation of the Constitution to a meeting of Member States. The provisions quoted in no way precluded any Member State from seeking advice directly from the Secretary-General or from the Legal Affairs Unit. He recalled that the matter had been debated at length at the 1973 Plenipotentiary Conference.

ARTICLE 6 (CV)

Provision 117

1.51 The **delegate of Turkey**, introducing proposal EUR/32/239, said that its purpose was to reflect current practice. WRCs did not adopt questions, but rather resolutions and recommendations which might identify topics to be studied in ITU-R study groups. If the new wording were agreed, ITU-R study groups could use a WRC resolution or recommendation as authority to undertake studies, without wasting precious time in drafting questions. The **delegates of the United Kingdom, Argentina, Germany, the Netherlands, Spain, France, Switzerland and Portugal** supported that view.

1.52 The **delegate of the Islamic Republic of Iran**, supported by the **delegate of Kuwait**, asked that consideration of the proposal be postponed pending consideration of Nos. 149, 192, 246A and 247 of the Convention.

1.53 The **Chairperson**, noting the widespread support for proposal EUR/32/239, suggested that it should be accepted subject to consideration of the relevant provisions of Article 11 of the Convention.

1.54 It was so **agreed**.

The meeting rose at 1730 hours.

The Secretary:
A. GUILLOT

The Chairperson:
A. BERRADA

INTERNATIONAL TELECOMMUNICATION UNION



PLENIPOTENTIARY CONFERENCE (PP-98)

Document 188-E
26 October 1998
Original: French

MINNEAPOLIS, 12 OCTOBER - 6 NOVEMBER 1998

COMMITTEE 4

SECOND SERIES OF TEXTS SUBMITTED BY COMMITTEE 6 TO THE EDITORIAL COMMITTEE

Committee 6 has adopted the attached texts, which it submits to the Editorial Committee for consideration and subsequent transmission to the Plenary Meeting.

Abderrazak BERRADA
Chairperson

CONSTITUTION

- MOD 11** a) effect allocation of bands of the radio-frequency spectrum, the allotment of radio frequencies and registration of radio-frequency assignments and for space services, of any associated orbital positions in the geostationary-satellite orbit or of any associated characteristics of satellites in other orbits in order to avoid harmful interference between radio stations of different countries;
- MOD 100** (3) ~~Each Member States and Sector Members~~ shall respect the exclusively international character of the duties of the members of the Board and refrain from attempting to influence them in the performance of their Board duties.

ARTICLE 18 (CS)

- MOD** **World Telecommunication Standardization ~~Conferences~~Assemblies**
- MOD 113** 1. The duties of world telecommunication standardization ~~assembliesconferences~~ are specified in the Convention.
- MOD 114** 2. World telecommunication standardization ~~assembliesconferences~~ shall be convened every four years; however, an additional ~~assemblyconference~~ may be held in accordance with the relevant provisions of the Convention.
- MOD 115** 3. Decisions of world telecommunication standardization ~~assembliesconferences~~ must in all circumstances be in conformity with this Constitution, the Convention and the Administrative Regulations. When adopting resolutions and decisions, the ~~assembliesconferences~~ shall take into account the foreseeable financial implications and should avoid adopting resolutions and decisions which might give rise to expenditure in excess of the upper limits on credits laid down by the Plenipotentiary Conference.

ARTICLE 19 (CS)

- MOD** **Telecommunication Standardization Study Groups and Advisory Group**
- MOD 116** The respective duties of the telecommunication standardization study groups and advisory group are specified in the Convention.

- MOD 122** b) promote, especially by means of partnership, the development, expansion and operation of telecommunication networks and services, particularly in developing countries, taking into account the activities of other relevant bodies, by reinforcing capabilities for human resources development, planning, management, resource mobilization, and research and development;
- MOD 135** a) of right, the administrations of all Member States~~Members of the Union~~;
- MOD 136** b) any entity or organization ~~authorized which becomes a Sector Member in~~ accordance with the relevant provisions of the Convention.
- MOD 151** (2) ~~Each~~ Member States and Sector Members shall respect the exclusively international character of the duties of these elected officials and of the staff of the Union, and refrain from trying to influence them in the performance of their work.
- MOD 153** (4) In order to ensure the efficient operation of the Union, any Member State~~Member~~, a national of which has been elected Secretary-General, Deputy Secretary-General or Director of a Bureau shall refrain, as far as possible, from recalling that national between two Plenipotentiary Conferences.
- MOD 182** Each Member State reserves the right to suspend the international telecommunication service, either generally or only for certain relations and/or for certain kinds of correspondence, outgoing, incoming or in transit, provided that it immediately notifies such action to each of the other Members States through the medium of the Secretary-General.
- MOD 183** Members States accept no responsibility towards users of the international telecommunication services, particularly as regards claims for damages.
- MOD 186** 1. Member States~~Members~~ shall take such steps as may be necessary to ensure the establishment, under the best technical conditions, of the channels and installations necessary to carry on the rapid and uninterrupted exchange of international telecommunications.
- MOD 188** 3. Member States~~Members~~ shall safeguard these channels and installations within their jurisdiction.
- MOD 189** 4. Unless other conditions are laid down by special arrangements, each Member State~~Member~~ shall take such steps as may be necessary to ensure maintenance of those sections of international telecommunication circuits within its control.
- MOD 194** Member States~~Members~~ reserve the right to convene regional conferences, to make regional arrangements and to form regional organizations, for the purpose of settling telecommunication questions which are susceptible of being treated on a regional basis. Such arrangements shall not be in conflict with either this Constitution or the Convention.

- MOD 197** 1. All stations, whatever their purpose, must be established and operated in such a manner as not to cause harmful interference to the radio services or communications of other Member States~~Members~~ or of recognized operating agencies, or of other duly authorized operating agencies which carry on a radio service, and which operate in accordance with the provisions of the Radio Regulations.
- MOD 198** 2. Each Member State~~Member~~ undertakes to require the operating agencies which it recognizes and the other operating agencies duly authorized for this purpose to observe the provisions of No. 197 above.
- MOD 199** 3. Further, the Member States~~Members~~ recognize the necessity of taking all practicable steps to prevent the operation of electrical apparatus and installations of all kinds from causing harmful interference to the radio services or communications mentioned in No. 197 above.
- MOD 201** Member States~~Members~~ agree to take the steps required to prevent the transmission or circulation of false or deceptive distress, urgency, safety or identification signals, and to collaborate in locating and identifying stations under their jurisdiction transmitting such signals.
- MOD 202** 1. Member States~~Members~~ retain their entire freedom with regard to military radio installations.
- MOD 207** Each Member State~~Member~~ reserves to itself and to the recognized operating agencies the right to fix the conditions on which it admits telecommunications exchanged with a State which is not a Member of the Union. If a telecommunication originating in the territory of such a State is accepted by a Member State~~Member~~, it must be transmitted and, in so far as it follows the telecommunication channels of a Member State~~Member~~, the obligatory provisions of this Constitution, of the Convention and of the Administrative Regulations and the usual charges shall apply to it.
- MOD 208** 1. This Constitution and the Convention shall be simultaneously ratified, accepted or approved by any signatory Member State~~Member~~, in accordance with its constitutional rules, in one single instrument. This instrument shall be deposited, in as short a time as possible, with the Secretary-General. The Secretary-General shall notify the Member States~~Members~~ of each deposit of any such instrument.
- MOD 209** 2. (1) During a period of two years from the date of entry into force of this Constitution and the Convention, a signatory Member State~~Member~~, even though it may not have deposited an instrument of ratification, acceptance or approval, in accordance with No. 208 above, shall enjoy the rights conferred on Member States~~Members~~ of the Union in Nos. 25 to 28 of this Constitution.

- MOD 210** (2) From the end of a period of two years from the date of entry into force of this Constitution and the Convention, a signatory Member State~~Member~~ which has not deposited an instrument of ratification, acceptance or approval, in accordance with No. 208 above, shall no longer be entitled to vote at any conference of the Union, at any session of the Council, at any meeting of any of the Sectors of the Union, or during consultation by correspondence conducted in accordance with the provisions of this Constitution and of the Convention until it has so deposited such an instrument. Its rights, other than voting rights, shall not be affected.
- MOD 212** 1. A Member State~~Member~~ which is not a signatory to this Constitution and the Convention, or, subject to the provisions of Article 2 of this Constitution, any other State referred to in that Article may accede to this Constitution and the Convention at any time. Such accession shall be made simultaneously in the form of one single instrument covering both this Constitution and the Convention.
- MOD 213** 2. The instrument of accession shall be deposited with the Secretary-General, who shall notify the Member States~~Members~~ of each deposit of any such instrument when it is received and shall forward to each of them a certified copy thereof.

ARTICLE 55 (CS)

Provisions for Amending this Constitution

- [MOD 224]** 1. Any Member State~~of the Union~~ may propose any amendment to this Constitution. Any such proposal shall, in order to ensure its timely transmission to, and consideration by, all the Member States~~Members of the Union~~, reach the Secretary-General not later than eight months prior to the opening date fixed for the Plenipotentiary Conference. The Secretary-General shall, as soon as possible, but not later than six months prior to the latter date, forward any such proposal to all the Member States~~Members of the Union~~.]
- NOTE - Following a lengthy debate, Committee 6 was unable to reach a consensus on the amendments to be made to this provision. It was therefore considered preferable that they be taken up in Plenary.
- MOD 225** 2. Any proposed modification to any amendment submitted in accordance with No. 224 above may, however, be submitted at any time by a Member State~~of the Union~~ or by its delegation at the Plenipotentiary Conference.

- MOD 229** 6. Any amendments to this Constitution adopted by a Plenipotentiary Conference shall, as a whole and in the form of one single amending instrument, enter into force at a date fixed by the conference between Member States~~Members~~ having deposited before that date their instrument of ratification, acceptance or approval of, or accession to, both this Constitution and the amending instrument. Ratification, acceptance or approval of, or accession to, only a part of such an amending instrument shall be excluded.
- MOD 230** 7. The Secretary-General shall notify all Member States~~Members~~ of the deposit of each instrument of ratification, acceptance, approval or accession.
- MOD 233** 1. Member States~~Members~~ may settle their disputes on questions relating to the interpretation or application of this Constitution, the Convention or of the Administrative Regulations by negotiation, through diplomatic channels, or according to procedures established by bilateral or multilateral treaties concluded between them for the settlement of international disputes, or by any other method mutually agreed upon.
- MOD 234** 2. If none of these methods of settlement is adopted, any Member State~~Member~~ party to a dispute may have recourse to arbitration in accordance with the procedure defined in the Convention.
- MOD 235** 3. The Optional Protocol on the Compulsory Settlement of Disputes Relating to this Constitution, to the Convention, and to the Administrative Regulations shall be applicable as between Member States~~Members~~ parties to that Protocol.
- MOD 236** 1. Each Member State~~Member~~ which has ratified, accepted, approved or acceded to this Constitution and the Convention shall have the right to denounce them. In such a case, this Constitution and the Convention shall be denounced simultaneously in one single instrument, by a notification addressed to the Secretary-General. Upon receipt of such notification, the Secretary-General shall advise the other Member States~~Members~~ thereof.
- MOD 241** 4. The original of this Constitution and the Convention drawn up in the Arabic, Chinese, English, French, Russian and Spanish languages shall remain deposited in the archives of the Union. The Secretary-General shall forward, in the languages requested, a certified true copy to each of the signatory Member States~~Members~~.

ANNEX (CS)

- ADD 1001A** *Member State:* A State which is considered to be a Member of the Union in application of Article 2 of this Constitution.
- ADD 1001B** *Sector Member:* An entity or organization authorized in accordance with Article 19 of the Convention to participate in the activities of a Sector.

- ADD 1005** *Delegation:* The totality of the delegates and, should the case arise, any representatives, advisers, attachés, or interpreters sent by the same Member State.
- Each ~~Member State~~Member shall be free to make up its delegation as it wishes. In particular, it may include in its delegation, *inter alia*, in the capacity of delegates, advisers or attachés, persons belonging to any entity or organization authorized in accordance with the relevant provisions of the Convention.
- MOD 1006** *Delegate:* A person sent by the government of a Member ~~State~~of the Union to a Plenipotentiary Conference, or a person representing a government or an administration of a Member ~~State~~of the Union at a conference or at a meeting of the Union.
- MOD 1008** *Recognized Operating Agency:* Any operating agency, as defined above, which operates a public correspondence or broadcasting service and upon which the obligations provided for in Article 6 of this Constitution are imposed by the ~~Member State~~Member in whose territory the head office of the agency is situated, or by the ~~Member State~~Member which has authorized this operating agency to establish and operate a telecommunication service on its territory.
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INTERNATIONAL TELECOMMUNICATION UNION



PLENIPOTENTIARY CONFERENCE (PP-98)

Document 189-E
27 October 1998

MINNEAPOLIS, 12 OCTOBER - 6 NOVEMBER 1998

B.1

PLENARY MEETING

FIRST READING

FIRST SERIES OF TEXTS SUBMITTED BY THE EDITORIAL COMMITTEE TO THE PLENARY MEETING

The following texts are submitted to the Plenary Meeting for **first reading**:

Source	Document	Title
COM5	128	Resolution COM5/2
	168	Resolution COM5/3
	169	Resolution COM5/4
	172 + Corr.1	Resolution COM5/5
PLEN	158	Resolution PLEN/1
COM5	163	Annex to Resolution [XXX] - Strategic Plan for the Union 1999-2003

Lucien BOURGEAT
Chairperson

Annex: 38 pages

RESOLUTION COM5/2

**REFINEMENT OF THE RADIOCOMMUNICATION SECTOR AND
TELECOMMUNICATION STANDARDIZATION SECTOR**

The Plenipotentiary Conference of the International Telecommunication Union (Minneapolis, 1998),

noting

the report by the Council on the results of the implementation of Resolution 16 (Kyoto, 1994),

considering

- a) that ITU should be the pre-eminent global standardization body in the telecommunication field, including radiocommunication;
- b) that ITU is the pre-eminent body for efficient worldwide cooperation in the radio regulatory field;
- c) that the Additional Plenipotentiary Conference (Geneva, 1992) recognized Nos. 78 and 104 of the Constitution as an initial allocation of work between the Radiocommunication (ITU-R) and Telecommunication Standardization (ITU-T) Sectors and outlined general principles and guidelines pertaining to the allocation of work between ITU-R and ITU-T;
- d) that, in application of instructions handed down by the Additional Plenipotentiary Conference (Geneva, 1992), the World Telecommunication Standardization Conference (Helsinki, 1993) and the Radiocommunication Assembly (Geneva, 1993) adopted resolutions that establish procedures for ongoing review and, as appropriate, allocation of work, in order to achieve goals in terms of effectiveness and efficiency;
- e) the need to involve all interested participants of ITU-R and ITU-T in this ongoing review;
- f) that, when implementing this resolution, questions that may have implications on the International Telecommunication Regulations and the Radio Regulations require a more cautious approach,

resolves

- 1 that the current process, in conformity with the relevant resolutions of the world telecommunication standardization conference and the radiocommunication assembly providing for ongoing review of new and existing work and its allocation to ITU-R and ITU-T, shall be maintained;
- 2 that changes in the allocation of work between the ITU-R and ITU-T on matters that may be related to the International Telecommunication Regulations or the Radio Regulations shall not be considered within that process.

RESOLUTION COM5/3

**TELECOMMUNICATIONS IN THE SERVICE OF
HUMANITARIAN ASSISTANCE**

The Plenipotentiary Conference of the International Telecommunication Union
(Minneapolis, 1998),

endorsing

- a) Resolution 644 of the World Radiocommunication Conference (Geneva, 1997) on telecommunication resources for disaster mitigation and relief operations;
- b) Resolution 19 of the World Telecommunication Development Conference (Valletta, 1998) on telecommunication resources for disaster mitigation and relief operations;
- c) the Valletta Declaration adopted by the World Telecommunication Development Conference (Valletta, 1998), drawing the attention of ITU Member States and Sector Members to the importance of emergency telecommunications and the need for an international convention on this subject,

considering

that the Intergovernmental Conference on Emergency Telecommunications (Tampere, 1998) has adopted the Tampere Convention on the provision of telecommunication resources for disaster mitigation and relief operations,

noting

- a) the Final Act of the Intergovernmental Conference on Emergency Telecommunications (Tampere, 1998), which reflects the recognition by the conference of the significant impact of disasters on societies and the environment and of the need for providing timely, effective telecommunication assistance and resources for disaster mitigation and relief;
- b) the report of the Secretary-General on the implementation of, *inter alia*, Resolution 36 (Kyoto, 1994),

noting with appreciation

- a) the efforts deployed by the ITU Secretary-General towards the adoption of the Tampere Convention;
- b) the close cooperation between the United Nations Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs and ITU during the past four years,

recognizing

the seriousness and magnitude of potential disasters that may cause dramatic human suffering,

convinced

that the unhindered use of telecommunication equipment and services is indispensable for the provision of effective and appropriate humanitarian assistance,

further convinced

that the Tampere Convention provides the necessary framework for such use of telecommunication resources,

instructs the Secretary-General

to work closely with the United Nations Emergency Relief Coordinator on the development of practical arrangements for the implementation of the Tampere Convention,

urges administrations

to work towards the earliest possible ratification, acceptance, approval or final signature of the Tampere Convention by the appropriate national authorities,

further urges administrations

to take all practical steps for the application of the Tampere Convention and to work closely with the operational coordinator as provided for therein.

RESOLUTION COM5/4

**COPING WITH THE DECREASED USE OF
INTERNATIONAL TELEX SERVICE**

The Plenipotentiary Conference of the International Telecommunication Union
(Minneapolis, 1998),

considering

- a) that the number of subscribers to the international telex service is decreasing due to the introduction of more convenient means, such as Internet, facsimile and SWIFT, made possible by technological advancements;
- b) that the World Telecommunication Development Report issued by ITU in 1998 shows that the number of telex subscribers worldwide has decreased by about 15% (compound annual rate) over the period 1990-1996,

noting

- a) that measures need to be taken to cope with the decrease in the use of the international telex service, which was once the only worldwide text service available;
- b) that, since countries have different schedules for suspending the use of international telex services, a considerable amount of financial and human resources are liable to be required for maintaining telex facilities such as telex switches in countries that have already changed over to alternative services in order to continue service with the countries that have yet to do so,

resolves to instruct the Secretary-General

- 1 to conduct a survey on the decrease in the use of the international telex service and determine when it will become possible for the international telex service to be replaced by new means of telecommunication;
- 2 to study measures to assist countries in expediting the changeover from the international telex service to more modern means of telecommunication;
- 3 to also study practical steps - for example work to encourage interoperability between telex networks and IP networks, which could be of particular value to those countries which have inherited extensive telex networks - and the application of other low-bandwidth data technology;
- 4 to submit a report to the Council for review;
- 5 to take the necessary measures to enable implementation of the conclusions of the report.

RESOLUTION COM5/5

**PARTICIPATION OF RADIOCOMMUNICATION SECTOR MEMBERS
AT WORLD RADIOCOMMUNICATION CONFERENCES**

The Plenipotentiary Conference of the International Telecommunication Union
(Minneapolis, 1998),

considering

- a) that there are divergences in the provisions of the Convention concerning the participation of Sector Members in plenipotentiary and radiocommunication conferences;
- b) that this Conference considered a recommendation to widen the representation of Radiocommunication Sector participants at world radiocommunication conferences;
- c) that the matter of rights and obligations of Radiocommunication Sector Members has been addressed by the Radiocommunication Advisory Group (RAG), which has supported wider participation by Sector Members in world radiocommunication conferences;
- d) [that this Conference adopted amendments to the relevant provisions of the Constitution and Convention so as to admit all Sector Members to world radiocommunication conferences],* and that international and regional organizations referred to in Nos. 278 and 279 of the Convention now have the right to request the floor at world radiocommunication conferences;
- e) the provisions of No. 178 of the Constitution,

instructs the Director of the Radiocommunication Bureau, with advice from RAG

- 1 to study and propose to the WRC-2000 procedures under which the Sector Members (except the Sector Members referred to under No. 278 and 279 of the Convention) may request the floor at world radiocommunication conferences;
- 2 to address other issues related to the participation of Sector Members at world radiocommunication conferences and propose to WRC-2000 any action as necessary,

invites WRC-2000

- 1 to adopt appropriate measures for the participation of the Sector Members at WRC-2000;
- 2 to propose to the Council any action which could be considered by the next plenipotentiary conference on the application of this resolution.

* For editorial adjustments after consideration in Committee 6.

RESOLUTION PLEN/1

INCLUSION OF GENDER PERSPECTIVE IN THE WORK OF ITU

The Plenipotentiary Conference of the International Telecommunication Union
(Minneapolis, 1998),

recalling

- a) the initiative taken by the Telecommunication Development Sector at the World Telecommunication Development Conference (Valletta, 1998) (WTDC-98) in adopting Resolution 7, transmitted to this Plenipotentiary Conference, which resolved that a task force on gender issues be established;
- b) the purposes of ITU as laid down in Article 1 of the Constitution (Geneva, 1992), which include promoting "the extension of the benefits of the new telecommunication technologies to all the world's inhabitants";
- c) United Nations General Assembly resolution 52/96 of 6 February 1998 on the improvement of the status of women in the secretariat;
- d) the statement on "Gender Equality and Mainstreaming in the Work of the United Nations System: A Commitment for Action in 1998", adopted by the Administrative Committee on Coordination at its regular session in 1998 (Geneva, 27 and 28 March 1998),¹

recognizing

- a) that society as a whole will benefit from equal participation of women and men in policy and decision-making and equal access to communications services for both women and men;
- b) that making better use of human resources, including the skills of women, significantly adds to the pool of talent that will be needed in the new information society;
- c) that women constitute a substantial consumer market for information and communication technologies,

¹ "Gender perspective": Mainstreaming a gender perspective is the process of assessing the implications for women and men of any planned action, including legislation, policies or programmes in all areas and at all levels. It is a strategy for making women's as well as men's concerns and experiences an integral dimension of design, implementation, monitoring and evaluation so that women and men benefit equally and inequality is not perpetuated. The ultimate goal is to achieve gender equality. (Source: Report of the Inter-Agency Committee on Women and Gender Equality, third session, New York, 25-27 February 1998).

recognizing further

- a) that the recommendations of the first meeting of the Task Force on Gender Issues held on 1 and 2 September 1998 identified priority activities to be undertaken by ITU-D aimed at ensuring that the benefits of telecommunications and the emerging information society are made available to all women and men in developing countries on a fair and equitable basis;
- b) that the Secretary-General has recently appointed a focal point for gender issues in ITU;
- c) that action is required in the light of the decision taken by the United Nations General Assembly to convene a special session from 5 to 9 June 2000 in order to appraise and assess the progress achieved in the implementation of the Nairobi Forward-looking Strategies for the Advancement of Women and the Beijing Platform for Action five years after its adoption,

noting

- a) that there is a need for ITU to investigate, analyse and further understanding of the impact of telecommunication technologies on women and men;
- b) that there is a need to ensure that the gender perspective is included in all ITU policies, work programmes, information dissemination activities, publications, study groups, seminars, workshops and conferences,

recommends that Member States and Sector Members

- a) review and revise, as appropriate, their respective policies and practices to ensure that recruitment, employment, training and advancement of women and men alike are undertaken on a fair and equitable basis;
- b) facilitate the employment of women and men equally in the telecommunication field including at senior levels of responsibility in the telecommunication administrations, government and regulatory bodies and intergovernmental organizations and in the private sector,

resolves

- 1 to endorse WTDC-98 Resolution 7;
- 2 to incorporate the gender perspective in the implementation of the ITU strategic plan, operational plan, financial plan and the approved recommendations of ITU-2000;
- 3 that the language in the basic instruments of the Union (Convention and Constitution) shall be considered as gender-neutral,

instructs the Council

to ensure that, within available resources, appropriate funding is included in each budget for gender perspective initiatives,

instructs the Secretary-General

- 1 to facilitate the work of the ITU Focal Point on Gender Issues by providing the necessary means to carry out the work, and to report to the Council in 2000 on progress made in this respect;
- 2 to ensure that the General Secretariat and the Sectors, through their Directors, incorporate the gender perspective in their work programmes, leadership and human resources development activities;
- 3 to report back to the next ITU Plenipotentiary Conference on the results and progress made on the inclusion of a gender perspective in the work of ITU,

instructs the Director of BDT

to facilitate the full implementation of WTDC-98 Resolution 7,

instructs the Secretary-General and Directors of the Bureaux

to report to Council each year on progress made to incorporate the gender perspective in the work of the General Secretariat and the respective Sector operational plans.

B.1/9

RESOLUTION [XXX]

STRATEGIC PLAN FOR THE UNION 1999-2003

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ANNEX TO RESOLUTION [XXX]

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ANNEX 1

Strategic Plan for the Union 1999-2003

I. Introduction

1. The purposes of the Union are set out in Article 1 of the Constitution (Geneva, 1992). Essentially, they are to provide a forum in which the Union's membership can cooperate for the improvement and rational use of telecommunications of all kinds in the following domains:
 - 1.1 a technical domain - to promote the development, efficient operation, usefulness and general availability of telecommunication facilities and services;
 - 1.2 a development domain - to promote the development of telecommunications in developing countries and the extension of the benefits of telecommunications to people everywhere;
 - 1.3 a policy domain - to promote the adoption of a broader approach to telecommunication issues in the global information economy and society.
2. The objective of the strategic plan for the Union for 1999-2003 is to indicate how these purposes will be achieved in this period of time by identifying key issues, goals, strategies and priorities for the Union as a whole, for each of the Sectors, and for the secretariat.
3. The ITU strategic plan for 1995-1999 was based on an ambitious goal - to establish the Union as the international focal point for all matters relating to telecommunications in the global information economy and society. This goal was to be achieved through the following overall strategies:
 - 3.1 to strengthen the foundations of the Union - by enhancing the participation of Sector Members and increasing synergy between the activities of the Sectors;
 - 3.2 to broaden the Union's activities - by creating the world telecommunication policy forum and using ITU resources and information systems more effectively;
 - 3.3 to increase the Union's leverage in international affairs - by establishing strategic alliances with other concerned international and regional organizations, and communicating more effectively with the public.
4. The report of the Council to the Plenipotentiary Conference (Minneapolis, 1998) on the activities of the Union since the Plenipotentiary Conference (Kyoto, 1994) provides a detailed assessment of the results of the 1995-99 strategic plan. Each of these strategies has been successful, to a greater or lesser degree. However, the overall goal as referred to in § 3 above has not been entirely realized, largely because of developments outside the control of the Union and its membership.

5. The telecommunication environment has evolved in ways that were not completely foreseen when the 1995-1999 strategic plan was being crafted. In particular, the forces of liberalization, competition and globalization have been stronger than anticipated. They have resulted in a shift in the way telecommunications is viewed - by policy-makers and regulators, by customers, and by the industry itself. These forces will be further strengthened by the implementation in 1998 of agreements liberalizing trade in telecommunications at the international and regional levels.

6. In this new environment, it is no longer realistic to believe that the Union can be the focal point for all matters relating to telecommunications in the global information economy and society. The world is now too complex and telecommunications too pervasive for a single organization to be the focus of all issues of concern to the international community. New goals must be set and new strategies devised. That is the purpose of this document, which is organized as follows:

- 6.1 Part II identifies key trends and developments in the telecommunication environment and assesses their implications for ITU;
- 6.2 Part III proposes general strategic orientations, goals and priorities for achieving the purposes of the Union in the new environment in the 1999-2003 time-frame;
- 6.3 Part IV presents goals, strategies and priorities for the Sectors;
- 6.4 Part V proposes goals, strategies and priorities for the ITU secretariat.

7. The financial plan for the Union for 2000-2003 estimates the cost of ITU activities, identifies revenue options and establishes expenditure priorities on the basis of the provisions of the draft strategic plan.

II. Environmental analysis

A. Trends and developments in the telecommunication environment

8. The global market for telecommunications is expanding rapidly. It is not a question of "demand pull" or "supply push". Both are happening. The interaction of these two forces has made telecommunications one of the leading growth sectors in the world economy. It has also made telecommunications one of the most important components of social, cultural and political activity.

- 8.1 On the demand side, growth is pulled by an increasing reliance on telecommunications and information technology in every area of human life - in all sectors of economic and social activity; in government, in the provision of public services, and in the management of public infrastructures; in the pursuit of knowledge and the expression of culture; in the control of the environment; and in response to emergencies, whether natural or man-made.

8.2 On the supply side, growth is pushed by rapid technological developments which continuously improve the efficiency of existing products, systems and services, and provide the foundation for a continuing stream of innovations in each of these areas. Particularly noteworthy is the convergence of telecommunication, information, broadcasting and publishing technologies, which has greatly enriched the communication choices available to consumers.

9. The effect of the fundamental forces driving demand and supply has been amplified by the worldwide trend to liberalize markets for telecommunication and information technology goods and services. As a result of this trend, the majority of telecommunication networks are now privately owned and operated. Significant developments have also taken place to introduce competition at the national, regional and international levels. Of particular importance is the World Trade Organization (WTO) agreement to liberalize trade in basic telecommunication services which was concluded in February 1997 by 69 countries which together account for more than 90% of global telecommunication revenues. The agreement entered into force on 5 February 1998.

10. The new framework developed by WTO to govern trade and regulation of telecommunication services will facilitate further globalization of the telecommunication equipment and services industries, as well as the closely-related information technology industry.

10.1 In the 1995-1999 planning period, "globalization" was more a slogan than a reality, since it referred mainly to alliances between major operators to provide end-to-end services to multinational enterprises. Public networks and residential customers were relatively unaffected by this kind of globalization, although various forms of "alternative calling procedures" provided consumers in countries which allowed such practices a "poor-man's version" of the benefits enjoyed by big business users.

10.2 In the 1999-2003 planning period, globalization is likely to become much more of a reality. The WTO agreement will make it possible for foreign operators to have direct access through interconnection and interoperability to public networks in most of the world's major telecommunication markets, as well as to make direct investments in the development of those networks.

11. Five years ago, few would have predicted that the Internet would emerge so rapidly as a serious competitive force in telecommunications. However, today's Internet is only a precursor to the new competitive forces that are likely to emerge in the next five to ten years in the new "communications and information sector" which will result from technological convergence.

12. The essential lesson to be learned from the Internet phenomenon is that competition is no longer a public policy tool which can be introduced in a completely controlled fashion and regulated within the confines of the traditional telecommunication sector. Competition in telecommunications is rapidly becoming a true market force whose evolution cannot be planned by policy-makers, a force which increasingly is seen as best regulated on the basis of principles that are not specific to telecommunications, but derived from a broader economic, social and cultural perspective.

13. Although far from universally accepted, the sweeping changes in telecommunications described above have broad support among many countries, including a number of developing countries who see it as the best way forward in developing their telecommunication networks and services to the benefit of their overall economic and social development.
14. The liberalization of telecommunications does not mean an end to regulation - but it has changed both the role of government and the nature of telecommunication regulation:
 - 14.1 In the past, most administrations of ITU Member States tended to be "all-purpose" creatures - policy-makers and operators which both provided and regulated telecommunications on the basis of a "public utility" model.
 - 14.2 The liberalization of telecommunications has been accompanied by a separation of these functions. The trend now is for administrations of ITU Member States to be policy-makers, nested within a general department of government (e.g. industry and trade); for telecommunications to be operated by corporations - whether public, private or mixed; and for "the public interest" in telecommunications to be protected by an independent regulatory authority.
 - 14.3 In countries that have introduced partial or full competition, the model for regulating telecommunications is changing. Principles derived from competition law are taking their place alongside the classical precepts of public utility regulation. In some jurisdictions, sector-specific telecommunication regulation has been abandoned.
 - 14.4 Again, the WTO agreement will amplify these regulatory trends. More than 60 signatories accounting for more than 90% of global telecommunication revenues have made commitments to apply in whole or in part a set of regulatory principles including interconnection, transparency and anti-competitive safeguards. These regulatory commitments, and indeed all other commitments, are subject to the WTO dispute resolution mechanism. They are therefore more than a voluntary code of conduct. They are binding commitments which are enforceable under the WTO dispute resolution mechanism.
15. In the 1999-2003 planning period, it is likely that the trends noted above with respect to liberalization, competition and globalization will begin to combine in new ways that may ultimately change the way the telecommunication industry sees itself and is seen by its regulator(s) and customers.
 - 15.1 Countries that began permitting competition in telecommunications 10 or 20 years ago generally introduced it in a planned and orderly manner: first in terminal equipment; then in value-added services; then in the long-distance service; and finally in local and international services. In addition, competition was generally permitted among different service providers using the same infrastructure before being allowed between different infrastructure providers. Even today, most countries that permit competition do so on a highly regulated basis.
 - 15.2 In this environment the regulator must implement competitive safeguards, nurture competition, ensure interconnection/interoperability and ensure broad and affordable access to necessary services.

- 15.3 As a result of technological progress, convergence and market liberalization, countries only now beginning to introduce competition are less likely to be in a position to plan an evolution of this kind.
 - 15.4 Even in those countries that have experience with competition, service providers and regulators which have based their respective plans on an orderly evolution of this kind are finding that the "rules of the game" are suddenly changing, that competition is coming from unforeseen directions, and that it cannot be regulated as it was in the past.
 - 15.5 More than any other phenomenon, the Internet symbolizes the changing nature of telecommunications. It is based on different technologies, network architectures, standardization and addressing schemes. Its economic foundations and charging principles are diametrically opposed to those of public telecommunication operators. It has experienced phenomenal growth and it has largely been outside government regulation. Yet it is emerging as a serious alternative to the traditional services provided by the telecommunication industry in every market segment from intra-corporate communications to public voice.
16. From one point of view, encouraging progress has been made in the 1995-1999 period in certain countries and some regions in forging the "missing link" identified by the Maitland Commission. Overall, the gap between developed and developing countries in access to basic telecommunication services is closing. However, from other points of view, new gaps are beginning to appear:
- 16.1 In general, the majority of the least developed countries (LDCs) have made little progress in the past five years in closing the gap in access to basic telecommunication services. In some cases, teledensity (the number of telephone lines per 100 people) has fallen, as population growth has outstripped telecommunication growth. New technologies such as global mobile personal communications by satellite (GMPCS) may help close the "telecommunication gap". This will only be possible, however, if their services are affordable to inhabitants of the LDCs.
 - 16.2 There is currently an enormous gap between developed and developing countries in access to the Internet. Even as the telecommunication gap which has preoccupied the Union for so many years is beginning to close, an "information gap" of even greater proportions is opening up.
 - 16.3 A difference in regulatory practices is emerging between countries which have decided to liberalize their telecommunication markets under the WTO agreements, and those that have not. If competition brings the first group of countries the anticipated benefits in terms of investment, technology transfer, innovative services and lower prices, these regulatory differences may become a new development gap. In this regard, it is important to recall that although the 119 ITU Member States that are not yet part of the WTO basic telecommunications agreement generate less than 10% of global telecommunication revenues, they include more than 45% of the world's people.

17. On the eve of the 21st century, the Union thus finds itself in a dynamic situation. On the one hand, the goal established by the Maitland Commission of achieving universal access to basic telecommunications will be technically achieved, and the overall gap between developed and developing countries is steadily narrowing. However, at the same time, new differences are developing, for example within the developing world, between the LDCs and other developing countries, between liberalized and non-liberalized countries which may be either developed or developing, and between countries that are moving rapidly towards competition and those moving at a slower pace.

18. This raises important questions in relation to the vision of the global information society (GIS). This vision was the subject of considerable discussion during the 1995-1999 period, initially in the G-7 group of advanced industrial economies, then in the broader international community. Today, the basic ideas behind the concept of the GIS have been broadly accepted and indeed endorsed. In this vision, all forms of economic, social, cultural and political activity will increasingly depend on access to the telecommunication and information services provided by the global information infrastructure (GII). The rapid development of electronic commerce on the Internet is one tangible example of how the GIS is becoming a reality. The challenge facing the international community is to find ways to ensure that the GIS is truly global, and that people everywhere are able to share in its benefits.

B. Impact on ITU

19. As a result of these trends and developments, demand for the products and services provided by ITU has risen in the 1995-1999 period and is expected to continue to rise in the 1999-2003 time-frame. This is the case for the services provided to the ITU membership (e.g. meetings, recommendations, assistance in applying regulations, frequency and number registrations, technical and development assistance) as well as those provided to the international telecommunication community as a whole (e.g. exhibitions, forums, development indicators, trend reports, information services).

20. One of the most important strategic issues facing ITU in the 1999-2003 period is how to respond to these rising demands:

- 20.1 The Union functions within the framework of the United Nations common system. Since the ITU budget has been based on "zero growth" for a number of years, it has only been possible to respond to increased demand for products and services through productivity improvements. Further improvements can and will continue to be made.
- 20.2 The 1995-1999 strategic plan noted that assessed contributions from Member States had "reached a plateau; income from these sources appears unlikely to grow dramatically and may begin to decline". Four years later, it is clear that this was an accurate assessment. This is the financial reality the membership faces in preparing a strategic and financial plan for 1999-2003.

- 20.3 While unquestioned, the intergovernmental nature of ITU is acknowledged by Member States and Sector Members alike as placing certain limits on enhancing Sector Members' rights and obligations. It does limit the role of Sector Members in decision-making, and although Sector Member rights have been somewhat enhanced, the intergovernmental nature of ITU might limit Sector Members' willingness to make increased financial contributions which they cannot control. Implementation of recommendations deriving from Resolution 15 (Kyoto, 1994) and Resolution 39 (Kyoto, 1994) can lessen these constraints and facilitate cooperation between Member States and Sector Members.
 - 20.4 The solution to strengthening the Union lies in treating the Sector Members more as partners in appropriate work of the Union. The Union will have to see itself as seeking to satisfy the needs of its customers by providing products and services of superior value in a competitive environment. Many Sector Members have had to transform their organizational cultures in this fashion, and it is natural that they will expect to see similar changes in the Union.
 - 20.5 Another factor affecting the future effectiveness of the Union is the process of decision-making. Even as ITU has supported some improvements during 1995-1999, including the use of web technology, advanced electronic communication and document exchange facilities, the number of ITU meetings, meeting days, participants and pages of documents produced per meeting has continued to grow. That the membership has turned to ITU to satisfy their diverse needs should be seen as an indication of the value that can be provided by the Union. Therefore, appropriate changes in the working methods are required, along with financial responsibility based on a transparent budget process and generally accepted accounting principles.
21. There are clearly major challenges facing the Union as it seeks to respond to rising demand for its products and services. However, each of these challenges has a positive side which provides an opportunity to build on ITU's "core competencies":
- 21.1 The Union is an acknowledged leader in the movement to reform international organizations by enhancing the participation of non-government players, increasing efficiency, and adopting innovative approaches to achieving its purposes.
 - 21.2 The Union has a comprehensive membership and "high approval rating" among the members of the international telecommunication community. The vast majority of the Union's Member States freely choose to contribute more than they would if they were assessed under some measure such as GDP or teledensity. And during the 1995-1999 period, Sector membership almost doubled as new players on the international telecommunication scene and companies from convergent industries were added to the ranks of established players.

- 21.3 Member States, Sector Members and the international community have shown a continuing willingness to pay for many ITU products and services. Demand has remained strong for established publications and TELECOM events. In addition, customers have responded well to the innovative range of ITU information products and services which have been introduced in the past four years.
- 21.4 In every major test of its decision-making ability in the 1995-1999 period, the Union has been able to respond with activities that have led to beneficial results for all concerned.

22. The strategic challenge facing the Union in the 1999-2003 time-frame is to remain a pre-eminent international forum where Member States and Sector Members work together to enable the development of telecommunication networks and to facilitate universal access to communication and information services, so that people everywhere can participate in and benefit from the global information economy and society.

III. General goals, strategies and priorities

23. The purposes of the Union are achieved through the activities of its three Sectors, through the Sector conferences and assemblies, and through general-purpose activities such as the Plenipotentiary Conference, the world conference on international telecommunications and the Council, as well as the world telecommunication policy forum and TELECOM exhibitions and forums.

24. The ITU is a federal organization. Although financial resources are centrally controlled, each Sector has its own "governance structure" which defines the goals, strategies and activities necessary to achieve its mission in a given period of time. However, just as the purposes of the Union set out in Article 1 of the Constitution apply to all Sectors, so they share a number of strategic orientations and goals.

C. Strategic orientations

25. "Strategic orientations" are principles intended to provide coherence, focus and direction to all of the activities undertaken by the Union. It is impossible to forecast the future completely in the rapidly changing telecommunication environment and to plan for every contingency. Strategic orientations therefore help to ensure consistency of purpose and action in the face of inevitable uncertainty.

26. The following strategic orientations are proposed for the 1999-2003 strategic plan. They build on the experience of the 1995-1999 period, particularly the results of implementation of Resolution 15 (Kyoto, 1994) and Resolution 39 (Kyoto, 1994), and they seek to apply that experience to the anticipated requirements of the new environment analysed in part II of this document, in addition to encouraging development of access to basic telecommunication and information services:

- 26.1 *improve customer service* - by identifying the specific needs of the Union's membership and other customers, establishing priorities, and providing the highest quality of service possible with available resources;
- 26.2 *innovate* - by continuing to develop new activities, products and services under the supervision of the Member States and Sector Members and in accordance with their agreed needs;

- 26.3 ***strengthen the Union's financial foundations*** - by determining and applying appropriate funding mechanisms for ITU activities, products and services (e.g. assessed contribution based on free choice of contributory unit, voluntary contribution, partial or full cost recovery, revenue generation), together with transparent budgetary measures;
- 26.4 ***enhance participation by Sector Members*** - by implementing the recommendations deriving from Resolution 15 (Kyoto, 1994) and Resolution 39 (Kyoto, 1994) as quickly and fully as possible, and by actively marketing ITU membership to all entities and organizations with a potential interest in participating actively in the work of the Union;
- 26.5 ***establish partnerships*** - by concluding a range of formal and informal cooperation agreements with other intergovernmental organizations and with other organizations at the national and regional levels, including non-governmental organizations (NGOs), in cases where such cooperation would further the purposes of the Union based upon the identification of specific subjects for cooperation;
- 26.6 ***maintain solidarity*** - between the ITU's Member States and Sector Members in partnership in pursuit of the purposes of the Union;
- 26.7 ***inform*** - by sharing and disseminating information related to the development of economically efficient public telecommunications;
- 26.8 ***promote the principle and implementation of a competitive telecommunication environment*** - by encouraging flexible regulatory systems that provide for a variety of telecommunication services;
- 26.9 ***produce Recommendations in timely response to market demand*** - by streamlining development and approval procedures by each Sector, as appropriate.

D. Goals and priorities

27. In addition to these strategic orientations, the Sectors of the Union share a number of goals for the 1999-2003 period, and will undertake priority actions to achieve these goals.

D.1 Goal 1 - Strengthen the multilateral foundations of international telecommunications

28. The trends and developments analysed in part II of this document illustrate the multilateral nature of key ITU activities. Since the most basic purpose of the Union is to maintain and extend international cooperation between all its members for the improvement and rational use of telecommunications, the central goal of the Union's strategy must be to take this into account and strengthen multilateral cooperation in areas where its effectiveness may be in question. To this end, the following priority actions are proposed:

28.1 ITU-R

- Considering the implications of the large increase in workload for preparation of, participation in and follow-up work of WRCs, and taking appropriate action.

- Further enhancing the structure of ITU-R through clarification of the roles of the RAG, RA and WRC, and in particular establishing clearer linkages between advisory, decision-making and budgetary responsibilities.

28.2 ITU-T

- Producing high-quality Recommendations quickly in response to market demands.
- Broadening participation and enhancing involvement by non-administration entities in the Sector's standardization process.
- Developing Recommendations to achieve accounting rate reform and proposing means to encourage their implementation.

28.3 ITU-D

- Developing new approaches to the provision of multilateral telecommunication assistance, *inter alia* by building partnerships for telecommunication development in priority areas, with special emphasis on telecommunication sector restructuring, regulatory reform, finance and resource mobilization, technology applications and human resources development.

28.4 General activities

- Developing the world telecommunication policy forum (WTPF) as a forum convened on an ad hoc basis for developing a non-binding shared vision on cross-Sectoral policy issues.
- Where agreed by the membership, developing innovative mechanisms for international cooperation outside the formal structures defined in the Constitution and Convention (e.g. MoUs).
- Deciding on the need to revise the International Telecommunication Regulations (ITR) to take account of developments in the telecommunication environment, particularly the WTO agreements.
- Extending cooperative participation to an increasing number of administrations and organizations, by encouraging the participation of Member States not currently active in ITU activities, encouraging and facilitating the participation of additional entities and organizations, including small or narrowly-focused entities, and increasing coordination and cooperation with other relevant international and regional organizations.

D.2 Goal 2 - In addition to development of access to basic telecommunication and information services, promote global connectivity to the global information infrastructure (GII) and global participation in the global information society (GIS)

29. The vision of the GIS will become a reality only if the networks and services of the converging telecommunication and information industries are able to interconnect and interoperate seamlessly, and if they are accessible to people everywhere at affordable rates. Facilitating development of the GII and promoting universal access to basic telecommunication and information services is a goal that unites all ITU Sectors. Priority actions proposed for 1999-2003 include:

29.1 ITU-R

- Accommodating the global and regional spectrum requirements of innovative telecommunication and information services.

29.2 ITU-T

- Developing Recommendations for new technologies and applications such as appropriate aspects of the GII and global multimedia and mobility.

29.3 ITU-D

- Promoting the development, expansion and operation of telecommunication networks and services, particularly in developing countries, taking into account the activities of other relevant bodies, with universal access as the objective.
- Developing and/or sponsoring projects designed to connect developing countries to the GII (e.g. Africa ONE, Internet access).
- Promoting the development of technology applications (e.g. tele-health, tele-education, electronic commerce, environmental protection, disaster relief) in cooperation with other international and regional organizations and NGOs.

29.4 General activities

- Connecting ITU Member States, Sector Members and other members of the international telecommunity to the Union's information resources and to each other through an "ITU-II" (ITU information infrastructure), to help them develop the GII in their own areas of responsibility.
- Pursuing implementation of the United Nations system-wide project on universal access to basic communication and information services - the "right to communicate".
- Facilitate access to telecommunications through the promotion of cost-effective technologies and low price services to end users, that comply with standards and quality requirements.

D.3 Goal 3 - Coordinate international action to manage scarce telecommunication resources

30. Although we are living in an era of technological abundance, some communication resources remain scarce. The coordination of international action to manage resources such as the radio-frequency spectrum, satellite orbital positions and telecommunication numbers is a well-established and core role of ITU. In addition, human resources and information are becoming recognized as scarce resources of a different kind that are critical to developing countries in the new environment. The following priority actions are therefore proposed for 1999-2003:

30.1 ITU-R

- Improving the frequency coordination and planning framework for satellite networks.

30.2 ITU-T

- Developing and implementing administrative procedures for numbering plans for international networks and services.

30.3 ITU-D

- Contributing to and coordinating actions between Member States and Sector Members aimed at developing human resources, especially in the associated regulatory and economic domains.

30.4 General activities

- Serving as the depositary of cooperative international arrangements consistent with the purposes of ITU.

D.4 Goal 4 - Encourage and enable Member States, especially developing countries, to draw maximum benefit from technical, financial and regulatory changes in the telecommunication environment

31. As indicated in part II, the current telecommunication environment is a dynamic one, characterized by rapid technological progress but also by emerging differences, for example within the developing countries, between liberalized and non-liberalized countries, and between countries that are moving more rapidly towards competition and those moving at a slower pace. Countries will be assisted in adapting to this environment if they have available good information not only on the global environment but also on the issues and options they face. Each ITU Sector, and ITU as a whole, has a role to play in providing this information. The following priority actions are therefore proposed for 1999-2003:

31.1 ITU-R

- Providing assistance to all Member States, and especially the developing countries, through the dissemination of information and know-how, in particular on spectrum management.

31.2 ITU-T

- Producing Recommendations responding to technological developments, in accordance with the priorities shown in § 41 below.

- Working with BDT with special attention to telecommunication development in developing countries, and cooperating with the other Sectors in the organization of information meetings, seminars and workshops, and in the development of case studies, guidelines and handbooks.

31.3 ITU-D

- Continuing to develop the telecommunication indicators and regulatory databases, and to add value to the information they contain through partnerships with other Sectors and organizations.
- Assisting developing countries in addressing policy and regulatory issues arising from the liberalization, convergence and globalization of telecommunications, while taking account of the GATS principles inherent in the WTO basic telecommunication agreement and Reference Paper (e.g. through studies, workshops, missions and cooperative mechanisms).
- Providing information about mechanisms for financing telecommunication development and assisting developing countries with the mobilization of resources for telecommunication investment.
- Disseminating information about ITU-R and ITU-T activities that are of particular importance for developing countries.

31.4 General activities

- Providing opportunities for the sharing of information and experience regarding relevant issues, such as convergence, globalization, regulatory principles and universal service, and regarding benefits to the public interest, investors and the national economy.
- Assisting countries most in need to draw maximum benefit from technical, financial and regulatory changes in the telecommunication environment.

D.5 Goal 5 - Improve the efficiency and effectiveness of Union structures, activities and processes

32. To remain a pre-eminent international and market-relevant focal point for matters related to the rapidly changing telecommunication environment, ITU must regularly review and, as appropriate, update its structure, activities and processes, ensuring that they are effective and efficient in the light of the current needs of its membership. To this end, the following items are proposed for 1999-2003:

32.1 ITU-R

- Fostering the cost-effective processing of information received from administrations in the application of the provisions of the Radio Regulations, the orderly recording and registration of frequency assignments and orbital positions and the development of Recommendations, handbooks and other relevant outputs in a rapidly changing environment, while continuing to evaluate Sector structure, activities and processes with a view to remaining effective and efficient.

32.2 ITU-T

- Continuing to improve the working methods of the Sector, including the accelerated development of Recommendations, the fostering of cooperative relationships with other relevant standardization organizations and the increased use both of electronic document handling (EDH) and project teams (see § 41 below).
- Assisting in developing, for the Telecommunication Standardization Sector, an open and transparent "bottom-up" budget proposal that incorporates financial management principles and techniques, including cost recovery as appropriate.

32.3 ITU-D

- Strengthening BDT's advisory capabilities through redistribution of its resources, to respond to requests in priority areas such as international agreements and national regulation, tariffs and finance, new and convergent technologies and the feasibility stage of negotiations.
- Developing its catalytic role in encouraging all actors, including global, regional and national organizations, to work together in assisting developing countries in their development and reform process as well as in their adaptation to the liberalized market.
- Strengthening regional presence by increasing the decentralization of functions and authority to field offices and by strengthening the coordination functions of headquarters.

32.4 General activities

- Increasing the use of modern methods of telecommunication, including electronic handling of submissions to ITU such as frequency and orbit notifications/registrations, and providing information to its customers.
- Streamlining the development, approval and publication processes for Recommendations in each Sector, as appropriate.
- Increasing the use of task-oriented activities using the working methods agreed to in each Sector, such as rapporteur, focus and correspondence groups, while ensuring transparency.
- Developing a clear, transparent budget, encouraging each Sector and the General Secretariat to develop "bottom-up" budgets, and working to implement cost recovery, as appropriate.
- Improving the financial accountability of activities within ITU by more clearly linking costs with the related activity through annual Sector operational and financial plans consistent with the biennial budget.

IV. Goals, strategies and priorities for the Sectors

E. Radiocommunication Sector (ITU-R)

E.1 *The Radiocommunication Sector mission*

33. Under the provisions of the Constitution and Convention (Geneva, 1992), the mission of the ITU Radiocommunication Sector is, *inter alia*, to ensure rational, equitable, efficient and economical use of the radio-frequency spectrum by all radiocommunication services, including those using satellite orbits, and to carry out studies and adopt Recommendations on radiocommunication matters.

E.2 *The Radiocommunication Sector environment*

34. This mission is to be undertaken in an environment that is characterized by:

- Growing recognition of the economic value of frequency spectrum and the application of economic principles in the management of that resource, recognizing the rapid market-driven and user-oriented technological development.
- The ever increasing demand for the limited radio-frequency spectrum for space and terrestrial radiocommunication systems.
- The growing role of regional organizations and private-sector activities in a liberalized environment.
- The limited financial resources available to support the Sector's activities.
- Growing convergence among many radio services, integration with wired telecommunication services and converging terrestrial and satellite applications.
- Increased interest, in particular on the part of the developing countries, in:
 - access to the radio-frequency spectrum and the geostationary-satellite and non-geostationary-satellite orbits in support of their national requirements;
 - worldwide radiocommunication system standards to achieve overall system economy;
 - handbooks;
- the rapid technological development and widespread application of digital techniques to most space and terrestrial systems, including mobile communications and new television and sound broadcasting systems.

E.3 *The Radiocommunication Sector strategic objectives*

35. Within its overall mission, the strategic objectives of ITU-R are to carry out the functions laid down in the Constitution and Convention, and specifically, in the period 1999-2003:

- to maintain and enhance the relevance of ITU-R in the efficient management of the usable radio-frequency spectrum, free from harmful interference, and to ensure that the Radio Regulations and the rights of Member States are respected;

- to continue developing enhanced criteria for frequency sharing and coordination of new and existing systems in both space and terrestrial environments, with a view to increasing the efficiency of use of the usable frequency spectrum;
- to continue improving the working methods and cost-effective operation of ITU-R in a flexible organizational structure; to aim at more efficient and more clearly defined roles of the RAG, radiocommunication assemblies and radiocommunication conferences to ensure clear linkages between advisory, decision-making and budgetary responsibilities as new and more efficient working methods evolve; and to further develop the Sector's quality of service and enhance its use of electronic document handling;
- to ensure that the Radio Regulations Board carries out its functions, particularly those concerning the application of the Radio Regulations, in a manner which maintains the confidence of Member States;
- to undertake, in project teams, the study of approved Questions limited in scope and time, as appropriate; and urgent studies decided by WRCs, in preparation for future WRCs;
- in close collaboration with ITU-D and ITU-T, as appropriate, to assist developing countries in spectrum management and disseminate information and know-how through information meetings, seminars, handbooks and the provision of tools for automated spectrum management;
- to provide information on widely accepted spectrum management concepts and related regulatory frameworks, particularly with a view to assisting developing countries, and to assist in the application of relevant ITU-R Recommendations providing guidance on the most economical and timely implementation of radiocommunication systems;
- to issue Recommendations on, *inter alia*, the characteristics and performance of radio systems;
- to implement efficient measures to promote broader participation by Member States, particularly developing countries, and Sector Members in all ITU-R activities.

E.4 Priorities of the Radiocommunication Sector

36. The priorities of the Radiocommunication Sector for 1999-2003, in addition to those that may be identified by future conferences, are:

- to review the world radiocommunication conference process to ensure that it is effective and efficient, that the agendas developed do not unduly burden Member States and Sector Members and consequently burden secretariat resources, and that the intervals between conferences are appropriate;

- to accommodate the global and regional spectrum requirements of innovative services that will provide communication and information services "any time, any place" (e.g. GMPCS, IMT-2000 and high altitude platform stations, all of which include innovative terrestrial and space applications), by the appropriate consideration of such matters at WRCs and by issuing appropriate Recommendations to facilitate their development and implementation;
- to study and apply, as appropriate, improved international spectrum management techniques;
- to facilitate timely coordination between new and existing active and passive systems in both space and terrestrial environments and to develop spectrum regulation initiatives to better harmonize frequency allocations and the use of satellite orbits, while continuing work to improve the frequency coordination and planning process for satellite networks;
- to expand the assistance offered to Member States in coordinating and registering frequency assignments and in applying the Radio Regulations, with special attention to developing countries and Member States that have recently joined the Union;
- to collaborate as needed with ITU-T and ITU-D and the General Secretariat to ensure that studies are appropriately coordinated and that no duplication of work occurs;
- to provide assistance to the Telecommunication Development Bureau (BDT) for the introduction of modern radio systems in developing countries, particularly in rural areas, conduct information meetings and world and regional seminars and give assistance to Member States, with special attention to developing countries, e.g. through the development of handbooks;
- in improving the working methods of the Sector, to strive for:
 - greater use of user-friendly document exchange capabilities;
 - the accelerated development of Recommendations and improvement in publication mechanisms (reduction of unit cost and time taken to publish, wider distribution and greater electronic availability);
 - increased use of information technology for the notification and processing of frequency assignments;
 - a flexible organizational structure in the Radiocommunication Bureau (BR), with special attention to the training and development of the Bureau's staff;
 - periodic study group reviews of work programmes to re-establish priorities and improve effectiveness;
- to encourage greater participation by Member States, Sector Members and other organizations in ITU-R activities, *inter alia* by concluding formal and informal task-oriented cooperation arrangements.

F. Telecommunication Standardization Sector (ITU-T)

F.1 The Telecommunication Standardization Sector mission

37. Under the provisions of the Constitution and Convention (Geneva, 1992), the mission of the ITU Telecommunication Standardization Sector is to fulfil the purposes of the Union relating to telecommunication standardization by studying technical, operating and tariff questions and adopting Recommendations on them with a view to standardizing telecommunications on a worldwide basis.

38. Taking account of rapid change in the telecommunication environment, the mission of the Telecommunication Standardization Sector for the period of 1999-2003 will include:

- maintaining and strengthening its pre-eminence in international telecommunication standardization by developing Recommendations rapidly, for example through increased Sector Member participation and use in appropriate cases of a faster alternative approval process;
- developing Recommendations that acknowledge market- and trade-related considerations;
- playing a leading role in the promotion of cooperation among international and regional standardization organizations and forums and consortia concerned with telecommunications;
- addressing important issues related to changes due to competition, tariff principles and accounting practices; and
- developing Recommendations for new technologies and applications such as appropriate aspects of the GII and global multimedia and mobility.

F.2 The Telecommunication Standardization Sector environment

39. The mission is to be undertaken in an environment characterized by:

- rapid technological change and shortened innovation cycles, development and convergence of telecommunication, broadcasting, computer and information technology, and the growth of new products and services;
- a worldwide trend towards a "market-driven" approach to standardization, with an emphasis on rapid implementation of high-quality Recommendations;
- an era of explosive growth in worldwide information transfer;
- the changing role of governments, and the increased involvement of Sector Members, in the standardization process;
- the strong influence of relevant regional standardization organizations and forums and consortia;
- an increased number of network operators and service providers due to deregulation and/or privatization;

- increasing privatization and heightened competition between and among network operators, service providers and equipment suppliers;
- increasing number of global telecommunication operators, systems and alliances;
- greatly increasing demand of developing countries for infrastructure development;
- potential changes to the financial resources available to support Sector activities.

F.3 The Telecommunication Standardization Sector objectives

40. The overall mission of the Telecommunication Standardization Sector can be realized by targeting the following strategic objectives in ITU-T activities:

- to produce high-quality Recommendations quickly in response to market demands;
- to broaden participation and enhance involvement by non-administration entities in the Sector's standardization process;
- to enhance Sector Member participation in the standardization process, including their involvement in appropriate decision-making;
- to continue to improve the working methods of ITU-T, including the improved and accelerated development and approval of Recommendations;
- to develop appropriate arrangements and cooperative relationships with regional and national standardization organizations and forums and consortia;
- to respond to the impacts of increased privatization and competition in network operation and service provision, and to the reforms in the accounting rate system;
- to encourage the participation of developing countries in telecommunication standardization activities;
- to encourage cooperation with the Telecommunication Development Sector through timely responses to relevant requests;
- to actively involve TSAG in financial aspects of the Telecommunication Standardization Sector.

F.4 Priorities of the Telecommunication Standardization Sector

41. The priorities of the Telecommunication Standardization Sector for 1999-2003, in addition to those that may be identified by future conferences, are:

- to produce Recommendations responding to technological developments, including Recommendations:
 - covering Internet Protocol (IP) related aspects as well as the interoperability and convergence of IP-based networks, including the Internet, with existing network infrastructures;

- covering the multimedia applications arising from the convergence of telecommunication, broadcasting, computer and information technology;
- covering the further evolution of network infrastructures, for example in the areas of network access, signalling and control, interfaces, security and optical networking;
- facilitating the interworking of global personal radiocommunication systems with public telecommunication networks;
- facilitating the integration of existing and new transmission media in public networks, in cooperation with ITU-R for radio transmission aspects;
- to continue to improve the working methods of the Sector through the:
 - accelerated development of Recommendations to keep pace with rapid technical progress and market demand;
 - fostering of cooperative relationships with other relevant standardization organizations and with forums and consortia to avoid duplication of work, identify gaps in work programmes and encourage work sharing where possible;
 - increased use of EDH techniques to increase efficiency and productivity;
 - greater use of project teams for the study of urgent issues in a relatively short time-frame;
- to develop Recommendations to achieve accounting rate reform and to propose means to encourage their implementation;
- to work with BDT with special attention to telecommunication development in developing countries, and to cooperate with the other Sectors in the organization of information meetings, seminars and workshops and in the development of case studies, guidelines and handbooks;
- to assist in developing for ITU-T an open and transparent "bottom-up" budget proposal that incorporates financial management principles and techniques, including cost recovery as appropriate.

G. Telecommunication Development Sector (ITU-D)

G.1 The Telecommunication Development Sector mission

42. The mission of the Telecommunication Development Sector, as set out in the Constitution and the Convention, encompasses the Union's dual responsibility as a United Nations specialized agency and executing agency for implementing projects under the United Nations development system or other funding arrangements, so as to facilitate and enhance telecommunication development by offering, organizing and coordinating technical cooperation and assistance activities.

The work of ITU-D will reflect the various resolutions of the world telecommunication development conference. It will place emphasis on gender balance in its programmes and will reflect the needs of other aspects of global society such as youth and the needs of indigenous peoples. Emergency telecommunications is another area where renewed efforts are required. Collaboration with the private sector should be more clearly defined and expanded so as to reflect the changing roles of public and private entities in the telecommunication sector. The "Year 2000" problem should be urgently addressed. ITU-D should also use the mechanisms for advancing Sector goals included in Opinion B of the World Telecommunication Policy Forum (Geneva, 1998) and the opportunities provided by the ITU programme funded by the surplus funds from TELECOM exhibitions.

In fulfilling its mission, ITU-D will cover the five major areas of telecommunication development: ***telecommunication sector reform, technologies, management, finance and human resources***. It is supported by the four main modes of action by which the Sector carries out its work: ***direct assistance (including project execution), resource development and mobilization, partnerships and information sharing***, which are reflected in the organizational structure of BDT.

G.2 The Telecommunication Development Sector environment

43. The telecommunication development environment is characterized by the following features:

- The restructuring and liberalization of the telecommunication sector at the national and international level, and the three agreements on basic telecommunications services, financial services and information technology products concluded through the World Trade Organization, have increasing consequences for the provision of international and national telecommunication services. Competition is rapidly becoming the rule rather than the exception.
- The above factors are straining the accounting rate system beyond its limits, calling for a rapid revision of accounting rates and causing major changes in traditional income flows which are of critical importance to certain countries.
- While the development gap has narrowed slightly in terms of access to basic telephone services, it is widening at a fast rate for advanced telecommunication services and access to information.
- However, the emergence of a global information society is creating new opportunities to close the gap. Political, technical and cultural factors are combining to promote these opportunities.
- The rapid development of telecommunications in some countries is associated with general economic growth, particularly where some form of restructuring, liberalization and competition is introduced; however, other countries witness modest and uneven progress.
- Many different players, including non-governmental organizations (NGOs), are invited to play a more important role.

- Business practices, including development activities, are being revolutionized by information and communication technologies. This can be expected to have a significant impact on telecommunication development activities such as planning and training.
- Technology-based convergence of telecommunications, informatics and mass media offers new opportunities for cooperation between the formerly different parts of the telecommunication sector.
- Due to increased emphasis on policy and regulatory frameworks that create open markets and encourage private investment, both domestic and foreign, development programmes rely less on technical assistance and more on partnerships and trade agreements. Private capital flows in several countries now exceed official development aid resources, but in others concessional finance is required to meet development needs.
- Limited funds available to ITU, as compared with developing country needs, require ITU to play a catalytic development role. This envisioned catalytic role of ITU is developed further below.

G.3 The Telecommunication Development Sector strategy

44. The following points define a strategy for the Telecommunication Development Sector that is consistent with its mission and the changing telecommunication environment. ITU-D will:

- pay special attention to the requirements of the developing countries, with particular emphasis on the least developed among them, and the need for well-differentiated and tailored responses to situations arising in transition economies, countries affected by conflicts or natural disasters, etc.;
- work with governments to assist them in establishing appropriate telecommunication policies and regulatory structures. Strategies for the development of telecommunications may be fostered by liberalization, private investment and competition in appropriate circumstances. The goal of these policies and structures should be to:
 - create a stable and transparent environment to attract investment and guarantee the rights of users, operators and investors;
 - facilitate access of service providers to the telecommunication network within a framework that promotes fair competition while protecting network integrity;
 - ensure the provision of universal access and universal service, promoting innovation and the introduction of new services and technologies to unserved and under-served users;
 - promote partnerships and cooperation between telecommunication entities in developing and developed countries, and with appropriate international institutions, consistent with their respective interests;

- play a creative catalytic role in identifying and providing resource support, in the new telecommunication environment, to help meet the requirements of developing countries in close collaboration with global, regional and national organizations and agencies, and with the private sector;
- maintain close cooperation with ITU-R and ITU-T reflecting the significant role played by those two Sectors in telecommunication development;
- include matters pertaining to information technology and broadcasting in its activities, as key factors in promoting economic, social and cultural development;
- promote training in human resources development (HRD) and human resources management (HRM) in order to meet the challenges of the rapidly changing telecommunication environment;
- seek innovative ways to rationalize its internal costs, optimize its resources and improve efficiency.

G.4 Priorities of the Telecommunication Development Sector

45. The experience of four successful years has given the Telecommunication Development Sector a solid basis from which to forecast the following priorities for 1999-2003:

- respond effectively, rapidly and in a flexible way to requests for direct assistance from developing countries, including through the use of a significant part of TELECOM surplus funds, primarily for LDCs;
- develop and mobilize resources for telecommunication development, including human and financial resources, technology, HRD/HRM tools and systems, information and expertise;
- create partnership arrangements that benefit all parties, avoiding purely commercial approaches and concentrating on long-term benefits (as opposed to short-term gains):
 - by establishing strategic alliances and cooperation agreements with other concerned international and regional organizations;
 - by taking the initiative to acquaint ministries responsible for agriculture, health, education, transport, industry, human settlement, trade and transfer of information with the role of telecommunications for social welfare and general economic and social progress, and in particular the work of the Union in rural and remote areas;
 - by inviting relevant bilateral development and donor agencies to join the activities of ITU in order to cooperate within the Sector to maximize synergistic efforts toward sustainable universal access to telecommunication services;

- promote partnership arrangements in and between the public and private sectors in both developed and developing countries;
- strengthen the ITU regional presence and enhance collaboration with regional and subregional telecommunication organizations, including broadcasting organizations;
- collaborate with the private sector in implementing the Valletta Action Plan, including partnerships with related entities in developing countries;
- improve the working methods of the Sector, to strive for:
 - greater use of user-friendly document exchange capabilities;
 - greater participation by Sector Members and other organizations in ITU-D activities;
 - the accelerated development of outputs and improvement of publication mechanisms, in particular through the wider use of information technology;
 - a flexible organizational structure in the Bureau, with special attention to the training and development of BDT staff.

46. During the period 1999-2003, the strategic processes of the Telecommunication Development Sector will incorporate all resolutions and recommendations adopted by WTDC-98, as well as all other relevant resolutions and recommendations of ITU conferences.

ANNEX 2

Goals, strategies and priorities for the General Secretariat and three Bureaux

A. The secretariat mission

47. The mission of the secretariat (meaning the General Secretariat and the three Bureaux) is to provide high-quality, efficient services to the Union's membership and customers in response to the needs they have identified and within the limits of the resources made available by the membership.

B. The secretariat environment

48. The secretariat shares the environmental challenges, constraints and opportunities identified in part II above. The main challenge it faces is to maintain established standards of quality and efficiency while responding to steadily increasing service demands in an environment characterized by:

- "zero-growth" in the financial resources derived from assessed contributions which finance the bulk of the Union's activities;
- organizational and managerial rules derived from the United Nations common system;
- a situation in which any significant undertaking beyond the responsibilities outlined in the Convention should be identified, approved specifically by the Council in advance and coordinated with the membership.

C. Goals for improved management of the secretariat

49. To address these challenges, the secretariat should pursue these strategic objectives:

49.1 Efficiency, transparency, openness, customer service and effectiveness.

49.2 Quick, efficient and high-quality response to membership needs.

49.3 Create conditions that would enable development of:

- a shared view of the ITU's fundamental purposes;
- a common understanding of the priorities of the Union as they may change from time to time;
- a willingness and a capacity to act in concert, supporting one another in the achievement of departmental and organizational objectives;
- a common organizational culture;
- a customer orientation that includes responsiveness, efficiency, flexibility and accountability.

49.4 Instil an organizational climate:

- that is representative of diversity of cultures, backgrounds, opinions and values;
- that supports risk taking;
- in which delegation is encouraged and responsibility accepted;
- in which communication and information flow are facilitated;
- in which committees are properly used and decisions are taken by appropriate managers;
- in which managers exercise flexibility and rules are used not to inhibit but to facilitate.

49.5 Build essential skills so that staff acquire the required competencies:

- to exercise good interpersonal skills;
- to function effectively in difficult situations;
- to manage resources for the achievement of results.

49.6 Set objectives that move the organization forward in a time of great change so that:

- all staff are evaluated and rewarded for the achievement of agreed objectives;
- staff anticipate and manage change.

D. Priorities of the secretariat

50. To achieve the above strategic objectives, the following priorities have been set for 1999-2003:

50.1 To improve the quality and efficiency of services provided to the ITU membership and the Union's other customers by:

- using the cost attribution framework for ITU products and services which was created in response to the recommendations of ITU-2000 to develop a comprehensive set of quality, efficiency and productivity indicators for all ITU activities;
- outsourcing products and services if the result is a net benefit to the Union's membership.

50.2 To improve the development and management of human resources by:

- recruiting people with the skills required to serve the Union's members and customers in the new telecommunication environment, while paying attention to the need for a more representative geographic, gender and other balance;
- improving training policies and programmes for staff at all levels so that they have the competencies needed in the new environment and are fully prepared to assume new roles and responsibilities;

- ensuring greater flexibility in the deployment of human resources to respond to emerging requirements and enrich career opportunities;
- continuing to develop middle level and senior management skills in the secretariat.

50.3 To improve the management of secretariat resources through:

- improvements to formal planning, management and reviewing systems;
- greater delegation of authority to managers, with appropriate accountability and control mechanisms;
- enhanced coordination between strategic, financial and performance management systems.

50.4 To adapt the secretariat's organizational culture to the new environment by:

- continuing improvements to internal communication;
- instilling a culture of customer service, entrepreneurship, accountability, recognition of performance and continuous learning.

50.5 To extend operational planning to the three Sectors and General Secretariat as a mechanism to enhance accountability and transparency, and link this management tool to the strategic planning and budgeting process, given the symmetry required between the objectives and priority activities outlined in the strategic plan and the costing analysis of ITU products and services specified in the financial plan.

INTERNATIONAL TELECOMMUNICATION UNION



PLENIPOTENTIARY CONFERENCE (PP-98)

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COMMITTEE 4

SECOND SERIES OF TEXTS FROM COMMITTEE 7 TO THE EDITORIAL COMMITTEE

Committee 7 has adopted the following resolutions which it submits to the Editorial Committee for consideration and subsequent transmission to the Plenary Meeting.

U. MOHR
Chairperson

Annexes: 4

ANNEX A

RESOLUTION [41]

ARREARS AND SPECIAL ACCOUNTS

The Plenipotentiary Conference of the International Telecommunication Union
(Minneapolis, 1998),

in view of

the report of the Council to the Plenipotentiary Conference on the situation with regard to amounts owed to the Union by Member States and Sector Members (Document 33),

regretting

the increasing level of arrears and slow settlement of special arrears accounts,

considering

that it is in the interest of all Member States and Sector Members to maintain the finances of the Union on a sound footing,

noting

that a number of Member States for which special arrears accounts have been established have up to now not complied with their obligation to submit and agree with the Secretary-General on a repayment schedule,

urges

all Member States in arrears, especially those for which special arrears accounts have been established, as well as Sector Members in arrears, to submit and agree with the Secretary-General on a repayment schedule,

resolves

as from now, to open any new special arrears account only after the conclusion of an agreement with the Secretary-General establishing a specific repayment schedule at the latest within one year of the receipt of the request for such a special arrears account. In case of existing special arrears accounts, where they have not yet been agreed upon, repayment schedules shall be agreed upon not later than 6 November 1999,

further resolves

that the amounts due shall not be taken into account when applying No. [169] of the Constitution provided that the Member States concerned have submitted and agreed with the Secretary-General on their repayment schedules to the Secretary-General and for as long as they strictly comply with them and with the associated conditions, and that failure to comply with the repayment schedule and associated conditions shall result in the abolition of the special arrears account,

instructs the Council

to establish guidelines for repayment schedules, including a maximum duration, as well as for appropriate additional measures such as, for example, temporary reduction in class of contribution, in particular for LDCs, and to take additional measures in respect of non-compliance with the agreed terms of settlement, such as suspending Sector Members' participation in the work of the Union,

further instructs the Council

to review the appropriate level of the Reserve for Debtors' Accounts with a view to covering outstanding amounts fully, and to report to the next Plenipotentiary Conference on the results obtained in pursuance of this resolution,

authorizes the Secretary-General

to negotiate and agree upon, with all Member States in arrears, especially those for which special arrears accounts have been established, as well as with Sector Members in arrears, schedules for the repayment of their debts in accordance with the guidelines established by the Council, and, where appropriate, to submit for decision by the Council proposals for additional measures as indicated under *instructs the Council* above including those related to non-compliance,

instructs the Secretary-General

to inform all Member States and Sector Members in arrears or having special arrears accounts of this resolution and to report to the Council on the measures taken and progress made towards the settlement of debts as well as on any non-compliance with the agreed terms of settlement,

urges Member States and Sector Members

to assist the Secretary-General and the Council in the application of this resolution.

ANNEX B

RESOLUTION [42]

SPECIAL ARREARS ACCOUNTS

The Plenipotentiary Conference of the International Telecommunication Union
(Minneapolis, 1998),

in view of

- a) the report of the Council to the Plenipotentiary Conference on the situation with regard to amounts owed to the Union by Member States and Sector Members;
- b) Resolution 10 of the Plenipotentiary Conference (Malaga-Torremolinos, 1973), Resolution 53 of the Plenipotentiary Conference (Nairobi, 1982), Resolution 38 of the Plenipotentiary Conference (Nice, 1989) and Resolution 42 of the Plenipotentiary Conference (Kyoto, 1994),

regretting

the increasing level of arrears and the slow settlement of special arrears accounts,

considering

that it is in the interests of all Member States and Sector Members to maintain the finances of the Union on a sound footing,

resolves

1 that

- a) the amount of 509 458.45 Swiss francs owed in respect of 1982-1991 contributions by the Islamic Republic of Mauritania;
- b) 721 572.65 Swiss francs of the total amount of 801 747.40 Swiss francs owed by Grenada in respect of 1982-1996 contributions and interest on overdue payments;
- c) the amount of 1 225 814.65 Swiss francs owed by Nicaragua in respect of 1983-1996 contributions;
- d) the amount of 458 998.25 Swiss francs owed in respect of 1993-1998 contributions by the Azerbaijani Republic;
- e) the amount of 928 646.30 Swiss francs owed by Sierra Leone in respect of 1976-1998 contributions and publications;
- f) the amount of 1 266 128.65 Swiss francs owed by the Democratic Republic of the Congo in respect of 1991-1998 contributions and publications;
- g) the amount of 547 219.90 Swiss francs owed in respect of 1991-1997 contributions by Costa Rica,

shall be transferred to a special arrears account bearing no interest under the conditions laid down in Resolution [YY];

2 that the transfer to a special arrears account shall not release the Member States concerned from the obligation to settle their arrears;

- 3 that this resolution shall not in any circumstances be invoked as a precedent,
authorizes the Council

to write off the amount of 809 352.10 Swiss francs owed by the Islamic Republic of Mauritania, the amount of 851 657.90 Swiss francs owed by Nicaragua, the amount of 70 966.80 Swiss francs owed by the Azerbaijani Republic, the amount of 1 121 266.15 Swiss francs owed by Sierra Leone, the amount of 261 621.60 Swiss francs owed by the Democratic Republic of the Congo and the amount of 150 339.70 Swiss francs owed by Costa Rica for interest on overdue payments subject to the Member State concerned complying strictly with the agreed repayment schedule for the settlement of the unpaid contributions,

instructs the Secretary-General

- 1 to inform the competent authorities of the Member States concerned of this resolution and of Resolution [YY];
2 to report annually to the Council on the progress made by these Member States towards repaying their debts and on the action taken under Resolution [YY],

instructs the Council

- 1 to take appropriate measures for the application of this resolution;
2 to report to the next Plenipotentiary Conference on the results obtained in pursuance of this resolution.

ANNEX C

RESOLUTION [44]

AUDITING OF THE ACCOUNTS OF THE UNION

The Plenipotentiary Conference of the International Telecommunication Union
(Minneapolis, 1998),

considering

that the external auditor appointed by the Government of the Swiss Confederation audited the
Union's accounts for the years 1994 to 1997 most carefully, competently and accurately,

expresses

its warmest thanks to the Government of the Swiss Confederation and hopes that the existing
arrangements for the auditing of the Union's accounts may be renewed,

instructs the Secretary-General

to bring this resolution to the notice of the Government of the Swiss Confederation.

ANNEX D

RESOLUTION [45]

**ASSISTANCE GIVEN BY THE GOVERNMENT OF THE SWISS CONFEDERATION
IN CONNECTION WITH THE FINANCES OF THE UNION**

The Plenipotentiary Conference of the International Telecommunication Union
(Minneapolis, 1998),

considering

that the Government of the Swiss Confederation, under the existing arrangements, places at the disposal of the Secretary-General, if necessary and if he so requests, funds to meet the temporary cash requirements of the Union,

further considering

the assistance provided and the financial arrangements put in place by the Government of the Swiss Confederation enabling the Union to erect the new Montbrillant building,

expresses its appreciation

to the Government of the Swiss Confederation for its generous assistance in financial matters and hopes that the existing arrangements in this connection may be continued,

instructs the Secretary-General

to bring this resolution to the notice of the Government of the Swiss Confederation.

INTERNATIONAL TELECOMMUNICATION UNION



PLENIPOTENTIARY CONFERENCE (PP-98)

Document 191-E
28 October 1998
Original: English

MINNEAPOLIS, 12 OCTOBER - 6 NOVEMBER 1998

COMMITTEE 5

SUMMARY RECORD

OF THE

SIXTH MEETING OF COMMITTEE 5

(STRATEGIC POLICY AND PLANS)

Monday, 19 October 1998, at 1435 hours

Chairperson: Mr. M. BOSSA (Argentina)

Subjects discussed

1 Periodicity of meetings (continued)

2 Radio Regulations Board

Documents

9(Add.1), 32 + Corr.1 +
Corr.2, 34, 59(Rev.1)
+ Corr.1, 70
+ Corr.1 + Corr.2

25, 34

1 Periodicity of meetings (continued) (Documents 9 (Addendum 1), 32 + Corrigendum 1 + Corrigendum 2, 34, 59(Rev.1) + Corrigendum 1, 70 + Corrigendum 1 + Corrigendum 2)

1.1 The **Chairperson** invited the Committee to continue its review of the Russian proposals in Document 34 concerning the periodicity of meetings.

1.2 The **delegate of the United Kingdom**, after stating that he had difficulties with some of the Russian proposals, recalled that the European common proposals in Part 1 of Document 32 suggested extending the interval between world radiocommunication conferences (WRCs) to between two and a half to three years. Some flexibility should be allowed so as not to have more than three conferences a year. With regard to radiocommunication assemblies (RAs), proposal EUR/32/3 stated that they did not necessarily have to be associated in time and place with WRCs. The Radiocommunication Sector itself should decide when and where to convene RAs and, if they were held less frequently, there should be some delegation of responsibility to RAG.

1.3 The **delegate of Indonesia** agreed that there was a need for flexibility and that the interval between WRCs should be extended to between two to three years. He also endorsed the proposal to dissociate RAs from WRCs and felt that the Russian proposals should be viewed in that light.

1.4 The **delegate of Canada** considered the Russian proposals interesting but thought that a six-year interval between Plenipotentiary Conferences required further study. In proposal CAN/9/23 his delegation suggested that, if the intention was to extend the periodicity of RAs to four years, consideration should be given to a mechanism for handling any issues that might arise during the period between assemblies, to the role of RAG and to the cost implications. He pointed out that the matter of the periodicity of WRCs had already been settled under recommendation 26 of the ITU-2000 Group.

1.5 The **delegate of Australia** agreed that the implications of any change in the timing of Plenipotentiary Conferences would require careful examination. With regard to RAs, he drew attention to the Asia Pacific common proposals APT/70/2 to 9 whose primary purpose was to align the provisions on RAs in the Constitution and Convention with those on the world telecommunication standardization assemblies (the new name proposed for world telecommunication standardization conferences). In that connection, he recalled ITU-2000 recommendations 24 and 25, which gave greater recognition to the status and functions of RAG and TSAG and suggested that authority on specific matters could be delegated to them. Such a procedure would go some way towards meeting the concerns expressed by the delegate of Canada. As for the timing of RAs, he reminded the Committee of the conclusions reached by RAG which had found no compelling reason to hold them every two years and had expressed considerable support for moving to a four-year cycle. Essentially, he supported the change to a four-year interval, which would bring savings in both time and money. In the intervening period, authority to handle certain specific issues could be delegated to RAG. Finally, in view of the support expressed for greater flexibility, he believed that there was a case for decoupling RAs and WRCs.

1.6 The **delegate of Kazakhstan**, referring to the Russian proposal to extend the cycle of Plenipotentiary Conferences from four to six years and of WRCs from two to three years, observed that the agendas for meetings were becoming increasingly overburdened, rendering it extremely difficult to make adequate preparations. In the case of Plenipotentiary Conferences, a six-year cycle would have the advantage of giving national administrations more time to prepare their

contributions, while allowing persons elected to office a longer period in which to carry out their responsibilities. As to the timing of RAs, he considered that they should logically be held after WRCs, which tended to raise issues calling for rapid solutions. In the intervals between RAs, RAG could handle any problems that might arise.

1.7 The **delegate of New Zealand** said that while not necessarily agreeing with all the points raised in Document 34, he supported greater flexibility and a longer gap between WRCs, and in particular endorsed proposals RUS/34/6 on the delegation of authority to RAG and RUS/34/7 concerning studies of economic questions.

1.8 The **delegate of Turkey** said that as one of the sponsors of the European common proposals he considered it premature to extend the periodicity of Plenipotentiary Conferences to six years. There was a need to make provision for greater flexibility in the holding of WRCs and RAs; accordingly, proposal EUR/32/3 stipulated that they would "normally" be associated in time and place. At a later stage consideration could be given to delegating certain responsibilities of RAs to RAG.

1.9 The **delegate of Saudi Arabia** indicated that, in supporting greater flexibility in regard to the intervals between WRCs, he had in mind a periodicity of some two and a half to three years. The frequency of WRCs should not be left wide open. As for the RA cycle, he pointed out that if radiocommunication assemblies were to be held only every four or five years, either their work would be considerably delayed or authority would have to be delegated to RAG, which would in effect become a radiocommunication assembly meeting by another name, costing as much and lasting as long as a conventional RA. In his view, the purpose of the proposal to allow greater flexibility in convening WRCs and RAs was not to delegate wider powers to RAG, which was an advisory body only. If the intention was to change its function, then its name too should be changed.

1.10 The **delegate of Italy**, after expressing his support for the European common proposals, said that the Russian and Chinese call for a six-year interval between Plenipotentiary Conferences should be viewed as a contribution to a much-needed effort to solve the problem of very long meetings. While he believed that in the current environment a six-year cycle would be too long, he considered that a way had to be found of making the system more efficient and expeditious. In his view, meetings should not last more than two weeks and there should be no ritual speech-making. The discussions should concentrate on strategic and policy issues, thereby encouraging high-level representation.

1.11 The **delegate of Spain** considered that the current four-year cycle for Plenipotentiary Conferences was the best, since it established a suitable balance between the preparatory and the decision-making processes. A longer interval would not meet the current needs of the market and industry, and might convey the impression that ITU was neglecting its responsibilities. As regards WRCs, he agreed that the cycle should be extended to two and a half to three years, with some degree of flexibility. The matter of the periodicity of RAs could be looked into, but in any event they should be held after WRCs.

1.12 The **delegate of Ukraine** supported proposal RUS/34/2 to convene WRCs every three years and considered that the whole issue deserved further study. The periodicity of Plenipotentiary Conferences should probably be maintained at four years for the time being.

1.13 The **Chairperson** noted that no support had been expressed in the course of the debate for the Russian proposal to extend the periodicity of Plenipotentiary Conferences to six years. Furthermore, the question of the periodicity of WRCs had already been covered by the Committee in its decision on ITU-2000 recommendation 26. Accordingly, the only question that remained to be settled was that of the periodicity of RAs, on which different positions had emerged. He invited speakers to confine their remarks to that issue.

1.14 The **delegate of Malaysia**, speaking on behalf of fifteen Asia Pacific administrations, supported the remarks made by the delegate of Australia. Consideration of the issues raised in subparagraphs 2a), b) and c) of Part 2 of Document 70 might go some way towards meeting the concerns expressed by the delegate of Saudi Arabia.

1.15 The **delegate of Syria** said that he was ready to accept the consensus decision on the periodicity of RAs, but insisted that the authority to act in their place had to be vested in a body having equal or greater powers. It could not be delegated to RAG, whose task was only to advise the Director of BR. If there was no consensus to convene RAs every two years, or every time a WRC met, then authority to handle the issues that might arise in the intervening period should be delegated to the WRC or to the Council.

1.16 The **delegate of the United States** drew attention to the proposals of the CITELE Member States in Document 59(Rev.1), in which they endorsed no change in associating RAs with WRCs and proposed that the current two-year cycle should normally be maintained. In that connection, he recalled the concern expressed by RAG if it was decided to separate the two meetings. As the delegate of Saudi Arabia had rightly pointed out, some other body would have to replace the assembly and RAG did not offer a suitable alternative. Furthermore, WRCs always had last-minute issues to resolve and RAs had already proved their worth in that respect. He firmly believed that, in the absence of a mechanism to deal with issues by correspondence or through consultation or other means, a four-year cycle would be too long.

1.17 The **delegate of Switzerland** supported a two and a half to three-year cycle for WRCs which should not be separated from RAs to which they were naturally linked. In his view, assemblies should be held at the same frequency as WRCs, or at even shorter intervals.

1.18 The **delegate of Norway** considered that the time had come to dissociate the RAs from WRCs in both time and place. Rapid technological change made flexibility in convening meetings a necessity. It should be left to the Sector to decide when RAs and WRCs should be convened, on the understanding that intervals would vary according to circumstances. A WRC might be needed every second year, sometimes in association with an assembly, sometimes not.

1.19 The **delegate of Canada** said that he could not support extending the periodicity of RAs from two to four years unless the question of how to address any issues that might arise in the intervening period was dealt with. In that connection, he noted the reference by the delegate of Australia to the work carried out by the ITU-2000 Group and RAG on mechanisms to handle such issues. Firstly, the role of RAG would have to be precisely defined, and secondly, it should be made clear that the issues were exceptional ones relating to specific topics. In any event, there could be no question of RAG replacing the assembly. Finally, Canada could go along with the idea that the Sector should decide when to convene a WRC.

1.20 The **delegate of Pakistan** said that he supported the regular convening of WRCs at an interval of some two and a half to three years. RAs should follow WRCs without too much difference in their periodicity. He supported the views expressed by the delegate of Saudi Arabia concerning the need to define the role of RAG very clearly: it should be open to participation by all, and should on no account take over the responsibilities of the RA.

1.21 The **delegate of Sweden** expressed his support for the European common proposals which allowed a measure of flexibility in convening RAs. That possibility should be used to the best advantage in order to make savings. It was, however, essential to establish some mechanism to deal with issues that might arise in the period between assemblies, and RAG could serve that purpose. It was, of course, an advisory group only, but its designation could be changed to indicate its wider responsibilities. Above all, the aim should be to make it more efficient.

1.22 The **delegate of the Netherlands** said that, although there was merit in associating RAs in place and time with WRCs, the evaluation carried out by RAG indicated that there was no compelling reason to hold them in conjunction. Most of the functions of RAs, such as the approval of recommendations, election of chairpersons and vice-chairpersons of study groups, and review of work programmes, were not related to the work of WRCs. He supported the European common proposal contained in Document 32 which allowed for RAs to be held separately from WRCs. He endorsed the views put forward by the delegates of Norway and Sweden.

1.23 The **delegate of India** recognized the need both for a prompt response to developing technologies and for timely production of recommendations in the Radiocommunication Sector. Given their regulatory implications, however, it was essential that recommendations were approved at RAs, where delegates from developing countries could participate in reasonable numbers. While bearing in mind the issues raised by the delegate of the United States, he believed that radiocommunication assemblies should normally be held every two years with some flexibility in timing allowed.

1.24 The **Chairperson** said that, although some had taken the view that WRCs and RAs should be held in conjunction, many considered that RAs could be held at different times from WRCs. He therefore suggested that the Committee should adopt the principle of flexibility whereby RAs and WRCs could be held separately.

1.25 It was so **agreed**.

1.26 The **Chairperson** observed that no clear view had emerged on the body that should have the authority to convene RAs. Perhaps the Council might determine when RAs should be held and draw up their agendas.

1.27 The **delegate of Syria** deemed it more appropriate that the timing and agendas of RAs should be decided by WRCs rather than by the Council.

1.28 The **delegate of Australia** considered that decisions on timing and agendas of RAs could be made by the Council on the recommendation of the radiocommunication assembly itself. The **delegates of Sweden and China** endorsed that position, the **delegate of Sweden** adding that recommendations on timing and agendas might also come from RAG.

1.29 The **Chairperson** suggested that an ad hoc group, chaired by the delegate of the United Kingdom, should examine the question of which body should decide on the timing and agendas of future RAs, and report back to the Committee.

1.30 It was so **agreed**.

2 Radio Regulations Board (Documents 25, 34)

2.1 The **delegate of Syria**, introducing Part 6 of Document 25, said that equitable geographical representation in the Radio Regulations Board (RRB) was of great importance to the Arab group of countries. There was currently an imbalance among regions, which the proposal set out in Part 6 sought to address. It was proposed that the regions of Eastern and Western Europe should have two members each in an enlarged Board composed of fifteen members. At present, the region represented by the Director of the Radiocommunication Bureau was reduced by one member. As the role of the Director was to be neutral, that practice unjustly penalized the region concerned.

2.2 The **delegate of Kazakhstan** said that although Region C nominally comprised the Eastern European countries, a substantial number of Region C countries were actually in Asia. Representation within that area should perhaps be reviewed. He foresaw problems in linking Eastern and Western European membership of the Board, as those two areas had diverse interests. Furthermore, the proposal to expand membership of the Board might prove problematic: it might not be easy to find fifteen highly qualified candidates to fill the posts. Increasing the numbers might also make it more difficult for the Board to achieve consensus. It would be preferable to retain the membership at nine, in addition to the Director of BR.

2.3 The **delegate of New Zealand** said that an increase in Board membership could not be justified in terms of cost. He was, however, concerned that representation for the Asia and Australasia Region was particularly low. Perhaps the basis on which the current number of members was divided between regions could be revised.

2.4 The **delegate of the United Kingdom** agreed that there should be equitable geographical representation among the members of the RRB. He observed, however, that members of the Board did not represent their region: they were elected on the basis of their competence and ability to contribute to the work of the Board. There was good reason to review the process by which the region of origin of the Director affected the number of members elected from that administrative region. He was concerned that the proposal to increase the number of members of the Board would raise costs. Furthermore, the efficiency of the Board might be jeopardized as the larger the group, the more difficult it would be to achieve consensus. Turning to the role of Board members at WRCs, he suggested that they should be allowed to chair meetings. That possibility was precluded by the wording of the Convention, although it would be to the advantage of WRCs to utilize the expertise of Board members acting in their neutral and unbiased role.

2.5 The **delegate of the Republic of Korea** agreed that there was an imbalance in regional representation of regions but, for the reasons outlined by previous speakers, considered that it would be preferable to maintain membership of the Board at nine. The geographical distribution should, however, be re-allocated according to the number of countries in each region.

2.6 The **delegate of Djibouti** supported the proposal set out in Document 25, as an increase in the number of Board members would allow for better geographical representation.

2.7 The **delegate of Bulgaria** could not support that proposal. ITU mirrored the United Nations in working with five geographical regions, and it would not be appropriate to consider those regions on the basis of the number of countries involved. He could not agree to an increase in the number of Board members as it would make consensus more difficult to reach and would raise costs. He shared the view of the United Kingdom that members of RRB should play an enhanced role in WRCs.

2.8 The **delegate of Norway** said that an increase in Board membership would raise costs. In addition, it might be difficult to find fifteen suitably qualified candidates. He emphasized that the role of the Board members was a neutral one: they were not elected to represent regions but on the basis of demonstrated personal integrity and objectivity. He would prefer to see the Board reduced rather than enlarged.

2.9 The **delegate of Saudi Arabia** said that all regions should be represented on the Board. In answer to those delegates who suggested that an increase in Board membership might render the decision-making process more cumbersome, he pointed to bodies such as the Council which had a larger membership. The Board dealt with issues such as the frequency spectrum and orbits, which were the cornerstones of the Union. It should be recalled that, in the past, States had raised objections to decisions taken by the Board on those important subjects. Increased membership and more equitable geographical representation might render the Board's decisions more acceptable to all.

2.10 The **delegate of Australia** could not agree to the proposal to increase Board membership. He supported the comments in that regard made by the delegates of the United Kingdom and Norway.

2.11 The **delegate of Russia** said that the principle of equitable geographical distribution should be applied in all areas of the Union, not simply with respect to the election of members of the Board. Expressing support for the views of the delegates of Kazakhstan and Bulgaria, he said that he could not go along with the proposal contained in Part 6 of Document 25.

2.12 The **delegate of Mexico**, speaking on behalf of the CITEL Member States and his own Administration, expressed support for the principle of equitable geographical distribution, but pointed out that members of RRB were elected according to their qualifications and competence, rather than their region. The Director of BR did not have the same rights as the other members of the Board, and the Director's region should not be penalized on that account.

2.13 The **delegate of the United States** associated himself with the remarks made by the previous speaker, and endorsed the view of the delegate of the United Kingdom that members of the Board should be allowed to chair meetings at WRCs.

2.14 The **delegate of the Netherlands**, recalling No. 98 of the Constitution, pointed out that the members of the RRB did not represent their respective Member States, nor a region, and noted that they had always been elected on the basis of their qualifications and competence. Although he could not support an increase from nine to fifteen members, he could go along with an increase from nine to ten to ensure that the region of the Director of BR was not penalized.

2.15 The **delegate of Morocco**, speaking as co-sponsor of Document 25, said that an increase in the number of Board members from nine to fifteen would give the developing countries a chance to participate actively in the work of RRB. Furthermore, the costs of such an increase would be negligible in comparison with other costs incurred by ITU.

2.16 The **delegate of Germany** said that he could not support an increase in the number of RRB members from nine to fifteen as it was likely to decrease the efficiency of the Board; for example, simultaneous interpretation in several languages would be required. He could, however, go along with an increase from nine to ten to ensure that the region from which the Director of BR came was treated fairly. He agreed that RRB members should not be prevented from playing a more active role in WRCs.

2.17 The **delegate of Cuba**, endorsing the views expressed by the delegates of Mexico and the United States, pointed out that the Director of BR was elected on the basis competence, rather than the criterion of regional representation. The Director's region should not thereby be penalized.

2.18 The **Chairperson** said that there appeared to be consensus in the Committee that RRB members should be allowed to chair meetings at WRCs, as suggested by the delegate of the United Kingdom. Although the vast majority of speakers were against the proposal by the Arab States to increase the number of Board members from nine to fifteen, there appeared to be consensus that the region from which the Director of BR came should not be disadvantaged. He invited the Arab States to review their position and accept the majority opinion in the interest of consensus.

2.19 The **delegate of Syria** said that if delegates objected to increasing the number of members of the Board because of the increased costs that would be incurred, they should also object to expanding the membership of the Council for the same reason. The Arab States would find it very difficult to go along with the Chairperson's proposal as the present number of Board members did not sufficiently protect the interests of the developing countries. He added that competent experts were available in those countries. The co-sponsors of Document 25 would therefore insist on their position, and reserve the right to raise the issues of the distribution of Board members and the increase in their number in the Plenary.

2.20 The **delegate of Sweden** said that the number of really competent experts on the Radio Regulations throughout the world was very low indeed. The present number of Board members had been agreed upon as a careful balance between various requirements, and the Board should remain a forum for highly qualified experts rather than turning into a small-scale conference.

2.21 The **Chairperson of RRB** said that increasing the representation of the region from which the Director of BR came would be justified, since the Director did not have the same powers as a member of the Board. Simultaneous interpretation could be arranged for RRB if necessary, although the Board's efficiency might be reduced if its membership were increased. He confirmed that, in the exercise of their duties, Board members had always been guided by the principle that they were not representing their Member States nor their particular region. He felt that it would be appropriate for Board members to be more involved in the work of WRCs. Lastly, the fact that the status of Board members was not completely clear had led to some practical difficulties over the previous four years.

2.22 The **delegate of Saudi Arabia** said that each region should be allocated a certain number of seats on the Board. Once elected, members would carry out their duties in an unbiased manner. It would be a novel idea for members to be elected solely on the basis of competence, regardless of the criterion of regional representation. He disagreed with the views expressed to the effect that there was not enough expertise available, and hoped that such statements would not be used as an excuse not to increase the number of members of the Board.

2.23 The **delegate of the Lao People's Democratic Republic** wondered whether, in the interests of compromise, the Committee could agree to increasing the number of members of the Board from nine to twelve.

2.24 The **delegate of Mexico** speaking on behalf of the CITEL Member States and Slovenia, suggested that a small working group should be established with a view to reaching agreement on the issue of increasing the number of Board members. The **delegate of Turkey** supported that suggestion.

2.25 The **delegate of Syria**, having endorsed the comments of the delegate of Saudi Arabia, said that the Arab States could support the suggestion to set up a working group to discuss the issue further. Moreover, they would support an increase in the number of Board members from nine to ten, but were not convinced that there was equitable treatment of the regions, given the very limited representation of the developing countries at present.

2.26 The **Chairperson** invited the delegate of the United Kingdom to submit his proposal in writing for consideration at the next meeting. He said that it was unlikely that the substantive issue could be resolved in a working group and suggested that the issue should be referred to the Plenary for further discussion.

2.27 It was so **agreed**.

The meeting rose at 1740 hours.

The Secretary:
D. SCHUSTER

The Chairperson:
M. BOSSA

INTERNATIONAL TELECOMMUNICATION UNION



PLENIPOTENTIARY CONFERENCE (PP-98)

Document 192-E
October 1998
Original: English

MINNEAPOLIS, 12 OCTOBER - 6 NOVEMBER 1998

PLENARY MEETING

MINUTES

OF THE

SIXTH PLENARY MEETING

Tuesday, 20 October 1998, at 0930 hours

Chairperson: Mr. Thomas SIEBERT (United States)

Subjects discussed

- | | |
|---|---|
| 1 | Report by the Chairperson of Committee 7 concerning the restoration of voting rights for Mauritania and Nicaragua |
| 2 | Election of the Secretary-General |
| 3 | General policy statements (continued) |

Documents

121

88, 137

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1 Report by the Chairperson of Committee 7 concerning the restoration of voting rights for Mauritania and Nicaragua (Document 121)

1.1 The **Chairperson of Committee 7** (Finance) introduced Document 121 concerning requests from Mauritania and Nicaragua for cancellation of the interest on overdue payments of their contributions. After due consideration and taking into account the difficult economic situation in those countries, the Committee had recommended to the Plenary Meeting to transfer the unpaid contributions to two special arrears accounts bearing no interest, and to restore the right to vote of Mauritania and Nicaragua with immediate effect. The Council should be authorized to write off the interest on overdue payments, subject to strict compliance by those countries with the agreed repayment schedule. Those recommendations in no way prejudged the Council's decisions on the question of arrears in general.

1.2 The **delegate of Indonesia** supported the Committee's recommendations.

1.3 The recommendations of Committee 7 were **approved**.

2 Election of the Secretary-General (Documents 88, 137)

2.1 The **Chairperson** announced that the tellers appointed after consultation were the delegates of Saudi Arabia, Canada, the Netherlands, Russia and South Africa. After reminding the meeting of the voting procedures as set out in the Convention, he announced the start of the vote.

2.2 The **Secretary of the Plenary Meeting** called the roll of the 147 delegations entitled to vote, present or represented.

2.3 Candidates: Mr. H. Chasia (Kenya), Mr. J.L. Parapak (Indonesia), Mr. Y. Utsumi (Japan).

Number of ballot papers	147
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Blank ballots	1
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Number of valid ballots	146
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Number of members voting	146
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Required majority	74
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Number of votes obtained:

Mr. Y. Utsumi	85
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Mr. H. Chasia	52
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Mr. J.L. Parapak	9
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2.4 **Mr. Y. Utsumi (Japan) was elected Secretary-General.**

2.5 The **Secretary-General elect** said that it was a great honour for him to be elected Secretary-General of the Union. He commended Mr. Pekka Tarjanne, on successfully adapting ITU to the rapidly changing telecommunication environment - a basis upon which he hoped to build a secure future for the Union. In the new millennium the role of ITU would become even more crucial in ensuring that the benefits of telecommunications were extended to create a global information society for all humanity. In order to accomplish that goal, ITU must be strengthened by positive and ambitious decisions by the Plenipotentiary Conference on the Strategic Plan, amendments to the basic instruments of the Union and refinement of the budget. It was also important to establish a strong management team through the election of competent, fully committed officials. He would do his best to fulfil ITU's mission sincerely, effectively and efficiently.

2.6 The **Secretary-General** said that the election of Mr. Utsumi to the post of Secretary-General of the Union filled him with happiness, tempered only by the prospect of the difficult task before the new incumbent, whom he would do his best to assist in any way possible. He greatly appreciated the contributions made by Mr. Chasia and Mr. Parapak, and hoped that they would continue to provide valuable support for ITU, towards whose goals he appealed to all to work together.

2.7 The **Deputy Secretary-General** congratulated Mr. Utsumi on his election. As Deputy Secretary-General, he had greatly appreciated the opportunity to serve ITU and believed that the Union had a great future, with the opportunity to do much for all countries, industrialized and developing alike. As a citizen of a developing country, he looked to ITU as a valuable instrument for progress, and felt quite sure that, under the leadership of the new Secretary-General, it would continue to fulfil its mission. He himself would continue to take an active interest in the work of ITU.

2.8 The **Chairperson** thanked the Deputy Secretary-General for the extraordinary contribution he had made to the work of the Union.

2.9 The **delegate of Indonesia** said that he hastened to congratulate the Secretary-General elect, knowing that ITU would be approaching the turn of the century in very capable hands. The outgoing Secretary-General had performed an excellent job and would be greatly missed; but the new leadership would be equally professional.

2.10 The **delegate of Greece** said that he was honoured to congratulate the Secretary-General elect on his election. He also expressed his appreciation and best wishes to Mr. Tarjanne, Mr. Chasia and Mr. Parapak. The **delegates of Lebanon, Brazil, Chile, Papua New Guinea, Uganda, Uruguay and Mexico** endorsed those congratulations, expressions of appreciation and good wishes.

2.11 The **delegate of Turkey** also congratulated the Secretary-General elect. The latter, pursuant to No. 13 of the Convention, was to take up his duties on a date determined by the Plenipotentiary Conference; he wondered whether the actual date had yet been decided upon.

2.12 The **Chairperson** said that the dates on which elected officers would assume their duties would be announced at the end of all the elections. He endorsed the congratulations expressed to the Secretary-General elect, adding personal thanks for the benefit of his experience as presiding officer of the previous Plenipotentiary Conference. He also conveyed his good wishes to Mr. Chasia and Mr. Parapak, and felt sure that all present endorsed the congratulations and expressions of appreciation conveyed by the previous speakers.

2.13 The **delegate of the United States**, speaking for the host country of the Plenipotentiary Conference, congratulated Mr. Utsumi on his election and wished the outgoing Secretary-General, Mr. Tarjanne, all the best for his future activities. Mr. Chasia and Mr. Parapak were to be applauded for their extensive contributions in the field of telecommunications.

2.14 The **delegate of Switzerland**, speaking on behalf of the host country of ITU, congratulated Mr. Utsumi on his election. He looked forward to welcoming him in Switzerland and was confident he would continue the reform of the Union. He also congratulated the outgoing Secretary-General, Mr. Tarjanne, on his achievements for ITU during his eight years in office, in particular for his contribution to the future of the Union and the modernization of the telecommunication sector.

3 General policy statements (continued)

3.1 H.E. Ms. Aïssatta T. Sall, Minister of Communications, Senegal, endorsed the congratulations and good wishes expressed during the election procedure just concluded, voicing the hope that ITU would continue to benefit from the contribution of Mr. Chasia, in order that Africa would continue to be represented at the highest levels of expertise. Senegal also encouraged Mr. Parapak to continue his valuable contribution to the work of ITU. The Secretary-General elect would doubtless follow up the work already begun to prepare ITU for the new century, including implementation of the ITU-2000 Group's recommendations, especially with regard to increased participation of the private sector. Senegal remained ready to collaborate fully, in that regard, in the spirit of an intergovernmental approach and inter-sector solidarity. In that regard, it was important to state clearly, in the Constitution and Convention, the rights and obligations of Sector Members, which differed from those of the Member States. Senegal generally supported the Strategic Plan for the Union 1999-2003 and its implementation through annual operational and financial plans, both at secretariat and sectoral levels. In particular, it was important to make the Development Sector stronger and more flexible. Senegal thanked the Member States for their continued confidence in it as a Member of the Council, and reiterated its commitment to making ITU an ever stronger organization responsive to the needs of all its members.

3.2 H.E. Mr. Ahmed Friaa, Minister of Communications, Tunisia, congratulated Mr. Utsumi on his election and thanked the other candidates for their contributions to the Union. Tunisia had contributed actively to the work of the Union since becoming a Member in 1967, and attached particular importance to telecommunication and information technology. Its communication infrastructure had already been modernized and opened up to national and foreign private enterprise, and efforts were now concentrated on improving research institutions and Internet links. In view of the importance of telecommunications to all countries, the role of ITU should be strengthened and a committee of international experts set up to produce recommendations for BDT on the use of modern technology with a view to the worldwide elimination of poverty and marginalization. Consideration should be given to the possibility of convening a summit conference to examine the political, cultural and economic aspects of the information society, with a view to promoting tolerance and enabling future generations to live in peace. In view of the importance of joint efforts to attain those common goals, and wishing to contribute more actively to the work of the Union, Tunisia had submitted its candidacy for the Council and the directorship of BDT.

The meeting rose at 1220 hours.

The Secretary-General:
Pekka TARJANNE

The Chairperson:
Thomas SIEBERT

INTERNATIONAL TELECOMMUNICATION UNION



PLENIPOTENTIARY CONFERENCE (PP-98)

Document 193-E
27 October 1998
Original: Russian

MINNEAPOLIS, 12 OCTOBER - 6 NOVEMBER 1998

PLENARY MEETING

Note by the Secretary-General

TRANSFER OF POWERS

UZBEKISTAN - ARMENIA

The delegation of the Republic of Uzbekistan has announced that it has to leave the Conference.

Pursuant to No. 336 of the Geneva Convention (1992), the delegation of the Republic of Uzbekistan has given the delegation of the Republic of Armenia a mandate to exercise, at the present Conference, its vote for the elections of the Radio Regulations Board.

Pekka TARJANNE
Secretary-General

INTERNATIONAL TELECOMMUNICATION UNION



PLENIPOTENTIARY CONFERENCE (PP-98)

Document 194-E
3 November 1998
Original: French

MINNEAPOLIS, 12 OCTOBER - 6 NOVEMBER 1998

COMMITTEE 7

SUMMARY RECORD OF THE FOURTH MEETING OF COMMITTEE 7 (MANAGEMENT OF THE UNION)

Tuesday, 20 October 1998, at 1430 hours

Staff matters

Chairperson: Mr. A. MAPUNDA (Tanzania)

Later: General management matters

Chairperson: Mr. B. GRACIE (Canada)

Subjects discussed

Documents

- | | | |
|---|---|---------------------------------------|
| 1 | Draft resolution relating to ITU staff participation in conferences of the Union | DT/13 |
| 2 | Draft resolution relating to occupational illness | 122 |
| 3 | Draft resolution relating to unemployment insurance | 123 |
| 4 | Draft resolution relating to the introduction of a long-term care insurance scheme in the Union | 124 |
| 5 | Operational planning | 9(Add.1), 39, 59(Rev.1)
70(Corr.2) |

1 Draft resolution relating to ITU staff participation in conferences of the Union (Document DT/13)

1.1 The **Secretary** introduced Document DT/13 containing the draft resolution relating to ITU staff participation in conferences of the Union (formerly Annex C to Document 55), as amended at the previous meeting.

1.2 The **delegate of the United States** observed that the *resolves* section had not been discussed at the previous meeting. While the United States delegation had agreed that in the future the staff could be represented by two persons at Council sessions and Plenipotentiary Conferences, it was opposed to staff representatives taking part in the discussions on the same footing as Council Members or delegates to Plenipotentiary Conferences.

1.3 The **Secretary** said that that particular amendment had been decided at the previous Council session, with the agreement of a large number of Member States.

1.4 The **delegate of Algeria** said that the amendment to *resolves b)* merely confirmed a practice which was frequently followed at Council meetings. In his view, it was in the general interest that staff representatives should be able to clarify a point at the request of a Council Member or a delegation. His delegation was therefore in favour of the amendment.

1.5 The **delegates of Switzerland, Germany and the United Kingdom** having also expressed support, the **delegate of the United States** agreed to join the consensus.

1.6 The draft resolution annexed to Document DT/13 was **approved**.

2 Draft resolution relating to occupational illness (Document 122)

2.1 The **delegate of Switzerland** said that the draft resolution had been developed in connection with health problems which had risen in some parts of the ITU premises in Geneva. The necessary steps had been taken to remove all traces of asbestos from the areas concerned, but some delegations had considered it useful to draw up the draft resolution, which was aimed at securing compliance with occupational medicine/health standards in force in Switzerland. The Secretary-General would also be instructed to institute a study with a view to providing ITU staff with insurance coverage for occupational illness and to submit a report on the measures taken to the next session of the Council.

2.2 The **delegates of Malta, Pakistan and Gabon** supported the draft resolution.

2.3 The **delegate of the United States** approved the spirit of the text but expressed reservations with regard to its wording. It was a great exaggeration to say that there were no provisions in the ITU Staff Rules and Staff Regulations on occupational medicine/health or occupational illness, since Rule 6.2.4 provided for compensation in the event of death, injury or disability attributable to service. In addition, it would be useful if the Secretary could provide information on the benefits already available under the insurance scheme to which ITU staff members were affiliated.

2.4 The **delegates of the Netherlands, Senegal, Germany and Malaysia** associated themselves with the comments by the United States delegate.

2.5 In reply to a question by the **delegate of the Netherlands**, the **Secretary** said that the presence of asbestos had been detected in some of the rooms and technical installations of the Varembe building. Deflocculation, which had been undertaken immediately, had now been completed. Recent tests conducted by an independent Swiss company had shown air quality to be impeccable. The Staff Regulations and Staff Rules contained no provisions relating to occupational illness or illness due to environmental pollution, and the appearance of new harmful products would no doubt make it necessary to adjust the texts aimed at protecting staff health. The Union had signed a contract with Lloyds insurance company to provide staff members with coverage in the event of accidents at work or between home and work. The case of retirees was more complex; however, if a link could be established between a pathological condition and the period of service at ITU, the Union had never failed to meet its responsibilities. He therefore considered that the existence of provisions that were sufficiently broad in scope, together with the responsible attitude which had always been that of the ITU administration, made it unnecessary to adopt any further measures.

2.6 The **delegate of the Philippines** having suggested that the text before the Committee should be amended to take account of the explanations provided by the Secretary, the **Chairperson** proposed that the delegates of Switzerland, Gabon, the United States and the Philippines should hold informal consultations with a view to preparing a new version of the draft resolution on occupational illness.

2.7 It was so **agreed**.

3 Draft resolution relating to unemployment insurance (Document 123)

3.1 The **delegate of Costa Rica** said that a certain number of delegations had considered it expedient to propose the introduction of unemployment insurance for ITU staff members, given the increasing frequency with which staff were faced with unemployment, resulting in social exclusion, upon the expiry of their contracts or due to restructuring measures.

3.2 The **delegate of Cameroon** supported the draft resolution.

3.3 The **delegate of Portugal** asked in what conditions and to whom the proposed provisions would apply.

3.4 The **delegate of the United Kingdom** expressed her deep concern about the draft resolution. In no other United Nations agency had any provision yet been made for unemployment insurance and the adoption of such a measure by ITU would have implications for the entire system. Furthermore, serious problems of application might well arise in connection with the payment of benefits to former staff members who had returned to their countries of origin. Staff members knew what the conditions of employment were when they took up their duties and at present there was no indication that jobs with the Union had been turned down because of those conditions.

3.5 The **Secretary** said that he had not been involved in preparing the draft resolution and could provide no information about the beneficiaries of the proposed scheme.

3.6 The **delegate of Switzerland** associated himself with the United Kingdom delegate's comment on the legal problems entailed by the payment of benefits to former staff members who had returned to their countries of origin, adding that his country, as the host country of ITU, could under no circumstances agree to a situation whereby former ITU staff members would be in a position, by virtue of such a scheme, to assert the right to remain in Switzerland. He was not in favour of the draft resolution.

3.7 The **delegate of Côte d'Ivoire** supported the draft resolution on the grounds that staff members who lost their jobs were entitled to a minimum of social protection. The fact that the *concerned* paragraph referred to the additional compensation given by some Member States to their nationals working in the United Nations system in order to offset the lack of competitiveness of remuneration levels indicated that financial support already existed outside the system. The *resolves* section referred to an unemployment insurance scheme to be put into place. How would the lack of competitiveness of remuneration levels be offset and, if that were done, would the unemployment insurance be indexed to the adjusted salary or the United Nations salary? He proposed that a cost assessment of such an insurance scheme should be made and communicated to the Council at its next session; indeed, several schemes should be considered and costed.

3.8 The **delegate of the United States** said that he was opposed to the draft resolution. He had no idea what coverage would be involved, particularly as actual needs had not been evaluated. By their very nature, contracts could not be expected to last indefinitely. Anybody who accepted one knew what conditions were attached. The Union could not guarantee either long-term or short-term job security.

3.9 The **delegate of Malaysia** also opposed the draft resolution, and associated himself with the comments made by the United Kingdom delegate.

3.10 The **delegate of Algeria** shared the views of those countries wishing to improve conditions for the staff of both ITU and the United Nations system in general. Since the ITU secretariat had never taken any action on the matter, it was only natural that countries should bring it up for discussion; that did not mean that they might not review their position at a later stage in the light of actual possibilities. He knew that the status of international civil servant had its peculiarities, and he was conscious of the need to comply with the host country's legislation. Therefore, in order to cater for the need to provide ITU staff with better social protection without jeopardizing the Union's operational machinery, he proposed that the *resolves* and *resolves further* sections should be deleted and replaced by the following text: "*instructs the Secretary-General* to conduct a study on loss of employment due to restructuring and to report to the Council". The Council would then study that report and transmit it to the Staff Council for an opinion. Members would thus be in a better position to understand the staff's situation.

3.11 The **delegate of Germany** said that his initial reaction was to express the same concerns as the United Kingdom and Swiss delegates. On a question of principle, he doubted that it was appropriate to discuss the matter within the Union, for it was one that ought to be taken up in the broader framework of the United Nations system. Neither could he take a stand until an initial estimate had been made of the financial implications of an unemployment insurance scheme. Consequently, he was not in favour of the draft resolution. The **delegates of Denmark and Sweden** associated themselves with the statement by the German delegate.

3.12 The **Chairperson**, summing up the discussion, said that the document was supported by some delegations but also caused serious concern, in particular with regard to the financial implications. The Algerian proposal was judicious, for it would enable discussion on the subject to be closed.

3.13 The **delegate of the United Kingdom** said that at the present juncture she could not support the Algerian proposal, which had repercussions for the United Nations as a whole. If the secretariat, after consulting the staff, took the view that the question deserved further study, that exercise should be carried out through the Consultative Committee on Administrative Questions (CCAQ) and not by ITU on its own.

3.14 The **delegate of the United States** supported the comments by the United Kingdom delegate. The very most the Union could do was bring the matter to the notice of the competent bodies in New York.

3.15 The **delegate of Cameroon**, replying to those delegations which considered it premature to set up an unemployment insurance scheme, proposed that the rather unfortunate title of the draft resolution should be changed and its provisions adjusted accordingly. The operative part of the text did not contemplate anything more than the possibility of providing coverage in the event of restructuring measures and, in his view, that concern should not simply be brushed aside but should be given further thought.

3.16 The **delegate of Japan** supported the comments by the United Kingdom and United States delegates. He too considered that the nature of the problem needed to be fully understood before the draft text could be adopted. If the Conference accepted the Algerian proposal, the problem should be stated in clear terms, together with the means of solving it.

3.17 The **delegate of Lesotho** said that in principle he was in favour of the draft resolution on condition, first, that it was not interpreted as ratifying the idea of restructuring and, second, that due consideration was given to the people who would be affected by any restructuring. The question should be referred to the Secretary-General for study.

3.18 At the request of the **Chairperson**, the **Secretary** said that unemployment as such did not exist in the United Nations common system. There were different types of contract, some of which were based on the assumption that holders would return to their home countries once their contracts expired. There was nothing to prevent international civil servants from paying into national unemployment insurance schemes, provided they personally assumed both their own contribution and that normally paid by the employer. The draft resolution under consideration contained a number of very disparate ideas which he had some difficulty in elucidating. Chapter IX of the ITU Staff Regulations and Staff Rules spelt out the Union's obligations with regard to separation from service, according to the type of contract held by the staff member. In the case of certain short-term contracts, which by nature were temporary, no compensation could be provided upon their expiry. If as a result of restructuring it were to become necessary to shed a large number of posts, the Secretary-General would have to approach the Council on the matter of making the required compensatory payments and, possibly, retraining. At the present juncture, it was difficult for him to say anything more on the subject. Some good suggestions had been put forward, namely, that the Secretary-General should study the matter and consider the consequences of possible restructuring measures. It would also be useful to consider what action might be taken in the case of staff members wishing to leave the Union before the end of their contract.

3.19 The **delegate of Turkey** endorsed the views expressed by the delegates of the United Kingdom, Germany, Switzerland and the United States, and said that she was not in favour of the draft resolution.

3.20 The **delegate of the Philippines** said that she fully understood the problem. However, a realistic approach should be taken having regard to the current financial recession. She sympathized with people who lost their jobs but considered that priority should be given to looking after staff who were paid too little. It was not very realistic to contemplate a system which would care for the unemployed. The Asia-Pacific Region, to which her country belonged, was not in a position at present to make financial contributions to an unemployment insurance scheme. However, the possibility of looking at such a scheme in the future - for example at the next Plenipotentiary Conference - should not be excluded.

3.21 The **delegate of the United States** said that the discussion was being made more arduous by the fact that the draft text was unclear and the problem stated in rather vague terms. At the practical level, he could see no reason for establishing a link between unrenewed short-term contracts and unemployment insurance. As to the consequences of restructuring for the staff, employment and contract possibilities abounded in a rapidly changing environment such as that of telecommunications. Furthermore, it was his understanding that ITU already provided different types of compensation in the event of loss of employment. He did not really see where the problem lay.

3.22 The **delegate of Swaziland** associated himself with the comments by the United Kingdom delegate. He was fully aware of the conditions governing fixed-term contracts. It was difficult to discuss restructuring when the process remained purely hypothetical. In view of the information currently available on the subject, he could see no reason to pursue the debate.

3.23 The **Chairperson**, in conclusion, suggested that the resolution should for the time being be left in abeyance and that ITU should continue to monitor the situation.

3.24 It was so **agreed**.

4 Draft resolution relating to the introduction of a long-term care insurance scheme in the Union (Document 124)

4.1 The **delegate of Algeria** said that a subject relating to staff matters could only be brought up at a conference or a Council meeting if the secretariat submitted a report by the Secretary-General on the subject to the body concerned; failing that, proposals had to come from the delegates. Consequently, a proposal had not necessarily been studied thoroughly beforehand by the country submitting it. The text in Document 124 should really be entitled "Social protection", with a subtitle "Introduction of a long-term care insurance scheme in the Union". He also suggested deleting the end of paragraph 2 under *instructs the Secretary-General*, as it was not relevant. Both the study mentioned in that paragraph and its outcome should be the subject of a report to the Council.

4.2 The **delegate of the Netherlands** considered that the problem as set out in the draft resolution was difficult to resolve. A study was already under way on the subject in the United Nations, and he thought it was hard to imagine, a single organization - ITU in the event - having long-term care arrangements which were affordable. The draft resolution should therefore be considered. With regard to the voluntary programme, long-term care coverage for retirees would no doubt be very costly. The *instructs the Secretary-General* section should be worded more carefully.

4.3 The **delegate of Germany** said that he found it very difficult to take a stand on such a complex problem, which was already under consideration by CCAQ in the United Nations context. At the present stage, the most the Conference could do would be to request the Secretary-General to submit a report on the work of CCAQ to the next session of the Council.

4.4 The **delegate of Switzerland** considered it extremely important for ITU not to go it alone within the United Nations common system. However, the fact that the subject was already under consideration in the system need not prevent ITU from attempting to progress matters. He supported the general thrust of the draft resolution and was prepared to consider new wording for some of its parts. He would also welcome the views of the secretariat on the matter. The **delegate of Morocco** endorsed that statement.

4.5 The **delegate of the United States** said that he was very sceptical about the proposed insurance scheme. That type of social protection was undoubtedly attractive but it would probably be very expensive. Few national civil servants enjoyed such extensive coverage in their own countries. Great caution must therefore be exercised.

4.6 The **delegate of Pakistan** said that civil servants in all countries were insured for long-term care, even when they were no longer working. It was not normal that international civil servants should be without medical cover when they returned to their own countries after retirement.

4.7 The **delegate of Philippines** considered that the proposal to introduce a long-term care insurance scheme should be supported, even though all the necessary information was not yet to hand. She could approve the draft resolution subject to some amendments. Paragraph 1 under *instructs the Secretary-General* should be deleted and paragraphs 2 and 3 should read as follows: "1. to be prepared to study an ITU long-term care insurance scheme and its financial and contributory implications; 2. to report to the next Council session on the possibility of introducing a long-term care insurance scheme".

4.8 The **Secretary** said that he had followed the work of CCAQ, which had been proceeding for about four years, on the introduction of a long-term care insurance scheme. The cost would be reasonable and the scheme would apply within the United Nations common system. The cost of the mandatory insurance scheme would not necessarily be very high, possibly about 20 dollars per person per annum. The conclusions reached by CCAQ showed that the system envisaged was possible. As the delegate of Switzerland had said, the ongoing work possibly needed fresh impetus and ITU might act as a spur in that regard.

4.9 The **Chairperson**, after stressing the complexity of the matter, suggested that the group which was to work on the draft resolution relating to occupational illness should review the draft resolution on the introduction of a long-term care insurance scheme in the Union, under the guidance of the delegate of Switzerland and with the secretariat's participation.

4.10 It was so **decided**.

Mr. Gracie took the Chair.

5 Operational planning (Documents 9(Addendum 1), 39, 59(Rev.1), 70(Corrigendum 2))

5.1 The **Secretary-General**, introducing Document 39 on operational planning in ITU, recalled that the Union's first strategic plan and first financial plan had been adopted at the Kyoto Plenipotentiary Conference. It was expected that the present Conference would also adopt a strategic plan and a financial plan. Indeed, over the years and with a view to ensuring efficient and transparent use of resources, it had been considered useful to introduce operational planning in order to reconcile the ambitions of the strategic plan and the budgetary constraints of the financial plan by laying down objectives and establishing markers and performance indicators. At present, operational planning existed essentially in the Radiocommunication Bureau and gave excellent results. The Conference was invited to approve the extension of operational planning to the other two Sectors and to the secretariat as a whole. The exercise would be carried out in accordance with the timetable in paragraph 5 of Document 39, specifically through the Council and the three advisory groups.

5.2 The **delegate of Syria** supported Document 39, while stressing that operational planning must essentially be the prerogative of the Council and the advisory bodies.

5.3 The **delegate of Canada** presented her Administration's proposals on operational planning (proposals CAN/9/3, CAN/9/5 and CAN/9/29 in Document 9(Add.1)). She welcomed the progress already made on that front in ITU and expressed the hope that the practice would be brought into general use and that operational planning would be closely linked to both strategic and financial planning. Canada proposed that the Secretary-General should be invited to identify measures to be included in the implementation of strategic, operational and financial planning, to instruct the internal auditor of ITU to monitor progress, and to report annually to the Council on the results achieved. Proposal CAN/9/29 (Annex A to Document 9(Add.1)) picked up the joint proposal adopted by the Inter-American Telecommunication Commission (CITEL), of which Canada had been a co-author. Canada, together with all the administrations of CITEL Member States, was also proposing a number of amendments to the Constitution and the Convention, concerning in particular the role of the advisory groups and the fact that the Council should have an operational plan from the General Secretariat to examine each year.

5.4 The **delegate of Singapore** introduced the Asia-Pacific Member States' proposals on strategic, operational and financial planning (Corrigendum 2 to Document 70). In view of the success of operational planning in the Radiocommunication Bureau, the Member States of the Asia-Pacific Region were in favour of operational planning being extended to the activities of the other bureaux and to the General Secretariat. They considered that operational planning could facilitate the implementation of an internal and external audit function and the evaluation of progress by the ITU membership as a whole.

5.5 The **delegate of the Netherlands**, speaking on behalf of CEPT, said that that organization had not submitted a document on operational planning but endorsed the statements by the delegates of Canada and Singapore.

5.6 The **Chairperson**, noting that there was a large measure of agreement among speakers, suggested that the Conference should pick out the particular features which should play a part in operational planning and allow the operational and financial plans of the three Sectors to be linked with the ITU strategic plan and the various purposes of the Union. Those features would be communicated to the advisory groups and the Council. Perhaps an ad hoc working group could bring together the proposals made by the various countries or groups of countries, together with any new suggestions, in the form of a draft resolution for transmittal to the Plenary.

5.7 The **delegate of the United States** endorsed that procedure. Operational planning required perfect synchronization of financial and strategic documents with regard to the periods and fields covered. For example, the budget should perhaps be presented differently. While delegates at the Plenipotentiary Conference could not concern themselves too closely with practicalities, those aspects should be borne in mind.

5.8 The **Chairperson** said that such comments should be taken into consideration by the ad hoc working group. The role of the Council would also have to be considered. Canada had suggested that an internal auditor should monitor progress made in the coordination of the strategic, financial and operational functions; following discussion with several delegations, his own view was that that task should rather be entrusted to the external auditor. That was another matter to be taken up by the ad hoc working group. It was for the Plenipotentiary Conference to provide a broad outline as the basis for the advisory groups' practical work.

5.9 The **delegate of Syria** agreed that the Conference should establish a framework for operational planning and highlight the objectives and conditions of its implementation without going into any detail. The **delegate of Saudi Arabia**, after observing that the delegate of Syria had spoken on behalf of the Arab group, suggested that the chairpersons of all the regional groups should take part in the ad hoc working group.

5.10 At the invitation of the **Chairperson**, the **delegate of Canada** agreed to act as coordinator of the ad hoc working group on operational planning.

The meeting rose at 1730 hours.

The Secretaries:

A. DESCALZI

H. PIETERSE

The Chairpersons:

A. MAPUNDA

B. GRACIE

INTERNATIONAL TELECOMMUNICATION UNION



PLENIPOTENTIARY CONFERENCE (PP-98)

Document 195-E
28 October 1998
Original: French

MINNEAPOLIS, 12 OCTOBER - 6 NOVEMBER 1998

COMMITTEE 7

SUMMARY RECORD OF THE FIFTH MEETING OF COMMITTEE 7 (MANAGEMENT OF THE UNION)

Wednesday, 21 October 1998, at 1435 hours

Finance

Chairman: Mr. U. MOHR (Germany)

Subjects discussed

- | | |
|---|--|
| 1 | Draft resolution relating to arrears and special accounts |
| 2 | Draft resolution relating to special arrears accounts |
| 3 | Arrears: requests submitted by Azerbaijan and Sierra Leone |

Documents

DT/15
DT/14
144, 145

1 Draft resolution relating to arrears and special accounts (Document DT/15)

1.1 The **Secretary** said that the draft resolution in Document DT/15 was a new version of Resolution 41 (Kyoto, 1994), which had been amended having regard to both recommendation 13 of the ITU-2000 Group and the criticism expressed at previous meetings in respect of the draft resolution in Annex C to Document 33. The new draft provided for a series of measures aimed at solving the arrears problem, in particular by making the opening of new special arrears accounts and the maintenance of existing ones conditional upon setting a specific repayment schedule with the Secretary-General and complying with it. It should be noted that Sector Members could not open special arrears accounts and the wording of the draft resolution should be such as to avoid any ambiguity in that regard.

1.2 The **delegate of Cameroon** supported the draft resolution, which was fairly well balanced and took account of the principles stated at previous meetings.

1.3 The **delegate of Germany**, referring to the English-language version of the draft resolution, proposed that the verb "to set" in the *noting that* section should be replaced by "to conclude", that the words "to submit their repayment schedules to the Secretary-General" in the *urges* section should be replaced by "to conclude their repayment schedules with the Secretary-General", that the words "to set a specific repayment schedule" in the *resolves* section should be replaced by "to conclude a specific repayment schedule" and that the words "shall be set" in the same section should be replaced by "shall be concluded".

1.4 The **delegate of Argentina** proposed to amend the Spanish-language version as follows: under *noting that*, the word "acordar" should be replaced by "concluir"; under *urges*, "sometan" should be replaced by "presenten y/o concluyan"; and under *resolves*, "acordarán" should be replaced by "concluirán". He also asked whether Sector Members, like Member States, would be able to draw up their own repayment schedules and, if so, with whom those schedules would be negotiated.

1.5 The **delegate of Mali** supported the draft resolution in Document DT/15. He asked for further details about the one-year period mentioned under *resolves* and suggested that the *instructs the Council* section should be amended to read: "..., including a maximum duration, to establish guidelines for additional measures such as, for example, temporary reduction ...".

1.6 The **delegate of the United States** said that, as he understood it, the draft resolution was aimed at inviting countries with arrears to submit a repayment schedule the conditions of which would be negotiated with the Secretary-General, having regard to the Council's guidelines, until such time as an agreement was concluded. That period of negotiation and discussion could last one year.

1.7 The **delegate of Spain**, referring to the *urges* section, suggested that the phrase "to submit their repayment schedules" should be replaced by "to present their repayment schedules". He also proposed that the words "shall be set" in the *resolves* paragraph should be replaced by "shall be presented".

1.8 The **delegate of the United Kingdom** supported the draft resolution but said that she wished to suggest some drafting changes. The use of the word "concluded" instead of the word "set" in the *noting that* section would suggest that countries had finished paying off their arrears. It would therefore be preferable to use the word "submit" in place of "set" in both the *noting that* and the *resolves* sections. Furthermore, the last phrase in the *urges* section should be amended to read: "... to submit an agreed ...".

1.9 With regard to the *further resolves* section, the **delegate of Spain** asked if the reference to No. 169 of the Constitution appeared between square brackets because the final numbering was not yet known or because the possibility was being considered of imposing sanctions on countries which did not meet their commitments. Furthermore, the provision did not belong to the Minneapolis Constitution but to the Geneva Constitution and the reference "Minneapolis, 1998" should therefore be deleted. Finally, with regard to the last phrase, he said that it was difficult to ascertain how closely countries were complying with their schedules and that the Spanish wording should be revised accordingly.

1.10 The **delegate of Argentina** welcomed the spirit underlying the draft resolution while sharing the views expressed by the Spanish delegate, in particular with regard to deletion of the reference "Minneapolis, 1998". He observed that the abolition of special arrears accounts referred to under *further resolves* might give rise to difficulties.

1.11 The **delegate of Germany**, referring to the *instructs the Council* section, said that the Council should also establish guidelines which might be applied to measures other than repayment schedules. He therefore suggested that the text should be amended to read: "... duration, as well as for appropriate additional measures such as temporary reduction ...", since the Council ought to establish a set of global guidelines as was the case in other United Nations agencies.

1.12 The **delegate of the United States** agreed with the previous speaker that the wording of the *instructs the Council* section was not sufficiently precise. In particular, it suggested that the Secretary-General might be authorized to take measures for the temporary reduction of classes of contribution whereas, in his view, such action came within the purview of the Council, to which the Secretary-General might be authorized to make recommendations. In any event, the text should be made more precise.

1.13 The **Secretary** said that the comments made at the present meeting would be taken into account, that the various language versions would be aligned and that a revised version of Document DT/15 prepared by a small group in collaboration with the secretariat, would be submitted in due course.

1.14 The **Chairperson**, recalling that the draft resolution was based on Kyoto Resolution 41, asked whether the text really needed to refer to Sector Members.

1.15 The **Secretary** confirmed that Kyoto Resolution 41 concerned both categories of Members and that it was out of the question to treat one category differently from the other.

1.16 The **delegate of Argentina**, while agreeing that the draft resolution concerned both Member States and Sector Members, observed that the Secretary-General had to apply the guidelines established by the Council, which would be responsible for taking the final decision. Care must be taken to ensure that Member States were treated equally, whether or not they had special arrears accounts. The Secretary-General could negotiate agreements with Sector Members, since they too were subject to the Council's guidelines. The hierarchy must be respected by referring simply to overdue payments where Sector Members were involved.

1.17 The **Chairperson** observed that the Council's guidelines for Sector Members were at risk of being different from those applicable to Member States.

1.18 It was **agreed** to set up a small drafting group comprising the delegates of Argentina, the United States, Germany, Mali and Spain to prepare a revised version of the draft resolution in Document DT/15.

2 Draft resolution relating to special arrears accounts (Document DT/14)

2.1 The **Secretary** said that Document DT/14 contained the draft resolution setting out the Committee's recommendations in respect of the requests made in Document DT/11 by Mauritania, Grenada and Nicaragua. Paragraph 1 under *resolves* contained a reference to the draft resolution in Document DT/15 that had just been considered by the Committee. The difference between the proposed system and the one established by Resolution 42 (Kyoto, 1994) was the clear stipulation in the *authorizes the Council* section that interest on arrears was only written off if the Member States concerned complied strictly with the agreed schedule for the settlement of their unpaid contributions.

2.2 The draft resolution in Document DT/14 was **approved**.

3 Arrears: requests submitted by Azerbaijan and Sierra Leone (Documents 144, 145)

3.1 The **Secretary**, referring to Document 144, said that Azerbaijan was requesting that a special arrears account be opened for its outstanding contributions amounting to 458 998.25 Swiss francs, which it undertook to pay off in ten equal annual instalments. If the Committee so recommended, the arrangements described in the draft resolution in Document DT/14 would be applied to Azerbaijan.

3.2 The **delegates of Turkey and Russia** requested the Committee to accede to Azerbaijan's request.

3.3 The **Chairperson** suggested that the Committee should add Azerbaijan's request to those enumerated in the draft resolution in Document DT/14.

3.4 It was so **agreed**.

3.5 The **delegate of Azerbaijan** thanked all the telecommunication administrations for responding favourably to his country's request.

3.6 The **Secretary**, referring to Document 145, said that Sierra Leone was requesting that the amount of 928 646.30 Swiss francs owed to the Union should be placed in a special arrears account, which it undertook to pay off in fifteen annual instalments. If the Committee so recommended, the arrangements described in the draft resolution in Document DT/14 would be applied to Sierra Leone too.

3.7 The **Chairperson** suggested that the Committee should add Sierra Leone's request to those enumerated in the draft resolution in Document DT/14.

3.8 It was so **agreed**.

The meeting rose at 1605 hours.

The Secretary:
A. TAZI-RIFFI

The Chairperson:
U. MOHR

INTERNATIONAL TELECOMMUNICATION UNION



PLENIPOTENTIARY CONFERENCE (PP-98)

Document 196-E
27 October 1998
Original: French

MINNEAPOLIS, 12 OCTOBER - 6 NOVEMBER 1998

PLENARY MEETING

Tunisia

PROPOSALS FOR THE WORK OF THE CONFERENCE

TUN/196/1
ADD

DRAFT RESOLUTION [TUN-1]

HOLDING OF A WORLD SUMMIT ON THE INFORMATION SOCIETY

The Plenipotentiary Conference of the International Telecommunication Union
(Minneapolis, 1998),

considering

- a) the relevant provisions of the Constitution and the Convention of the International Telecommunication Union concerning the role of the Union with regard to policies and strategies;
- b) the resolutions adopted by the present conference concerning the strategic issues in the telecommunication sector,

noting

that the Union is required to fulfil its tasks in an environment where telecommunications are playing an increasingly decisive and driving role at the political, economic, social and cultural levels,

recognizing

- a) that the International Telecommunication Union is the organization best able to seek appropriate ways to provide for the development of the telecommunication sector to be geared to economic, social and cultural development;
- b) the complementarity between the work of the Union and the activities of other international and regional organizations;
- c) the interpenetration between issues of telecommunication development and those of economic, social and cultural development, as well as the impact of such interpenetration on social structures in all Member States,

conscious

- a) of the fact that the globalization of telecommunications must take account of a harmonious evolution in policies, regulations, networks and services in all Member States;
- b) of the emergence of the concept of the information society in which telecommunications play a central role,

taking into account

- a) the results of the World Telecommunication Standardization Conference (Geneva, 1996), the World Radiocommunication Conference (Geneva, 1997) and the World Telecommunication Development Conference (Valletta, 1998);
- b) the role and results of the world telecommunication policy forums held,

resolves to instruct the Secretary-General

- 1 to place the question of holding a world summit on the information society on the agenda of the United Nations Administrative Committee on Coordination with a view to meeting the conditions for holding such a summit before the next Plenipotentiary Conference;
- 2 to report to the Council on the results of this consultation and to evaluate the financial burden that might result from the Union's contribution to holding a world summit on the information society,

instructs the Council, in the light of the results of this consultation

- 1 to consider and decide on the Union's contribution to the holding of a world summit on the information society, with a view to:
 - establishing an overall framework identifying, with the contribution of all partners, a joint and harmonized understanding of the information society;
 - drawing up a strategic plan of action for concerted development of the information society by defining an agenda covering the objectives to be achieved and the resources to be mobilized;
 - identifying the roles of the various partners to ensure smooth coordination of the establishment in practice of the information society in all Member States;
 - 2 to ask the Secretary-General to coordinate with other international organizations and with the various partners concerned (Member States, Sector Members, etc.), with a view to holding a world summit on the information society;
 - 3 to report on the results of the world summit on the information society to the next Plenipotentiary Conference of the International Telecommunication Union.
-

INTERNATIONAL TELECOMMUNICATION UNION



PLENIPOTENTIARY CONFERENCE (PP-98)

Document 197-E
27 October 1998
Original: English

MINNEAPOLIS, 12 OCTOBER - 6 NOVEMBER 1998

COMMITTEE 4

SEVENTH SERIES OF TEXTS FROM COMMITTEE 5 TO THE EDITORIAL COMMITTEE

Committee 5 has adopted the following Resolution, which it submits to the Editorial Committee for consideration and subsequent transmission to the Plenary Meeting.

Mauricio BOSSA
Chairperson

Annex: 1

DRAFT RESOLUTION [COM5/6]

WORLD TELECOMMUNICATION POLICY FORUM (WTPF)

The Plenipotentiary Conference of the International Telecommunication Union
(Minneapolis, 1998),

considering

- a) that the telecommunication environment is undergoing considerable changes under the combined influence of advances in technology, the globalization of markets and growing user demand for integrated cross-border services increasingly adapted to their needs;
- b) that the forces shaping the telecommunication environment have led in many countries to a restructuring of the telecommunication sector, especially the separation of regulatory and operating functions, the gradual liberalization of services and the appearance of new players in this area;
- c) that the need for a global framework to exchange information on telecommunication strategies and policies has been evident for many years;
- d) that national telecommunication policies and regulations have to be recognized and understood, so as to allow the development of global markets which can support the harmonious development of telecommunication services;
- e) the important contributions provided by Member States and Sector Members to the previous forum,

conscious

- a) that the purposes of the Union are, *inter alia*, to promote, at international level, the adoption of a broader approach to the issues of telecommunications in the global information economy and society, to promote the extension of the benefits of the new telecommunication technologies to all the world's inhabitants and to harmonize the actions of Members in the attainment of those ends;
- b) that the ITU is uniquely positioned to provide a forum for the coordination, information exchange, discussion and harmonization of national, regional and international telecommunication strategies and policies;
- c) that the Plenipotentiary Conference (Kyoto, 1994), in its Resolution 2, established the world telecommunication policy forum, which was successfully convened twice in 1996 and 1998, and provided a venue for discussion by high-level participants of global and cross-sectoral issues, thus contributing to the advance of world telecommunications and the establishment of procedures for conduct of the WTPF,

emphasizing

- a) that ITU Member States and Sector Members, realizing the need for constant review of their own telecommunication policies and legislation, and for coordination in the rapidly changing telecommunication environment, should also in the future be able to discuss strategies and policies;
- b) that it is necessary for the Union, as an international organization playing a leading role in the field of telecommunications, to further organize a forum to facilitate the exchange of information by high-level participants on telecommunication policies;
- c) that the purpose of the forum is to provide a venue for creating a shared vision among policy-makers worldwide regarding the issues with the inauguration of new telecommunication services and technologies, and to consider any other policy issue in telecommunications which would benefit from a global exchange of views;
- d) that the forum should continue to give special attention to the interests and needs of the developing countries, where modern technologies and services can contribute significantly to telecommunication infrastructure development;
- e) the need for allowing adequate preparation time for a forum;
- f) the importance of regional preparation and consultation,

resolves

- 1 that the world telecommunication policy forum as established by Resolution 2 of the Kyoto Plenipotentiary Conference (1994) shall be continued to discuss and exchange views and information on telecommunication policy and regulatory matters especially on global and cross sectorial issues;
- 2 that the world telecommunication policy forum shall neither produce prescriptive regulatory outcomes nor produce outputs with binding force; however it shall prepare reports and, where appropriate, opinions for consideration by Member States, Sector Members and relevant ITU meetings;
- 3 that the world telecommunication policy forum shall be open to all Member States and Sector Members,*
- 4 that the world telecommunication policy forum shall be convened on an ad hoc basis to respond quickly to emerging policy issues arising from the changing telecommunication environment;

*** Note by the Chairperson:**

Some of the Administrations were of the opinion that the following text should be added:
"if appropriate, may in some cases restrict some sessions to Member States only".

- 5 that Council shall decide on the duration, date allowing ample time for preparations, venue, agenda and themes of the world telecommunication policy forum;
- 6 that the agenda and themes shall be based on a report by the Secretary-General, including input from any conference, assembly or meeting of the Union, and on contributions from Member States and Sector Members;
- 7 that discussions at the world telecommunication policy forum shall be based on a report by the Secretary-General prepared in accordance with a procedure adopted by the Council and based on the views of Member States and Sector Members;
- 8 that the world telecommunication policy forum should be convened as far as possible in conjunction with one of the conferences or meetings of the Union in order to minimize the impact on the budget of the Union;
- 9 that broad participation in the world telecommunication policy forum and operational efficiency during the forum shall be facilitated,

instructs the Secretary-General

to make the necessary preparations for convening the world telecommunication policy forum based on the *resolves* above,

instructs the Council

- 1 to decide upon the duration, date, venue, agenda and themes of any future world telecommunication policy forum;
- 2 to adopt a procedure for the preparation of the report by the Secretary-General referred to in *resolves 7* above,

further instructs the Council

to submit to the next Plenipotentiary Conference a report on the world telecommunication policy forum for evaluation and any necessary action.

INTERNATIONAL TELECOMMUNICATION UNION



PLENIPOTENTIARY CONFERENCE (PP-98)

Document 198-E
28 October 1998
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MINNEAPOLIS, 12 OCTOBER - 6 NOVEMBER 1998

COMMITTEE 6

REPORT BY THE CHAIRPERSON OF COMMITTEE 7 (FINANCE) TO THE CHAIRPERSON OF COMMITTEE 6

The Chairperson of Committee 7 (Finance) informs the Chairperson of Committee 6 that Committee 7 has examined the following ITU-2000 recommendations. The conclusions of Committee 7 are as follows:

- **ITU-2000 recommendation R.9/1**

"The free choice of financial contributions should be retained. ITU-2000 supports the periodical distribution of information on the relative level of contributions by Member State and Sector Members as well as continued action by the Secretary-General in this regard, which would be useful to them in choosing their class of contribution."

Conclusion of Committee 7 - Finance: The system of free choice of class of contribution should be retained. There is no need for the setting of guidelines by the Council.

ITU-2000 recommendation R.9/1 is noted. No further action is required by Committee 6.

- **ITU-2000 recommendation R.9/4**

"The financial contributions from Sector Members should be identified for the Sector for which they were made, taking into account that a share of those contributions will be used in support of General Secretariat costs which are both directly and indirectly attributable."

Conclusion of Committee 7 - Finance: ITU-2000 recommendation R.9/4 is adopted in principle. However, the principle of solidarity among Sectors should be preserved.

- **ITU-2000 recommendation R.10**

"It is recommended that, in relation to the amount of the contributory unit by Member States and Sector Members, the current ratio should be examined by the Plenipotentiary Conference, in the light of the future financial structure of the Union."

Conclusion of Committee 7 - Finance: The Council is invited to carry out a study on the ratio to be used for setting the amount of the contributory unit payable by Sector Members. In this respect, a draft resolution is under consideration by Committee 7 (Finance). Meanwhile, the 1/5 ratio for the Sector Member contributory unit is maintained.

- **ITU-2000 recommendation R.12**

"It is recommended that the pricing policy for the publications should aim at the largest distribution of ITU documents, according to Kyoto Resolution 66. It is further recommended that the overall revenues from selling publications should cover the cost of production, marketing and sales beyond development of the final text and that the revenues after the deduction of those costs should be credited to the Sector having elaborated the publications.

However, in order to ensure the widest possible distribution of publications, especially in developing countries, a policy should be adopted to make the price of publications as affordable as possible."

Conclusion of Committee 7 - Finance: ITU-2000 recommendation R.12 has been adopted in principle. The amendment proposed for No. 484 of the Convention should be revised accordingly in the light of the conclusions on Document DT/32 to be dealt with in Committee 7.

- **ITU-2000 recommendation R.23**

"It is recommended that any reduction in a Member State's choice of class of contribution should not be more than 2 classes and should be implemented gradually over the period between Plenipotentiary Conferences."

Conclusion of Committee 7 - Finance: ITU-2000 recommendation R.23 is adopted by consensus.

- **ITU-2000 recommendation R.63**

"The level of financial contribution applicable to Associates should be such that it at least covers the full allocated cost of their participation."

Conclusion of Committee 7 - Finance: ITU-2000 recommendation R.63 is adopted by consensus.

INTERNATIONAL TELECOMMUNICATION UNION



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COMMITTEE 6

NOTE FROM THE CHAIRPERSON OF COMMITTEE 7 (FINANCE) TO THE CHAIRPERSON OF COMMITTEE 6

Please find enclosed the report of Committee 7 (Finance) dealing with the question of the announcement of class of contribution by Member States and Sector Members.

During the discussion, the United States reserved its position on paragraphs 5 and 12 pending consideration of the matter of the ceiling for expenditure between two Plenipotentiary Conferences.

U. MOHR
Chairperson

REPORT OF COMMITTEE 7 (FINANCE)

Announcement of class of contribution by Member States and Sector Members

A Principles

- 1 Announcement of the class of contribution by Member States and Sector Members shall be included in the Constitution/Convention to take effect at future Plenipotentiary Conferences.
- 2 The free choice of class of contribution by Member States and Sector Members shall be maintained.
- 3 It is necessary for the Member States and Sector Members to know exactly the upper limit on what they are expected to pay for the four-year period when establishing the definitive financial plan.
- 4 It is necessary for the Union to establish a sound and transparent financial basis for the four-year period by way of the financial plan to be determined by the Plenipotentiary Conference.
- 5 The Council shall establish safeguards and controls on income and expenditure when adopting the biennial budgets.

[United States position: the Council has the obligation to establish biennial budgets for the Union that do not exceed the ceiling on total expenditure established by the decision of the Plenipotentiary Conference.]

B Procedure

- 6 The Council, at its meeting prior to the Plenipotentiary Conference, will establish a provisional level for the amount of the contributory unit for the period of the ensuing financial plan, based on:
 - the draft financial plan;
 - the current number of contributory units.
- 7 The Secretary-General will inform Member States and Sector Members of the provisional level of the amount of the contributory unit, as referred to above, and invite them to indicate provisionally in writing their class of contribution on the basis of the draft financial plan, not later than one week before the opening of the Plenipotentiary Conference.
- 8 At the beginning of the Plenipotentiary Conference, the Secretary-General will report on the result of the provisional indication by Member States and Sector Members of their class of contribution on the basis of the draft financial plan; any Member States having failed to indicate their class of contribution shall be assumed at this stage to be making no change thereto.
- 9 An announcement will be made at the Plenipotentiary Conference, by the end of its first week, on the computed upper limit of the contributory unit for the contribution of Member States and Sector Members, based on the draft financial plan and on the indicated number of contributory units. The Plenipotentiary Conference will subsequently examine and, if necessary, revise the draft financial plan to reflect its decisions on expenditure as well as on projected income.

10 On the basis of this revised draft financial plan and of the upper limit of the contributory unit, Member States will announce definitively their class of contribution. To this end, the Plenipotentiary Conference will inform Member States of the upper limit of the amount of the contributory unit and invite them to announce definitively their class of contribution by the end of the third week of the Conference. Member States failing to make known their choice of class of contribution shall be required to contribute the same number of units as assumed in paragraph 8 above. Following the announcement by Member States of their class of contribution, the Plenipotentiary Conference will adopt the final financial plan.

11 The procedure outlined in paragraph 7 above shall apply to Sector Members. Following the adoption of the financial plan and the upper limit of the amount of the contributory unit by the Plenipotentiary Conference, the Secretary-General shall inform the Sector Members accordingly and request them to announce their definitive choice of class of contribution within three months from the closure of the Plenipotentiary Conference. Sector Members failing to make known their choice by the date indicated by the Secretary-General shall be required to contribute the same number of units as assumed in paragraph 8 above.

12 The Council will approve the biennial budgets of the Union based on the financial plan adopted by the Plenipotentiary Conference, respecting the ceiling on the income derived from Member States' contributions **[and the limits on expenditure established by the Plenipotentiary Conference. United States position]**.



PLENIPOTENTIARY CONFERENCE (PP-98)

Document 200-E
29 October 1998

MINNEAPOLIS, 12 OCTOBER - 6 NOVEMBER 1998

LIST OF DOCUMENTS (151 -200)

Doc. No.	Origin	Title	Destination
151	COD	Information document - International call for tenders for the sale of a 900 MHz GSM mobile telephone licence	PL
152+Cor.1	SG	Summary record of the third meeting of Committee 5	C5
153	SG	Summary record of the fourth meeting of Committee 5	C5
154	SG	Transfer of powers - Monaco/France	PL
155(Rev.1)	SG	Transfer of powers - Sao Tome and Principe/Portugal	PL
156	E	Proposals for the work of the Conference	C5
157(Rev.1) + Cor. 1	¹	Draft revision of Resolution 62 (Kyoto, 1994)	C7
158	PL	First series of texts submitted by the Plenary Meeting to the Editorial Committee	C4
159+Cor.1	SG	Minutes of the Fifth Plenary Meeting	PL
160(Rev.1)	SG	Transfer of powers - Nicaragua/Costa Rica	PL
161	SG	Contributions by Members of the Union - Democratic Republic of the Congo	C7
162	SG	Contributions by Members of the Union - Costa Rica	C7
163	C5	Third series of texts from Committee 5 to the Editorial Committee	C4
164+Cor.1,2	²	Proposals for the work of the Conference	C5

¹ ARM/AZE/BLR/CHN/GEO/KAZ/MDA/MNG/UZB/KGZ/RUS

² ALG/ARS/AUS/BGD/BIH/BOT/B/BUL/CAN/CPV/CHN/EGY/USA/GRC/INS/IRN/
KWT/MLA/MRC/PAK/SEN/SVN/SUI/TUR

Doc. No.	Source	Title	Destination
165	³	Draft Resolution - Internal invoicing of the costs of activities undertaken by BDT at the request of the General secretariat or an ITU sector	C7
166	SG	Summary record of the fifth meeting of Committee 5	C5
167	C5	Note by the Chairperson of Committee 5 - Reallocation of documents	PL, C7
168	C5	Fourth series of texts from Committee 5 to the Editorial Committee	C4
169	C5	Fifth series of texts from Committee 5 to the Editorial Committee	C4
170	C7	Report by the Co-Chairperson of Committee 7 (Staff matters) to the Chairperson of Committee 6	C6
171	USA	Proposals for the work of the Conference	C5
172+Cor.1	C5	Sixth series of texts from Committee 5 to the Editorial Committee	C4
173	C5	Note by the Chairperson of Committee 5 to the Chairperson of Committee 6 - Participation of radiocommunication Sector Members in World Radiocommunication Conferences	C6
174	SG	Summary record of the third meeting of Committee 7	C7
175	ISR	Response to proposal by the Arab group concerning the PLO/Palestine observer	PL
176	C7	Liaison statement from the Co-Chairperson of Committee 7 (General management) to the Chairperson of Committee 5	C5
177	C6	First series of texts from Committee 6 to the Editorial Committee	C4
178	SG	Transfer of powers - Jamaica/Belize	PL
179	SG	Transfer of powers - Vanuata/Fiji	PL
180	SG	Transfer of powers - Saint Lucia/Bahamas	PL
181	SG	Transfer of powers - Saint Vincent and the Grenadines/Trinidad and Tobago	PL
182	SG	Transfer of powers - Central African Republic/Gabon	PL
183	⁴	Proposals for the work of the Conference	C5

³ BEN/DJI/KEN/NGR/NIG/UGA/SYR/COD/SEN/SRL/SDN/AFS/TOG/TRD/TUN/ZWE

Doc. No.	Source	Title	Destination
184+Cor.1	⁵	Proposals for the work of the Conference	C5
185	SG	Transfer of powers - Cape Verde/Mozambique	PL
186	SG	Summary record of the third meeting of Committee 6	C6
187	SG	Summary record of the fourth meeting of Committee 6	C6
188	C6	Second series of texts submitted by Committee 6 to the Editorial Committee	C4
189	C4	B.1 - First series of texts submitted by the Editorial Committee to the Plenary Meeting	PL
190	C7	Second series of texts submitted by Committee 7 to the Editorial Committee	C4
191	SG	Summary record of the sixth meeting of Committee 5	C5
192	SG	Minutes of the sixth Plenary Meeting	PL
193	SG	Transfer of powers - Uzbekistan/Armenia	PL
194	SG	Summary record of the fourth meeting of Committee 7	C7
195	SG	Summary record of the fifth meeting of Committee 7	C7
196	TUN	Proposals for the work of the Conference	PL
197	C5	Seventh series of texts submitted by Committee 5 to the Editorial Committee	C4
198	C7	Report from the Chairperson of Committee 7 (Finance) to Committee 6	C6
199	C7	Note by the Chairperson of Committee 7 to Committee 6	C6
200	SG	List of documents (151-200)	-

⁴ BAH/BRB/BLZ/BFA/CAN/DOM/FIN/GUY/IRN/JMC/LCA/CLN/SUI

⁵ ALG/B/CME/CPV/CTI/GAB/HTI/MLI/PAK/SEN/AFS/SUI