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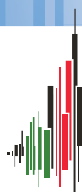
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Final Acts of the Plenipotentiary Conference Dubai, 2018



ITUPP
DUBAI 2018

29 October - 16 November
Dubai, United Arab Emirates





International Telecommunication Union

FINAL ACTS

OF THE PLENIPOTENTIARY CONFERENCE

(Dubai, 2018)

Decisions, Resolutions and Recommendation

EXPLANATORY NOTES

Numbering of decisions, resolutions and recommendation

Decisions, resolutions and recommendation newly adopted by the Plenipotentiary Conference (Dubai, 2018) have been numbered to start from the next number following the last number used at the Plenipotentiary Conference (Busan, 2014). Decisions and resolutions revised by the Plenipotentiary Conference (Dubai, 2018) retain the same number as before, followed by "(Rev. Dubai, 2018)".

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PART I – DECISIONS

DECISION 5 (REV. DUBAI, 2018)

Revenue and expenses for the Union for the period 2020-2023

The Plenipotentiary Conference of the International Telecommunication Union (Dubai, 2018),

considering

- a) the strategic plan of the Union for 2020-2023, including goals, objectives and outputs of the Union, in compliance with Resolution 71 (Rev. Dubai, 2018) of this conference, and the priorities identified therein;
- b) Resolution 91 (Rev. Guadalajara, 2010) of the Plenipotentiary Conference, on general principles for cost recovery,

considering further

- a) that, in the consideration of the draft financial plan of the Union for 2020-2023, the challenge to use the Union's resources efficiently in order to achieve the goals and objectives in the strategic plan and increase revenues in support of programme demands is substantial;
- b) the need to link strategic, financial and operational planning in ITU,

noting

Resolution 151 (Rev. Dubai, 2018) of this conference, on improvement of the implementation of results-based management in ITU, an important component of which relates to planning, programming, budgeting, monitoring and evaluation, and the implementation of which should facilitate further strengthening of the management system of the Union, including financial management,

noting further

that Resolution 48 (Rev. Dubai, 2018) of this conference stresses the importance of management and development of the human resources of the Union for the fulfilment of its goals, objectives and outputs,

decides

1 that the ITU Council is authorized to draw up the two biennial budgets of the Union in such a way that the total expenses of the General Secretariat and the three Sectors of the Union are balanced by the anticipated revenue, on the basis of Annex 1 to this decision, taking into account the following:

1.1 that the amount of the contributory unit of Member States for the years 2020-2023 shall remain unchanged at CHF 318 000;

1.2 that expenses for interpretation, translation and text processing in respect of the official languages of the Union shall not exceed CHF 85 million for the years 2020-2023;

1.3 that, when adopting the biennial budgets of the Union, the Council may decide to give the Secretary-General the possibility, in order to meet unanticipated demand, to increase the budget for products or services which are subject to cost recovery, within the limit of the revenue from cost recovery for that activity;

1.4 that the Council shall each year review the revenue and expenses in the budget, the different activities and the related expenses, as well as key financial indicators relevant for the Union;

2 that, if no plenipotentiary conference is held in 2022, the Council shall establish the biennial budgets of the Union for 2024-2025 and 2026-2027 and thereafter, having first obtained approval for the budgeted annual values of the contributory unit from a majority of the Member States of the Union;

3 that the Council may authorize expenses exceeding the budget for conferences, meetings and seminars if such expenses can be compensated by savings from previous years or charged to the following year;

4 that the Council shall, during each budgetary period, assess the changes that have taken place and the changes likely to take place in the current and coming budgetary periods under the following items:

4.1 salary scales, pension contributions and allowances, including post adjustments, established by the United Nations common system and applicable to the staff employed by the Union;

4.2 the exchange rate between the Swiss franc and the United States dollar insofar as this affects the staff costs for those staff members on United Nations scales;

4.3 the purchasing power of the Swiss franc in respect of non-staff items of expenses;

5 that the Council shall have the task of effecting every possible economy, in particular taking into account the measures for reducing expenses contained in Annex 2 to this decision, and considering the possible funding gaps, and, to this end, that it shall establish the lowest possible budgets commensurate with the needs of the Union, within the limits established by *decides* 1 above;

6 that the following minimum guidelines should be applied in relation to any reductions in expenses:

- a) the internal audit function of the Union should continue to be maintained at a strong and effective level;
- b) there should be no reductions in expenses which would affect cost-recovery revenue;
- c) fixed costs related to the reimbursement of loans shall not be reduced;
- d) fixed costs related to after-service health insurance (ASHI) should be maintained at a level consistent with decisions taken by other organizations in the United Nations common system of salaries and benefits;
- e) expenses in regular maintenance costs for ITU buildings which would be required to ensure the security and health of staff should be optimized;
- f) the information services function in the Union should be maintained at an effective level;

7 that the Council shall aim in all circumstances to keep the Reserve Account at a level above 6 per cent of total annual expenses,

instructs the Secretary-General, with the assistance of the Coordination Committee

- 1 to prepare draft balanced biennial budgets for the years 2020-2021, as well as 2022-2023, on the basis of the associated guidelines in *decides* above, the annexes to this decision and all relevant documents submitted to the Plenipotentiary Conference;
- 2 to draw up and implement a programme of appropriate revenue increases, cost efficiencies and reductions across all ITU operations so as to ensure a balanced budget;
- 3 to implement the aforementioned programme as soon as possible,

instructs the Secretary-General

- 1 to provide to the Council, no less than seven weeks before its 2019 and 2021 ordinary sessions, complete and accurate data as needed for the development, consideration and establishment of the biennial budget;
- 2 to implement, monitor and propose improvements to the risk-management policy established in Resolution 71 (Rev. Dubai, 2018), comprising all elements of a systematic and comprehensive risk-management framework, and to report annually to the Council;
- 3 to make every effort to achieve balanced biennial budgets, and to bring to the attention of the membership, through the Council Working Group on financial and human resources (CWG-FHR), any of its decisions that may have a financial impact likely to affect the achievement of such a balance, and to report annually to the Council,

instructs the Secretary-General and the Directors of the Bureaux

- 1 to provide to the Council, on an annual basis, a report outlining expenses relating to each item in Annex 2 to this decision, and on ITU budget implementation for the previous year and anticipated implementation of the ITU budget for the current year;

2 to make every effort to achieve reductions through a culture of efficiency and economy and to include the savings actually achieved within the overall approved budgets in the above report to the Council;

3 to include in the above report to the Council a report on extrabudgetary activities and related expenses,

instructs the ITU Council

1 to authorize the Secretary-General, in accordance with Article 27 of the current Financial Regulations and Financial Rules, in the event that a surplus is achieved during the budget implementation, to prioritize allocating an appropriate amount to the ASHI Fund, with a view to keeping the ASHI Fund at a sustainable level;

2 to authorize the Secretary-General, in the event that a surplus is achieved during the budget implementation, to allocate an appropriate amount to the New Building Project Fund to finance the costs that cannot legally be financed by the loan from the host country;

3 to review and approve the balanced biennial budgets for 2020-2021 and 2022-2023, giving due consideration to the associated guidelines in *decides* above, the annexes to this decision and all relevant documents submitted to the Plenipotentiary Conference;

4 to consider further appropriations in the event that additional sources of revenue are identified or savings achieved;

5 to examine the cost-efficiency and cost-reduction programme drawn up by the Secretary-General;

6 to take account of the impact of any cost-reduction programme on the staff of the Union, including the implementation of a voluntary separation and early retirement scheme, where this can be funded from budgetary surplus;

7 in considering measures that could be adopted to strengthen control of the finances of the Union, to take into account the financial impact of such issues as ASHI funding and the medium- to long-term maintenance and/or replacement of buildings at the premises of the Union;

8 to invite the external auditor, the Independent Management Advisory Committee and CWG-FHR to continue to develop recommendations to ensure greater financial control of the finances of the Union, taking into account, *inter alia*, the issues identified in *instructs the ITU Council 7* above;

9 to consider the reports relating to the matter, and report to the next plenipotentiary conference, as appropriate,

invites the ITU Council

to fix, to the extent practicable, the preliminary amount of the contributory unit for the period 2024-2027 at its 2021 ordinary session,

invites Member States

to announce their provisional class of contribution for the period 2024-2027 before the end of the calendar year 2021.

ANNEX 1 TO DECISION 5 (REV. DUBAI, 2018)

TABLE 1

Financial plan of the Union for 2020-2023: Revenue and expenses

2020-2023 Planned revenue and expenses			
<i>Amounts in thousands of Swiss francs</i>			
	<i>a</i>	<i>b</i>	<i>a+b</i>
	Draft budget	Draft budget	Draft financial
	2020-2021	2022-2023	plan
	2020-2021	2022-2023	2020-2023
Planned revenue			
A. Assessed contributions			
A.1 Member State contributions	218,586	218,586	437,172
A.2 Sector Member contributions	27,854	27,854	55,708
A.3 Associates	3,422	3,422	6,844
A.4 Academia	666	666	1,332
A Total assessed contributions	250,528	250,528	501,056
B Total cost recovery	75,750	75,750	151,500
C. Revenue from interest	600	600	1,200
D. Other revenue	200	200	400
E. Payment to/withdrawal from the Reserve Account	0	0	0
F. Savings from budget implementation	4,263	1,832	6,095
G. Funding gap	0	0	0
TOTAL REVENUE	331,341	328,910	660,251
Planned expenses			
General Secretariat	183,223	182,921	366,144
Radiocommunication Sector	59,884	63,247	123,131
Telecommunication Standardization Sector	27,964	26,996	54,960
Telecommunication Development Sector	60,270	55,746	116,016
Total expenses	331,341	328,910	660,251
Revenue less expenses	0	0	0

TABLE 2

Goals	Draft financial plan 2020-2023 - Planned costs - KCHF									
	Estimates 2020-2021				Total 2020-2021	Estimates 2022-2023				Total 2022-2023
	GS	ITU-R	ITU-T	ITU-D	ITU	GS	ITU-R	ITU-T	ITU-D	ITU
Goal 1: Growth	45,806	13,176	9,508	13,466	81,956	45,730	13,914	8,909	12,456	81,009
Goal 2: Inclusiveness	60,463	18,563	10,347	20,008	109,381	60,364	19,607	10,258	18,506	108,735
Goal 3: Sustainability	32,980	10,779	2,237	14,236	60,232	32,926	11,384	2,160	13,167	59,637
Goal 4: Innovation	23,819	11,378	3,915	3,992	43,104	23,780	12,017	3,779	3,692	43,268
Goal 5: Partnership	20,155	5,988	1,957	8,568	36,668	20,121	6,325	1,890	7,925	36,261
Total ITU	183,223	59,884	27,964	60,270	331,341	182,921	63,247	26,996	55,746	328,910

ANNEX 2 TO DECISION 5 (REV. DUBAI, 2018)

Measures for improving ITU's efficiency and reducing its expenses

- 1) Identification and elimination of all forms and instances of duplication of functions and activities between all ITU structural bodies and measures. Coordination, harmonization and closer cooperation among the Sectors, including optimization of management methods, logistics, coordination and support by the secretariat as well as centralization of finance and administrative tasks.
- 2) Coordination and harmonization of all seminars, workshops and cross-sector activities by the secretariat's Inter-Sectoral Coordination Task Force (ISC-TF) in order to avoid duplication of topics, to optimize management, logistics, coordination and secretariat support and to benefit from synergy between the Sectors and a holistic approach to the subjects covered.
- 3) Enhanced efficiency in respect of regional offices in implementing the goals and objectives of ITU as a whole, as well as in the use of local experts and local networks of contacts and resources. Maximum coordination of activities with regional organizations and rational use of existing financial and human resources, including savings on travel costs and costs associated with the planning and organization of events held outside Geneva.
- 4) Savings from attrition, redeployment of staff and review and possible reduction of grades of vacant posts, in particular in non-sensitive parts of the General Secretariat and the three Bureaux, in order to reach optimal levels of productivity, efficiency and effectiveness.
- 5) Prioritizing staff redeployment for the implementation of new or additional activities. New hiring should be the last option, while taking into account gender balance, geographical distribution and new skill requirements.

- 6) The use of consultants should only occur when the relevant skills or experience cannot be found among existing staff and after confirmation of this requirement in writing by senior management.
- 7) Upgrading the capacity-building policy to qualify the staff, including staff in regional offices, for multi-sector proficiency, in order to improve staff mobility and their flexibility for redeployment to new or additional activities.
- 8) Reduction by the General Secretariat and the three Sectors of the Union of the cost of documentation by, among other measures, conducting paperless conferences and meetings of all kinds and at all levels; encouraging staff to avoid printing of e-mails and documents; reducing the archiving of additional paper documentation; pursuing initiatives aimed at making ITU a fully paperless organization; and fostering the adoption of innovative information and communication technology (ICT) solutions as viable and sustainable substitutes for paper, without any significant decrease in the quality of the information provided to event participants or to ITU staff in the course of their day-to-day work.
- 9) Reducing to the absolute minimum necessary the printing and distribution of ITU promotional/non-revenue generating publications.
- 10) Implementation of practicable measures for making savings in the provision of interpretation and the translation of ITU documents, including minimizing the length of documents, and in the preparation of publications for events of all kinds and at all levels, without prejudice to the goals of Resolution 154 (Rev. Dubai, 2018) of the Plenipotentiary Conference, as well as through optimization of resource usage in the language services, including the use of alternative translation procedures, while maintaining translation quality and the accuracy of telecommunication/ICT terminology.

- 11) Increasing the efficiency of World Summit on the Information Society (WSIS) programme activities and activities aimed at achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals, consistent with the financial plan and the biennial budget and, as appropriate, through cost recovery and voluntary contributions. Participation by the regional offices, in collaboration with other United Nations agencies, in WSIS activities being carried out at the regional level.
- 12) Optimization of the number and duration of meetings, and holding such meetings with the aid of ICT capabilities. Reduction of the number of groups to the minimum necessary through their restructuring and/or termination of their work in the absence of any outcomes and/or where there is duplication of activities, while avoiding any risk, in particular, of failure to fulfil the strategic and operational goals and objectives of the Union.
- 13) Regular assessment of the level of achievement of the strategic goals, objectives and outputs with a view to increasing efficiency through budget reallocation, when necessary.
- 14) For new activities or those having additional financial resource implications, a "value-added" assessment shall be made and implemented in order to improve efficiency and to avoid overlap and duplication.
- 15) Sound consideration of the size of, location of and resources allocated to regional initiatives, outputs and assistance to members, the regional presence both in the regions and at headquarters, as well as those actions resulting from the outcome of the World Telecommunication Development Conference and the Buenos Aires Action Plan, and financed directly as activities from the Sector budget.
- 16) Reduction of the cost of travel on duty, by developing and implementing criteria in order to reduce travel costs. The criteria should consider and aim at minimizing business travel, as far as possible, by prioritizing the allocation of staff from the regional and area offices, by limiting time on mission, through joint representation in meetings, and by rationalizing the number of staff sent on mission from various departments/divisions of the General Secretariat and the three Bureaux.

- 17) Appeals to Member States to reduce to the minimum necessary the number of issues raised and the time devoted to their consideration at all conferences, assemblies and other meetings.
- 18) Continued implementation by the Union of the comprehensive plan to improve the stability and predictability of the financial base of the Union, mobilizing the necessary resources and, *inter alia*, improving the management of internal corporate projects requiring significant long-term investments.
- 19) Member States, Sector Members and other ITU members taking all possible measures to settle/eliminate arrears to the Union.
- 20) Optimization of expenses related to maintenance, routine repair and renovation/reconstruction of the ITU buildings and facilities and to the provision of safety in accordance with applicable United Nations system standards.
- 21) Increased use of virtual meetings and remote participation in physical meetings in order to reduce and/or eliminate travel to meetings the proceedings of which are webcast and, preferably, captioned, including remote presentation of documents and contributions.
- 22) Introduction of innovative cross-cutting means and working methods for improving the Union's productivity.
- 23) Discontinuing to the greatest extent possible communications by fax and traditional postal mail between the Union and Member States, and replacing them with modern electronic communication methods.
- 24) Continuing the efforts to simplify, harmonize or eliminate, as appropriate, internal administrative processes, for subsequent digitization and automation.
- 25) Consideration of further sharing of some common services with other United Nations organizations, and implementation of such sharing where beneficial.

- 26) Appeals to Member States, to the extent possible, with the support of the secretariat, to include in their proposals to ITU conferences an annex with relevant information in order to allow the Secretary-General/Directors of the Bureaux to identify the probable financial implications of such proposals.
- 27) Any additional measures adopted by the Council and the ITU management, including measures to increase the efficiency of the internal audit function, institutionalize evaluation functions, assess and minimize the risk of fraud and other risks, implement external auditor, Independent Management Advisory Committee and Joint Inspection Unit recommendations in a timely manner, and implement the information technology and information management strategy.

DECISION 11 (REV. DUBAI, 2018)

Creation and management of Council working groups

The Plenipotentiary Conference of the International Telecommunication Union (Dubai, 2018),

considering

- a) that the purposes of the Union are set out in Article 1 of the ITU Constitution;
- b) that Article 7 of the Constitution states that the ITU Council acts on behalf of the Plenipotentiary Conference;
- c) that Article 10 of the Constitution states that, in the interval between plenipotentiary conferences, the Council shall act, as governing body of the Union, on behalf of the Plenipotentiary Conference within the limits of the powers delegated to it by the latter;
- d) that Resolution 71 (Rev. Dubai, 2018) of this conference, on the strategic plan for the Union for 2020-2023, identifies key issues, goals, strategies and priorities for the Union as a whole, for each of the Sectors and for the General Secretariat;
- e) that Annex 2 to Decision 5 (Rev. Dubai, 2018) of this conference, on options for reducing expenses, includes, *inter alia*, reduction of the number of Council working groups (CWGs) to the absolute minimum necessary and reduction, to the extent possible, of the number and duration of physical meetings of CWGs;
- f) that the Council adopted at its 2015 session Decision 584, on the creation and management of CWGs, and at its 2016 session Resolution 1333 (Rev. 2016), on guiding principles for the creation, management and termination of CWGs;
- g) Resolution 70 (Rev. Dubai, 2018) of this conference, on gender mainstreaming in ITU and promotion of gender equality and the empowerment of women through information and communication technologies,

considering further

- a) that the current Council and CWG schedule has caused considerable strain on Member State and Sector Member resources;
- b) the growing demands placed on the activities of the Union and the limited resources available from Member States and Sector Members;
- c) that there is an urgent need to seek innovative ways to rationalize internal costs, optimize resources and improve efficiency,

recognizing

that the Council has consistently appointed competent and qualified candidates for the leadership of CWGs, but that there remains a need to promote and enhance equitable geographical distribution and gender balance,

decides

- 1 that the decision to create, continue or terminate CWGs is taken by the Plenipotentiary Conference or by the Council, as appropriate;
- 2 that the Council shall decide to create CWGs based on decisions of the Plenipotentiary Conference and/or key issues, goals, strategies and priorities identified in Resolution 71 (Rev. Dubai, 2018)¹;
- 3 that the Council shall decide the CWG mandates and working procedures consistent with the Rules of Procedure of the Council;
- 4 that the Council shall examine CWG activities, including progress on the implementation of their mandates, taking into account the decisions of the Plenipotentiary Conference;
- 5 that, based on the results of the review carried out in accordance with *decides* 4 above, the Council shall:
 - maintain, terminate or establish CWGs; and
 - modify or establish the terms of reference (ToRs) of CWGs,
 as appropriate, and in accordance with relevant decisions of the Plenipotentiary Conference, as applicable;

¹ Taking into account the decisions of the Plenipotentiary Conference.

6 that the Council shall decide the leadership of CWGs, taking into account *recognizing* above, with a view to promoting and enhancing, *inter alia*, equitable geographical distribution and gender balance;

7 that the Council, when creating a CWG and defining the ToRs in line with *decides* 3 above, shall avoid duplication of activities among CWGs, as well as between CWGs and study groups and other groups of the ITU Sectors;

8 that the term of office of CWG chairmen and vice-chairmen shall not exceed the interval between consecutive plenipotentiary conferences, that a period in office in one CWG does not count towards a period in office in another CWG, and that steps shall be taken to provide some continuity between CWG chairmen and vice-chairmen;

9 that if a CWG chairman is unable to remain in office, a new chairman shall, as a rule, be appointed from among the current vice-chairmen of that CWG, in which case the "partial" term of office shall not be taken into account in any appointment for the subsequent term;

10 that, to the extent possible, the Council shall merge existing CWGs with a view to reducing their number and the number and duration of their meetings, and with the aim of avoiding duplication of effort, and minimizing budgetary impacts;

11 that, to the extent possible, the Council shall integrate CWG meetings into the agenda and time allocation of the annual sessions of the Council;

12 that, if it is not possible to fulfil *decides* 11 above, the meetings of various CWGs shall be collocated in order to hold them in sequence or back to back in a cluster;

13 that the Council, at its ordinary session before the plenipotentiary conference, shall consider the four-year reports of CWGs and submit recommendations to the plenipotentiary conference on the need to maintain, modify, terminate or establish CWGs for the next period.

**PART II – DECISION ABROGATED BY THE
PLENIPOTENTIARY CONFERENCE (DUBAI, 2018)**

DECISION 13 (BUSAN, 2014)

Monitoring mechanism on ITU programmes and projects

PART III – RESOLUTIONS

RESOLUTION 2 (REV. DUBAI, 2018)

World telecommunication/information and communication technology policy forum

The Plenipotentiary Conference of the International Telecommunication Union (Dubai, 2018),

considering

- a) relevant resolutions of the United Nations General Assembly (UNGA);
- b) the WSIS+10 statement on the implementation of World Summit on the Information Society (WSIS) outcomes and vision for WSIS beyond 2015, which were adopted at the ITU coordinated WSIS+10 High-Level Event (Geneva, 2014), based on the Multistakeholder Preparatory Platform (MPP) process, together with other United Nations agencies and inclusive of all WSIS Stakeholders, were endorsed by the Plenipotentiary Conference (Busan, 2014) and were submitted to the UNGA overall review;
- c) Resolution 77 (Rev. Dubai, 2018) of this conference;
- d) that the telecommunication environment has undergone 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;
- e) that restructuring of the telecommunication sector, especially the separation of regulatory and operating functions, the liberalization of services and the continuing appearance of new regulatory players, is possible in the majority of ITU Member States;
- f) that new and rapidly developing and emerging telecommunication/information and communication technologies (ICTs) and services hold incredible promise for the advancement of human welfare;
- g) that there remains a pressing need for a global framework to exchange information on telecommunication and ICT strategies and policies;

h) that national telecommunication/ICT 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;

i) the important contributions provided by Member States and Sector Members to previous world telecommunication/ICT policy forums (WTPF), and the results achieved by those forums,

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/ICTs 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 Member States and Sector Members in the attainment of those ends (cf. the WSIS outcomes);

b) that ITU remains uniquely positioned and is the single forum for the coordination of, exchange of information on, discussion of and harmonization of national, regional and international telecommunication/ICT strategies and policies;

c) that WTPF, which was established by the Plenipotentiary Conference (Kyoto, 1994) and successfully convened in 1996, 1998, 2001, 2009 and 2013, has provided a venue for discussion of global and cross-sectoral issues by high-level participants, thus contributing to the advance of world telecommunications, as well as to the establishment of procedures for the conduct of the forum itself;

d) that WTPF-13 held in Geneva, Switzerland, was a successful edition of these forums, attended by 126 ITU Member States and no fewer than 900 delegates,

emphasizing

a) that Member States and Sector Members, realizing the need for constant review of their own telecommunication/ICT policies and legislation, and for coordination in the rapidly changing telecommunication/ICT environment, adopted WTPF as a mechanism for discussing strategies and policies;

- b) that it is necessary for the Union, as an international organization playing a leading and unique role in the field of telecommunications/ICTs, to continue organizing WTPF to facilitate the exchange of information by high-level participants on telecommunication/ICT policies;
- c) that the purpose of WTPF is to provide a venue for exchanging views and information and thereby creating a shared vision among policy-makers worldwide on the issues arising from the emergence of new telecommunication/ICT services and technologies, and to consider any other policy issue in telecommunications/ICTs which would benefit from a global exchange of views, in addition to the adoption of opinions reflecting common viewpoints;
- d) that WTPF should continue to give special attention to the interests and needs of the developing countries¹, where modern technologies and services can contribute significantly to telecommunication infrastructure development;
- e) the continuing need for allowing adequate preparation time for WTPF;
- f) the importance of regional preparation and consultation prior to convening WTPF;
- g) that the discussion of issues relating to emerging telecommunication/ICT services and technologies benefits from the participation of all interested stakeholders, in their respective roles,

resolves

- 1 to hold WTPF preferably back to back with the WSIS Forum 2021, taking account of the need to ensure adequate preparation by Member States;

¹ These include the least developed countries, small island developing states, landlocked developing countries and countries with economies in transition.

- 2 that WTPF, as established by Resolution 2 (Kyoto, 1994) of the Plenipotentiary Conference, shall be maintained, in order to continue discussing and exchanging views and information on telecommunication/ICT policy and regulatory matters, especially on global and cross-sectoral issues;
- 3 that WTPF shall not produce prescriptive regulatory outcomes; however, it shall prepare reports and adopt opinions by consensus for consideration by Member States, Sector Members and relevant ITU meetings;
- 4 that WTPF shall be open to all Member States and Sector Members; however, if appropriate, by decision of a majority of the representatives of Member States, a special session may be held for Member States only;
- 5 that WTPF shall be convened on an ad hoc basis to respond quickly to emerging policy issues arising from the changing telecommunication/ICT environment, taking into account the past practices followed and experience acquired by ITU in the holding of previous WTPFs;
- 6 that WTPF should be convened within existing budgetary resources and, as far as possible, in conjunction with one of the meetings or forums of the Union in order to minimize the impact on the budget of the Union;
- 7 that the ITU Council shall continue to decide on the duration and the date, allowing ample time for preparations, and on the venue, the agenda and the themes of WTPF;
- 8 that the agenda and themes shall continue to 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, taking into account the past practices followed and experience acquired by ITU, including in respect of the preparatory process, in the holding of previous WTPFs;

9 that, in order to ensure that they are well focused, discussions at WTPF shall be based solely on a single report by the Secretary-General, and contributions from participants based on that report, prepared in accordance with a procedure adopted by the Council and based on the proposals of Member States and Sector Members, and on the views of Associates, Academia and stakeholders, and WTPF shall not consider drafts of any new Opinions that were not presented during the preparatory period foreseen for drawing up the Secretary-General's report prior to the forum;

10 that broad participation in WTPF and operational efficiency during the forum shall be facilitated,

instructs the Secretary-General

to make the necessary preparations for convening WTPF based on *resolves* above,

instructs the ITU Council

1 to continue to decide on the duration, date, venue, agenda and themes of any future WTPF;

2 to adopt a procedure for preparation of the report by the Secretary-General referred to in *resolves* 8 above;

3 that the procedure referred to in *instructs the ITU Council* 2 should include, as appropriate, participation open to all Member States and Sector Members, and online public consultations open to all interested stakeholders, taking into account the past practices followed and experience acquired by ITU, including in respect of the preparatory process, in the holding of previous WTPFs;

further instructs the ITU Council

to submit to the next plenipotentiary conference a report on WTPF for any necessary action.

RESOLUTION 11 (REV. DUBAI, 2018)

ITU Telecom events

The Plenipotentiary Conference of the International Telecommunication Union (Dubai, 2018),

considering

a) that the purposes of the Union, as reflected in Article 1 of the ITU Constitution, include to promote the extension of the benefits of the new telecommunication technologies to all the world's inhabitants and to harmonize the actions of Member States and Sector Members in the attainment of those ends;

b) 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 adapted to their needs;

c) that annually, in addition to a wide range of national, regional and global exhibitions and conferences on telecommunications/information and communication technologies (ICTs) hosted by numerous organizations, ITU also hosts a number of global and regional events consistent with the aims of the strategic and financial plans of the Union and taking account of ITU's efficiency measures, to promote the development and advancement of telecommunications/ICTs;

d) that the need for a global framework to exchange information on telecommunication strategies, policies, new technologies and future trends has been evident for many years;

e) that ITU Telecom events fulfil the mandate to keep Member States and Sector Members informed of, and offer a universal opportunity for the display of, state-of-the-art technology concerning all aspects of telecommunications/ICT and related fields of activity, and provide a forum for the exchange of views between Member States and industry;

f) that recent ITU Telecom events have proved successful in elevating the role of small and medium enterprises (SMEs) in the development and advancement of world-class solutions, applications and technologies, and ITU must continue to enhance the participation of SMEs and ensure that SMEs continue to be a key focus area at all its future events as far as practically possible,

emphasizing

a) that it is necessary for the Union, as an international organization playing a leading role in the field of telecommunications/ICT, to continue organizing an annual event, subject to a strategic and financial review, to facilitate the exchange of information on state-of-the-art technologies, strategies and policies;

b) that the small-business sector within the ICT sector is uniquely positioned to create the desired job numbers and job opportunities most likely to reduce the high numbers of unemployed generally, and of unemployed youth and women in particular, across the world,

noting

a) that after consultation with Member States in 2014, and acknowledging the vital role of SMEs in advancing ICT innovation and growth, the ITU Telecom events have moved towards providing an international platform to foster the development and highlight the solutions of ICT SMEs;

b) that ITU Telecom events continue to face challenges, such as the increasing costs of exhibits and the trend towards reducing their size, the specialization of their scope and the need to provide value to industry;

c) that ITU Telecom needs to continue its transition to becoming an international platform providing services for ICT SMEs and provide value and opportunities for participants to earn a reasonable return on their investments,

noting further

- a) that participants, and in particular industry members, are seeking reasonable predictability of time and place of ITU Telecom events and opportunities;
- b) that there is increased interest in further developing the ITU Telecom events as a key platform for strategic networking, showcasing innovative ICT applications and services, and discussions among policy-makers, regulators, industry leaders and SMEs;
- c) that there are requests for more competitive raw space costs and participation fees, preferential or discounted hotel prices and adequate numbers of hotel rooms and options, in order to make the events more accessible and affordable, particularly to SMEs and techno-startups;
- d) that financial difficulties are the main limitation for developing countries¹ to participate in ITU events in general, and ITU Telecom events in particular, where the price for some types of entry pass is high;
- e) that since the ITU Telecom event was repositioned in 2015, the event has moved towards becoming the international platform providing services for ICT SMEs, and the ITU Telecom brand should be reinforced by appropriate means of communication in order to develop further towards being one of the most respected telecommunication/ICT events;
- f) that there is a need to ensure the financial viability of ITU Telecom events, including through consideration of their impact on the limited resources of the ITU secretariat;

¹ These include the least developed countries, small island developing states, landlocked developing countries and countries with economies in transition.

g) that there is general support for keeping the ITU Telecom events as an ITU platform to address the strategic issues emerging from market development, and an increasing call to consolidate this platform as the major venue for other ITU activities,

resolves

1 that the Union should, in collaboration with its Member States and its Sector Members, organize ITU Telecom events related to issues of major importance in the current telecommunication/ICT environment and addressing market trends, technological development and regulatory issues, including SMEs and their role in the ICT ecosystem;

2 that the Union should initiate a process to organize the 2020, 2021 and 2022 ITU Telecom events in advance of the 2019 session of the ITU Council;

3 that the Union shall hire an independent external management consultancy to perform a comprehensive strategic and financial assessment and review of ITU Telecom events, considering contributions from the ITU membership, and submit a report with recommendations and various strategies at the 2020 session of the Council for action;

4 that the terms of reference, based on the contributions made by the ITU membership, for hiring the independent external management consultancy shall be submitted to the Council Working Group on financial and human resources for approval, and the expenses for hiring the consultancy shall be covered by the Exhibition Working Capital Fund (EWCF);

5 that the Secretary-General is fully accountable for ITU Telecom activities (including planning, organization and finance);

6 that ITU Telecom events should be organized on a predictable and regular basis, preferably at the same time each year, taking due account of the need to ensure that the expectations of all participating stakeholders in such events are met, and, in addition, to ensure that they do not overlap with any major ITU conferences or assemblies;

- 7 that each ITU Telecom event shall be financially viable and shall have no negative impact on the ITU budget on the basis of the existing cost-allocation system as determined by the Council;
- 8 that the Union, in its venue selection process for ITU Telecom events, shall ensure:
- 8.1 an open and transparent bidding process, based on the model host-country agreement approved by the 2016 session of the Council, in consultation with Member States;
 - 8.2 accessibility and affordability of passes for participants, especially from developing countries, to join ITU Telecom forums;
 - 8.3 the generation of profit from ITU Telecom events;
 - 8.4 that selection of venues for ITU Telecom events is based on the principle of rotation between regions, and between Member States within regions to the extent possible; notwithstanding, due consideration may be given to Member States which propose to host the event for a number of consecutive years if this is considered by the Secretary-General to be in the interests of ITU and its membership;
- 9 that the audit of ITU Telecom accounts shall be carried out by the External Auditor of the Union;
- 10 that the EWCF shall provide a minimum reserve of 5 million Swiss francs (CHF 5 000 000);
- 11 that, once all expenses have been recovered, and having due regard to *resolves* 10 above, a significant part of any generated profit derived from ITU Telecom activities shall be transferred to ITU's ICT Development Fund (ICT-DF);
- 12 that the Union should, in collaboration with its Member States and Sector Members, consciously increase the participation of SMEs in ITU events by scheduling issues of importance to SMEs throughout the events' programmes and enabling SMEs to speak on the regulatory and bureaucratic issues as they affect them,

instructs the Secretary-General

- 1 to ensure the implementation of *resolves* 2, 3 and 4 above, applying the ITU procurement policy, and in particular to hire an independent external management consultancy, pursuant to *resolves* 3, by 1 April 2019 using funds from the EWCF;
- 2 to ensure the appropriate management of ITU Telecom events and resources, in line with the regulations of the Union;
- 3 to consider measures that will enable and assist Member States which are capable and willing to do so, particularly developing countries, to host and stage ITU Telecom events;
- 4 to develop a business plan for each proposed event;
- 5 to ensure the transparency of ITU Telecom events and report on them in a separate annual report to the Council, including:
 - all ITU Telecom business activities;
 - the reasons for the selection of venues for future ITU Telecom events;
 - financial implications and risks for future ITU Telecom events, preferably two years in advance;
- 6 to continue to develop initiatives to encourage, grow and foster the participation of SMEs and all other stakeholders within the context of the ITU Telecom platform, in particular in the events' forums, and to identify opportunities to hold other ITU activities/meetings/events under the ITU Telecom umbrella;
- 7 to propose to the Council a mechanism to implement *resolves* 8;
- 8 to ensure that ITU Telecom events do not overlap with any major ITU conferences or assemblies: the determination of the venue shall be based on competitive selection, and the contract negotiation shall be based on the model host-country agreement approved by the Council;

9 to ensure that, if an ITU Telecom event is held in the same year as a plenipotentiary conference, the ITU Telecom event should preferably take place no later than the plenipotentiary conference;

10 to ensure that there is internal control and that internal and external audits of the accounts for the different ITU Telecom events are carried out on regular basis;

11 to report annually to the Council on the implementation of this resolution, and to the next plenipotentiary conference on the future evolution of the ITU Telecom events,

instructs the Secretary-General, in cooperation with the Directors of the Bureaux

to give due consideration, in planning ITU Telecom events, to the possible synergies with the major ITU conferences and meetings, and vice versa, where justified,

instructs the ITU Council

1 to review the annual report on ITU Telecom events described under *instructs the Secretary-General 5*;

2 to review and approve the allocation of part of the profit generated by ITU Telecom events to development projects within the framework of the ICT-DF;

3 based on *resolves 3* above, to instruct the independent external management consultancy to develop a redesigned ITU Telecom programme and submit it to the 2021 session of the Council for action;

4 to submit a report based on the implementation of *resolves 3, 4 and 5* to the 2022 plenipotentiary conference.

RESOLUTION 21 (REV. DUBAI, 2018)

Measures concerning alternative calling procedures on international telecommunication networks

The Plenipotentiary Conference of the International Telecommunication Union (Dubai, 2018),

recognizing

- a)* Resolution 20 (Rev. Hammamet, 2016) of the World Telecommunication Standardization Assembly (WTSA), on procedures for allocation and management of international telecommunication numbering, naming, addressing and identification (NNAI) resources;
- b)* Resolution 29 (Rev. Hammamet, 2016) of WTSA, on alternative calling procedures on international telecommunication networks;
- c)* Resolution 22 (Rev. Buenos Aires, 2017) of the World Telecommunication Development Conference, on alternative calling procedures on international telecommunication networks, identification of origin and apportionment of revenues in providing international telecommunication services;
- d)* Resolution 65 (Rev. Hammamet, 2016) of WTSA, on calling party number delivery, calling line identification and origin identification;
- e)* that each Member State has the sovereign right to allow or prohibit certain forms of alternative calling procedures in order to address their impact on its national telecommunication networks;
- f)* the interests of developing countries¹;
- g)* the interests of consumers and users of telecommunication services;

¹ These include the least developed countries, small island developing states, landlocked developing countries and countries with economies in transition.

- h) the need of some Member States to identify the origin of calls, taking into account the relevant ITU recommendations;
- i) that some forms of alternative calling procedures may have an impact on quality of service (QoS), quality of experience (QoE) and the performance of telecommunication networks;
- j) the benefits of competition in delivering lower costs and choice to consumers;
- k) that there are a myriad of different stakeholders impacted by alternative calling procedures;
- l) that the understanding of what is an alternative calling procedure has evolved over time,

considering

- a) that the use of some alternative calling procedures may adversely affect the economies of developing countries and may seriously hamper the efforts made by those countries to ensure the sound development of their telecommunication/information and communication technology networks and services;
- b) that some forms of alternative calling procedures may have an impact on traffic management, network planning and the quality and performance of telecommunication networks;
- c) that the use of certain alternative calling procedures that are not harmful to networks may contribute to competition in the interests of consumers;
- d) that some alternative calling procedures may have an impact on consumers;
- e) that a number of relevant ITU Telecommunication Standardization Sector (ITU-T) recommendations, particularly those of ITU-T Study Groups 2 and 3, address, from several points of view, including technical and financial, the effects of alternative calling procedures on the performance and development of telecommunication networks,

aware

- a) that ITU-T has concluded that certain alternative calling procedures such as constant calling (or bombardment or polling) and answer suppression seriously degrade the quality and the performance of the telecommunication networks;
- b) that appropriate ITU-T study groups and ITU Telecommunication Development Sector (ITU-D) study groups are cooperating on issues related to alternative calling procedures and telecommunication origin identification,

resolves

- 1 to continue work to identify and describe all forms of alternative calling procedures and assess their impact on all parties, in order to review or develop as needed relevant ITU-T recommendations to address any negative effects that alternative calling procedures have on all parties;
- 2 to encourage administrations and operating agencies authorized by Member States to take the appropriate measures to provide an acceptable level of QoS and QoE, to ensure the delivery of international calling line identification (CLI) and origin identification (OI) information, wherever possible, and consistent with national law, and to ensure the appropriate charging taking into account the relevant ITU recommendations;
- 3 to develop guidelines for administrations and operating agencies authorized by Member States on the measures that can be considered, within the constraints of their national laws, to address the impact of alternative calling procedures;
- 4 to request the appropriate ITU-T study groups, particularly Study Groups 2 and 3, and ITU-D Study Group 1, through contributions of Member States and Sector Members, to continue to study, within their respective mandates:
 - i) alternative calling procedures, based on *resolves* 1, in order to update or develop as needed relevant ITU-T recommendations;

- ii) issues related to OI and CLI, in order to take into account the importance of these studies as they relate to next-generation networks and network degradation;
- 5 to encourage ITU-T Study Group 12 to develop guidelines regarding minimum QoS and QoE in accordance with its mandate,

instructs the Directors of the Telecommunication Development Bureau and the Telecommunication Standardization Bureau

- 1 to collaborate on further studies, based on contributions from Member States, Sector Members and other members, in order to evaluate the effects of alternative calling procedures on consumers, the effect on countries with economies in transition, developing countries and especially least developed countries, for sound development of their local telecommunication networks and services in respect of originating and terminating calls using alternative calling procedures;
- 2 to develop guidelines for Member States and Sector Members with regard to all aspects of alternative calling procedures, based on *resolves* 1, 4 and 5 above;
- 3 to evaluate the effectiveness of the suggested guidelines for consultation on alternative calling procedures;
- 4 to collaborate so as to avoid overlap and duplication of effort in studying issues related to different forms of alternative calling procedures,

invites Member States

- 1 to encourage their administrations and operating agencies authorized by Member States to implement the ITU-T recommendations referred to in *considering e)* in order to limit the negative effects that, in some cases, certain types of alternative calling procedures have on developing countries, as well as the impact on consumers;

- 2 which permit the use of alternative calling procedures on their territory in accordance with their national regulations to pay due regard to the decisions of other administrations and operating agencies authorized by Member States whose regulations do not permit such alternative calling procedures;
- 3 to cooperate to resolve difficulties in order to ensure that national laws and regulations of ITU Member States are respected;
- 4 to consider national legal and regulatory frameworks that support alternative calling procedures which aim to maintain acceptable levels of QoS and QoE that consumers may choose, and to ensure the delivery of international CLI and OI information, at least to the destination operating agency, to the furthest extent practicable;
- 5 to contribute to this work,

invites Sector Members

- 1 in their international operations, to pay due regard to the decisions of other administrations whose regulations do not permit such alternative calling procedures;
- 2 to contribute to this work.

RESOLUTION 25 (REV. DUBAI, 2018)

Strengthening the regional presence

The Plenipotentiary Conference of the International Telecommunication Union (Dubai, 2018),

considering

- a) the benefits to the population of telecommunications/information and communication technologies (ICTs) and the need to promote their greater availability in developing countries¹;
- b) that the development of national and regional telecommunication/ICT infrastructures assists in narrowing the national and global digital divides;
- c) the commitment of the ITU Member States to promoting access to telecommunications/ICTs at affordable prices, with special attention to the most disadvantaged, and to remote and hard-to-reach areas,

bearing in mind

- a) Article 1 of the ITU Constitution on the purposes of the Union, which include 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 its implementation, as well as access to information;
- b) Resolution 123 (Rev. Dubai, 2018) of this conference, on bridging the standardization gap between developing and developed countries;
- c) Resolution 5 (Rev. Buenos Aires, 2017) of the World Telecommunication Development Conference (WTDC), on enhanced participation by developing countries in the activities of the Union;

¹ These include the least developed countries, small island developing states, landlocked developing countries and countries with economies in transition.

- d) Resolution ITU-R 48-2 (Rev. Geneva, 2015) of the Radiocommunication Assembly (RA), on strengthening the regional presence in the radiocommunication study group work;
- e) Resolution 44 (Rev. Hammamet, 2016) of the World Telecommunication Standardization Assembly (WTSA), on bridging the standardization gap between developing and developed countries;
- f) that, as stipulated in Article 5 of the ITU Convention, the Secretary-General shall coordinate the activities of the General Secretariat and the Sectors of the Union, taking into account the views of the Coordination Committee, with a view to assuring the most effective and economical use of the resources of the Union;
- g) Resolution 59 (Rev. Buenos Aires, 2017) of WTDC, on strengthening coordination and cooperation among the three ITU Sectors on matters of mutual interest;
- h) Resolution ITU-R 7-3 (Rev. Geneva, 2015) of RA, on telecommunication development including liaison and collaboration with the ITU Telecommunication Development Sector (ITU-D);
- i) Resolution 18 (Rev. Hammamet, 2016) of WTSA, on principles and procedures for the allocation of work to, and strengthening coordination and cooperation among, the ITU Radiocommunication Sector (ITU-R), the ITU Telecommunication Standardization Sector (ITU-T) and ITU-D;
- j) the 2009 United Nations Joint Inspection Unit (JIU) report, which made a number of recommendations on ways to improve the ITU regional presence;
- k) the 2012 JIU report, in particular its recommendation 12, which recommends that the 2018 plenipotentiary conference should ensure that the role of the regional presence in achieving "One ITU" is mainstreamed in the strategic plan of the Union, and that the ITU Council should ensure that this role is appropriately cascaded down into the operational plans of each Sector;
- l) the 2016 JIU report, which made a recommendation relating to the regional presence and noted that recommendations from its 2009 report remained relevant,

noting with appreciation

- a) Resolution 70/1 of the United Nations General Assembly (UNGA), on transforming our world: the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development;
- b) UNGA Resolution 71/243, on the quadrennial comprehensive policy review of operational activities for development of the United Nations system;
- c) UNGA Resolution 72/279, on repositioning of the United Nations development system in the context of the quadrennial comprehensive policy review so as to better position the United Nations operational activities for development to support countries in their efforts to implement the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development;
- d) that the Inter-Sectoral Coordination Task Force (ISC-TF) led by ITU Deputy Secretary-General was established to enhance coordination and collaboration among the three Bureaux and the General Secretariat, with a view to avoiding internal duplication of effort and optimizing the use of resources;
- e) the Inter-Sector Coordination Team on issues of mutual interest,

recognizing

- a) the difficulty faced by many countries, particularly developing countries with stringent budgetary constraints, in participating in the activities of ITU;
- b) that regional offices are an extension of ITU as a whole;
- c) that ITU's capacity to hold electronic meetings as provided for by Resolution 167 (Rev. Dubai, 2018) of this conference contributes to reinforcing the effectiveness of the Union's activities, including project implementation as set forth in Resolution 157 (Rev. Dubai, 2018) of this conference,

convinced

- a) that the regional presence is a tool that enables ITU to work as closely as possible with its membership, serving as a channel for disseminating information on its activities, developing closer ties with regional and subregional organizations and providing technical assistance to countries in special need;
- b) the importance of collaboration between the Radiocommunication Bureau (BR), the Telecommunication Standardization Bureau (TSB), the Telecommunication Development Bureau (BDT) and the General Secretariat in order to promote and improve the work of the regional offices;
- c) that the regional and area offices enable ITU to be more aware of and more responsive to the priorities and specific needs of the regions;
- d) that resources are limited, and that efficiency and effectiveness are therefore key considerations for activities to be undertaken by ITU, as well as of the need to consolidate the technical expertise and knowledge of the human resources assigned to regional and area offices, to represent the three ITU Sectors;
- e) that, to be effective, the regional presence must have the necessary level of authority to meet the diverse requirements of the membership;
- f) that adequate online access between headquarters and the field offices significantly enhances technical cooperation activities;
- g) that all regional offices should have access to the same relevant electronic information available at headquarters, in order to be able to keep the countries of the region informed;
- h) that full engagement and commitment from the regional and area offices is fundamental for the successful implementation of the strategic plan for the Union, the operational plans of the three Sectors and General Secretariat, and the Buenos Aires Action Plan,

noting

- a) that the role of the ITU regional offices is to assist countries in the regions in many areas such as executing and following up projects, including ones related to the regional initiatives, bridging the standardization gap, capacity building related to frequency management, updating the regions on ITU activities and strengthening collaboration with the regional telecommunication organizations;
- b) that both the Plenipotentiary Conference and the Council have endorsed the principle that regional and area offices should be entrusted with clear and specific functions;
- c) that there should be greater cooperation and coordination among the three Bureaux and the General Secretariat in order to encourage participation by the regional offices in their respective spheres;
- d) that there is a need for ongoing evaluation of the resourcing requirement, including staff, for regional and area offices to deliver on their agreed mandates,

noting also

that regional and area offices represent the presence of the entire Union, that their activities should be linked to ITU headquarters and should reflect the coordinated objectives of all three Sectors and the General Secretariat, and that regional activities should enhance the effective participation of all members in ITU work,

resolves

- 1 to strengthen the functions of the regional offices so that they can play a part in implementation of the ITU strategic plan, programmes and projects, and the regional initiatives set out in Resolution 17 (Rev. Buenos Aires, 2017) of WTDC, within the available resources, including those allocated by the financial plan and from other relevant sources such as voluntary contributions;

- 2 that regional offices play a key role in facilitating discussions on regional matters and the dissemination of information and results of activities of all three Sectors of the Union and the General Secretariat, while avoiding the duplication of such functions with headquarters, and collaborating with the regional telecommunication organizations to avoid duplication of activities and efforts;
- 3 that the regional and area offices shall be empowered to make decisions within their mandate, while the coordination functions and the balance between ITU headquarters and the regional and area offices should be facilitated and improved;
- 4 that the regional and area offices should contribute, to the extent practicable, *inter alia*, to the annual four-year rolling operational plans of the General Secretariat and of the three Sectors, with content specific to each regional and area office, linked to the strategic plan for the Union for 2020-2023 and the Buenos Aires Action Plan, then set up and continue to publish the annual plan/events on the ITU website for implementation;
- 5 that regional and area offices shall actively engage in the implementation of the strategic plan for the Union for 2020-2023, in particular with respect to the four strategic goals, all sectoral and inter-Sectoral objectives and following up on the accomplishment of the strategic targets;
- 6 that regional and area offices shall actively engage in the implementation of the Buenos Aires Action Plan, in particular with respect to the four objectives and their respective outcomes, the outputs and the regional initiatives;
- 7 that the regional and area offices shall actively engage in the realization of the outcomes, indicators and key performance indicators as identified by the Buenos Aires Action Plan and by the Telecommunication Development Advisory Group;

8 that cooperation between the ITU regional and area offices, relevant regional organizations and other international organizations dealing with development and financial matters should continue to be improved, in the interests of optimizing the use of resources and avoiding duplication, and that Member States should be kept updated, through BDT, where necessary, in order to ensure that their needs are being met in a coordinated and consultative fashion;

9 that the regional offices shall be fully involved in the organization of all ITU events/meetings/conferences, in close collaboration with the General Secretariat, the relevant Bureau(x) and the regional organizations, taking into consideration the priorities identified by the membership in the regions, in order to increase efficiency in the coordination of such events, avoid duplication of events/topics and derive benefit from synergy between the Bureaux and regional offices;

10 that, for the effective performance of their duties, regional offices must have sufficient resources, within the resources allocated by the financial plan, including the technological platforms to hold electronic meetings and utilize electronic working methods, and also to disseminate relevant information through the various existing electronic tools to their respective Member States;

11 that the objectives and outcomes identified in the strategic plan for the Union for 2020-2023, along with the four-year rolling operational plans of the General Secretariat and the three Sectors and the review criteria identified in annex to this resolution, shall be used to review the regional presence, and, where regional and area offices do not meet the agreed review criteria, the Council should assess the reasons and take the necessary corrective actions that it considers appropriate, in consultation with the countries concerned;

12 that, to promote the participation of developing countries in ITU activities, delegates of any developing countries which have made input contributions to ITU events can be eligible for a fellowship if the related budget allows,

further resolves

- 1 to review the ITU regional presence in the light of the criteria contained in the annex to this resolution;
- 2 that regional offices shall regularly provide reports to the Sector advisory groups, as appropriate, and to inform the Directors of BR and TSB on regional activities related to their respective Sectors,

instructs the ITU Council

- 1 to include strengthening of the regional presence as an item on the agenda of each ordinary session of the Council in order to examine its evolution and adopt decisions for its continuing structural adaptation and operation, with the aim of fully implementing the mandate and the objectives of the strategic and financial plans of the Union through the coordination and complementary aspects of activities between ITU and regional and subregional telecommunication organizations;
- 2 to take into account the requirements of the Union's membership and give effect to the decisions adopted at conferences and assemblies of the Union;
- 3 to allocate the appropriate financial resources within the financial limits established by the Plenipotentiary Conference to implement this resolution;
- 4 to report to the next plenipotentiary conference on the progress made in implementing this resolution, taking into account the relevant JIU reports, among others;
- 5 to analyse the performance of regional and area offices based on the annual report of the Secretary-General, the results of the satisfaction survey conducted by the Secretary-General, the strategic plan for the Union for 2020-2023, the four-year rolling operational plans of the General Secretariat and the three Sectors and the evaluation criteria identified in the annex to this resolution, and to take appropriate measures and establish guidelines and recommendations for improving and strengthening the ITU regional presence;
- 6 to continue to consider further implementation of the recommendations from JIU reports relating to the regional presence;

7 to consider the outcomes of the review conducted by the Secretary-General and take appropriate action,

instructs the Secretary-General

1 to facilitate the task of the Council by providing all necessary support for strengthening the regional presence as described in this resolution;

2 to adapt, where necessary, the prevailing terms and conditions of host-country agreement(s) to the changing environment in the respective host country, after prior consultations with countries concerned and the representatives of the regional intergovernmental organizations of the affected countries;

3 to conduct an overall review on ITU regional presence, taking into consideration the elements contained in the annex to this resolution, and report to the 2020 session of the Council, including suggesting appropriate measures to ensure the continued effectiveness and efficiency of the ITU regional presence;

4 to submit each year to the Council a report on the regional presence containing, for each specific regional office, detailed information on how the goals and objectives identified in the strategic plan and the four-year rolling operational plans of the General Secretariat and the three Sectors are being delivered in the context of the results-based management framework; the report should include detailed information on:

- i) staffing, including number of staff members and category of employment;
- ii) finances, including budget allocated to the offices and expenses per objective and output, in accordance with the Buenos Aires Action Plan;
- iii) activities related to the three Sectors, outcomes of projects, including regional initiatives, events/meetings/conferences and regional preparatory meetings, and attraction of new Sector Members, in coordination with regional intergovernmental organizations;
- iv) fellowships awarded;

5 to conduct, once every four years, within the existing financial resources, a survey of the level of satisfaction of Member States, Sector Members and regional telecommunication organizations with ITU's regional presence, and to present the results in a report to the session of Council prior to each plenipotentiary conference;

6 to continue to engage with the United Nations, other United Nations development system entities and Member States with a view to supporting full implementation of UNGA Resolutions 71/243 and 72/279,

instructs the Secretary-General, in close consultation with the Directors of the three Bureaux

1 to ensure that all planned activities of the three Sectors and the General Secretariat in the regions are consolidated into the parts of the operational plans relating to the regions and implemented under the coordination of the regional offices;

2 to ensure that the annual operational plans of the regional offices are based on input from the respective regions prior to implementation;

3 to report annually on the implementation of all activities of the three Sectors and the General Secretariat in the regions under the coordination of the regional offices,

instructs the Director of the Telecommunication Development Bureau

1 to implement the following measures for further strengthening the regional presence:

- i) to strengthen the regional and area offices by identifying functions which could be decentralized and implementing them as soon as possible;
- ii) to strive to have in the regional offices staff who have expertise in each of the three Sectors;
- iii) to review the internal administrative procedures pertaining to the work of the regional offices, with a view to their simplification and transparency and enhancing work efficiency;

- iv) to assist countries in implementing the regional initiatives defined in the Buenos Aires Action Plan, in accordance with Resolution 17 (Rev. Buenos Aires, 2017);
- v) to establish clear procedures for consulting Member States, in order to prioritize the consolidated regional initiatives and keep Member States informed on project selection and funding;
- vi) to solicit specialized input from the regional and area offices to better inform decision-making and address the crucial needs of the ITU membership in the region;
- vii) to provide the regional and area offices with greater flexibility, including, but not limited to:
 - functions relating to the dissemination of information, provision of expert advice and hosting of meetings, courses and seminars, as well as availability of all electronic tools required to carry out these activities;
 - any functions and tasks that may be delegated to them relating to the preparation and implementation of their allocated budgets;
 - ensuring their effective participation in discussions on the future of the Union and on strategic issues concerning the telecommunication/ICT sector,

instructs the Director of the Telecommunication Development Bureau, in close consultation with the Secretary-General and the Directors of the Radiocommunication Bureau and the Telecommunication Standardization Bureau

- 1 to take the necessary measures to further strengthen the regional presence as an extension of ITU as whole, as well as measures to ensure that the activities of BR and TSB are effectively incorporated in the regional and area offices, as described in this resolution;
- 2 to support the review of the ITU's regional presence, taking into account the elements set out in annex to this resolution;

- 3 to review and determine the appropriate posts, including permanent posts, in regional and area offices, and strive to ensure that each region has at least one professional with skills and knowledge relevant to each of the three Sectors, reporting to the regional director, including by training existing staff, while hiring specialized staff on an as-needed basis to meet particular needs;
- 4 to fill in a timely manner vacant posts in the regional and area offices, where appropriate, planning staff availability and giving due consideration to the regional distribution of staff positions and the knowledge and the expertise in the three Sectors of the Union to the extent possible;
- 5 to ensure that the regional and area offices are given sufficient priority among the activities and programmes of the Union as a whole, and that, to supervise the implementation of funds-in-trust projects and projects financed from the ICT Development Fund, they have the required autonomy, the decision-making authority and the appropriate means;
- 6 to take the necessary measures to improve the exchange of information between headquarters and field offices;
- 7 to strengthen the human resource capabilities and provide the regional and area offices with a measure of flexibility in terms of the recruitment of professional staff as well as support staff,

instructs the Directors of the Radiocommunication Bureau and the Telecommunication Standardization Bureau

- 1 to continue coordinating with the Director of BDT in enhancing the ability of the regional and area offices to provide information on their Sectors' activities, as well as the necessary expertise, to strengthen cooperation and coordination with the relevant regional organizations and to facilitate the participation of all Member States and Sector Members in the activities of the three Sectors of the Union;
- 2 to provide Sectoral regional activities through regional offices.

ANNEX TO RESOLUTION 25 (REV. DUBAI, 2018)

Elements for review of the ITU regional presence

The review of ITU's regional presence takes into account: the functions assigned to its regional offices under Annex A: "Generic activities expected of the regional presence" of Resolution 1143 adopted by the ITU Council at its 1999 session, and in *resolves* 1 to 11 of Resolution 25 (Rev. Dubai, 2018) of the Plenipotentiary Conference; the recommendations of the United Nations Joint Inspection Unit reports referred to under *bearing in mind* and the development system reforms referred to under *notes with appreciation* in that resolution; and other pertinent decisions.

The review of the regional presence should take into account, but not be limited to, the following elements:

- a) the extent of fulfilment of the provisions of Resolution 25 (Rev. Dubai, 2018) by the Telecommunication Development Bureau, the General Secretariat and the other two Bureaux, as appropriate;
- b) how further decentralization could ensure greater efficiency at lower cost, taking into consideration accountability and transparency;
- c) the result of past surveys of the level of satisfaction of Member States, Sector Members and regional telecommunication organizations with ITU's regional presence;
- d) assistance for developing countries to participate in ITU activities;
- e) the extent of possible duplication between the functions of ITU headquarters and the regional offices;
- f) the extent of fulfilment of the provisions of Resolution 17 (Rev. Buenos Aires, 2017) of the World Telecommunication Development Conference;
- g) the degree of autonomy in decision-making currently accorded to regional offices, and whether greater autonomy could enhance their efficiency and effectiveness;

- h) the effectiveness of collaboration and coordination between the ITU regional offices, regional telecommunication organizations and other regional and international development and financial organizations;
- i) how regional presence and the organization of activities in the regions can enhance the effective participation of all countries in ITU work;
- j) the resources currently made available to the regional offices for reducing the digital divide;
- k) the optimal overall structure of the ITU regional presence, including the location and number of regional and area offices.

This review should be conducted with input from and in consultation with Member States and Sector Members, also seeking input from regional offices and regional and international organizations, as appropriate.

A report on this review should be submitted by the Secretary-General to the Council at its 2020 session for consideration and appropriate action.

RESOLUTION 30 (REV. DUBAI, 2018)

Special measures for the least developed countries, small island developing states, landlocked developing countries and countries with economies in transition

The Plenipotentiary Conference of the International Telecommunication Union (Dubai, 2018),

considering

- a) United Nations resolutions on programmes of action for the least developed countries (LDCs), small island developing states (SIDS), landlocked developing countries (LLDCs) and countries with economies in transition;
- b) Resolution 72/200 of the United Nations General Assembly (UNGA), on information and communication technologies (ICTs) for sustainable development;
- c) UNGA Resolution 72/228, on science, technology and innovation for development;
- d) UNGA Resolution 70/1, on transforming our world: the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development;
- e) Resolution 135 (Rev. Dubai, 2018) of this conference, on ITU's role in the development of telecommunications/ICTs, in providing technical assistance and advice to developing countries¹ and in implementing relevant national, regional and interregional projects,

¹ These include the least developed countries, small island developing states, landlocked developing countries and countries with economies in transition.

recognizing

- a) the importance of telecommunications/ICTs as an enabler that harnesses the potential of and opportunities resulting from digital innovation which can benefit the socio-economic development of the countries concerned and help achieve the 17 Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) adopted in UNGA Resolution 70/1;
- b) that the vision of an information society and its economic benefits cannot be achieved without embracing the principle of inclusiveness,

having noted

- a) Resolution 16 (Rev. Buenos Aires, 2017) of the World Telecommunication Development Conference (WTDC), on special actions and measures for LDCs, SIDS, LLDCs and countries with economies in transition;
- b) Output 4.4 of Objective 4 of the Buenos Aires Action Plan for concentrated assistance to LDCs, SIDS and LLDCs;
- c) Resolution 1 (Dubai, 2012) of the World Conference on International Telecommunications, on special measures for LLDCs and SIDS for greater access to international optical fibre networks,

concerned

- a) that the number of LDCs remains high despite the progress that has been made in recent years, and that it is necessary to address the situation;
- b) that the challenges confronting LDCs, SIDS, LLDCs and countries with economies in transition continue to pose a threat to the development agenda of these countries;
- c) that LDCs, SIDS and LLDCs are vulnerable to devastation caused by natural disasters and lack the resources needed to respond effectively to such disasters;
- d) that the geographical location of SIDS and LLDCs is an obstacle to international connectivity of telecommunication networks with these countries,

aware

that improvement of telecommunication networks and their international interconnectivity in these countries will give an impetus towards social and economic integration across sectors and overall development, and provide the opportunity to create knowledge societies and participate in the digital economy, as well as achieving the 17 SDGs,

recalling

former Resolution 49 (Doha, 2006) of WTDC, on special actions for LDCs and SIDS,

resolves to instruct the Secretary-General and the Director of the Telecommunication Development Bureau

- 1 to continue to review the state of telecommunication/ICT services in LDCs, SIDS, LLDCs and countries with economies in transition, so identified by the United Nations and needing special measures for the development of telecommunications/ICTs that contribute to economic growth, and to identify areas of critical weakness requiring priority action;
- 2 to continue submitting to the ITU Council concrete measures intended to bring about genuine improvements and effective assistance to these countries, from the Special Voluntary Programme for Technical Cooperation, the Union's own resources and other sources of finance;
- 3 to work towards providing the necessary administrative and operational structure for identifying the needs of these countries and for proper administration of the resources appropriated for LDCs, SIDS, LLDCs and countries with economies in transition;
- 4 to propose new and innovative measures, as well as partnerships or alliances with other international and regional bodies, that may generate additional funds or joint projects to be used for telecommunication/ICT development in these countries, in order to get benefits from the opportunities that financial mechanisms offer in using ICT for development, as stated in the Tunis Agenda for the Information Society;

5 to continue enhancing ITU's web-based tools, in an effort to make it easier to locate guidelines, recommendations, technical reports, best practices and use cases developed by the ITU Sectors, as well as identifying strategies and mechanisms to help and allow Member States to proactively use these tools to speed up the transfer of knowledge;

6 to report annually on this matter to the Council,

instructs the ITU Council

1 to consider the above-mentioned reports and take appropriate action so that the Union may continue to display its keen interest and cooperate actively in the development of telecommunication/ICT services in these countries;

2 to make appropriations for this purpose from the Special Voluntary Programme for Technical Cooperation, the Union's own resources and any other sources of finance, and promote partnerships among all stakeholders in this regard;

3 to keep the situation under constant review and to report on this matter to the next plenipotentiary conference,

encourages least developed countries, small island developing states, landlocked developing countries and countries with economies in transition

to continue according high priority to telecommunication/ICT activities and projects that promote overall socio-economic development, including those that make it possible to improve international connectivity conditions, by adopting cooperation activities funded from bilateral or multilateral sources, for the benefit of the wider population,

invites Member States

to cooperate with LDCs, SIDS, LLDCs and countries with economies in transition in promoting and supporting regional, subregional, multilateral and bilateral projects and programmes for the development of telecommunications/ICTs and the integration of telecommunication infrastructure making it possible to improve international connectivity conditions.

RESOLUTION 34 (REV. DUBAI, 2018)

Assistance and support to countries in special need for rebuilding their telecommunication sector

The Plenipotentiary Conference of the International Telecommunication Union (Dubai, 2018),

recalling

a) the noble principles, purpose and objectives enshrined in the Charter of the United Nations and in the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, as well as in the Declaration of Principles adopted by the World Summit on the Information Society;

b) the efforts of the United Nations to promote sustainable development;

c) the purposes of the Union as enshrined in Article 1 of the ITU Constitution,

recalling further

a) Resolution 127 (Marrakesh, 2002) of the Plenipotentiary Conference;

b) Resolution 160 (Antalya, 2006) of the Plenipotentiary Conference;

c) Resolution 161 (Antalya, 2006) of the Plenipotentiary Conference;

d) Resolutions 25 (Rev. Buenos Aires, 2017), 26 (Rev. Doha, 2006), 51 (Rev. Hyderabad, 2010) and 57 (Rev. Hyderabad, 2010) of the World Telecommunication Development Conference,

recognizing

a) that reliable telecommunication systems are indispensable for promoting the socio-economic development of countries, in particular of countries in special need, which are those having suffered from natural disasters, domestic conflicts or war;

b) that, under the present conditions and in the foreseeable future, these countries will not be able to ensure effective operation of their telecommunication sector without help from the international community, provided bilaterally or through international organizations,

noting

that the conditions of order and security sought by United Nations resolutions have been only partially achieved and hence Resolution 34 (Rev. Busan, 2014) of the Plenipotentiary Conference has only been partially implemented,

resolves

that the special action undertaken by the Secretary-General and the Director of the Telecommunication Development Bureau, with specialized assistance from the ITU Radiocommunication Sector and the ITU Telecommunication Standardization Sector, should continue to be activated in order to provide appropriate assistance and support to countries in special need referred to in the annex to this resolution in rebuilding their telecommunication sector,

calls upon Member States

to offer all possible assistance and support to the countries in special need, either bilaterally or through the special action of the Union referred to above, and, in any case, in coordination with that action,

instructs the ITU Council

- 1 to allocate the necessary funds to the aforesaid action, within the financial limits set by the Plenipotentiary Conference, and proceed with its implementation;
- 2 to consider and take the decisions it deems appropriate related to the needs for urgent assistance and support to countries in special need for rebuilding their telecommunication sector that are not mentioned in the annex to this resolution, if necessary,

instructs the Director of the Telecommunication Development Bureau

- 1 to carry out an assessment of the particular needs of each of these countries;
- 2 to ensure adequate resource mobilization, including under the internal budget and the Information and Communication Technology Development Fund, for the implementation of the proposed actions,

instructs the Secretary-General

- 1 to coordinate the activities carried out by the three Sectors of the Union in accordance with *resolves* above, to ensure that the Union's action in favour of the countries in special need is as effective as possible, and to report annually on the matter to the ITU Council;
- 2 with the approval of the Council, upon request from the countries concerned, to update the annex to this resolution as needed.

ANNEX TO RESOLUTION 34 (REV. DUBAI, 2018)

Afghanistan

As a result of the past 24 years of war in Afghanistan, the telecommunication system has been destroyed and needs urgent attention for its basic reconstruction.

Within the framework of Resolution 34 (Rev. Dubai, 2018) of the Plenipotentiary Conference, appropriate assistance and support shall be provided to the Government of Afghanistan in rebuilding its telecommunication system.

Burundi, Timor-Leste, Eritrea, Ethiopia, Guinea, Guinea-Bissau, Liberia, Rwanda, Sierra Leone

Within the framework of Resolution 34 (Rev. Dubai, 2018) of the Plenipotentiary Conference, appropriate assistance and support shall be provided to these countries in rebuilding their telecommunication networks.

Democratic Republic of the Congo

The basic telecommunication infrastructure of the Democratic Republic of the Congo has been severely damaged by the conflicts and wars from which the country has suffered for more than a decade.

As part of the reform of the telecommunication sector undertaken by the Democratic Republic of the Congo, involving the separation of the operating and regulatory functions, two regulatory bodies have been instituted along with a basic telecommunication network, which requires adequate financial resources in order to be built.

Within the framework of Resolution 34 (Rev. Dubai, 2018) of this conference, appropriate assistance and support shall be provided to the Democratic Republic of the Congo for rebuilding its basic telecommunication network.

Lebanon

Lebanon's telecommunication facilities have been severely damaged due to wars in that country.

Within the framework of Resolution 34 (Rev. Dubai, 2018) of the Plenipotentiary Conference, Lebanon shall be provided with appropriate assistance and support in rebuilding its telecommunication network. As Lebanon has not received any financial assistance, it shall continue to be supported within the framework of Resolution 34 (Rev. Dubai, 2018), with a view to pursuing work for Lebanon to obtain the necessary financial assistance.

Central African Republic

The Central African Republic's telecommunication facilities have been severely damaged due to military-political wars in that country. It is acknowledged, however, that a reliable telecommunication network is essential in promoting the socio-economic development of countries, especially those that have suffered natural disasters, domestic conflict or war, in order to enable them to achieve the Sustainable Development Goals.

Within the framework of Resolution 34 (Rev. Dubai, 2018) of the Plenipotentiary Conference, the Central African Republic shall be provided with appropriate assistance and support in rebuilding its telecommunication network and in constructing its national and international optical fibre network. As the Central African Republic has not received any financial assistance, it shall continue to be supported within the framework of Resolution 34 (Rev. Dubai, 2018) with a view to pursuing work for the Central African Republic to obtain the necessary financial assistance.

Somalia

The telecommunication infrastructure in the Federal Republic of Somalia has been completely destroyed by two and a half decades of war and, in addition, the regulatory framework and the rule of law in the communication sector in the country need to be re-established.

Somalia has not benefited adequately from the Union's assistance over a long period due to war in the country and lack of a functioning government for two and a half decades.

Within the framework of Resolution 34 (Rev. Dubai, 2018) of the Plenipotentiary Conference, and using funds allocated to the programme of assistance for the least developed countries, a special initiative shall be launched, aimed at providing assistance and support to Somalia in rebuilding and modernizing its telecommunication infrastructure, re-establishing a well-equipped ministry of telecommunications and establishing institutions, and developing telecommunication/information and communication technology policy, legislation and regulation, including a numbering plan, spectrum management, tariff and human resource capacity building, and all other necessary forms of assistance.

South Sudan

The Republic of South Sudan has gone through more than two decades of civil war which shattered lives, destroyed property, broke down institutions and wrecked the existing rudimentary infrastructure. With the onset of peace, South Sudan emerged as a sovereign country, but completely lacking in telecommunication infrastructure, which is now badly needed for the development of its people.

Within the framework of Resolution 34 (Rev. Dubai, 2018) of the Plenipotentiary Conference, appropriate assistance and support shall be provided to the Government of the Republic of South Sudan in building its telecommunication system, policy and regulatory framework as well as its capacities.

Yemen

The telecommunication infrastructure in the Republic of Yemen requires appropriate assistance and support, within the framework of Resolution 34 (Rev. Dubai, 2018) of the Plenipotentiary Conference, for the rebuilding of its basic telecommunication networks, overhauling of telecommunication and information technology infrastructure, development of human resources through the setting up of training operations inside and outside Yemeni territory as necessary, secondment of experts to address the shortfall in expertise in some areas and the provision of other forms of support and assistance.

RESOLUTION 41 (REV. DUBAI, 2018)

Arrears and special arrears accounts

The Plenipotentiary Conference of the International Telecommunication Union (Dubai, 2018),

taking into account

- a) the report of the ITU Council to the Plenipotentiary Conference on the situation with regard to amounts owed to the Union by ITU members;
- b) Resolution 152 (Rev. Busan, 2014) of the Plenipotentiary Conference, which recognizes the need to increase the recovery of contributions and considerably reduce arrears of Sector Members and Associates, and which may provide the Secretary-General with flexibility in negotiating repayment plans with Sector Members and Associates,

noting

- a) that, in accordance with No. 168 of the ITU Constitution, Member States and Sector Members shall pay in advance their annual contributory shares;
- b) the level of the arrears,

considering

- a) that, in accordance with No. 160 of the Constitution, all ITU members shall be free to choose their class of contribution for defraying Union expenses;
- b) that it is in the interest of all ITU members to maintain the finances of the Union on a stable and sound footing,

considering further

- a) that debt restructuring is the main instrument for reduction of the total accumulated debt;
- b) that some ITU members for which special arrears accounts have been established have up to now not complied with their obligation to submit a repayment schedule to the Secretary-General, and to agree on such a schedule with the Secretary-General, and that their special account has accordingly been cancelled,

urges

ITU members in arrears, especially those for which special arrears accounts have been cancelled, to submit an arrears repayment schedule to the Secretary-General, and to agree on such a schedule with the Secretary-General,

confirms

the decision 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,

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 their arrears repayment schedules to the Secretary-General, and agreed on those schedules with 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 cancellation of the special arrears account,

instructs the ITU Council

1 to review the guidelines (Document C99/27) for repayment schedules, including a maximum duration, which would be up to five years for developed countries, up to ten years for developing countries and up to fifteen years for least developed countries, as well as up to five years for Sector Members and Associates, and to monitor the work of the ITU Secretary-General on implementation of this resolution;

2 to consider the following appropriate additional measures in exceptional circumstances:

- temporary reduction in class of contribution in conformity with No. 165A of the Constitution and No. 480B of the ITU Convention;
- the write-off of interest on overdue payments, subject to the debtors' complying with the agreed repayment schedule for settlement of the unpaid contributions;

- a repayment schedule for up to thirty years maximum for countries in special need due to natural disasters, civil conflicts or extreme economic hardship;
 - an adjustment in the amount of the instalments, provided that the total accrued amount is the same at the end of the repayment schedule;
- 3 to take additional measures in respect of non-compliance with the agreed terms of settlement and/or arrears in payment of annual contributory shares not included in repayment schedules, in particular to include suspending ITU members' participation in the work of the Union;
- 4 to report to the Plenipotentiary Conference on the implementation 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 cancelled, as well as with Sector Members, Associates and Academia in arrears, schedules for the repayment of their debts in accordance with the "Guidelines for repayment schedules for the settlement of arrears and special arrears accounts" (Document C99/27) and, where appropriate, to submit for decision by the Council proposals for additional measures as indicated under *instructs the ITU Council* above, including those related to non-compliance,

instructs the Secretary-General

- 1 to inform ITU members in arrears or having special arrears accounts or cancelled special arrears accounts of this resolution;
- 2 to report to the Council on the measures taken and progress made towards the settlement of debts in respect of special arrears accounts or cancelled special arrears accounts, as well as on any non-compliance with the agreed terms of settlement,

urges the ITU membership

to assist the Secretary-General and the Council in the implementation of this resolution.

RESOLUTION 48 (REV. DUBAI, 2018)

Human resources management and development

The Plenipotentiary Conference of the International Telecommunication Union (Dubai, 2018),

recognizing

No. 154 of the ITU Constitution¹, according to which ITU is required to recruit staff on the basis of the highest standards of efficiency, competence and integrity,

recalling

a) Resolution 70 (Rev. Dubai, 2018) of this conference, on mainstreaming a gender perspective in ITU and promotion of gender equality and the empowerment of women through telecommunications/information and communication technologies (ICTs), which resolves to accord high priority to the incorporation of gender policies in the management, staffing and operation of ITU;

b) the strategic plan for the Union as described in Resolution 71 (Rev. Dubai, 2018) of this conference, and the need for highly skilled and motivated staff to attain the goals contained therein;

c) Resolution 151 (Rev. Dubai, 2018) of this conference, which instructs the Secretary-General to continue to improve methodologies associated with results-based management (RBM) and results-based budgeting (RBB), at the levels of planning and implementation;

d) Decision 5 (Rev. Dubai, 2018) of this conference, which indicates the resource limitations for the period 2020-2023 and specifies goals and objectives in regard to improving the efficiency of ITU activities;

¹ No. 154 of the Constitution: "2. The paramount consideration in the recruitment of staff and in the determination of the conditions of service shall be the necessity of securing for the Union the highest standards of efficiency, competence and integrity. Due regard shall be paid to the importance of recruiting the staff on as wide a geographical basis as possible."

e) the request by the United Nations Chief Executives Board for all United Nations specialized agencies to prepare their gender parity strategy in order to implement the United Nations system-wide parity strategy launched by the United Nations Secretary-General in September 2017,

noting

a) the various policies² which have an impact on the ITU staff including, *inter alia*, the Standards of Conduct for the International Civil Service established by the International Civil Service Commission (ICSC), the ITU Staff Regulations and Staff Rules and the ITU ethics policies;

b) the adoption of a number of resolutions since 1996 by the United Nations General Assembly (UNGA), highlighting the need for gender balance throughout the United Nations system;

c) that gender equality is not simply a basic human right but a prerequisite for achieving peace, prosperity and sustainable development (Sustainable Development Goal SDG 5: Achieve gender equality and empower all women and girls);

d) UNGA Resolution 70/1, on transforming our world: the 2030 Sustainable Development Agenda, which affirmed a comprehensive, far-reaching and people-centred set of universal and transformative goals and targets;

e) UNGA Resolution 72/235, on human resources development, which stresses among other things that technological changes and breakthroughs are expanding at a rapid pace and impacting the world of work and that, in this regard, the development of human resources needs to keep pace and be supported by proactive strategies, investments and normative frameworks to address emerging issues relating to the future of work, education and training;

² Such as contractual policy, succession planning, human resources training and development, etc.

- f)* UNGA Resolution 72/234, on women in development, which recalls the commitment to promote gender equality and the empowerment of women and girls including through the SDGs;
- g)* Resolution 25 (Rev. Dubai, 2018) of this conference, on strengthening the regional presence, and specifically on the importance of the role played by the regional offices in disseminating information on ITU's activities to its Member States and Sector Members, and that there is a need for ongoing evaluation of the staffing requirement for regional and area offices;
- h)* ITU Council Resolution 1299 (2008), which instructed the Secretary-General to prepare, in collaboration with the ITU Staff Council, a comprehensive human resources strategic plan (HRSP);
- i)* Council Resolution 1106 (1996, last modified 2001), on implementation of the recommendations of the Tripartite Consultative Group on human resources management, which reflects issues relating to incentive payments and staff promotion;
- j)* Council Decision 517 (2004, last modified 2009), on strengthening the dialogue between the Secretary-General and the ITU Staff Council;
- k)* other Council decisions and resolutions relating to various aspects of human resources management;
- l)* the United Nations System-Wide Action Plan 2.0 on gender equality and the empowerment of women (UN-SWAP);
- m)* the United Nations Secretary-General's report on special measures for protection from sexual exploitation and abuse and the zero-tolerance policy;
- n)* the recommendations relevant to human resources management in the report of the United Nations Joint Inspection Unit (JIU) on review of management and administration in ITU, published in 2016,

noting with concern

the findings of the JIU report entitled "Review of Whistle-Blower Policies and Practices in United Nations System Organizations" with respect to the Union,

welcoming

a) the report of the United Nations Secretary-General on shifting the management paradigm in the United Nations (Document A/72/492), specifically the section on simplifying human resources management, as well its Addendum 2 entitled "Shifting the management paradigm in the United Nations: implementing a new management architecture for improved effectiveness and strengthened accountability";

b) UNGA Resolution 72/266B on shifting the management paradigm in the United Nations,

considering

a) the high value of the human resources of ITU and of the effective management of those resources for the fulfilment of its goals;

b) that ITU's human resources strategies should emphasize the importance of developing and maintaining a well-trained and geographically equitable staff, while recognizing budget constraints;

c) the value, both to the Union and to the staff, of developing those resources to the fullest extent possible through various human resources development activities, including in-service training and training activities in accordance with staffing levels;

d) the impact on the Union and its staff of the continuing evolution of activities in the field of telecommunications and the need for the Union and its human resources to adapt to this evolution through training and staff development;

e) the importance of human resources management and development in support of ITU's strategic orientations and goals;

- f) the need to follow a recruitment policy appropriate to the requirements of the Union, including the redeployment of posts and recruitment of specialists both at the start of their career and with experience in other organizations;
- g) the need to achieve equitable geographical distribution of appointed staff of the Union;
- h) the need to facilitate the recruitment of more women in the Professional and higher categories, especially at the senior levels;
- i) the need for ITU to improve its strategic outreach so that more women apply for ITU vacancies, especially from developing countries³;
- j) the constant advances made in telecommunication and information and communication technology and operation and the corresponding need to recruit specialists of the highest standard of competence;
- k) the importance of promoting gender mainstreaming and equal representation of women,

resolves

- 1 that the management and development of ITU's human resources should continue to be compatible with the mission, values, goals and activities of the Union and with the United Nations common system;
- 2 that ICSC recommendations approved by the UNGA should continue to be implemented;
- 3 that within available financial resources, and to the extent practicable, vacancies should be filled through greater mobility of existing staff;
- 4 that internal mobility should, to the extent practicable, be coupled with training so that staff can be used where they are most needed;

³ These include the least developed countries, small island developing states, landlocked developing countries and countries with economies in transition.

5 that internal mobility should be applied, to the extent feasible, to cover needs when staff retire or leave ITU in order to reduce staffing levels without terminating contracts;

6 that, pursuant to *recognizing* above, staff in the Professional and higher categories shall continue to be recruited on an international basis and that posts identified for external recruitment shall be advertised as widely as possible and communicated to the administrations of all Member States of the Union and through the regional offices; however, reasonable promotion possibilities must continue to be offered to existing staff;

7 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 under-represented in the staffing of the Union, taking into account the balance between female and male staff mandated by the United Nations common system;

8 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 the candidate will have to fulfil certain conditions before being given the full responsibilities of the post and promotion to the grade of the post;

9 to assess the impact of the decisions taken under this resolution to ensure that it is delivering the expected outputs,

instructs the Secretary-General

1 to implement best-practice human resources policies and practices to ensure ITU achieves its management goals, taking into account the United Nations Secretary-General's system-wide parity strategy as well as the matters outlined in Annex 1 to this resolution;

- 2 to prepare and implement, with the assistance of the Coordination Committee, and in collaboration with the regional offices, a four-year HRSP aligned with the ITU strategic and financial plans, that includes benchmarks, to respond to the needs of the Union, its membership and its staff;
- 3 to improve and implement recruitment policies and procedures designed to facilitate equitable geographical and gender representation among appointed staff (see Annex 2 to this resolution);
- 4 to recruit, as appropriate within the available financial resources, and taking into account geographical distribution and balance between female and male staff, specialists who are starting their careers at the P.1/P.2 level;
- 5 with a view to further training in order to enhance professional competence in the Union, based on consultations with staff members, as appropriate, to examine and report to the Council how a programme of training for both managers and their staff could be implemented within the available financial resources throughout the Union;
- 6 to continue to submit to the Council annual reports on the implementation of the HRSP, including issues relating to relations between management and staff, and to provide to the Council, electronically where possible, statistics related to the HRSP, and on other measures adopted in pursuance of this resolution;
- 7 as required under the United Nations Secretary-General's report on special measures for protection from sexual exploitation and abuse, to report and provide updates to the Council on progress made with regard to sexual exploitation and abuse and sexual harassment in the workplace, as appropriate;
- 8 to address the findings of the JIU report entitled "Review of Whistle-Blower Policies and Practices in United Nations System Organizations" with respect to the Union, and report to the Council on actions taken,

instructs the ITU Council

- 1 to examine and approve the four-year HRSP drawn up in accordance with *instructs the Secretary-General 2*, and consider annual reports on the implementation of the HRSP and of this resolution, and decide on the measures needed;
- 2 to ensure that the necessary staff and financial resources are made available for addressing issues related to human resources management and development in ITU as they emerge, within approved budget levels;
- 3 to allocate the appropriate resources for in-service training in accordance with an established programme, representing, to the extent practicable, a target of 3 per cent 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 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), c) and h) above*.

ANNEX 1 TO RESOLUTION 48 (REV. DUBAI, 2018)

Matters for reporting to the Council on staff issues, including staff in regional and area offices, and recruitment issues

- Alignment between the Union's strategic priorities and staff functions and posts
- Staff career and staff promotion policy
- Contracts policy
- Compliance with United Nations common system policies/recommendations
- Use of best practices
- Staff recruitment processes and openness
- Balance between external and internal recruitment
- Employment of persons with disabilities, including services and facilities for staff with disabilities
- Voluntary separation and early-retirement programmes
- Succession planning
- Short-term posts
- General characteristics of implementation of a human resources development plan indicating outcomes of work designed to "ensure effective and efficient use of human, financial and capital resources, as well as a safe and secure working environment that is conducive to work"
- Total staff development spend, including a breakdown by specific items of the development plan
- Analysis of the consistency of ITU's compensation package with the United Nations common system, with a view to examining all elements of staff compensation together with other human resources elements, in order to seek ways of reducing the burden on the budget

- Improvements to human resources services
- Performance evaluation and appraisals
- Staff in regional and area offices
- In-service training (with interruption of duties)
- External training (with interruption of duties)
- Geographical representation
- Gender balance
- Staff breakdown by age
- Social protection of staff
- Flexibility of working conditions
- Relationship between management and staff
- Workplace diversity
- Use of modern management tools
- Ensuring occupational safety
- Staff morale and measures to improve it
- Reflecting the views of all staff on various aspects of work and relations in the organization using surveys and questionnaires (as required) to collect data
- Conclusions and proposals based on the identification and analysis of strengths and weaknesses (risks) in regard to staff development in the Union and proposed modifications to the Staff Regulations and Staff Rules
- Measures related to facilitating the recruitment of women, as outlined in Annex 2 to this resolution
- Assessing the impact of implementation of this resolution.

ANNEX 2 TO RESOLUTION 48 (REV. DUBAI, 2018)

Facilitating the recruitment of women at ITU

- 1 ITU should advertise vacancy notices as widely as possible to encourage employment applications from women.
- 2 ITU Member States are encouraged to put forward female candidates.
- 3 Vacancy notices should encourage the submission of applications from women.
- 4 ITU recruitment procedures should be amended to ensure that, if the number of applications so allows, at every screening level, 50 per cent of all candidates moving forward to the next level are women.
- 5 In grade levels where gender balance targets are not met, the hiring manager shall prepare a memo justifying the proposal of a candidate that does not improve ITU's gender representation, also taking into consideration geographical distribution.
- 6 Conditions should be created for advanced training and career development for women at work and outside work.

RESOLUTION 64 (REV. DUBAI, 2018)

Non-discriminatory access to modern telecommunication/information and communication technology facilities, services and applications, including applied research and transfer of technology, and e-meetings, on mutually agreed terms

The Plenipotentiary Conference of the International Telecommunication Union (Dubai, 2018),

recalling

- a) the outcomes of the Geneva (2003) and Tunis (2005) phases of the World Summit on the Information Society (WSIS), especially §§ 15, 18 and 19 of the Tunis Commitment, and §§ 90 and 107 of the Tunis Agenda for the Information Society;
- b) Resolution 64 (Rev. Guadalajara, 2010) of the Plenipotentiary Conference;
- c) the outcomes of the World Telecommunication Development Conference (WTDC), especially Resolution 15 (Rev. Hyderabad, 2010), on applied research and transfer of technology, Resolution 20 (Rev. Hyderabad, 2010), on non-discriminatory access to modern telecommunication/information and communication technology (ICT) facilities, services and related applications and Resolution 37 (Rev. Dubai, 2014), on bridging the digital divide;
- d) the WSIS+10 High-Level Event outcomes (Geneva, 2014), especially those related to transfer of know-how and technology and non-discriminatory access by conducting the needed activities in that regard;
- e) Resolution 167 (Rev. Busan, 2014) of the Plenipotentiary Conference, on strengthening ITU capabilities for electronic meetings and means to advance the work of the Union, which emphasizes that there is a need for procedures to ensure fair and equitable participation by all;

f) Resolution 71 (Rev. Busan, 2014) of the Plenipotentiary Conference,
taking into account

a) the importance of telecommunications/ICTs for political, economic, social and cultural progress;

b) the preamble and challenges chapters of the statement adopted by the WSIS+10 High-Level Event (Geneva, 2014), especially §§ 4 and 8 thereof,

taking into account also

a) that ITU plays an essential role in the promotion of global development of telecommunications/ICTs and ICT applications, within the mandate of ITU, specifically with respect to Action Lines C2, C5 and C6 of the Tunis Agenda, in addition to participating in the implementation of other action lines, particularly Action Lines C7 and C8 of the Tunis Agenda;

b) that, to this end the Union coordinates efforts aimed at securing harmonious development of telecommunication/ICT facilities, permitting non-discriminatory access to these facilities and to modern telecommunication services and applications;

c) that this access will help to bridge the digital divide,

taking into account further

the need to draw up proposals on issues determining a worldwide strategy for the development of telecommunications/ICTs and ICT applications, within the mandate of ITU, and to facilitate mobilization of the necessary resources to that end,

emphasizing

that fair and equitable e-participation of Member States in ITU meetings will bring considerable benefits by facilitating and widening the scope for participation in ITU work and meetings,

noting

a) that modern telecommunication/ICT facilities, services and applications are established, in the main, on the basis of recommendations of the ITU Telecommunication Standardization Sector (ITU-T) and the ITU Radiocommunication Sector (ITU-R);

- b) that ITU-T and ITU-R recommendations are the result of the collective efforts of all those taking part in the standardization process within ITU, and are adopted by consensus by the members of the Union;
- c) that limitations on the access to telecommunication/ICT facilities, services and applications on which national telecommunication development depends and which are established on the basis of ITU-T and ITU-R recommendations constitute an obstacle to the harmonious development and compatibility of telecommunications worldwide;
- d) Resolution 15 (Rev. Hyderabad, 2010), on applied research and transfer of technology;
- e) Resolution 20 (Rev. Hyderabad, 2010), on non-discriminatory access to modern telecommunication/ICT facilities, services and related applications;
- f) the strategic plan for the Union set out in Resolution 71 (Rev. Busan, 2014) of this conference,

recognizing

- a) that full harmonization of telecommunication networks is impossible unless all countries participating in the work of the Union, without exception, have non-discriminatory access to new telecommunication technologies and modern telecommunication/ICT facilities, services and related applications, including applied research and transfer of technology, on mutually agreed terms, without prejudice to national regulations and international commitments within the competence of other international organizations;
- b) that the need to ensure the access of Member States to international telecommunication services should be reaffirmed;
- c) Resolution 69 (Rev. Dubai, 2012) of the World Telecommunication Standardization Assembly,

resolves

- 1 to continue, within the mandate of ITU, fulfilling the need to endeavour to ensure non-discriminatory access to telecommunication and information technologies, facilities, services and related applications, including applied research and transfer of technology, on mutually agreed terms, established on the basis of ITU-T and ITU-R recommendations;
- 2 that ITU should facilitate non-discriminatory access to telecommunication and information technologies, facilities, services and applications established on the basis of ITU-T and ITU-R recommendations;
- 3 that ITU should encourage to the greatest extent possible cooperation among the members of the Union on the question of non-discriminatory access to telecommunication and information technologies, facilities, services and applications established on the basis of ITU-T and ITU-R recommendations with a view to satisfying user demand for modern telecommunication/ICT services and applications,

instructs the Directors of the three Bureaux

within their respective spheres of competence, to implement this resolution and achieve its goals,

invites Member States

- 1 to refrain from taking any unilateral and/or discriminatory actions that could impede technically another Member State from having full access to the Internet, within the spirit of Article 1 of the ITU Constitution and the WSIS principles;
- 2 to help telecommunication/ICT equipment manufacturers and providers of services and applications in ensuring that telecommunication/ICT facilities, services and applications established on the basis of ITU-T and ITU-R recommendations may be generally available to the public without any discrimination, and in facilitating applied research and technology transfer, considering where relevant the WSIS+10 High-Level Event outcomes (Geneva, 2014);
- 3 to explore ways and means for greater collaboration and coordination with one another in the implementation of this resolution,

instructs the Secretary-General, in close cooperation with the Directors of the three Bureaux

- 1 to compile and distribute a list of available online services and applications relevant to ITU activities and identify those that cannot be accessed, based on information received from ITU Member States;
- 2 to take appropriate measures and steps to promote broad participation, as far as practical, to ensure the fair and equitable participation of all members in ITU online services and applications;
- 3 to cooperate and coordinate with the relevant organizations to take the appropriate measures to promote access to ITU online services and materials for all ITU members;
- 4 to report to the ITU Council on the implementation of this resolution,

further instructs the Secretary-General

to transmit the text of this resolution, including its recommendations, to the Secretary-General of the United Nations with a view to bringing to the attention of the world community the viewpoint of ITU, as a specialized agency of the United Nations, on the issue of non-discriminatory access to new telecommunication and information technologies and modern telecommunication/ICT, services and related applications, within the mandate of ITU, as an important factor for world technological progress, and on applied research and technology transfer between Member States, on mutually agreed terms, as a factor that may help to bridge the digital divide.

RESOLUTION 66 (REV. DUBAI, 2018)

Documents and publications of the Union

The Plenipotentiary Conference of the International Telecommunication Union (Dubai, 2018),

considering

- a) No. 484 of the ITU Convention;
- b) the need for efficient marketing and distribution of documentation and publications of the Union in order to promote increased use of ITU recommendations and other publications;
- c) the evolution of electronic handling and transmission of information;
- d) the continued development of new publishing technologies and methods of distribution;
- e) the desirability of cooperation with bodies engaged in relevant standards development;
- f) the continued importance of the Union's copyright in its publications;
- g) the need to derive revenue from publications;
- h) the need to provide a timely and efficient global standardization process;
- i) the pricing policies of other relevant standardization bodies;
- j) the importance of adopting open-standard document formats to facilitate access to information,

considering further

- a) that a primary purpose of the Union is to extend the benefits of new telecommunication technologies to all the world's inhabitants;

b) the need to maintain a coherent financing and pricing policy which reflects the costs of production, marketing and distribution, while ensuring the continuity of publications, including the development of new products and the use of modern channels/methods of distribution;

c) the activity carried out by the Internet Governance Forum (IGF) Dynamic Coalition on Accessibility and Disability (DCAD) sponsored by the Director of the Telecommunication Standardization Bureau (TSB), and the partnership between the ITU Telecommunication Standardization Sector (ITU-T) and DCAD for the purposes of maximizing the benefits for all sectors of the global community of electronic communications and online information through the Internet,

resolves

1 that documents intended to facilitate the timely development of recommendations of the Union shall be made available also in electronic and open format and be accessible to any Member State, Sector Member and Associate;

2 that documents should be published in various open formats, i.e. data file formats that are based on an underlying open standard, developed by an open community, affirmed and maintained by a standards body, fully documented and publicly available;

3 that, notwithstanding the objectives of free online access, publications of the Union, including all recommendations of the Sectors, shall, where appropriate, also be made available to the Member States, Sector Members and Associates, and to the public in electronic format and through electronic sale or distribution, with appropriate provision for payment to the Union for a particular publication or set of publications requested;

4 that a request for any publication of the Union, regardless of its format, obliges those who obtain or purchase the publication to respect the copyright of the Union set forth in that publication;

5 that a publication containing a recommendation of an ITU Sector obtained from ITU, regardless of its format, may be utilized by the receiving entity or purchaser for uses including furthering the work of the Union or any relevant standards body or forum developing related standards, providing guidance for product or service development and implementation and serving as support for documentation associated with a product or service;

6 that none of the above is intended to breach the copyright held by the Union, so that any person or entity wishing to reproduce or duplicate all or parts of ITU publications for resale must obtain a specific agreement for such purpose;

7 that a two-tier pricing policy be established whereby Member States, Sector Members and Associates pay a price based on cost recovery, whereas all others, i.e. non-members, should pay a "market price"¹,

instructs the Secretary-General

1 to take the necessary steps to facilitate the implementation of this resolution;

2 to implement, within the financial constraints of the Union, strategies and mechanisms to enable all Member States, Sector Members and Associates to acquire and use the facilities required to access documents and publications of the Union in electronic format;

3 to ensure that prices for all forms of publications of the Union are reasonable in order to promote their wide distribution;

4 to seek consultation with the advisory groups of the three ITU Sectors to assist in developing and updating policies on documents and publications;

5 to report annually to the ITU Council,

¹ The term "market price" is defined as the price determined by the Sales and Marketing Division, which is established to maximize revenues without being so high as to discourage sales.

instructs the Director of the Telecommunication Development Bureau

to implement, as a priority, in close coordination with the Director of the Radiocommunication Bureau and the Director of TSB, strategies and mechanisms to encourage and facilitate the efficient use of web-based documents and publications by the developing countries, and in particular least developed countries, small island developing states, landlocked developing countries and countries with economies in transition.

RESOLUTION 70 (REV. DUBAI, 2018)

Mainstreaming a gender perspective in ITU and promotion of gender equality and the empowerment of women through telecommunications/information and communication technologies

The Plenipotentiary Conference of the International Telecommunication Union (Dubai, 2018),

recalling

a) Resolution 70/1 of the United Nations General Assembly (UNGA), on Sustainable Development Goal (SDG) 5: "Achieve gender equality and empower all women and girls";

b) the initiative taken by the ITU Telecommunication Development Sector (ITU-D) at the World Telecommunication Development Conference (WTDC) in adopting Resolution 7 (Valletta, 1998), transmitted to the Plenipotentiary Conference (Minneapolis, 1998), which resolved that an ITU gender task force be established;

c) the endorsement of that resolution by the Plenipotentiary Conference in its Resolution 70 (Minneapolis, 1998), in which the conference resolved, *inter alia*, to incorporate a gender perspective¹ in the implementation of all programmes and plans of 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 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: <http://www.un.org/womenwatch/daw/csw/GMS.PDF>)

d) Resolution 44 (Istanbul, 2002) of WTDC, converting the task force on gender issues into a working group on gender issues;

e) Resolution 55 (Rev. Hammamet, 2016) of the World Telecommunication Standardization Assembly, which encourages mainstreaming a gender perspective in the activities of the ITU Telecommunication Standardization Sector (ITU-T);

f) Resolution 55 (Rev. Buenos Aires, 2017) of WTDC, resolving that the Telecommunication Development Bureau (BDT) should maintain close links and collaborate, as appropriate, with the ITU Gender Task Force established in the framework of the ITU General Secretariat by the ITU Council in 2013 and with the Working Group on Broadband and Gender and the Working Group on the Digital Gender Divide of the Broadband Commission for Sustainable Development, reciprocally supporting gender mainstreaming in the Union and joining forces to eliminate inequalities in access to and use of telecommunications/information and communication technologies (ICTs), in the interests of building a non-discriminatory and egalitarian information society;

g) Resolution 1327 adopted by the Council at its 2011 session, on ITU's role in ICTs and the empowerment of women and girls;

h) the United Nations Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC) Agreed Conclusions 1997-2, and ECOSOC Resolution 2012/24, on incorporating and mainstreaming a gender perspective into all policies and programmes in the United Nations system, which welcomed the development of the UN System-Wide Action Plan on Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women (UN-SWAP)²;

² <http://www.unwomen.org/en/how-we-work/un-system-coordination/promoting-un-accountability>

i) UNGA Resolution 70/125, on the outcome document of the UNGA high-level meeting on the overall review of the implementation of the outcomes of the World Summit on the Information Society (WSIS), as well as the Preamble to the WSIS+10 statement on the implementation of WSIS outcomes, which reaffirmed the importance of promoting and maintaining gender equality and women's empowerment and guaranteeing the inclusion of women in the emerging global ICT society, taking into account the mandate of the newly established agency UN Women,

noting

a) the United Nations Secretary-General's commitment to achieving full gender parity across the United Nations system through the launch of a strategy in 2017 as the start of a system-wide campaign to advance this priority, referenced in UNGA Resolution 72/234;

b) UNGA Resolution 64/289, on system-wide coherence, adopted on 21 July 2010, establishing the United Nations Entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women, which would be known as "UN Women", with the mandate to promote gender equality and the empowerment of women;

c) the triple mandate of UN Women for normative support, coordination and operational functions to provide an effective platform for delivering results on gender equality and women's empowerment;

d) that the United Nations Chief Executives Board, in April 2013, advocated the United Nations system-wide Action Plan to measure gender equality and the empowerment of women, under which ITU will participate in the dissemination, coordination and communication and networking activities that are part of the strategy;

e) the conclusions agreed at the 55th session of the United Nations Commission on the Status of Women (CSW), held in March 2011, regarding the access and participation of women and girls in education, training and science and technology;

f) that the Agreed Conclusions of the 61st and 62nd sessions of CSW promote digital change for the empowerment of women, including rural women, and support women's access to skills development by expanding the scope of education and training opportunities, including communications technology and digital fluency,

noting also

a) the decision of the Council at its 2013 session endorsing the ITU Gender Equality and Mainstreaming Policy (GEM), with the aim of integrating a gender perspective throughout the Union and leveraging the power of telecommunications/ICTs to empower both women and men;

b) that ITU, in its strategic plan, includes issues related to gender equality, empowerment and inclusion with a view to debating and exchanging ideas to define, throughout the organization, a concrete action plan to address issues and barriers, with clear deadlines and goals,

recognizing

a) that equal access to ICTs for women and men and equal participation of both women and men at all levels and in all fields, especially in policy- and decision-making, are beneficial to society as a whole, particularly in the context of the information and knowledge society;

b) that ICTs are tools through which gender equality and the empowerment of women and girls can be advanced, and are recognized as being integral to societies in which both women and men can substantively contribute and participate;

c) that Sustainable Development Goal (SDG) 5 of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development strives to achieve gender equality and to empower all women and girls and foster gender mainstreaming as a cross-cutting issue over all goals and targets of the Agenda;

d) that the outcomes of WSIS, namely the Geneva Declaration of Principles, the Geneva Plan of Action, the Tunis Commitment and the Tunis Agenda for the Information Society, outlined the concept of the information society, and that continued efforts must be undertaken in this context to bridge the gender digital divide;

e) that the WSIS+10 statement on the implementation of WSIS outcomes states the need to ensure that the information society enables women's empowerment and their full participation on the basis of equality in all spheres of society and in all decision-making processes;

f) that it is fundamental for the ITU membership and partners to promote the work of the Union so as to encourage girls to choose a career in the field of telecommunications/ICT and to foster the use of ICTs for the social and economic empowerment of women and girls;

g) that women experience multiple and intersecting forms of discrimination and that there is a need to bridge the gender digital divide, with special attention to women in rural and marginalized urban areas;

h) that bridging the gender digital divide requires fostering digital skills, education and mentorship for women and girls, so as to advance their participation and leadership in the creation, development and deployment of telecommunications/ICTs,

recognizing further

a) the progress achieved in raising awareness, both within ITU and among Member States, of the importance of mainstreaming a gender perspective in all ITU work programmes and of increasing the number of women professionals in ITU, especially at the senior management level, while at the same time working towards the equal access of women and men to posts in the General Service category;

b) the success of the international "Girls in ICT Day" organized by ITU, which is held every year on the fourth Thursday of April;

c) the EQUALS Global Partnership³, of which ITU is a founder member, and which is made up of other United Nations agencies, governments, the private sector, academia and civil-society organizations, and which aims to reduce the gender digital divide in the world;

d) the United Nations Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women, in its General Recommendation No. 37, on the gender-related dimensions of disaster risk reduction within the context of climate change, recommends that States make sure women have access to technologies to prevent and mitigate the adverse effects of natural disasters and climate change, and that they be able to use and take advantage of technologies for climate-change adaptation and mitigation, including those related to renewable energy and sustainable agriculture,

considering

a) the progress made by ITU, and in particular BDT, in the development and implementation of actions and projects that use ICTs for the economic and social empowerment of women and girls, as well as in increasing awareness of the links between gender issues and ICTs within the Union and among Member States and Sector Members;

b) the progress made by ITU in gathering and publishing data and analyses that help communicate the differences in access to and involvement with telecommunications/ICTs and their effects on gender equality;

c) the results achieved by ITU's internal Gender Task Force in promoting gender equality;

³ www.equals.org

d) the study conducted by ITU-T on women in telecommunication standardization, exploring perspectives and activities related to mainstreaming a gender perspective in ITU-T and determining the degree to which women are active participants in all ITU-T activities,

noting further

a) that there is a need for ITU to continue to study, gather data disaggregated by social economic factors and in particular sex and age on, analyse, generate statistics on, assess and evaluate the effects of and promote a better understanding of the impact of telecommunications/ICTs on the achievement of gender equality and women's empowerment;

b) that ITU should have a role in establishing and reporting on gender-relevant indicators for the telecommunication/ICT sector that would contribute to reducing disparities in terms of access to and appropriation of ICTs and to mainstreaming gender equality at the national, regional and international levels;

c) that more work needs to be done to ensure the mainstreaming of gender equality in all work of the Union;

d) that there is a need to continue fostering the participation of women and girls in the telecommunication/ICT domain at an early age and to provide input for further policy developments in the required areas, so as to ensure that the information and knowledge society contributes to their empowerment;

e) the need for ICT tools and applications to empower women and girls and to facilitate their access to the job market, especially in fields related to ICTs and science, technology, engineering and mathematics (STEM) careers,

taking into account

the amendments made in Resolution 48 (Rev. Dubai, 2018) of this conference, on human resources management and development, outlining procedures to facilitate the recruitment of women at ITU,

encourages Member States and Sector Members

- 1 to undertake actions to mainstream gender equality across government, the public and private sectors and academia, for the purpose of promoting innovation in telecommunication/ICT learning so as to foster the empowerment of women and girls, including those in rural and remote areas;
- 2 to review and revise, as appropriate, their respective policies and practices to ensure that recruitment, employment, training and advancement of women and men in the ICT sector are undertaken on a fair and equitable basis;
- 3 to facilitate the capacity building and employment of women and men equally in the telecommunication/ICT field, including at senior levels of responsibility in telecommunication/ICT administrations, government and regulatory bodies and intergovernmental organizations and in the private sector;
- 4 to review their policies and strategies related to the information society so as to ensure the inclusion of a gender perspective in all activities and the fostering of gender balance to secure equal opportunities through the use and appropriation of telecommunications/ICTs;
- 5 to strengthen educational policies and study plans in science and technology and to promote and increase the interest of, and opportunities for, women and girls in STEM and telecommunication/ICT careers, including women and girls in rural and remote areas, during elementary, secondary and higher education and lifelong education;
- 6 to attract more women and girls to study for and to pursue STEM careers, and acknowledge the achievements of leading women in these fields, particularly in innovation;
- 7 to encourage more women to take advantage of the opportunities offered by ICTs to establish and develop a business and to foster potential contributions to economic growth;

8 to encourage gender-balanced representation in delegations to ITU conferences, assemblies and other meetings, as well as in candidatures for leadership roles;

9 to actively participate in and promote EQUALS, the global partnership to bridge the digital divide,

resolves

1 to continue the work being done at ITU, and particularly in BDT, to promote gender equality in telecommunications/ICTs by recommending measures at the international, regional and national level on policies and programmes that improve socio-economic conditions for women and girls, particularly in developing countries⁴;

2 to accord high priority to the incorporation of gender policies in the management, staffing and operation of ITU, so that ITU can become a leading organization in the implementation of gender-equality values and principles to take advantage of the possibilities offered by ICTs to empower both men and women;

3 to incorporate the gender perspective in the implementation of the ITU strategic and financial plans as well as in the operational plans of the Sectors and the General Secretariat;

4 to have ITU compile and process statistical data from countries and draw up indicators that take into account gender equality issues and highlight trends in the sector, disaggregated by socio-economic factors, in particular sex and age,

⁴ These include the least developed countries, small island developing states, landlocked developing countries and countries with economies in transition.

instructs the ITU Council

- 1 to accord high priority to monitoring the implementation of GEM, so that ITU can integrate a gender perspective throughout the organization and leverage the power of telecommunications/ICTs to empower women, girls, men and boys;
- 2 to continue and expand existing initiatives, and to accelerate the gender mainstreaming process, including through affirmative measures when necessary, in ITU as a whole, within existing budgetary resources, so as to ensure capacity building and the appointment of women to senior-level positions, including ITU elected positions, and also in recruitment for internships;
- 3 to explore allocation of resources within the ITU's budget to facilitate the implementation of this resolution to the fullest extent possible;
- 4 to examine the possibility for ITU, in close collaboration with relevant regional organizations, to take appropriate measures to establish a regional platform for women, devoted to using ICT in order to promote gender equality and empowerment of women and girls,

instructs the Secretary-General

- 1 to continue to ensure that the gender perspective is incorporated in the work programmes, management approaches and human resources development activities of ITU, and to submit an annual written report to the Council on progress made in the implementation of the GEM policy and action plan reflecting, with statistics broken down by sex and age, the distribution of women and men by category within ITU, as well as the participation of women and men in ITU conferences and meetings, to be disseminated among the Member States;
- 2 to ensure the inclusion of a gender perspective in all ITU contributions with respect to the priority areas that must be tackled for the implementation of WSIS action lines;

- 3 to give priority to gender parity for posts in the Professional and higher categories in ITU, particularly in senior positions, in line with the United Nations Secretary-General's gender parity strategy;
- 4 to give appropriate priority to the aforementioned gender parity when choosing between women and men candidates who have equal qualifications for a post, taking into account geographical distribution (No. 154 of the ITU Constitution) and the balance between women and men;
- 5 to amend ITU recruitment procedures to ensure that, under the requirements of these procedures, as a target at least 50 per cent of the candidates who move up to the next recruitment stage are women;
- 6 to report to the next plenipotentiary conference on the results and progress made on the inclusion of a gender perspective in the work of ITU, and on the implementation of this resolution;
- 7 to make sure that each short-list submitted to the Secretary-General for appointment includes at least one woman among the candidates;
- 8 to ensure gender parity in the composition of ITU statutory committees;
- 9 to organize training in gender equality for all staff, including those in leadership positions and functions;
- 10 to continue to support gender equality mainstreaming in cooperation with other relevant organizations, through special initiatives like the EQUALS;
- 11 to make efforts to mobilize voluntary contributions from Member States, Sector Members and others for this purpose;
- 12 to encourage administrations to give equal opportunities to women and men candidates for elected official posts and for membership of the Radio Regulations Board;
- 13 to encourage the launch of a Global Network of women ICT decision-makers;

14 to bring this resolution to the attention of the United Nations Secretary-General in an effort to promote greater cooperation and coordination in the policies, programmes and projects being implemented by ITU and interlinking access, use and appropriation of telecommunications/ICT and broadband among women and girls, and to promote gender equality, empowerment and the integrated development of women and girls;

15 to fulfil the obligations of submitting reports as required by UN-SWAP and ensure compliance with performance indicators,

instructs the Secretary-General and the Directors of the Bureaux

1 to explore options for delivering a mentoring programme open to participation of the ITU membership under which young women and girls beginning their schooling in ICTs and STEM curricula may have mentors to accompany them and to transfer to them their expertise and knowledge throughout their careers;

2 to continue and expand existing initiatives ensuring gender balance in granting ITU fellowships to participate in ITU meetings and activities,

instructs the Director of the Telecommunication Development Bureau

1 to continue promoting, among the other United Nations agencies, ITU Member States and Sector Members, the international Girls in ICT Day, which, since 2011, takes place every fourth Thursday of April, and during which telecommunication/ICT companies, other enterprises with telecommunication/ICT departments, telecommunication/ICT training institutions, universities, research centres and all telecommunication/ICT-related institutions are invited to organize activities for girls and young women, as well as online training and/or workshops, day camps and summer camps, in order to promote and increase the interest of, and opportunities for, women and girls in telecommunication/ICT careers during elementary, secondary and higher education;

- 2 to call upon women's organizations and non-governmental and civil-society organizations throughout the world to join in the celebration of the international Girls in ICT Day, as well as to provide online training and/or workshops and day camps, among others;
- 3 to maintain the ITU website in all six United Nations official languages in order to ensure broad dissemination of the actions and activities developed by the membership around the world on the occasion of the celebration of the international Girls in ICT Day, as well as the achievements of these actions;
- 4 to continue the work of BDT in promoting the use of telecommunications/ICTs for the economic and social empowerment of women and girls, helping them to tackle disparities and facilitating the acquisition of skills for life;
- 5 to continue to assist developing countries in order to expedite bridging the digital gender divide;
- 6 to ensure significant contributions to the achievement of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, including SDG 5,

invites Member States and Sector Members

- 1 to make voluntary contributions to ITU to support the implementation of this resolution to the fullest extent possible;
- 2 to observe and promote annually the international Girls in ICT Day, held on the fourth Thursday of April, to share with BDT lessons learned from the Girls in ICT Day activities whenever necessary, and to invite ICT companies, other companies with ICT departments, ICT training institutions, universities, research centres and all ICT-related institutions to organize an open day for girls;
- 3 to actively support and participate in the work of BDT in promoting the use of telecommunications/ICTs for the economic and social empowerment of women and girls;

- 4 to actively participate in the launch of a Global Network of women ICT decision-makers aimed at promoting the work of ITU in using ICTs for the social and economic empowerment of women and girls, including by building partnerships and building synergies between existing networks at national, regional and international levels, as well as fostering successful strategies to strengthen gender equality in senior-level positions in telecommunication/ICT administrations, government, regulatory bodies and intergovernmental organizations, including ITU, and in the private sector;
- 5 to highlight a gender perspective in the questions under study in the ITU-D study groups and the programmes of the Buenos Aires Action Plan;
- 6 to further develop internal tools and programming guidelines in the area of promotion of gender equality in the use of ICTs;
- 7 to promote programmes, actions and support mechanisms that protect women and girls, including those who live in rural and remote areas and are in vulnerable situations, from all forms of discrimination;
- 8 to collaborate with relevant stakeholders that have significant experience in mainstreaming gender equality in projects and programmes, in order to provide specialized training for women on ICT use;
- 9 to provide support so that women and girls can have access to studies and careers in telecommunications/ICTs, by creating opportunities, fostering their incorporation into teaching and learning processes, and/or encouraging their professional training;
- 10 to support and/or promote the funding of studies, projects and proposals that contribute to overcoming gender inequalities and to fostering and promoting telecommunications/ICTs to empower women and girls;

- 11 to nominate on an annual basis deserving organizations and individuals for the EQUALS Tech Awards;
- 12 to achieve SDG 5 of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.

RESOLUTION 71 (REV. DUBAI, 2018)

Strategic plan for the Union for 2020-2023

The Plenipotentiary Conference of the International Telecommunication Union (Dubai, 2018),

considering

- a) the provisions of the ITU Constitution and ITU Convention relating to strategic policies and plans;
- b) Article 19 of the Convention, on the participation of Sector Members in the Union's activities;
- c) Resolution 70 (Rev. Dubai, 2018) of this conference, which resolves to incorporate the gender perspective in the implementation of the strategic and financial plans for 2020-2023 as well as in the operational plans of the Sectors and the General Secretariat;
- d) Resolution 72 (Rev. Busan, 2014) of the Plenipotentiary Conference, which underlines the importance of linking strategic, financial and operational plans as a basis for measuring progress in achieving the objectives and goals of ITU,

welcoming

United Nations General Assembly (UNGA) Resolutions 71/243 of 21 December 2016, on the quadrennial comprehensive policy review of operational activities for development of the United Nations system, and 72/279 of 31 May 2018, on the repositioning of the United Nations development system in the context of the quadrennial comprehensive policy review of operational activities for development of the United Nations system,

noting

- a) the challenges faced by the Union in achieving its purposes in the constantly changing telecommunication/information and communication technology (ICT) environment as well as the context for the development and implementation of the strategic plan, as outlined in Annex 2 to this resolution;
- b) the glossary of terms presented in Annex 3 to this resolution,

recognizing

- a) the experience gained in implementing the previous strategic plans for the Union;
- b) the recommendations of the report by the United Nations Joint Inspection Unit (JIU) on strategic planning in the United Nations system, published in 2012;
- c) the recommendations relevant to strategic planning and risk management in the JIU report on review of management and administration in ITU, published in 2016;
- d) that the effective linkage between the strategic plan and the financial plan, which is detailed in Annex 1 to Decision 5 (Rev. Dubai, 2018) of this conference, can be achieved through reallocation of the resources of the financial plan to the various Sectors, and then to the goals and objectives of the strategic plan, as presented in the appendix to Annex 1 to this resolution,

resolves

to adopt the strategic plan contained in Annex 1 to this resolution,

instructs the Secretary-General and the Directors of the Bureaux

- 1 to develop and implement an ITU results framework for the strategic plan of the Union, following the principles of results-based management and results-based budgeting;
- 2 to coordinate the implementation of the strategic plan, ensuring coherence between the strategic plan, the financial plan, the operational plans and the biennial budgets;
- 3 to report annually to the ITU Council on the implementation of the strategic plan and on the performance of the Union towards the achievement of its goals and objectives;
- 4 to recommend to the Council adjustments to the plan in the light of changes in the telecommunication/ICT environment and/or as a result of the performance evaluation and the risk-management framework, in particular by:

- i) making all modifications necessary to ensure that the strategic plan facilitates the accomplishment of ITU's goals and objectives, taking account of proposals by the Sector advisory groups, decisions by conferences and by assemblies of the Sectors and changes in the strategic focus of the Union's activities, within the financial limits established by the Plenipotentiary Conference;
 - ii) ensuring the linkage between the strategic, financial and operational plans in ITU, and developing the corresponding human resources strategic plan;
- 5 to distribute these reports to all Member States, after consideration by the Council, urging them to circulate the reports to Sector Members, as well as to those entities and organizations referred to in No. 235 of the Convention which have participated in these activities;
- 6 to continue to engage with the United Nations Secretary-General, other United Nations development system entities and Member States with a view to supporting full implementation of UNGA Resolutions 71/243 and 72/279,

instructs the ITU Council

- 1 to oversee the development and implementation of the ITU results framework, including the adoption of the related indicators to better measure the effectiveness and efficiency of the implementation of the strategic plan of the Union;
- 2 to oversee the development and implementation of the strategic plan, and when necessary adjust the strategic plan, on the basis of the Secretary-General's reports;
- 3 to present an assessment of the results of the strategic plan to the next plenipotentiary conference, along with a proposed strategic plan for the next period;
- 4 to take appropriate action to support the implementation of UNGA Resolutions 71/243 and 72/279;

5 to ensure that the rolling operational plans from the General Secretariat and the three Sectors approved annually by the Council are fully aligned and compliant with this resolution and its annexes and with the financial plan for the Union approved in Decision 5 (Rev. Dubai, 2018) of this conference,

invites the Member States

to contribute national and regional insights on policy, regulatory and operational matters to the strategic planning process undertaken by the Union in the period before the next plenipotentiary conference, in order to:

- strengthen the effectiveness of the Union in fulfilling its purposes as set out in the instruments of the Union, by cooperating in the implementation of the strategic plan;
- assist the Union in meeting the changing expectations of all its constituents as national structures for the provision of telecommunication/ICT services continue to evolve,

invites Sector Members

to communicate their views on the strategic plan of the Union through their relevant Sectors and the corresponding advisory groups.

ANNEX 1 TO RESOLUTION 71 (REV. DUBAI, 2018)

ITU strategic plan for 2020-2023

1 ITU strategic framework 2020-2023

<div>← RBM planning</div> <div>Implementation →</div>	Vision & mission	<p>Vision is the better world ITU wants to see.</p> <p>Mission refers to the main overall purposes of the Union, as per the basic instruments of ITU.</p>	<div>Values: ITU's shared and common beliefs that drive its priorities and guide all decision-making processes</div>
	Strategic goals & targets	<p>Strategic goals refer to the Union's high-level targets to which the objectives contribute, directly or indirectly. They relate to the whole of ITU.</p> <p>Targets are the expected results during the period of the strategic plan; they provide an indication as to whether the goal is being achieved. Targets may not always be achieved, for reasons that may be beyond the control of the Union.</p>	
	Objectives & outcomes	<p>Objectives refer to the specific aims of the Sectoral and inter-Sectoral activities in a given period.</p> <p>Outcomes provide an indication as to whether the objective is being achieved. Outcomes are usually partly, but not entirely, within the organization's control.</p>	
	Outputs	<p>Outputs are the final tangible results, deliverables, products and services achieved by the Union in the implementation of the operational plans.</p>	
	Activities	<p>Activities are various actions/services for transforming resources (inputs) into outputs. Activities may be grouped into processes.</p>	

1.1 Vision

"An **information society**, empowered by the **interconnected world**, where **telecommunications/information and communication technologies** enable and accelerate **social, economic and environmentally sustainable growth and development** for everyone"

1.2 Mission

"To **promote, facilitate and foster affordable and universal access to telecommunication/information and communication technology networks, services and applications** and their **use for social, economic and environmentally sustainable growth and development**"

1.3 Values

The Union recognizes that achieving its mission requires that it build and maintain **trust** among its membership and inspire the **confidence** of the public at large. This applies to both what the Union does and how it is done.

The Union is committed to continuously building and safeguarding that trust by ensuring that its actions are guided by the following values:

Efficiency: Focusing on the purposes of the Union, making decisions on the basis of appropriate studies, evidence and experience, taking effective action and monitoring outputs, avoiding internal ITU duplication.

Transparency and accountability: By enhancing transparency and accountability processes for better decisions, actions, results and management of resources, ITU communicates and demonstrates progress towards the achievement of its goals.

Openness: Being aware of and responsive to the needs of all its membership, as well as the activities and expectations of intergovernmental organizations, the private sector, civil society, the technical community and academia.

Universality and neutrality: As a United Nations specialized agency, ITU reaches, covers and represents all parts of the world. Within the remit of the basic instruments of the Union, its operations and activities reflect the express will of its membership preferably by consensus. The Union also recognizes the overarching pre-eminence of human rights, including the right to freedom of opinion and expression, which includes the freedom to seek, receive and impart information and ideas through any media and regardless of frontiers, and the right to not be subjected to arbitrary interference in privacy.

People-centred, service-oriented and results-based: Being people-centred, ITU is focused on people in order to deliver results that matter to each and every individual. Being service-oriented, ITU is committed to further delivering high-quality services and maximizing satisfaction of beneficiaries and stakeholders. Being results-based, ITU aims for tangible results and to maximize the impact of its work.

The Union expects all of its staff to adhere faithfully to the Standards of Conduct for the International Civil Service and the ITU Code of Ethics. It also expects that any partner will uphold the highest standards of ethical behaviour.

1.4 Strategic goals

The strategic goals of the Union are listed hereafter and support ITU's role in facilitating progress towards the implementation of the World Summit on the Information Society (WSIS) action lines and the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.

Goal 1 – Growth: Enable and foster access to and increased use of telecommunications/ICT in support of the digital economy and society

Recognizing the role of telecommunications/ICTs as a key enabler for social, economic and environmentally sustainable development, ITU will work to enable and foster access to, and increase the use of, telecommunications/ICTs, foster the development of telecommunications/ICTs in the support of the digital economy and help developing countries make their transition to the digital economy. Growth in the use of telecommunications/ICTs has a positive impact on short- and long-term socio-economic development as well as on the growth of the digital economy towards building an inclusive information society. The Union is committed to working together and collaborating with all stakeholders in the telecommunication/ICT environment in order to achieve this goal.

Goal 2 – Inclusiveness: Bridge the digital divide and provide broadband access for all

Being committed to ensuring that everyone without exception benefits from telecommunications/ICTs, ITU will work to bridge the digital divide for an inclusive information society and enable the provision of broadband access for all, leaving no one offline. Bridging the digital divide focuses on global telecommunication/ICT inclusiveness, fostering telecommunication/ICT access, accessibility, affordability and use in all countries and regions and for all peoples, including women and girls, youth and marginal and vulnerable populations, people from lower socio-economic groups, indigenous peoples, older persons and persons with disabilities.

Goal 3 – Sustainability: Manage emerging risks, challenges and opportunities resulting from the rapid growth of telecommunications/ICT

To promote the beneficial use of telecommunications/ICTs, ITU recognizes the need to manage emerging risks, challenges and opportunities from the rapid growth of telecommunications/ICTs. The Union focuses on enhancing the quality, reliability, sustainability and resilience of networks and systems as well as building confidence and security in the use of telecommunications/ICTs. Accordingly, the Union will work to make it possible to seize opportunities presented by telecommunications/ICTs while working towards minimizing the negative impact of undesired collaterals.

Goal 4 – Innovation: Enable innovation in telecommunications/ICT in support of the digital transformation of society

The Union recognizes the crucial role of telecommunications/ICTs in the digital transformation of society. The Union seeks to contribute to the development of an environment that is conducive to innovation, where advances in new technologies become a key driver for the implementation of the WSIS action lines and the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.

Goal 5 – Partnership: Strengthen cooperation among the ITU membership and all other stakeholders in support of all ITU strategic goals

In order to facilitate the achievement of the above strategic goals, the Union recognizes the need to foster engagement and cooperation among governments, the private sector, civil society, intergovernmental and international organizations, and the academic and technical communities. The Union also recognizes the need to contribute to the global partnership to strengthen the role of telecommunication/ICTs as means of implementation of the WSIS action lines and the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.

1.5 Targets

Targets represent the effect and long-term impact of ITU's work and provide an indication of progress towards achievement of the strategic goals. The Union will work collaboratively with the full range of other organizations and entities around the world committed to advancing the use of telecommunications/ICTs. The purpose of such targets is to provide the direction where the Union should focus its attention and to materialize the ITU vision for an interconnected world for 2020-2023. The following targets for each of the ITU's strategic goals reflect criteria that are specific, measurable, action-oriented, realistic, relevant, time-bound and traceable.

Table 1: Targets

Target
Goal 1: Growth
Target 1.1: By 2023, 65% of households worldwide with access to the Internet
Target 1.2: By 2023, 70% of individuals worldwide will be using the Internet
Target 1.3: By 2023, Internet access should be 25% more affordable (baseline year 2017)
Target 1.4: By 2023, all countries adopt a digital agenda/strategy
Target 1.5: By 2023, increase the number of broadband subscriptions by 50%
Target 1.6: By 2023, 40% of countries to have more than half of broadband subscriptions over 10 Mbit/s
Target 1.7: By 2023, 40% of the population should be interacting with government services online
Goal 2: Inclusiveness
Target 2.1: By 2023, in the developing world, 60% of households should have access to the Internet
Target 2.2: By 2023, in the least developed countries, 30% of households should have access to the Internet
Target 2.3: By 2023, in the developing world, 60% of individuals will be using the Internet
Target 2.4: By 2023, in the least developed countries, 30% of individuals will be using the Internet

Target 2.5: By 2023, the affordability gap between developed and developing countries should be reduced by 25% (baseline year 2017)

Target 2.6: By 2023, broadband services should cost no more than 3% of average monthly income in developing countries

Target 2.7: By 2023, 96% of the world population covered by broadband services

Target 2.8: By 2023, gender equality in Internet usage and mobile phone ownership should be achieved

Target 2.9: By 2023, enabling environments ensuring accessible telecommunications/ICTs for persons with disabilities should be established in all countries

Target 2.10: By 2023, improve by 40% the proportion of youth/adults with telecommunication/ICT skills

Goal 3: Sustainability

Target 3.1: By 2023, improve cybersecurity preparedness of countries, with key capabilities: presence of strategy, national computer incident/emergency response teams and legislation

Target 3.2: By 2023, increase the global e-waste recycling rate to 30%

Target 3.3: By 2023, raise the percentage of countries with an e-waste legislation to 50%

Target 3.4: By 2023, net telecommunication/ICT-enabled greenhouse gas abatement should have increased by 30% compared to the 2015 baseline

Target 3.5: By 2023, all countries should have a national emergency telecommunication plan as part of their national and local disaster risk reduction strategies

Goal 4: Innovation

Target 4.1: By 2023, all countries should have policies/strategies fostering telecommunication/ICT-centric innovation

Goal 5: Partnership

Target 5.1: By 2023, increased effective partnerships with stakeholders and cooperation with other organizations and entities in the telecommunication/ICT environment

1.6 Strategic risk management

Bearing in mind the prevailing challenges, evolutions and transformations that have the most potential to impact on ITU activities during the period of the strategic plan, the list of top-level strategic risks presented in Table 2 below has been identified, analysed and evaluated. These risks have been considered when planning the strategy for 2020-2023, and the corresponding mitigation measures have been identified as necessary. It should be emphasized that the strategic risks are not meant to represent deficiencies of ITU's operations. They represent forward-looking uncertainties that may affect efforts to fulfil the mission of the Union during the period of the strategic plan.

ITU has identified, analysed and assessed these strategic risks. Apart from the strategic planning processes, setting the overall framework on how to mitigate these risks, operational mitigation measures will be defined and implemented through the operational planning process of the Union.

Table 2: Strategic risks and mitigation strategies

Risk	Mitigation strategy
<p>1 Diminishing relevance and ability to demonstrate clear added value</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> – Risk of duplication of efforts and inconsistencies inside the organization that affects our ability to demonstrate added value – Risk of conflicting efforts, inconsistencies and competition with other relevant organizations and bodies that leads to misperception of ITU's mandate, mission and role 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> – Risk avoidance: By clear mandates of each structure and role in the Union – Risk limitation: Improve the cooperation framework – Risk avoidance: Identify and concentrate on areas with clear added value – Risk transfer: By establishing long-term partnerships – Risk limitation: By an appropriate and consistent communication strategy (internal and external)

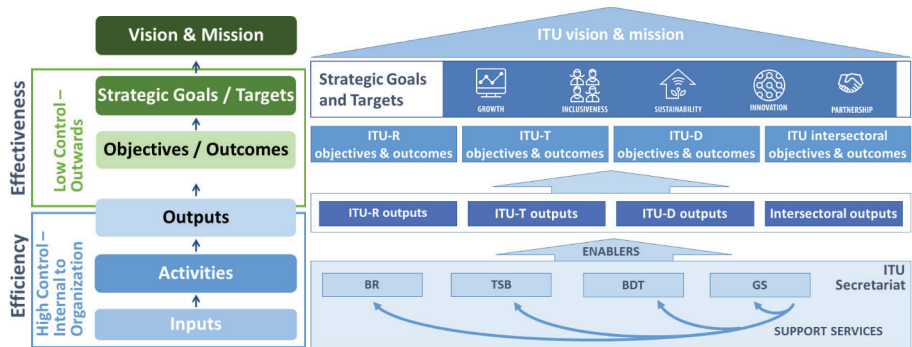
Risk	Mitigation strategy
2 Spreading too thin – Risk of mission dilution and losing sight of the organization’s core mandate	– Risk avoidance: By prioritizing, focusing and building on the strengths of the Union – Risk limitation: By ensuring consistency of ITU activities / working outside silos
3 Failure to respond quickly to emerging needs and innovate sufficiently while still providing high-quality deliverables – Risk of unresponsiveness, leading to disengagement of the membership and other stakeholders – Risk of being left behind – Risk of lower quality deliverables	– Risk avoidance: Plan for the future while being agile, responsive and innovative , focus on purposes of the Union – Risk limitation: Define, promote and implement a fit-for-purpose organizational culture – Risk transfer: proactively engage stakeholders
4 Concerns regarding trust and confidence – Risk of rising concerns related to trust on the part of the membership and stakeholders – Risk of rising concerns on confidence within membership	– Risk avoidance: Adopt and implement common values – all actions guided by the adopted values – Risk limitation: Engage with the membership and other stakeholders, improve communication and transparency, commit to the values , and promote ownership of strategic initiatives; ensure adherence to the core mission and goals and organizational procedures

Risk	Mitigation strategy
5 Inadequate internal structures, tools, methodology and processes – Risk of structures, methods and tools becoming inadequate, failing to be effective	– Risk limitation: Optimize internal structures, improve tools, methodologies and processes – Risk transfer: Initiate processes for quality control – Risk limitation: Improve internal and external communication
6 Insufficient funding – Risk of reduced financial contributions and sources of revenue	– Risk limitation: Identify and explore new markets and players; prioritization of core activities – Risk limitation: Ensure effective financial planning – Risk limitation: Membership engagement strategies – Risk transfer: Increase the relevance of ITU activities

2 ITU results framework

ITU will implement the strategic goals of the Union for 2020-2023 through a number of objectives to be attained in this period. Each Sector will contribute to the overarching goals of the Union in the context of its specific remit, through implementation of the Sector-specific objectives and the overarching inter-Sectoral objectives. The ITU Council will ensure efficient coordination and oversight of this work.

The enablers support the overall objectives and strategic goals of the Union. The activities and support services of the General Secretariat and the Bureaux provide these enablers to the work of the Sectors and the whole Union.



ITU-R objectives:

- R.1 Spectrum/orbit regulation and management: Meet, in a rational, equitable, efficient, economical and timely way, the ITU membership's requirements for radio-frequency spectrum and satellite-orbit resources, while avoiding harmful interference
- R.2 Radiocommunication standards: Provide for worldwide connectivity and interoperability, improved performance, quality, affordability and timeliness of service and overall system economy in radiocommunications, including through the development of international standards
- R.3 Knowledge-sharing: Foster the acquisition and sharing of knowledge and know-how on radiocommunications

ITU-T objectives:

- T.1 Development of standards: Develop non-discriminatory international standards (ITU-T recommendations), in a timely manner, and foster interoperability and improved performance of equipment, networks, services and applications

- T.2 Bridging the standards gap: Promote the active participation of the membership, in particular developing countries, in the definition and adoption of non-discriminatory international standards (ITU-T recommendations) with a view to bridging the standardization gap
- T.3 Telecommunication resources: Ensure effective allocation and management of international telecommunication numbering, naming, addressing and identification resources in accordance with ITU-T recommendations and procedures
- T.4 Knowledge-sharing: Foster the acquisition, awareness and sharing of knowledge and know-how on the standardization activities of ITU-T
- T.5 Cooperation with standardization bodies: Extend and facilitate cooperation with international, regional and national standardization bodies

ITU-D objectives:

- D.1 Coordination: Foster international cooperation and agreement on telecommunication/ICT development issues
- D.2 Modern and secure telecommunication/ICT infrastructure: Foster the development of infrastructure and services, including building confidence and security in the use of telecommunications/ICTs
- D.3 Enabling environment: Foster an enabling policy and regulatory environment conducive to sustainable telecommunication/ICT development
- D.4 Inclusive information society: Foster the development and use of telecommunications/ICTs and applications to empower people and societies for sustainable development

Inter-Sectoral objectives:

- I.1 Collaboration: Foster closer collaboration among all stakeholders in the telecommunication/ICT ecosystem
- I.2 Emerging telecommunication/ICT trends: Enhance identification, awareness and analysis of digital transformation and emerging trends in the telecommunication/ICT environment
- I.3 Telecommunication/ICT accessibility): Enhance telecommunication/ICT accessibility for persons with disabilities and persons with specific needs
- I.4 Gender equality and inclusion: Enhance the use of telecommunications/ICTs for gender equality and inclusion and empowerment of women and girls
- I.5 Environmental sustainability: Leverage telecommunications/ICTs to reduce the environmental footprint
- I.6 Reducing overlap and duplication: Reduce the areas of overlap and duplication and foster closer and more transparent coordination among the General Secretariat and ITU Sectors, taking into account the Union's budgetary provisions and the expertise and mandate of each Sector

Table 3: Linkage of ITU objectives with the strategic goals¹:

		Goal 1:	Goal 2:	Goal 3:	Goal 4:	Goal 5:
		Growth	Inclusiveness	Sustainability	Innovation	Partnership
Objectives	ITU-R objectives					
	R.1 Spectrum/orbit regulation and management	☑	☑	☑	☑	✓
	R.2 Radiocommunication standards	☑	☑	✓	☑	✓
	R.3 Knowledge sharing	✓	☑	✓	✓	✓
	ITU-T objectives					
	T.1 Development of standards	☑	✓	✓	✓	✓
	T.2 Bridging the standards gap	✓	☑		✓	
	T.3 Telecommunication resources	☑	✓	✓	✓	✓
	T.4 Knowledge sharing	✓	☑	✓	✓	✓
	T.5 Cooperation with standardization bodies	✓	✓	✓	✓	☑
	ITU-D objectives					
	D.1 Coordination	✓	☑	✓	✓	☑
	D.2 Modern and secure telecommunication/ICT infrastructure	☑	✓	✓	✓	✓
	D.3 Enabling environment	✓	✓	☑	☑	✓
	D.4 Inclusive information society	✓	☑	✓	✓	✓
	Inter-Sectoral objectives					
	I.1 Collaboration	✓	✓	✓	✓	☑
	I.2 Emerging telecommunication/ICT trends	✓		✓	☑	✓
	I.3 Telecommunication/ICT accessibility	✓	☑		✓	✓
	I.4 Gender equality and inclusion	✓	☑			✓
	I.5 Environmental sustainability	✓		☑	✓	✓
	I.6 Reducing overlap and duplication	✓	✓	✓	✓	☑

¹ Boxes and ticks demonstrate primary and secondary links to goals

2.1 Objectives, outcomes and outputs/enablers

Table 4: ITU-R objectives, outcomes and outputs

R.1 Spectrum/orbit regulation and management: Meet, in a rational, equitable, efficient, economical and timely way, the ITU membership's requirements for radio-frequency spectrum and satellite-orbit resources, while avoiding harmful interference

Outcomes

- R.1-a: Increased number of countries having satellite networks and earth stations recorded in the Master International Frequency Register (MIFR)
- R.1-b: Increased number of countries having terrestrial frequency assignments recorded in the MIFR
- R.1-c: Increased percentage of assignments recorded in the MIFR with a favourable finding
- R.1-d: Increased percentage of countries which have completed the transition to digital terrestrial television broadcasting
- R.1-e: Increased percentage of spectrum assigned to satellite networks which is free from harmful interference
- R.1-f: Increased percentage of assignments to terrestrial services recorded in the MIFR which are free from harmful interference

Outputs

- R.1-1: Final acts of world radiocommunication conferences, updated Radio Regulations
- R.1-2: Final acts of regional radiocommunication conferences, regional agreements
- R.1-3: Rules of Procedure and other decisions of the Radio Regulations Board (RRB)
- R.1-4: Publication of space notices and other related activities
- R.1-5: Publication of terrestrial notices and other related activities

R.2 Radiocommunication standards: Provide for worldwide connectivity and interoperability, improved performance, quality, affordability and timeliness of service and overall system economy in radiocommunications, including through the development of international standards

Outcomes

R.2-a: Increased mobile-broadband access and use, including in frequency bands identified for international mobile telecommunications (IMT)

R.2-b: Reduced mobile-broadband price basket, as a percentage of gross national income (GNI) per capita

R.2-c: Increased number of fixed links and increased amount of traffic handled by the fixed service (Tbit/s)

R.2-d: Increased number of households with digital terrestrial television reception

R.2-e: Increased number of satellite transponders (equivalent 36 MHz) on communication satellites in operation and corresponding capacity (Tbit/s); number of VSAT terminals; number of households with satellite television reception

R.2-f: Increased number of devices with radionavigation-satellite reception

R.2-g: Increased number of satellites having Earth exploration payloads in operation, corresponding quantity and resolution of transmitted images and data volume downloaded (Tbytes)

Outputs

R.2-1: Decisions of the Radiocommunication Assembly, ITU-R resolutions

R.2-2: ITU-R recommendations, reports (including the CPM report) and handbooks

R.2-3: Advice from the Radiocommunication Advisory Group

R.3 Knowledge sharing: Foster the acquisition and sharing of knowledge and know-how on radiocommunications

Outcomes

R.3-a: Increased knowledge and know-how on the Radio Regulations, Rules of Procedure, regional agreements, recommendations and best practices on spectrum use

R.3-b: Increased participation in ITU-R activities (including through remote participation), in particular by developing countries

Outputs

R.3-1: ITU-R publications

R.3-2: Assistance to members, in particular developing countries and least developed countries

R.3-3: Liaison/support to development activities

R.3-4: Seminars, workshops and other events

Table 5: Enablers for ITU-R

Supported objective(s)	BR activities	Contribution to the outcomes of the Sector	Results
R.1	Efficient processing of frequency assignment notices	Increased certainty for planning new radiocommunication networks	Reduced processing time for publication of notices Processing time within regulatory limits
R.1, R.2, R.3	Development, maintenance and improvement of ITU-R software, databases and online tools Technical, regulatory, administrative, outreach and logistical activities in support of ITU-R objectives	Increased reliability, efficiency and transparency in the application of the Radio Regulations	New and improved ITU-R software, databases and online tools Efficient and timely delivery of ITU-R outputs and support to ITU-R objectives BR contributions to ITU-R meetings, conferences and events

Table 6: ITU-T objectives, outcomes and outputs**T.1 Development of standards: Develop non-discriminatory international standards (ITU-T recommendations), in a timely manner, and foster interoperability and improved performance of equipment, networks, services and applications***Outcomes*

- T.1-a: Increased utilization of ITU-T recommendations
- T.1-b: Improved conformance to ITU-T recommendations
- T.1-c: Enhanced standards in new technologies and services

Outputs

- T.1-1: Resolutions, recommendations and opinions of the World Telecommunication Standardization Assembly (WTSA)
- T.1-2: WTSA regional consultation sessions
- T.1-3: Advice and decisions of the Telecommunication Standardization Advisory Group (TSAG)
- T.1-4: ITU-T recommendations and related results of ITU-T study groups
- T.1-5: ITU-T general assistance and cooperation
- T.1-6: Conformity database
- T.1-7: Interoperability test centres and events
- T.1-8: Development of test suites

T.2 Bridging the standards gap: Promote the active participation of the membership, in particular developing countries, in the definition and adoption of non-discriminatory international standards (ITU-T recommendations) with a view to bridging the standardization gap*Outcomes*

- T.2-a: Increased participation in the ITU-T standardization process, including attendance of meetings, submission of contributions, taking leadership positions and hosting of meetings/workshops, especially from developing countries
- T.2-b: Increase in the ITU-T membership, including Sector Members, Associates and Academia

Outputs

- T.2-1: Bridging the standardization gap
- T.2-2: Workshops and seminars, including offline and online training activities, complementing the capacity-building work on bridging the standardization gap
- T.2-3: Outreach and promotion

T.3 Telecommunication resources: Ensure effective allocation and management of international telecommunication numbering, naming, addressing and identification resources in accordance with ITU-T recommendations and procedures

Outcomes

T.3-a: Timely and accurate allocation of international telecommunication numbering, naming, addressing and identification resources, as specified in the relevant recommendations

Outputs

T.3-1: Relevant TSB databases
T.3-2: Allocation and management of international telecommunication numbering, naming, addressing and identification resources in accordance with ITU-T recommendations and procedures

T.4 Knowledge-sharing: Foster the acquisition, awareness and sharing of knowledge and know-how on the standardization activities of ITU-T

Outcomes

T.4-a: Increased knowledge on ITU-T standards and on best practices in their implementation

T.4-b: Increased participation in ITU-T's standardization activities and increased awareness of the relevance of ITU-T standards

T.4-c: Increased Sector visibility

Outputs

T.4-1: ITU-T publications
T.4-2: Database publications
T.4-3: Outreach and promotion
T.4-4: ITU Operational Bulletin

T.5 Cooperation with standardization bodies: Extend and facilitate cooperation with international, regional and national standardization bodies

Outcomes

T.5-a: Increased communications with other standards organizations

T.5-b: Decreased number of conflicting standards

T.5-c: Increased number of memoranda of understanding/collaboration agreements with other organizations

T.5-d: Increased number of ITU-T A.4, A.5 and A.6 qualified organizations

T.5-e: Increased number of workshops/events organized jointly with other organizations

Outputs

T.5-1: Memoranda of understanding (MoUs) and collaboration agreements
T.5-2: ITU-T A.4/A.5/A.6 qualifications
T.5-3: Jointly organized workshops/events

Table 7: Enablers for ITU-T

Supported ITU-T objective(s)	TSB activities	Contribution to the outcomes of the Sector	Results
T.1	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> – Timely and efficient provisioning of documents (WTSA resolutions, recommendations, opinions, ITU-T recommendations, study group related documents, reports) – Secretariat support and organization and logistical support for meetings – Advisory services – TSB EWM services and information services – Operation and maintenance of C&I databases; logistical support for interoperability/testing events, testbeds 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> – Increased quality of ITU-T recommendations 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> – Timely up-to-date information for delegates and the standards community about ITU-T's products and services

T.2	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> – Organization of BSG hands-on training sessions; fellowship financial support; logistical support of regional groups – Organization of workshops – Announcements (ITU newblog, promotional activities) – Account management of ITU-T memberships, retention of current members and proactive acquisition of new members 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> – Increased ITU-T membership and participation in the standardization process 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> – Active participation of delegates and organizations that have so far only participated passively in ITU-T activities, or not at all
T.3	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> – Processing and publication of international numbering, addressing, naming and identification applications/resources 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> – Timeliness and accuracy in the allocation of the resources 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> – Timely availability of numbering information facilitates management of networks
T.4	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> – ITU-T publication services – Development and maintenance of ITU-T databases – Outreach and promotion service (ITU newblog, social media, web) – Organization of workshops, CTO group meetings, Kaleidoscope, sessions at ITU Telecom, WSIS, etc. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> – Increased knowledge and awareness on ITU-T standards, increased participation in ITU-T activities and increased Sector visibility 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> – Timely availability of publications (documents; databases) and easy-to-use services enhances the delegate experience

T.5

- Maintenance and management of MoUs; establishment of new MoUs
- Maintenance and management of A.4/A.5/A.6 database
- Logistical support for jointly organized workshops and events
- Support services for various collaboration activities (WSC, GSC, CITS, FIGI, WSIS, U4SSC ...)
- Increased cooperation with other organizations
- Collaboration activities

Table 8: ITU-D objectives, outcomes and outputs

D.1 Coordination: Foster international cooperation and agreement on telecommunication/ICT development issues

<i>Outcomes</i>	<i>Outputs²</i>
D.1-a: Enhanced review and increased level of agreement on the draft ITU-D contribution to the draft ITU strategic plan, the World Telecommunication Development Conference (WTDC) Declaration, and the WTDC action plan	D.1-1: World Telecommunication Development Conference (WTDC) and WTDC final report D.1-2: Regional preparatory meetings (RPMs) and final report of the RPMs D.1-3: Telecommunication Development Advisory Group (TDAG) and TDAG reports for the Director of BDT and for WTDC
D.1-b: Assessment of the implementation of the WTDC action plan and of the WSIS Plan of Action	D.1-4: Study groups and guidelines, recommendations and reports of study groups
D.1-c: Enhanced knowledge-sharing, dialogue and partnership among the ITU membership on telecommunication/ICT issues	D.1-5: Platforms for regional coordination, including regional development forums (RDFs)
D.1-d: Enhanced process and implementation of telecommunication/ICT development projects and regional initiatives	D.1-6: Implemented telecommunication/ICT development projects and services related to regional initiatives.
D.1.e: Facilitation of agreement to cooperate on telecommunication/ICT development programmes between Member States, and between Member States and other stakeholders in the ICT ecosystem, based on requests from ITU Member States involved	

² Within the context of the outputs of the ITU-D contribution to the ITU strategic plan, "products and services" refers to activities within the mandate of ITU-D as defined by Article 21 of the ITU Constitution, including, among others, capacity building and dissemination of ITU expertise and knowledge

D.2 Modern and secure telecommunication/ICT Infrastructure: Foster the development of infrastructure and services, including building confidence and security in the use of telecommunications/ICTs

Outcomes

D.2-a: Enhanced capacity of the ITU membership to make available resilient telecommunication/ICT infrastructure and services

D.2-b: Strengthened capacity of Member States to effectively share information, find solutions, and respond to threats to cybersecurity, and to develop and implement national strategies and capabilities, including capacity building, encouraging national, regional and international cooperation towards enhanced engagement among Member States and relevant players

D.2-c: Strengthened capacity of Member States to use telecommunications/ICTs for disaster risk reduction and management, to ensure availability of emergency telecommunications, and support cooperation in this area

Outputs

D.2-1: Products and services on telecommunication/ICT infrastructure and services, wireless and fixed broadband, connecting rural and remote areas, improving international connectivity, bridging the digital standardization gap, conformance and interoperability, spectrum management and monitoring, the effective and efficient management and proper use of telecommunication resources, within the mandate of ITU, and the transition to digital broadcasting, such as assessment studies, publications, workshops, guidelines, and best practices

D.2-2: Products and services for building confidence and security in the use of telecommunications/ICTs, such as reports and publications, and for contributing to the implementation of national and global initiatives

D.2-3: Products and services on disaster risk reduction and management and emergency telecommunications, including assistance to enable Member States to address all phases of disaster management, such as early warning, response, relief and restoration of telecommunication networks

D.3 Enabling Environment: Foster an enabling policy and regulatory environment conducive to sustainable telecommunication/ICT development

Outcomes

D.3-a: Strengthened capacity of Member States to enhance their policy, legal and regulatory frameworks conducive to development of telecommunications/ICTs

D.3-b: Strengthened capacity of Member States to produce high-quality, internationally comparable telecommunication/ICT statistics which reflect developments and trends in telecommunications/ICTs, based on agreed standards and methodologies

D.3-c: Improved human and institutional capacity of the ITU membership to tap into the full potential of telecommunications/ICTs

D.3-d: Strengthened capacity of the ITU membership to integrate telecommunication/ICT innovation and digitalization in national development agendas and to develop strategies to promote innovation initiatives, including through public, private and public-private partnerships

Outputs

D.3-1: Products and services on telecommunication/ICT policy and regulation for better international coordination and coherence, such as assessment studies and other publications, and other platforms to exchange information

D.3-2: Products and services on telecommunication/ICT and digitalization statistics and data analysis, such as research reports, collection, harmonization and dissemination of high-quality, internationally comparable statistical data, and forums of discussion

D.3-3: Products and services on capacity building and human skills development, including those on international Internet governance, such as online platforms, distance and face-to-face training programmes to enhance practical skills and shared material, taking into account partnerships with telecommunication/ICT education stakeholders

D.3-4: Products and services on telecommunication/ICT innovation, such as knowledge-sharing and assistance, upon request, on developing a national innovation agenda; mechanisms for partnerships; development of projects, studies and telecommunication/ICT innovation policies

D.4 Inclusive information society: Foster the development and use of telecommunications/ICTs and applications to empower people and societies for sustainable development

Outcomes

D.4-a: Improved access to and use of telecommunications/ICTs in least developed countries (LDCs), small island developing states (SIDS) and landlocked developing countries (LLDCs), and countries with economies in transition

D.4-b: Improved capacity of the ITU membership to accelerate economic and social development by leveraging and using new technologies and telecommunication/ICT services and applications

D.4-c: Strengthened capacity of the ITU membership to develop strategies, policies and practices for digital inclusion, in particular for the empowerment of women and girls, persons with disabilities and other persons with specific needs

D.4-d: Enhanced capacity of the ITU membership to develop telecommunication/ICT strategies and solutions on climate-change adaptation and mitigation and the use of green/renewable energy

Outputs

D.4-1: Products and services on concentrated assistance to LDCs, SIDS and LLDCs and countries with economies in transition, to foster the availability and affordability of telecommunications/ICTs

D.4-2: Products and services on telecommunication/ICT policies supporting the development of the digital economy, ICT applications and new technologies, such as information sharing and support for their deployment, assessment studies and toolkits

D.4-3: Products and services on digital inclusion for girls and women and people with specific needs (elderly, youth, children and indigenous people, among others), such as awareness-raising on digital inclusion strategies, policies and practices, development of digital skills, toolkits and guidelines and forums of discussion to share practices and strategies

D.4-4: Products and services on ICT climate-change adaptation and mitigation, such as promotion of strategies and dissemination of best practices on mapping vulnerable areas and developing information systems, metrics, and e-waste management

Table 9: Enablers for ITU-D

Supported objective(s)	BDT activities	Contribution to the outcomes of the Sector	Results
D.1, D.2, D.3, D.4	1) Development and implementation of efficient strategies in telecommunication/ICT development towards achieving WSIS action lines and Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), including communication and promotion activities	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> – Increased understanding and sharing of the ITU-D objectives and outputs – Increased guidance for ITU-D activities – Increased clarity of the programme of activities 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> – Measurable progress towards ITU's role in achieving WSIS action lines and SDGs – Increased level of international cooperation in the area of telecommunication/ICT development – Increased level of satisfaction of Member States with services and products provided by BDT
	2) Efficient administration of and support to telecommunication/ICT development activities through coordination of and collaboration among services, finance and budget administration, event organization support and IT support	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> – Clear and coordinated scheduling of events – Provision of necessary financial, IT and manpower support within available resource limits – Provision of reliable support to events 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> – Enhanced coordination and collaboration in organizing events and implementing activities – Efficient use of financial resources – Timely and efficient organization of events – Increased quality and coordination of BDT's reporting to Member States

- | | | |
|--|---|--|
| 3) Efficient organization of and support to activities on telecommunication/ICT infrastructure, ICT applications and cybersecurity | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> – Identification of priorities and needs of Member States – Development of relevant products and services and their timely delivery to end users – Effective involvement of all relevant stakeholders in the development and delivery of products and services to Member States | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> – Increased quality and enhanced accessibility of products, services and expertise developed and delivered by BDT in the areas of telecommunication/ICT infrastructure, ICT applications, and cybersecurity – Increased level of satisfaction of Member States – Tangible improvements in ITU Member States as a result of BDT's activities in the areas of telecommunication/ICT infrastructure, ICT applications and cybersecurity – Enhanced role of telecommunications/ICTs in the social and economic development of Member States |
| 4) Efficient organization of and support to activities on projects and knowledge management through capacity building, project support, ICT data and statistics, and emergency telecommunication support | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> – Identification of priorities and needs of Member States – Development of relevant products and services and their timely delivery to end users – Effective involvement of all relevant stakeholders in the development and delivery of products and services to Member States | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> – Increased quality and enhanced accessibility of products, services, and expertise developed and delivered by BDT in the areas of projects and knowledge management – Increased level of satisfaction of Member States – Tangible improvements in ITU Member States as a result of BDT's activities in the areas of projects and knowledge management – Successful mitigation of emergency telecommunication risks |

- | | | |
|--|---|--|
| <p>5) Efficient organization of and support to innovation and partnership activities through partnership building, innovation, and study group coordination services</p> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> – Identification of priorities and needs of Member States – Development of relevant products and services and their timely delivery to end users – Effective involvement of all relevant stakeholders in the development and delivery of products and services to Member States | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> – Increased quality and enhanced accessibility of products, services, and expertise developed and delivered by BDT in the areas of partnership building and innovation – Increased level of satisfaction of Member States – Wider participation of stakeholders and partners in the development of telecommunications/ICTs in developing countries – Increased level of resources from donors for the benefit of Member States' efforts to develop their telecommunication/ICTs |
| <p>6) Efficient delivery and coordination of activities in telecommunication/ICT development through regional and area office activities</p> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> – Increased ITU outreach in various regions and areas of the world | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> – Effective and efficient delivery of products, services, information and expertise of BDT and ITU to Member States – Increased level of satisfaction of Member States with services and products provided by BDT |

Table 10: Inter-Sectoral objectives, outcomes and outputs**I.1 Collaboration: Foster closer collaboration among all stakeholders in the telecommunication/ICT ecosystem***Outcomes*

- I.1-a: Increased collaboration among relevant stakeholders
- I.1-b: Increased synergies from partnerships on telecommunications/ICTs
- I.1-c: Increased recognition of telecommunications/ICTs as a cross-cutting enabler for implementing the WSIS action lines and the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development
- I.1-d: Enhanced support to the ITU membership in developing and delivering ICT products and services

Outputs

- I.1-1: Inter-Sectoral world conferences, forums, events and platforms for high-level debate
- I.1-2: Knowledge-sharing, networking and partnerships
- I.1-3: Memoranda of understanding (MoUs)
- I.1-4: Reports and other inputs to UN inter-agency, multilateral and intergovernmental processes
- I.1-5: Establishment of support services for the ITU membership in ITU activities and events

I.2 Emerging telecommunication/ICT trends: Enhance identification, awareness and analysis of digital transformation and emerging trends in the telecommunication/ICT environment*Outcomes*

- I.2-a: Identification, awareness and analysis of digital transformation and emerging trends in telecommunications/ICTs

Outputs

- I.2-1: Inter-Sectoral initiatives and reports on relevant emerging telecommunication/ICT trends and other similar initiatives
- I.2-2: ITU News digital format
- I.2-3: Platforms to exchange information about new trends

I.3 Telecommunication/ICT accessibility: Enhance telecommunication/ICT accessibility for persons with disabilities and persons with specific needs

Outcomes

- I.3-a: Increased availability and compliance of telecommunication/ICT equipment, services and applications with universal design principles
- I.3-b: Increased engagement of organizations of persons with disabilities and persons with specific needs in the work of the Union
- I.3-c: Increased awareness, including multilateral and intergovernmental recognition, of the need to enhance access to telecommunications/ICTs for persons with disabilities and persons with specific needs

Outputs

- I.3-1: Reports, guidelines, standards and checklists relating to accessibility of telecommunications/ICTs
- I.3-2: Mobilization of resources and technical expertise, for example, through promoting greater participation in international and regional meetings by persons with disabilities and persons with specific needs
- I.3-3: Further development and implementation of the ITU Accessibility Policy and related plans
- I.3-4: Advocacy, both at UN level and at regional and national levels

I.4 Gender equality and inclusion: Enhance the use of telecommunications/ICTs for gender equality and inclusion and empowerment of women and girls

Outcomes

- I.4-a: Enhanced access to and use of telecommunications/ICTs to promote the empowerment of women
- I.4-b: Enhanced participation of women at all levels of decision-making in the work of the Union and the telecommunication/ICT sector
- I.4-c: Increased engagement with other UN organizations and stakeholders involved in using telecommunications/ICTs to promote the empowerment of women
- I.4-d: Full implementation of the UN system-wide strategy on gender parity within ITU's remit

Outputs

- I.4-1: Toolkits, assessment tools and guidelines for policy development and skills development and other practices for implementation
- I.4-2: Networks, collaboration, initiatives and partnerships
- I.4-3: Advocacy, both at UN level and at regional and national levels
- I.4-4: Support the EQUALS partnership

I.5 Environmental sustainability: Leverage telecommunications/ICTs to reduce the environmental footprint

Outcomes

- I.5-a: Improved efficiency of environmental policies and standards
- I.5-b: Reduced energy consumption from telecommunication/ICT applications
- I.5-c: Increasing amount of recycled e-waste
- I.5-d: Improved solutions for smart sustainable cities

Outputs

- I.5-1: Energy efficiency policies and standards
- I.5-2: Safety and environmental performance of ICT equipment and facilities (e-waste management)
- I.5-3: Global platform for smart sustainable cities, including development of KPIs

I.6 Reducing overlap and duplication: Reduce the areas of overlap and duplication and foster closer and more transparent coordination among the General Secretariat and ITU Sectors, taking into account the Union's budgetary provisions and the expertise and mandate of each Sector

Outcomes

- I.6-a: Closer and more transparent collaboration among the ITU Sectors, the General Secretariat and the three Bureaux
- I.6-b: Reducing the areas of overlap and duplication among the ITU Sectors and the work of the General Secretariat and the three Bureaux
- I.6-c: Savings through avoidance of areas of overlap

Outputs

- I.6-1: Process to identify and eliminate all forms and instances of duplication of functions and activities between all ITU structural bodies, optimizing, inter alia, management methods, logistics, coordination and support by the secretariat
- I.6-2: Implement the concept of "One ITU", harmonizing, to the extent feasible, procedures across Sectors and regional offices/the regional presence in the implementation of goals and objectives of the ITU and Sectors

Table 11: General Secretariat enablers/support services

Supported objective(s)	GS activities	Contribution to the outcomes	Results
All	Management of the Union	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> – Effective and efficient governance of the organization – Effective coordination among the Sectors of the Union 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> – Improved internal coordination – Management of the strategic risks of the organization – Decisions of the governing bodies being implemented – Development, implementation and monitoring of the strategic and operational Plans – Level of implementation of accepted recommendations – Application of efficiency measures – Overall quality of support services provided
All	Event management services (including translation and interpretation)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> – Efficient and accessible ITU conferences, meetings, events and workshops 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> – High quality of services provided for ITU events (availability of documents, courtesy and professionalism of ITU's conference service staff, quality of interpretation, quality of documents, quality of conference premises and facilities) – Improved financial efficiency

All	Publication services	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> – Ensuring the quality, availability and cost effectiveness of ITU publications 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> – High quality of ITU publications – Expeditious publishing process – Improved financial efficiency
All	ICT services	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> – Reliable, efficient and accessible ICT infrastructures and services 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> – Users satisfied with the ICT services provided by ITU – Availability and functionality of ICT services (high availability, IT safety and security, library and archive services, delivery of promised services on a timely basis, help provided in using technology effectively, introduction of new and innovative ICT services, ICT services valuable to ITU staff and delegates) – Increased number of platforms/systems facilitating the digital transformation of the organization – Business continuity and disaster recovery in place

All	Safety and security services	Ensuring a safe and secure working environment for ITU staff and delegates	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> – Overall safety and security of the organization's premises and assets worldwide – Reduced work-related injuries or incidents – Staff preparedness for missions
All	Human resources management services (including payroll, staff administration, staff well-being, organization design and recruitment, planning and development)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> – Ensuring efficient use of human resources, in a work-conducive environment 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> – Develop and implement the HR framework fostering a sustainable and satisfied workforce, including the elements of career development and training – Workforce adapted to the evolving environment and the evolving needs of the organization – Expeditious recruitment processes – Gender parity among ITU employees / gender parity in ITU statutory committees

All	Financial resources management services (including budget and financial analysis, accounts, procurement, travel)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> – Ensuring efficient planning and use of financial and capital resources 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> – IPSAS compliance and unqualified annual audit of accounts – Procurement and travel services: ITU guidelines and UN good practices in place – No overspend in budget implementation – Cost savings from efficiency measures implemented
All	Legal services	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> – Provision of legal advice – Ensuring adherence to rules and procedures 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> – Interests, integrity and reputation of the Union protected – Rules and regulations applied
All	Internal audit	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> – Ensuring efficient and effective governance and management controls 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> – Internal audit recommendations being implemented
All	Ethics office	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> – Promoting the highest standards of ethical behaviour 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> – Adherence to the Standards of Conduct for the International Civil Service and the ITU Code of Ethics

All	Engagement with the membership/Membership support services	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> – Ensuring efficient membership-related services 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> – Increased number of members – Increased membership satisfaction – Increased revenue from Sector Members, Associates and Academia
All	Communication services	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> – Ensuring effective communication services 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> – Increased regular engagement of key stakeholders on ITU digital platforms – Improved media coverage of ITU – Improved perception of the work of ITU – Improved traffic on ITU multimedia channels (Flickr, YouTube, etc.) – Increase in ITU news traffic and engagement – Increase in social media engagement and referrals
All	Protocol services	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> – Ensuring efficient management of protocol services 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> – Increased satisfaction of delegates and visitors

All	Facilitation of the work of governing bodies (Plenipotentiary Conference, Council, CWGs)	– Supporting and facilitating the decision-making processes of the governing bodies	– Improved efficiency of the governing bodies meetings
All	Facilities management services	– Ensuring efficient management of ITU premises	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> – Efficient management of the process of developing the new ITU building – Cost savings in managing ITU facilities – ITU to remain a carbon-neutral organization
All	Content development and management services/Corporate strategic management and planning	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> – Ensuring efficient planning – Strategic advice to senior management 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> – Approval of the ITU planning instruments by the membership – Support to the development of strategic initiatives

Inter-Sectoral objectives I.1, I.2	Coordination and cooperation in promoting telecommunications/ICTs that contribute to the WSIS action lines and the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> – Increased synergies, collaboration, transparency and internal communication on the partnerships developed and the activities undertaken on international cooperation for the promotion of ICT for SDGs – Better coordination of the organization of ITU events and meetings – Increased consistency for planning participation in conferences and forums 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> – New and improved measures and mechanisms with a view to increasing the efficiency and effectiveness of the organization – Coordinated ITU work and contribution to the WSIS action lines and the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development
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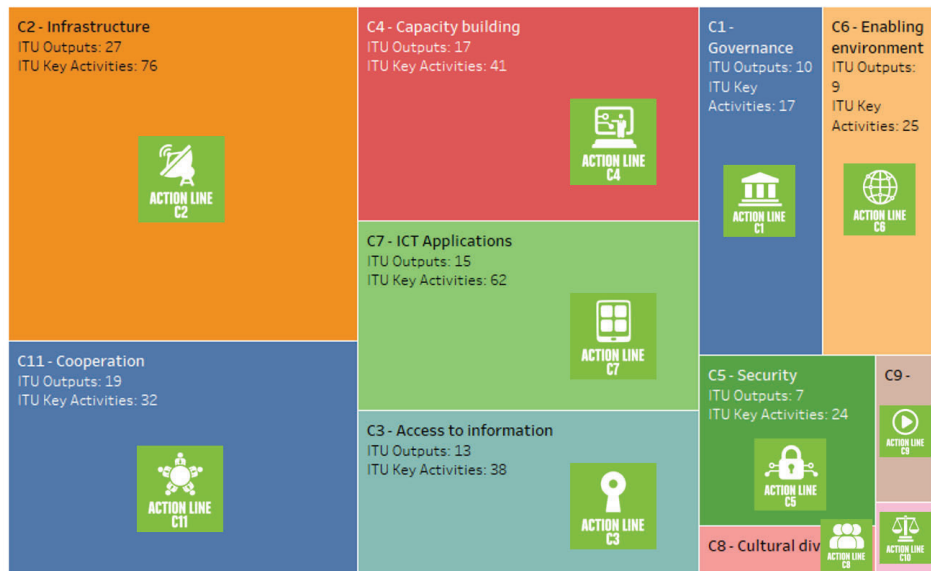
Inter-Sectoral objectives I.3, I.4, I.5, I.6	Coordination and cooperation in areas of mutual interest (including accessibility, gender, environmental sustainability)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> – Coordinated work in areas of mutual interest, promoting synergies and introducing efficiencies and savings in the use of ITU resources – Increased consistency for planning participation in conferences and forums – Increased internal communication on the activities undertaken on all thematic areas – Better coordination of the organization of ITU events and meetings 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> – Implementation of the consolidated annual work plan for each thematic area – New and improved measures and mechanisms with a view to increasing the efficiency and effectiveness of the organization
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3 Linkage with the WSIS action lines and the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development

Linkage with the WSIS action lines

ITU has a leading role in the WSIS process where, as a lead facilitator, along with UNESCO and UNDP, it coordinates the multistakeholder implementation of the Geneva Plan of Action. Notably, ITU is the sole facilitator for three different WSIS action lines: **C2** (Information and communication infrastructure); **C5** (Building confidence and security in the use of ICTs); and **C6** (Enabling environment).

Mapping ITU outputs and key activities to WSIS action lines (based on information from the ITU SDG mapping tool)



Linkage with the Sustainable Development Goals

With the adoption of the United Nations General Assembly resolution on transforming our world: the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, ITU, along with the rest of the UN family, needs to support Member States and contribute to the worldwide efforts to achieve the SDGs. The associated 17 SDGs and 169 related targets offer a holistic vision for the UN system.

The role of ICTs as essential catalysts to fast-forward achievement of the SDGs is clearly highlighted in the 2030 Agenda: "the spread of information and communications technology and global interconnectedness has great potential to accelerate human progress, to bridge the digital divide, and to develop knowledge societies". The Union, as the UN specialized agency for ICTs and global connectivity, has a key role to play in promoting prosperity in our digital world.

In order to maximize its contribution to the 2030 Agenda, ITU's primary focus is in addressing **SDG 9** (Industry, innovation and infrastructure) and target 9.c aiming to significantly increase access to ICTs and provide universal and affordable access to the Internet. Indeed, the infrastructure that powers our world and forms the backbone of the new digital economy is vital. It is essential to so many of the technological applications and potential solutions to the SDGs, and is crucial for making them both global and scalable.

Since **SDG 17** (Partnership for the Goals) highlights ICTs as a means of implementation, with cross-cutting transformative potential, it is imperative that ITU leverage this broad impact. Notable SDGs where ITU has a particularly strong impact include **SDG 11** (Sustainable cities and communities), **SDG 10** (Reduced inequalities), **SDG 8** (Decent work and economic growth), **SDG 1** (No poverty), **SDG 3** (Good health and well-being), **SDG 4** (Quality education) and **SDG 5** (Gender equality).

It is, therefore, through infrastructure and connectivity and in partnership with all stakeholders that ITU will contribute the most towards achieving the remaining SDGs.

Mapping ITU outputs and key activities to SDGs (as per the ITU SDG mapping tool³)

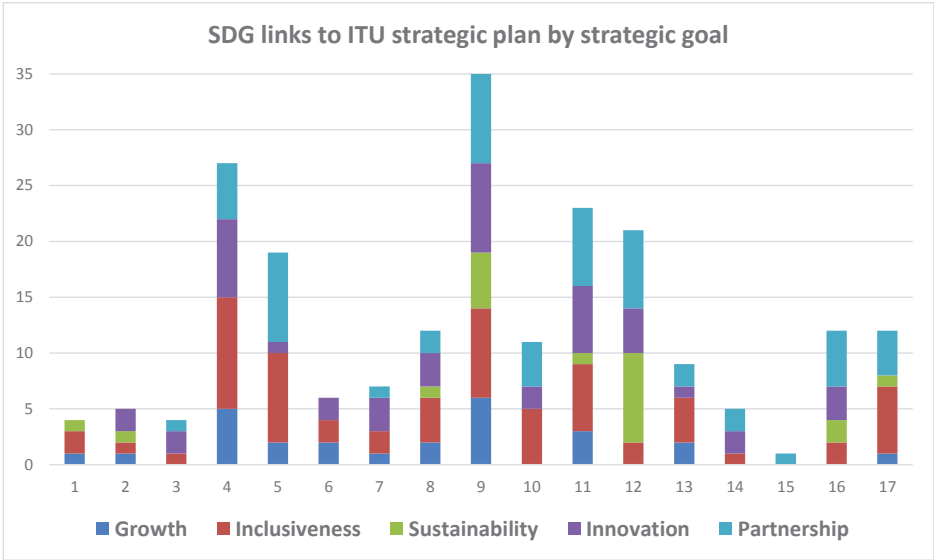


³ ITU SDG mapping tool: <https://www.itu.int/sdgmappingtool>.

ITU is also the custodian of five SDG indicators (4.4.1, 5.b.1, 9.c.1, 17.6.2 and 17.8.1) contributing to UNSTAT's monitoring of the SDGs.

The following table provides a linkage between the five ITU strategic goals for 2020-2023 and the SDGs. SDG indicators with a reference to ICTs are highlighted in bold.

Goal 1 – Growth
SDG target (indicator(s)): 1.4 (1.4.1), 2.4 (2.4.1), 4.1 (4.1.1), 4.2 (4.2.2), 4.3 (4.3.1), 4.4 (4.4.1), 4.A (4.A.1), 5.5 (5.5.1 , 5.5.2), 5.B (5.B.1), 6.1, 6.4 (6.4.1), 7.3 (7.3.1), 8.2 (8.2.1), 8.10 (8.10.2), 9.1, 9.2, 9.3 (9.3.1, 9.3.2), 9.4 (9.4.1), 9.5, 9.C (9.C.1), 11.3 (11.3.2), 11.5 (11.5.2), 11.B (11.B.1, 11.B.2), 13.1 (13.1.2), 13.3 (13.3.2), 17.6 (17.6.1, 17.6.2)
Goal 2 – Inclusiveness
SDG targets (indicator(s)): 1.4 (1.4.1), 1.5 (1.5.3), 2.C (2.C.1), 3.D (3.D.1), 4.1 (4.1.1), 4.2 (4.2.2), 4.3 (4.3.1), 4.4 (4.4.1), 4.5 (4.5.1), 4.6 (4.6.1), 4.7 (4.7.1), 4.A (4.A.1), 4.B (4.B.1), 4.C (4.C.1), 5.1, 5.2 (5.2.1, 5.2.2), 5.3, 5.5 (5.5.1 , 5.5.2), 5.6 (5.6.1, 5.6.2), 5.A (5.A.1, 5.A.2), 5.B (5.B.1), 5.C, 6.1, 6.4 (6.4.1), 7.1 (7.1.1, 7.1.2), 7.B (7.B.1), 8.3 (8.3.1), 8.4 (8.4.2), 8.5 (8.5.1), 8.10 (8.10.2), 9.1, 9.2, 9.3 (9.3.1, 9.3.2), 9.4 (9.4.1), 9.5, 9.A (9.A.1), 9.B (9.B.1), 9.C (9.C.1), 10.2 (10.2.1), 10.6, 10.7 (10.7.1), 10.B (10.B.1), 10.C (10.C.1), 11.1 (11.1.1), 11.2, 11.3 (11.3.2), 11.5 (11.5.2), 11.A, 11.B (11.B.1, 11.B.2), 12.1 (12.1.1), 12.A (12.A.1), 13.1 (13.1.2), 13.3 (13.3.2), 13.A (13.A.1), 13.B (13.B.1), 14.A (14.A.1), 16.2 (16.2.2), 16.8 (16.8.1), 17.3 (17.3.2), 17.6 (17.6.1, 17.6.2), 17.7, 17.8 (17.8.1), 17.9 (17.9.1), 17.18
Goal 3 – Sustainability
SDG targets (indicator(s)): 1.5 (1.5.3), 2.4 (2.4.1), 8.4 (8.4.2), 8.5 (8.5.1), 8.10 (8.10.2), 9.1, 9.2, 9.4 (9.4.1), 9.5, 9.A (9.A.1), 11.6 (11.6.1, 11.6.2), 11.A, 11.B (11.B.1, 11.B.2), 12.1 (12.1.1), 12.2 (12.2.1, 12.2.2), 12.4 (12.4.1, 12.4.2), 12.5 (12.5.1), 12.6 (12.6.1), 12.7 (12.7.1), 12.8 (12.8.1), 12.A (12.A.1), 16.2 (16.2.2), 16.4, 17.7
Goal 4 – Innovation
SDG targets (indicator(s)): 2.4 (2.4.1), 2.C (2.C.1), 3.6 (3.6.1), 3.D (3.D.1), 4.3 (4.3.1), 4.4 (4.4.1), 4.5 (4.5.1), 4.6 (4.6.1), 4.7 (4.7.1), 4.A (4.A.1), 4.B (4.B.1), 5.A (5.A.1, 5.A.2), 6.1, 6.4 (6.4.1), 7.1 (7.1.1, 7.1.2), 7.2 (7.2.1), 7.3 (7.3.1), 8.2 (8.2.1), 8.3 (8.3.1), 8.10 (8.10.2), 9.1, 9.2, 9.3 (9.3.1, 9.3.2), 9.4 (9.4.1), 9.5, 9.A (9.A.1), 9.B (9.B.1), 9.C (9.C.1), 10.5 (10.5.1), 10.C (10.C.1), 11.2, 11.3 (11.3.2), 11.4, 11.5 (11.5.2), 11.6 (11.6.1, 11.6.2), 11.B (11.B.1, 11.B.2), 12.3, 12.5 (12.5.1), 12.A (12.A.1), 12.B (12.B.1), 13.1 (13.1.2), 14.4 (14.4.1), 14.A (14.A.1), 16.3, 16.4, 16.10 (16.10.2), 17.7
Goal 5 – Partnership
SDG targets (indicator(s)): 3.D (3.D.1), 4.4 (4.4.1), 4.7 (4.7.1), 4.A (4.A.1), 4.B (4.B.1), 4.C (4.C.1), 5.1, 5.2 (5.2.1, 5.2.2), 5.3, 5.5 (5.5.1 , 5.5.2), 5.6 (5.6.1, 5.6.2), 5.A (5.A.1, 5.A.2), 5.B (5.B.1), 5.C, 7.B (7.B.1), 8.3 (8.3.1), 8.4 (8.4.2), 9.1, 9.2, 9.3 (9.3.1, 9.3.2), 9.4 (9.4.1), 9.5, 9.A (9.A.1), 9.B (9.B.1), 9.C (9.C.1), 10.5 (10.5.1), 10.6, 10.B (10.B.1), 10.C (10.C.1), 11.1 (11.1.1), 11.2, 11.3 (11.3.2), 11.5 (11.5.2), 11.B (11.B.1, 11.B.2), 12.3, 12.6 (12.6.1), 12.7 (12.7.1), 12.8 (12.8.1), 12.A (12.A.1), 12.B (12.B.1), 13.1 (13.1.2), 13.3 (13.3.2), 16.2 (16.2.2), 16.3, 16.4, 16.8 (16.8.1), 16.10, (16.10.2), 17.6 (17.6.1, 17.6.2), 17.7, 17.8 (17.8.1), 17.9 (17.9.1), 17.18



4 Implementation and evaluation of the strategic plan

The strong and coherent linkage between the Union's strategic, operational and financial planning is ensured by implementing the ITU results-based management (RBM) framework in accordance with Resolutions 71 and 151 (Rev. Dubai, 2018) of the Plenipotentiary Conference.

Results will be the main focus of strategy, planning and budgeting in the ITU RBM framework. Performance monitoring and evaluation, together with risk management, will ensure that the strategic, operational and financial planning processes are based on informed decision-making and appropriate resource allocation.

The ITU performance monitoring and evaluation framework will be further developed according to the strategic framework outlined in the strategic plan for 2020-2023, to measure progress towards achievement of the ITU objectives and outcomes, strategic goals and targets set out therein, evaluating performance and detecting issues that need to be addressed.

The ITU risk-management framework will be further developed, to ensure an integrated approach to the ITU RBM framework set out in the strategic plan for the Union for 2020-2023.

Implementation criteria

Implementation criteria set the framework to enable proper identification of appropriate activities of the Union, so that the objectives, outcomes and strategic goals of the Union are achieved in the most effective and efficient manner. They define the criteria for establishing priorities for the resource-allocation process within the biennial budget of the Union.

The implementation criteria set for the Union's strategy for 2020-2023 are:

- **Adherence to ITU values:** The core values of ITU shall drive priorities and provide the basis for decision-making.
- **Following results-based management principles,** including:
 - **Performance monitoring and evaluation:** Performance in the achievement of the goals/objectives shall be monitored and evaluated in accordance with the operational plans, as approved by the Council, and opportunities for improvement shall be identified, in order to support the decision-making process.
 - **Risk identification, assessment and treatment:** An integrated process to manage uncertain events that may have an impact on the achievement of objectives and goals shall be in place, to enhance informed decision-making.
 - **Results-based budgeting principles:** The budgeting process shall allocate resources on the basis of the goals and objectives to be achieved, as defined within this strategic plan.
 - **Impact-oriented reporting:** Progress towards the achievement of ITU's strategic goals shall be clearly reported, focusing on the impact of the activities of the Union.
- **Implementing efficiently:** Efficiency has become an overarching imperative for the Union. ITU shall assess whether its stakeholders obtain maximum benefit from the services ITU provides, according to the resources available (value for money).

- **Aiming to mainstream United Nations recommendations and apply harmonized business practices**, since ITU is part of the UN system as a UN specialized agency.
- **Working as One ITU**: The Sectors shall work cohesively for the implementation of the strategic plan. The secretariat shall support coordinated operational planning, avoiding redundancies and duplication and maximizing synergies across the Sectors, the Bureaux and the General Secretariat.
- **Long-term development of the organization to sustain performance and relevance of expertise**: Aspiring to the concept of the learning organization, the organization shall continue operating in an interconnected way and to invest further in staff so as to sustainably deliver most value.
- **Prioritization**: It is important to define specific criteria for prioritizing among different activities and initiatives that the Union is willing to undertake. The factors to be considered are the following:
 - **Added value**:
 - Prioritize based on unique value contribution by ITU (outcomes that cannot be achieved otherwise)
 - Be involved where and to the extent that ITU adds significant value
 - Not prioritize activities that other stakeholders can undertake
 - Prioritize based on ITU's available expertise for implementation.
 - **Impact and focus**:
 - Focus on maximum impact for the wider constituency, while considering inclusiveness
 - Undertake fewer activities with greater impact, rather than many activities with diluted impact

- Be consistent and undertake activities that clearly contribute to the big picture as determined by the ITU strategic framework
- Give priority to activities yielding tangible results.
- **Membership needs:**
 - Prioritize membership demands, by following a customer-oriented approach
 - Give priority to activities that Member States cannot implement without the support of the organization.

Appendix A - Allocation of resources (linkage with the financial plan)

ITU strategic objectives	Planned cost 2020-2023	CHF (000)					in %					CHF (000)				
		Goal 1: Growth	Goal 2: Inclusiveness	Goal 3: Sustainability	Goal 4: Innovation	Goal 5: Partnership	Goal 1: Growth	Goal 2: Inclusiveness	Goal 3: Sustainability	Goal 4: Innovation	Goal 5: Partnership					
Reallocation																
ITU-R objectives																
R.1. Spectrum/orbit regulation and management	256,087	25%	20%	25%	20%	10%						57,183	80,824	54,718	40,699	22,663
R.2. Radiocommunication standards	155,606	30%	20%	10%	30%	10%						39,649	32,529	43,461	26,211	13,756
R.3. Knowledge-sharing	66,001	10%	60%	10%	10%	10%						10,896	7,450	3,981	9,003	3,150
ITU-T objectives																
T.1. Development of standards	117,816	40%	20%	10%	20%	10%						40,107	46,364	10,263	13,591	7,491
T.2. Bridging the standards gap	57,966	15%	75%		10%	10%						23,985	12,299	6,573	9,909	5,200
T.3. Telecommunication resources	26,188	50%	30%	10%	10%	5%						3,921	20,107		2,160	
T.4. Knowledge-sharing	11,332	30%	50%	10%	10%	5%						5,655	3,480	1,240	467	490
T.5. Cooperation with standardization bodies	19,291	25%	20%	10%	10%	35%						5,747	9,822	2,100	791	831
	3,039											799	656	350	264	970
ITU-D objectives																
D.1. Coordination	245,201	10%	40%	10%	10%	30%						61,105	82,320	47,651	22,633	31,492
D.2. Modern and secure telecom/ICT infrastructure	55,147	60%	10%	10%	10%	10%						5,729	23,500	6,280	4,733	14,905
D.3. Enabling environment	71,158	10%	10%	54%	16%	10%						43,499	7,435	7,947	5,990	6,287
D.4. Inclusive digital society	42,875	10%	60%	10%	10%	10%						4,231	4,339	25,043	5,593	3,669
	76,021											7,646	47,046	8,381	6,317	6,631
Inter-Sectoral objectives																
I.1. Collaboration	41,147	10%	10%	10%	10%	60%						4,570	8,608	7,237	9,449	11,283
I.2. Emerging telecommunication/ICT trends	12,674	10%	10%	10%	70%	10%						1,385	1,420	1,518	1,144	7,207
I.3. Telecommunication/ICT accessibility	10,129	10%	70%	10%	10%	10%						1,158	1,834	1,269	6,698	1,004
I.4. Gender equality and inclusion	2,523	10%	70%			20%						256			211	222
I.5. Environmental sustainability	6,678	10%	10%	60%	20%	10%						674	4,836	3,896	979	1,168
I.6. Reducing overlap and duplication	5,981	15%	15%	15%	15%	40%						592	518	554	417	514
	3,162											505				1,168
Total ITU	660,251											162,965	218,116	119,869	86,372	72,929

ANNEX 2 TO RESOLUTION 71 (REV. DUBAI, 2018)

Situational analysis

1 Background: Governing bodies and Sectors

Pursuant to the ITU Constitution and Convention, the Union comprises: a) the Plenipotentiary Conference, which is the supreme organ of the Union; b) the ITU Council, which acts on behalf of the Plenipotentiary Conference during the four years between plenipotentiary conferences; c) world conferences on international telecommunications; d) the Radiocommunication Sector (ITU-R), including world and regional radiocommunication conferences, radiocommunication assemblies and the Radio Regulations Board; e) the Telecommunication Standardization Sector (ITU-T), including world telecommunication standardization assemblies; f) the Telecommunication Development Sector (ITU-D), including world and regional telecommunication development conferences; and g) the General Secretariat. The three Bureaux serve as the secretariat to each respective Sector (the Radiocommunication Bureau – BR for ITU-R; the Telecommunication Standardization Bureau – TSB for ITU-T; and the Telecommunication Development Bureau – BDT for ITU-D).

2 Situational analysis

2.a Strategic situational analysis

ITU as a part of the United Nations system

ITU is the United Nations specialized agency for telecommunications/ICTs. It allocates global radio spectrum and satellite orbits, develops the technical standards that ensure networks and technologies seamlessly interconnect, and strives to improve access to telecommunications/ICTs for underserved communities worldwide. The Union is committed to connecting all the world's people – wherever they live and whatever their means. ITU's work aims to protect and support everyone's fundamental right to communicate.

Lessons learnt from the ITU strategic plan for 2016-2019

The strategic plan for the Union for 2016-2019, adopted by the ITU Member States at the Plenipotentiary Conference in 2014, became the basis for the adoption of the Connect 2020 Agenda for Global Telecommunication/ICT Development, setting out the shared vision, goals and targets that Member States committed to achieve by 2020, in collaboration with all stakeholders across the ICT ecosystem. The 2016-2019 strategic plan outlined the work of the Union towards implementing its four strategic goals: Growth, Inclusiveness, Sustainability and Innovation and partnership.

In the strategic plan for 2016-2019, each strategic goal aimed to reinforce the other: in growing ICT access, the ITU membership aimed to foster growth in the use of ICTs and create a positive impact on short- and long-term socio-economic development. By including everyone, the benefits of ICTs were to be extended to all – towards bridging the digital divide between the developed and developing worlds, but also reaching marginalized and vulnerable populations within all countries. The ability to sustain the tremendous benefits from ICTs required recognition that growth also brings challenges and risks that need to be managed. By innovating and advancing partnerships, the evolving ICT ecosystem could ensure its adaptation to the rapidly changing technological, economic and social environment.

The overall results of the implementation of the strategic plan and the Connect 2020 Agenda have been impressive, even though much more needs to be done. Member States are expected to achieve many of the Connect 2020 targets set on connectivity before the year 2020. For example, target 1.2 aiming to ensure that 60% of individuals worldwide are using the Internet, i.e. bringing an additional 1.5 billion people online from 2014 to 2020, is on track to be achieved, particularly due to the strong growth in developing countries and least developed countries (LDCs). Targets 2.2.A and 2.2.B aiming to ensure that 50% of individuals are connected in developing countries, and 20% in LDCs, are therefore also set to be achieved before 2020. Household connectivity targets are also expected to be achieved by 2020: target 1.1 aiming to achieve a rate of 55% of households connected worldwide, as well as, under Goal 2, a target of 50% and 15% of households connected in developing countries (2.1.A) and in

LDCs (2.1.B). However, 3.9 billion people are still estimated to be offline; the digital gender gap also persists; and although the costs of Internet access are falling, the goals set by the Connect 2020 Agenda to reduce the affordability gap between developed and developing countries may not be attained.

The ITU strategic plan for 2016-2019 also introduced significant improvements internally for the organization, by strengthening the concept of working as "One ITU". The common vision, mission and strategic goals for the whole organization aimed for all the Sectors to work cohesively on the implementation of the strategic plan, and for the secretariat to support - in a coordinated fashion - the implementation of the operational plans, seeking to avoid redundancies and duplication, and maximizing synergies across the Sectors, the Bureaux and the General Secretariat.

The plan introduced a strengthened results-based management approach for the organization, and a clearer linkage between the strategic, operational and financial plans, with a transparent allocation of resources to strategic goals and objectives (of the Sectors and the inter-Sectoral objectives). The new form of reporting on the implementation of the strategic plan, presenting the agreed key performance indicators for the outcomes of the work of the Sectors, and the support services provided by the secretariat – around 150 indicators in total, enabled the membership to better evaluate the results and the progress achieved.⁴

⁴ Reports available also online at: <https://www.itu.int/annual-report-2016>.

Developments since the ITU Plenipotentiary Conference (Busan, 2014)

This section introduces some of the key developments since the adoption of the previous strategic plan at the ITU Plenipotentiary Conference held in Busan, Republic of Korea, in October 2014, to be considered for the elaboration of the new strategic plan for 2020-2023.

In September 2015, all Member States of the United Nations agreed on United Nations General Assembly Resolution 70/1, on transforming our world: the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, for all countries and all stakeholders to act in collaborative partnership and implement this plan for sustainable development. The 17 Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and 169 targets agreed upon demonstrate the scale and ambition of this new universal agenda.

Member States recognize in the 2030 Agenda that "the spread of information and communications technology and global interconnectedness has great potential to accelerate human progress, to bridge the digital divide, and to develop knowledge societies". ICTs have enormous potential to fast-forward progress on all the SDGs and improve people's lives in fundamental ways.

Notable references include, **SDG 9** (Industry, innovation and infrastructure) and in particular target 9.c to "significantly increase access to ICT and strive to provide universal and affordable access to Internet in the least developed countries by 2020", which introduces a clear notion that without the digital infrastructure the world would not be able to deliver scalable solutions to the SDGs. ICTs are specifically mentioned as a means of implementation under **SDG 17** (Partnership for the Goals, target 17.8), highlighting their cross-cutting transformative potential. ICTs are also highlighted as the enabling technology to promote the empowerment of women under **SDG 5** (Gender equality, target 5.b), while the importance of ICT skills is also recognized under **SDG 4** (Quality education, target 4.b).

ITU, as part of the United Nations system, needs to support Member States and to contribute towards the worldwide efforts to achieve the SDGs. All Member States agreed (and expressed in UNGA Resolution 70/1) that global engagement is required in support of implementation of all the Goals and targets, "bringing together Governments, the private sector, civil society, the United Nations system and other actors and mobilizing all available resources".

In addition, all Member States called for close alignment between the World Summit on the Information Society (WSIS) process and the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, by adopting UNGA Resolution 70/125, on the overall review of the implementation of the WSIS outcomes. In that resolution, a request is made to the United Nations entities facilitating the WSIS action lines to review their reporting and work plans to support implementation of the 2030 Agenda.

In parallel, advances in the field of science, technology and engineering, including new and emerging trends, are driving substantial transformation not only for the telecommunication/ICT ecosystem, but for different industries, and need also to be taken into account for the development of the strategic plan of the Union for 2020-2023. Such advances and trends relate to digital transformation and include, *inter alia*, Internet of Things (IoT), 5G, IMT-2020, artificial intelligence (AI), big data, cloud computing, the so called "4th industrial revolution", smart cities, distributed ledger technologies, software-defined networking and network-function-virtualization, intelligent transport systems (ITS), and open source.

The role of the digital economy and digital transformation is being widely recognized as a significant enabler and booster of sustainable development, as also highlighted by the G20 Digital Economy Ministerial Declaration: "Shaping Digitalization for an Interconnected World", agreed in Düsseldorf, Germany in April 2017. The common vision to seize the opportunities and tackle the evolving challenges of the digital economy was also reaffirmed in the G7 ICT and Industry Ministers' Declaration⁵ in Torino, Italy in September 2017, while the need for advancement and development of the digital economy was also highlighted in the Buenos Aires Declaration⁶ adopted at the World Telecommunication Development Conference in Buenos Aires, Argentina in October 2017.

Digitalization alters society and the economy: it means the comprehensive penetration, networking and change of almost all areas of life and work by ICTs. It stands for the ability to collect and analyse information. As never before, processing steps are now increasingly taking place in parallel – in real time. This permits enormous leaps in productivity, but also increases the speed of change. Products and services increasingly contain digital added value and are getting "smart" through incorporation into intelligent and networked systems.

Technologies, smart applications and other innovations in the digital economy can improve services and help address policy challenges in a wide range of areas⁷, including, *inter alia*, healthcare, agriculture, public governance, tax, transport, education and the environment. ICTs contribute not just to

⁵ [G7 ICT and Industry Ministers' Declaration](#): Making the next production revolution inclusive, open And secure.

⁶ ITU WTDC-17 – [Buenos Aires Declaration](#).

⁷ [Source](#): Key issues for digital transformation in the G20, G20 German Presidency/OECD.

innovation in products, but also to innovation in processes and organizational arrangements. While being a catalyst for growth, digital technologies may also be disruptive, with effects on employment and well-being. While new technologies create opportunities for businesses (especially SMEs), and for workers and citizens to engage in economic activity, these technologies are also likely to displace workers doing specific tasks and may further increase existing gaps in access and use, resulting in new digital divides and greater inequality.

Opportunities and threats for the Union

The impact of the digital transformation and the growth of the digital economy creates new markets and new key players that have emerged in the telecommunication/ICT ecosystem. This creates new opportunities for ITU to engage with new members and partners, and discuss emerging challenges to digitalization, which may need to be managed through appropriate international cooperation, for example by sharing of best practices.

Member States from the developing world are increasingly engaging in the multilateral system, which encourages all types of partnerships to be built, in order to overcome the obstacles to digitalization, and enable the exchange of resources, technology and knowledge in the global digital economy.

ICTs are transforming society as well. In an era where everyone can create, access, utilize and share information and knowledge, this enables individuals, societies and people to achieve their full potential in promoting their sustainable development and improving their quality of life. The impact of ICTs can be catalytic on the implementation of the SDGs, from their impact on medical and social care to education, from enabling economic growth to reducing inequalities and empowering women and girls. ITU could be promoting this catalytic role.

On the other hand, digital divides still exist, underscoring the importance of the Union achieving its connectivity objectives. More than half of the world's population is still offline (an estimated 3.9 billion people based on 2017 data), while in Africa almost three out of four people are non-Internet users. The digital gender gap also persists, whereby the proportion of men using the Internet is higher than the proportion of women using the Internet in two-thirds of all countries. In the least developed countries, only one in seven women is using the Internet, compared with one in five men. Mobile broadband costs more than 5 per cent of GNI per capita in most LDCs and is therefore unaffordable for the vast majority of the population.

With regard to the industry, new business models have emerged for digital service providers, and increased competition is being observed. This brings into question the types of regulations required, contrasting the regulatory environment for online services with the environment for traditional telecommunication services.

Finally, the rapid growth of ICTs and the increasingly digital world create particular challenges and increasing concerns that the Union may address, within the mandate given by the membership, such as the environmental impact; impacts on consumers; digital divides; issues affecting confidence and security in the use of ICTs in accordance with WSIS Action Line C5.

The elements of a SWOT analysis to be considered in developing the strategy, presenting ITU's strengths and weaknesses as well as the opportunities and threats facing the organization, are introduced in the table below.

Table 1: SWOT analysis

Strengths	Weaknesses
<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1 The UN specialized agency for ICTs with 150 years of history/tradition 2 Leading role in organizing the use of ICT resources globally, through regulations and standards of universal applicability 3 Unique membership composition – governments, private sector and academia participate in the activities of the organization 4 Dual role of a normative organization combined with experience in implementing developmental initiatives 5 Prominent position to foster the enabling role of ICTs to accelerate implementation of the SDGs 6 A global, neutral, inclusive platform – strong brand with good reputation 7 Partnerships with key stakeholders and established collaborations 8 Federal structure – provides more focus on specific fields 9 Legitimacy and capacity to organize major international conferences and events 10 Knowledge and skills of the ITU membership and staff in technical (e.g. radiocommunications, standardization), policy and regulatory matters, statistics, and development ('crowdsourcing' of skills) 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1 Length of the governing bodies decision-making process 2 Federal structure requires coordination and clarification of the roles of each Sector to avoid duplication/conflict 3 Elements of organizational culture are conservative and risk averse 4 Difficulty to decide on diversifying sources of income

Opportunities

- 1 Creation of **new markets** and entrance of **new key players creates new membership opportunities**
- 2 Member States from the **developing world increasingly engage in the multilateral system**
- 3 Increased **relevance of ICT in society, data** seen as the **new oil**
- 4 **Catalytic impact of ICTs on the implementation of SDGs** (impact on medical and social care, education, social identity, etc.)
- 5 **Digital transformation** of the industry and public services
- 6 New emerging technologies, systems and players benefit from an enabling policy and regulatory environment that fosters innovation
- 7 New **environmentally-friendly technologies/markets** leading to new opportunities for partnerships
- 8 Support from some **media and advocacy organizations**
- 9 **Strengthening coordination and collaboration with other relevant regional and international organizations/associations**

Threats

- 1 **Increasing divisions** (e.g. digital divide, gender, geographical)
- 2 Difficulty of the **global economy** to regain a trajectory of strong, balanced and sustained growth
- 3 **Issues affecting confidence and security in the use of ICTs** in accordance with WSIS Action Line C5, impacts on customers
- 4 The sustainability of the growth of the ICTs
- 5 The **impact on the environment** of increasing networks, data, connected devices
- 6 **Pressure** from different stakeholders to **implement unproven approaches**

2.b General review of the targets of the strategic plan for 2016-2019

The strategic plan for 2016-2019 sets out four Goals: Growth, Inclusiveness, Sustainability, and Innovation and partnership, and, underlying each goal, several strategic targets (comprising the Connect 2020 Agenda targets).

Target 1.1 aims to achieve a rate of 55% of households connected worldwide, and under Goal 2 there are corresponding targets of rates of 50% and 15% connected households in developing countries (2.1.A) and LDCs (2.1.B), respectively. All of these targets for households are expected to be achieved by the year 2020.

Targets 1.2, 2.2.A and 2.2.B set aims in terms of the number of connected individuals worldwide (60%), in developing countries (50%) and in LDCs (20%), respectively. All of these targets are also currently set to be achieved in time for the 2020 deadline.

Target 1.3 aims to make telecommunications/ICT 40% more affordable by 2020 in relation to the 2014 baseline. At the current rate, it is expected that the reduction in costs by 2020 will be about 32% on average, with a similar value for the drop in the affordability gap between developed and developing countries (target 2.3.A). Target 2.3.B aims to get the cost of Internet access to below 5% of GNI per capita, which is currently the case in 120 out of 160 countries for which data is available. It is expected that this number will increase by 2020, but that the target will not be achieved for all countries.

Target 2.4 aims to ensure that 90% of the world's rural population will be covered by broadband services by 2020. Whether this target will be met or not depends to a large extent on how quickly 2G coverage will be replaced by 3G coverage. Currently, 2G covers well over 90% of the rural population, so with sufficient upgrades this target could be met.

Gender equality in terms of Internet access is included as target 2.5.A. In recent years, the rapid growth in developing countries was paired with increasing gender inequality; however, the latest ITU data show that the gender gap is now decreasing, narrowing from 12.2% in 2016 to 11.6% in 2017.

Having a strategy on ensuring accessibility for persons with disabilities is included as target 2.5.B. Currently, 48 out of 64 reporting countries have a strategy that covers this aspect.

Under target 3.1, cybersecurity readiness should be improved by 2020. Since 2016, ITU has been measuring this using the Global Cybersecurity Index, which will be used to assess this improvement in 2020.

Target 4.1 aims to ensure a telecommunication/ICT environment that is conducive to innovation. Recent years have witnessed a rapid increase in the number of countries with a national innovation strategy to ensure this.

ANNEX 3 TO RESOLUTION 71 (REV. DUBAI, 2018)

Glossary of terms

Term	Working version
Activities	Activities are various actions/services for transforming resources (inputs) into outputs ⁸ .
Financial plan	<p>The financial plan covers a four-year period and sets the financial basis from which biennial budgets are elaborated.</p> <p>The financial plan is elaborated within the context of Decision 5 (Revenue and expenses for the Union) which reflects, inter alia, the amount of the contributory unit approved by the Plenipotentiary Conference. It is linked to the strategic plan, in accordance with Resolution 71, by the allocation of financial resources to the strategic goals of the Union.</p>
Inputs	Inputs are resources, such as financial, human, material and technological resources, used by activities to produce outputs.
Mission	Mission refers to the main overall purposes of the Union, as per the basic instruments of ITU.
Objectives	Objectives refer to the specific aims of the Sectoral and inter-Sectoral activities in a given period.
Operational plan	The operational plan is prepared on a yearly basis by each Bureau, in consultation with the relevant advisory group, and by the General Secretariat, in accordance with the strategic and financial plans. It contains the detailed plan for the subsequent year and a forecast for the following three-year period for each Sector and the General Secretariat. The Council reviews and approves the four-year rolling operational plans.
Outcomes	Outcomes provide an indication as to whether the objective is being achieved. Outcomes are usually partly, but not entirely, within the organization's control.

⁸ The activities and outputs are defined in detail in the operational planning process, thereby ensuring a strong linkage between strategic and operational planning.

Term	Working version
Outputs	Outputs are the final tangible results, deliverables, products and services achieved by the Union in the implementation of the operational plans. Outputs are cost objects and are represented in the applicable cost-accounting system by internal orders.
Performance indicators	Performance indicators are the criteria used to measure the achievement of outputs or outcomes. These indicators may be qualitative or quantitative.
Processes	Set of consistent activities intended to meet an intended objective/goal.
Results-based budgeting (RBB)	Results-based budgeting (RBB) is the programme budget process in which: a) the programme is formulated in order to meet a set of predefined objectives and outcomes; b) the outcomes justify resource requirements, which are derived from and linked to outputs produced to achieve the outcomes; and c) actual performance in achieving outcomes is measured by outcome indicators.
Results-based management (RBM)	Results-based management is a management approach that directs organizational processes, resources, products and services towards the achievement of measurable results. It provides the management frameworks and tools for strategic planning, risk management, performance monitoring and evaluation and financing activities based on targeted results.
Results framework	A results framework is the strategic management tool used to plan, monitor, evaluate and report within the RBM methodology. It provides the necessary sequence to achieve desired results (results chain) – beginning with inputs, moving through activities and outputs, to outcomes – at the level of Sectoral and inter-Sectoral objectives, and desired impact – at the level of ITU-wide strategic goals and targets. It explains how results are to be achieved, including causal relationships and underlying assumptions and risks. The results framework reflects strategic level thinking across the entire organization.
Strategic goals	Strategic goals refer to the Union's high-level targets to which the objectives contribute, directly or indirectly. These relate to the whole of ITU.

Term	Working version
Strategic plan	The strategic plan defines the strategy of the Union for a four-year period in order to fulfil its mission. It defines strategic goals and objectives and represents the plan of the Union within that period. It is the main instrument embodying the Union's strategic vision. The strategic plan should be implemented within the context of the financial limits established by the Plenipotentiary Conference.
Strategic risks	Strategic risks refer to the uncertainties and untapped opportunities that affect an organization's strategy and strategy execution.
Strategic risk management (SRM)	Strategic risk management is a management practice that identifies and focuses action on uncertainties and untapped opportunities that affect an organization's ability to deliver on its mission.
Strategic target	Strategic targets are the expected results during the period of the strategic plan; they provide an indication as to whether the goal is being achieved. Targets may not always be achieved, for reasons that may be beyond the control of the Union.
Strengths, weakness, opportunities and threats (SWOT) analysis	<p>A study done by an organization in order to find its strengths and weaknesses, and what problems or opportunities it should deal with. SWOT is formed from the initial letters of "strengths", "weaknesses", "opportunities" and "threats".</p> <p>Internal factors:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> – <i>Strengths</i> are capabilities that enable the organization to perform well –capabilities that need to be leveraged. – <i>Weaknesses</i> are characteristics that affect the good performance of the organization and need to be addressed. <p>External factors:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> – <i>Opportunities</i> are trends, forces, events and ideas that the organization can capitalize on. – <i>Threats</i> are possible events or forces outside of the control of the organization that the organization needs to mitigate.
Values	ITU's shared and common beliefs that drive its priorities and guide all decision-making processes.
Vision	The better world ITU wants to see.

List of terms in all six official languages

Anglais	Arabe	Chinois	Français	Russe	Espagnol
Activities	الأنشطة	活动	Activités	Виды деятельности	Actividades
Financial plan	الخطة المالية	财务规划	Plan financier	Финансовый план	Plan Financiero
Inputs	المدخلات	投入，输入意见 (取决于上下文)	Contributions	Исходные ресурсы	Insumos
Mission	الرسالة	使命	Mission	Миссия	Misión
Objectives	الأهداف	部门目标	Objectifs	Задачи	Objetivos
Operational plan	الخطة التشغيلية	运作规划	Plan opérationnel	Оперативный план	Plan Operacional
Outcomes	النتائج	结果	Résultats	Конечные результаты	Resultados
Outputs	النواتج	输出成果	Produits	Намеченные результаты деятельности	Productos
Performance indicators	مؤشرات الأداء	绩效指标	Indicateurs de performance	Показатели деятельности	Indicadores de Rendimiento
Processes	العمليات	进程	Processus	Процессы	Procesos
Results-based budgeting	الميزنة على أساس النتائج	基于结果的预算制 定	Budgétisation axée sur les résultats	Составление бюджета, ориентированного на результаты	Elaboración del Presupuesto basado en los resultados
Results-based management	الإدارة على أساس النتائج	基于结果的管理	Gestion axée sur les résultats	Управление, ориентированное на результаты	Gestión basada en los resultados
Results framework	إطار النتائج	结果框架	Cadre de présentation des résultats	Структура результатов	Marco de resultados
Strategic goals	الغايات الاستراتيجية	总体战略目标	Buts stratégiques	Стратегические цели	Metas estratégicas
Strategic plan	الخطة الاستراتيجية	战略规划	Plan stratégique	Стратегический план	Plan Estratégico
Strategic risks	المخاطر الاستراتيجية	战略风险	Risques stratégiques	Стратегические риски	Riesgos estratégicos
Strategic risk management	إدارة المخاطر الاستراتيجية	战略风险管理	Gestion des risques stratégiques	Управление стратегическими рисками	Gestión de riesgos estratégicos
Strategic target	المقاصد الاستراتيجية	具体战略目标	Cible stratégique	Стратегический целевой показатель	Finalidad estratégica
Strengths, weaknesses, opportunities and threats (SWOT) analysis	تحليل مواطن القوة والضعف والفرص والمخاطر (SWOT)	优势、劣势、机会 与威胁 (SWOT) 分 析	Analyse des forces, faiblesses, possibilités et menaces (SWOT)	Анализ сильных и слабых сторон, возможностей и угроз (SWOT)	Análisis de fortalezas, debilidades, oportunidades y amenazas (SWOT)
Values	القيم	价值/价值观	Valeurs	Ценности	Valores
Vision	الرؤية	愿景	Vision	Концепция	Visión

RESOLUTION 77 (REV. DUBAI, 2018)

Scheduling and duration of conferences, forums, assemblies and Council sessions of the Union (2019-2023)

The Plenipotentiary Conference of the International Telecommunication Union (Dubai, 2018),

recalling

- a) No. 47 in Article 8 of the ITU Constitution, which stipulates that the Plenipotentiary Conference shall be convened every four years;
- b) Nos. 90 and 91 in Article 13 of the Constitution, which stipulate that world radiocommunication conferences (WRC) and radiocommunication assemblies (RA) shall normally be convened every three to four years, and shall be associated in place and time;
- c) No. 114 in Article 18 of the Constitution, which stipulates that world telecommunication standardization assemblies (WTSA) shall be convened every four years;
- d) No. 141 in Article 22 of the Constitution, which stipulates that, between two plenipotentiary conferences, there shall be one world telecommunication development conference (WTDC);
- e) No. 51 in Article 4 of the ITU Convention, which stipulates that the ITU Council shall hold an ordinary session annually at the seat of the Union;
- f) Resolution 111 (Rev. Busan, 2014) of the Plenipotentiary Conference,

recognizing

- a) Resolution 71 (Rev. Dubai, 2018) of this conference, on the strategic plan for the Union for 2020-2023, and the priorities identified therein;
- b) that, in the consideration of the draft financial plan of the Union for 2020-2023, the challenge to increase revenues in order to meet increasing programme demands is substantial,

considering

- a) the need to take into account the financial resources of the Union when scheduling conferences, assemblies and forums, particularly the necessity of ensuring efficient Union operations within limited resources;
- b) the need to take into account the availability of sufficient meeting space to accommodate core ITU Sector activities;
- c) that holding conferences, assemblies and forums in the same year as the plenipotentiary conference represents a burden for the Union's membership and staff,

having considered

- a) Document PP-18/37 submitted by the Secretary-General, on planned conferences and assemblies;
- b) the proposals submitted by several Member States,

bearing in mind

- a) the various provisions of the Constitution and Convention establishing the three Sectors of the Union and their constituent elements, including conferences, assemblies, study groups and advisory groups;
- b) the increasing demands placed on and necessary preparatory work to be carried out by Member States, Sector Members, the General Secretariat and the Sectors of the Union before each conference, assembly and forum of the Union;
- c) that scheduling the Council earlier in the calendar year improves the linkage between the strategic, financial and operational plans and the budget and other activities to be carried out by the Council,

noting

- a) that Council Resolution 1380 (2016, last amended 2017) set the dates for RA-19 for 21 to 25 October 2019, and for WRC-19 for 28 October to 22 November 2019;

b) that the external auditor's reports on the Union's finances should normally be available to the Council in due time prior to its sessions,

resolves

1 that ITU conferences and assemblies shall, in principle, be held in the last quarter of the year, and not in the same year¹, except as provided in *recalling b)* above;

2 that plenipotentiary conferences shall, unless there is a pressing need otherwise, be limited to a duration of three weeks;

3 that ITU exhibitions, forums, high-level events and symposia of a worldwide character shall be scheduled within the allocated resources in the financial plan and biennial budget approved by Council, and subject to the schedule and meeting space requirements of core activities of ITU and other mandatory Union events, such as conferences, assemblies and Council sessions;

4 that the schedule of future conferences, forums, assemblies and Council sessions for the years 2019-2023 shall be as follows:

4.1 the Council shall, in principle, hold its ordinary session within or around June-July of the calendar year;

4.2 WRC-19 shall be held in Sharm el-Sheikh (Egypt) from 28 October to 22 November 2019, preceded by the Radiocommunication Assembly from 21 to 25 October 2019;

4.3 WTSA shall be held in the last quarter of 2020;

4.4 the sixth World Telecommunication Policy Forum (WTPF) shall be held in 2021, preferably back to back with the World Summit on the Information Society (WSIS) Forum;

4.5 WTDC shall be held in the last quarter of 2021;

¹ Apart from world conferences on international telecommunications.

4.6 the Plenipotentiary Conference shall be held in the last quarter of 2022;

4.7 an RA and a WRC, after 2019, shall be held in the last quarter of 2023;

5 that the agendas of world and regional conferences shall be established in accordance with the relevant provisions of the Convention and the agendas of assemblies shall be established, as appropriate, taking into account the resolutions and recommendations of the relevant conferences and assemblies;

6 that the conferences and assemblies mentioned in *resolves* 4 should be held within the periods indicated there, that the precise dates and places will be set by the Council after consultation of the Member States, leaving sufficient time between the various conferences, and that the precise duration shall be decided by the Council after their agendas have been established,

instructs the Secretary-General

1 to take appropriate measures to facilitate the most efficient use of time and resources during such conferences;

2 to give scheduling priority to the study groups and advisory groups of the three ITU Sectors, the Council and the Council working groups when the meetings listed are held at ITU headquarters;

3 to report to the Council on the implementation of this resolution, proposing further improvements, as appropriate,

instructs the ITU Council

1 at each ordinary session, to schedule its next three ordinary sessions in June-July and to review the Council's schedule on a rolling basis;

2 to take appropriate measures to facilitate the implementation of this resolution, and report to future plenipotentiary conferences on possible improvements in the implementation of this resolution.

RESOLUTION 94 (REV. DUBAI, 2018)

Auditing of the accounts of the Union

The Plenipotentiary Conference of the International Telecommunication Union (Dubai, 2018),

considering

that the External Auditor since 2012, the Italian Supreme Court of Audit, member of the United Nations Panel of External Auditors, audited the Union's accounts for the years 2012, 2013, 2014, 2015, 2016 and 2017 most carefully, competently and accurately,

recognizing

that only the Plenipotentiary Conference can make the decision regarding the appointment of the external auditor,

resolves to express

its warmest thanks and deepest gratitude to the Italian Supreme Court of Audit for the auditing of the Union's accounts,

instructs the ITU Council

based on an open, fair and transparent selection process, to appoint at its 2019 session a new external auditor for a term of four years, renewable without a competitive selection process for a period of two years and a further period of two years,

instructs the Secretary-General

- 1 to bring this resolution to the notice of the President of the Italian Supreme Court of Audit;
- 2 to publish on an annual basis, and after their consideration by the Council, the reports of the external auditor, on a publicly accessible page of the Union's website.

RESOLUTION 99 (REV. DUBAI, 2018)

Status of Palestine in ITU

The Plenipotentiary Conference of the International Telecommunication Union (Dubai, 2018),

recalling

- a) the Charter of the United Nations and the Universal Declaration of Human Rights;
- b) Resolution 67/19 of the United Nations General Assembly (UNGA), which decides to accord to Palestine non-member observer State status in the United Nations and the Palestinian request dated 12 December 2012 to use the term "State of Palestine" following adoption of this UNGA resolution;
- c) that recognition of a State is a matter of national decision;
- d) Resolutions 32 (Kyoto, 1994) and 125 (Rev. Dubai, 2018) of the Plenipotentiary Conference;
- e) Resolution 18 (Rev. Buenos Aires, 2017) of the World Telecommunication Development Conference;
- f) that Nos 6 and 7 of Article 1 of the ITU Constitution provide "to promote the extension of the benefits of the new telecommunication technologies to all the world's inhabitants" and "to promote the use of telecommunication services with the objective of facilitating peaceful relations",

considering

- a) that the basic instruments of the Union have as a purpose to strengthen peace and security in the world by means of international cooperation and better understanding among peoples;
- b) that, to achieve the above purpose, ITU needs to have a universal character,

considering further

- a) the outcomes of both the Geneva (2003) and Tunis (2005) phases of the World Summit on the Information Society;
- b) the participation of Palestine in the Regional Radiocommunication Conference (Geneva, 2006), and the acceptance of Palestinian requirements in the digital broadcasting plan, subject to its notifying the ITU Secretary-General that it accepts the rights and commits to observe the obligations arising therefrom;
- c) successive developments and changes in the information and communication technology sector under the responsibility of the Palestinian Authority, towards restructuring and liberalization of the sector and competition;
- d) that the State of Palestine is a member of the League of Arab States, the Organization of Islamic Cooperation, the Non-Aligned Movement, the Euro-Mediterranean Partnership and the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO);
- e) that many, but not all, ITU Member States recognize the State of Palestine,

bearing in mind

the basic principles in the Preamble to the Constitution,

resolves

that, pending any further change in the current status of the State of Palestine as observer in ITU, the following shall apply:

- 1 the provisions of the Administrative Regulations, and related resolutions and recommendations, shall be applied to the Palestinian Authority in the same manner as they are applied to administrations as defined in No. 1002 of the Constitution, and the General Secretariat and the three Bureaux shall act accordingly, in particular in relation to international access code, call signs and the processing of frequency assignment notifications;

2 the delegation of the State of Palestine shall participate in all ITU conferences, assemblies and meetings, including treaty-making conferences, with the following additional rights:

- the right to raise points of order;
- the right to submit proposals, except proposals to amend the Constitution, the Convention and the General Rules of conferences, assemblies and meetings of the Union;
- the right to participate in debates;
- the right to be included on the list of speakers under any agenda item, subject to the provisions of the second indent above;
- the right of reply;
- the right to attend the heads of delegation meeting;
- the right to request the verbatim insertion of any declaration made during the course of the debates;
- the right to provide chairmen and vice-chairmen of technical meetings and groups, including study group meetings and subgroup meetings;

3 the delegation of the State of Palestine shall be seated among the delegations of Member States in the French alphabetical order;

4 Palestinian operating agencies, scientific or industrial organizations and financial and development institutions dealing with telecommunication matters may apply directly to the Secretary-General to participate in the activities of the Union as Sector Members or Associates, and said requests will be duly acted upon,

instructs the Secretary-General

1 to ensure the implementation of this resolution and all other resolutions adopted by plenipotentiary conferences on Palestine, particularly decisions relating to international access code and processing of frequency assignment notifications, and to report periodically to the ITU Council on progress in these matters;

2 to coordinate activities of the three Sectors of the Union in accordance with *resolves* above in order to ensure maximum effectiveness of actions taken by the Union in favour of the State of Palestine and to report progress in these matters to the next session of the Council and the next plenipotentiary conference.

RESOLUTION 101 (REV. DUBAI, 2018)

Internet Protocol-based networks

The Plenipotentiary Conference of the International Telecommunication Union (Dubai, 2018),

recalling

- a) Resolution 101 (Rev. Guadalajara, 2010) of the Plenipotentiary Conference;
- b) Resolutions 102, 130, 133, 180 and 197 (Rev. Dubai, 2018) of this conference;
- c) United Nations General Assembly (UNGA) Resolution 70/1, on transforming our world: the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development;
- d) UNGA Resolution 70/125, on the outcome document of the UNGA high-level meeting on the overall review of the implementation of the outcomes of the World Summit on the Information Society (WSIS);
- e) the outcomes of the Geneva (2003) and Tunis (2005) phases of WSIS, especially §§ 27 c) and 50 d) of the Tunis Agenda for the Information Society, relating to international Internet connectivity;
- f) the WSIS+10 statement on the implementation of WSIS outcomes and vision for WSIS beyond 2015, which were adopted at the ITU-coordinated WSIS+10 High-Level Event (Geneva, 2014), based on the Multistakeholder Preparatory Platform (MPP) process, together with other UN agencies and inclusive of all WSIS stakeholders, were endorsed by the Plenipotentiary Conference (Busan, 2014) and were submitted to the UNGA overall review;

g) No. 196 of the ITU Convention, which stipulates that telecommunication standardization study groups shall pay due attention to the study of questions and to the formulation of recommendations directly connected with the establishment, development and improvement of telecommunications in developing countries¹ at both the regional and international levels;

h) Resolution 23 (Rev. Buenos Aires, 2017) of the World Telecommunication Development Conference (WTDC), on Internet access and availability for developing countries and charging principles for international Internet connection;

i) Resolution 69 (Rev. Hammamet, 2016) of the World Telecommunication Standardization Assembly (WTSA), on non-discriminatory access and use of Internet resources;

j) Recommendation ITU-T D.50 of the ITU Telecommunication Standardization Sector (ITU-T), on general tariff principles – principles applicable to international Internet connection;

k) Resolution 64 (Rev. Hammamet, 2016) of WTSA, on Internet Protocol (IP) address allocation and facilitating the transition to and deployment of IPv6;

l) UNGA Resolution 68/302, on the review of WSIS;

m) Opinion 1 (Geneva, 2013) of the World Telecommunication/Information and Communication Technology (ICT) Policy Forum (WTPF), on promoting Internet exchange points (IXPs) as a long-term solution to advance connectivity;

¹ These include the least developed countries, small island developing states, landlocked developing countries and countries with economies in transition.

- n)* Opinion 2 (Geneva, 2013) of WTPF, on fostering an enabling environment for the greater growth and development of broadband connectivity;
- o)* Opinion 3 (Geneva, 2013) of WTPF, on supporting capacity building for the deployment of IPv6;
- p)* Opinion 4 (Geneva, 2013) of WTPF, in support of IPv6 adoption and transition from IPv4;
- q)* Opinion 5 (Geneva, 2013) of WTPF, on supporting multistakeholderism in Internet governance;
- r)* Opinion 6 (Geneva, 2013) of WTPF, on supporting operationalizing the enhanced cooperation process,

aware

- a)* that one of the purposes of the Union is to promote the extension of new telecommunication technologies to all the world's inhabitants;
- b)* that one of the purposes of the Union is 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;
- c)* that, in order to fulfil its purposes, the Union should, among other things, facilitate the worldwide standardization of telecommunications, with a satisfactory quality of service,

considering

- a)* that advances in the global information infrastructure, including the development of IP-based networks used for the Internet, and future protocol developments, continue to be an issue of crucial importance, as an important enabler of achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) as well as social, economic, environmental and cultural development in the twenty-first century;

- b)* that emerging telecommunications/ICTs will continue to transform both the Internet and overall achievement of the SDGs;
- c)* the need for preserving and promoting multilingualism on the Internet for an integrating and inclusive information society;
- d)* that the Internet permits the introduction of new additional applications in telecommunication/ICT services based on its highly advanced technology, e.g. steady progress in adopting cloud computing, and that e-mail and text messaging, voice over IP, video and real-time TV (IPTV) over the Internet continue to record high levels of use, even though there are challenges regarding quality of service, uncertainty of origin and the high cost of international connectivity;
- e)* that current and future IP-based networks and future IP developments will continue to introduce dramatic changes in the way we acquire, produce, circulate and consume information;
- f)* that the broadband development and rising demand for Internet access being experienced particularly in developing countries lead to the need for affordable international Internet connectivity;
- g)* that Resolution 23 (Rev. Buenos Aires, 2017) of WTDC noted "that the composition of costs for operators, whether regional or local, is, in part, significantly dependent on the type of connection (transit or peering) and the availability and cost of backhaul and long-haul infrastructure", as it relates to developing countries;
- h)* that Opinion 1 (Geneva, 2013) of WTPF deems that the establishment of IXPs is a priority to tackle connectivity problems, improve service quality and increase network connectivity and resilience, fostering competition and reducing interconnection costs;

i) that Resolution 77 (Rev. Buenos Aires, 2017) of WTDC recognized the work of the Internet Society (ISOC), the Internet Exchange Federation and the regional IXP associations and other stakeholders in support of the establishment of IXPs in developing countries in order to promote better connectivity;

j) that results of studies on international Internet connection costs, especially for developing countries, should continue to be examined in order to improve affordable Internet connectivity;

k) Resolution 1 (Dubai, 2012) of the World Conference on International Telecommunications, on special measures for landlocked developing countries (LLDCs) and small island developing States (SIDS) for access to international optical fibre networks,

considering further

a) that the ITU Telecommunication Development Sector has made significant progress and carried out several studies on the promotion of infrastructure and the use of the Internet in developing countries under its 2010 Hyderabad Action Plan, its 2014 Dubai Action Plan and now its 2017 Buenos Aires Action Plan, which endorsed the continuation of these studies, through human capacity-building efforts such as its Internet training centre initiative;

b) that studies are ongoing in ITU-T on IP-based network issues, including service interoperability with other telecommunication networks, numbering, signalling requirements and protocol aspects, security and infrastructure component costs, issues associated with migration from existing networks to next-generation networks (NGN) and evolution to future networks, and implementation of the requirements of Recommendation ITU-T D.50;

c) that the general cooperation agreement between ITU-T and ISOC/Internet Engineering Task Force (IETF), as referred to in Supplement 3 to the ITU-T Series A recommendations, continues to exist,

recognizing

a) that IP-based networks have evolved to a widely accessible medium used for global commerce and communication, and there is therefore a need to continue to identify the global and regional activities related to IP-based networks with respect to, for example:

- i) infrastructure, interoperability and standardization;
- ii) Internet naming and addressing;
- iii) dissemination of information about IP-based networks and the implications of their development for ITU Member States, particularly the developing countries;
- iv) support and advice available for ITU Member States, particularly the developing countries, from ITU and other entities and organizations;

b) that significant work on IP-related issues and the future Internet is being conducted within ITU and many other international bodies;

c) that the quality of service of IP-based networks should be consistent with ITU-T recommendations and other recognized international standards;

d) that it is in the public interest that IP-based networks and other telecommunication networks should be both interoperable and provide global reachability, bearing in mind *recognizing c)* above;

e) that the significance of interoperability and seamless transfer of data enabled by IP-based networks and other telecommunication networks is an important factor to enable growth of the economy, including the digital economy,

requests the ITU Telecommunication Standardization Sector

to continue its collaborative activities on IP-based networks with ISOC/IETF and other relevant recognized organizations, in respect of interconnectivity with existing telecommunication networks and migration to NGN and future networks,

requests the three Sectors

to continue to consider and update their work programmes on IP-based networks and on migration to NGN and future networks, including strengthening collaboration with other entities and organizations for the benefit of Member States, taking into account the impact of emerging telecommunications/ICTs,

resolves

1 to explore ways and means, in accordance with the Tunis Agenda, for greater reciprocal collaboration and coordination between ITU and relevant organizations² involved in the development of IP-based networks and the future Internet in the context of emerging telecommunications/ICTs, through cooperation agreements, as appropriate, in order to increase the role of ITU in Internet governance, and to promote greater participation by Member States in Internet governance, so as to ensure maximum benefits to the global community and promote affordable international connectivity;

2 that ITU shall fully embrace and promote the opportunities for telecommunication/ICT development that arise from the growth of IP-based services, in conformity with the Union's purposes and the outcomes of the Geneva (2003) and Tunis (2005) phases of WSIS, taking into account the quality and security of services and the affordability of international connectivity for developing countries, especially for LLDCs and SIDS;

² Including, but not limited to, the Internet Corporation for Assigned Names and Numbers (ICANN), the regional Internet registries (RIRs), the Internet Engineering Task Force (IETF), the Internet Society (ISOC) and the World Wide Web Consortium (W3C), on the basis of reciprocity.

3 that ITU shall clearly identify, for its Member States and Sector Members and for the general public, the range of Internet-related issues that fall within the responsibilities incumbent on the Union under its basic texts and the activities in the WSIS outcome documents and the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development where ITU has a role;

4 that ITU shall continue to collaborate with other relevant organizations to ensure that growth in IP-based networks, along with and taking into consideration traditional networks, delivers maximum benefits to the global community, and shall continue to participate, as appropriate, in any directly related new international initiatives, such as the initiative in cooperation with the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) on the United Nations Broadband Commission for Sustainable Development formed for this purpose;

5 to continue the study of international Internet connectivity as an urgent matter, as called for in § 50 d) of the Tunis Agenda (2005), and to call upon ITU-T, in particular Study Group 3, which has responsibility for Recommendation ITU-T D.50 and which has compiled an initial set of guidelines in Supplement 2 to Recommendation ITU-T D.50 (05/2013), to complete as soon as possible its studies that have been ongoing since WTSA-2000;

6 to take into account the provisions of Resolution 23 (Rev. Buenos Aires, 2017), in particular undertaking studies on the structure of international Internet connection costs for developing countries, with emphasis on the influence and effects of the connection mode (transit and peering), secure cross-border connectivity, the deployment of IXPs, and the availability and cost of backhaul and long-haul physical infrastructure,

instructs the Secretary-General

- 1 to prepare an annual report to the ITU Council with the appropriate input from Member States, Sector Members, the three Sectors and the General Secretariat, that provides a comprehensive summary both of the activities that ITU is already undertaking in regard to IP-based networks and the impact of emerging telecommunications/ICTs in these networks as well as any changes thereto, including the development and deployment of future networks, and of the roles and activities of other relevant international organizations, describing their involvement in IP-based network issues; the report shall indicate the degree of cooperation between ITU and these organizations, drawing the required information wherever possible from existing sources, and containing concrete proposals on improving ITU activities and such cooperation, and shall be distributed widely among the Member States and Sector Members, the advisory groups of the three Sectors and other groups involved one month before the Council session;
- 2 based on this report, to continue collaborative activities related to IP-based networks, especially those related to the implementation of the relevant outcomes of the two phases of WSIS (Geneva, 2003 and Tunis, 2005), and to consider the WSIS+10 statement on the implementation of WSIS outcomes and vision for WSIS beyond 2015, which were adopted at the ITU-coordinated WSIS+10 High-Level Event (Geneva, 2014), based on the MPP process, together with other United Nations agencies and inclusive of all WSIS Stakeholders, were endorsed by the Plenipotentiary Conference (Busan, 2014) and were submitted to the UNGA overall review;
- 3 to continue to raise awareness of the critical importance for sustainable development of affordable connectivity, including in the United Nations High-level Political Forum on Sustainable Development,

instructs the Director of the Telecommunication Development Bureau

- 1 to provide capacity building to developing countries, including least developed countries, SIDS and LLDCs, in order to connect the unconnected, including through provision of the necessary assistance by the ITU regional offices to achieve this goal and collaboration with other relevant organizations;

- 2 to promote awareness among Member States about the support available from ITU and from other relevant organizations to promote the development and deployment of IP-based networks;
- 3 to provide the necessary information and best-practice guidance related to the implementation of this resolution;
- 4 to coordinate actions to provide training and technical assistance with regard to the implementation of this resolution,

invites the ITU Council

to consider the report of the Secretary-General, take into account comments, if any, made by the advisory groups of the three Sectors through their respective Bureau Directors on implementation of this resolution, and take necessary action, as appropriate,

invites Member States and Sector Members

- 1 to participate in, and follow the progress of, the current work of the Sectors of the Union;
- 2 to increase awareness at national, regional and international level among all interested non-governmental parties and to facilitate their participation in relevant ITU activities, and in any other relevant activities emanating from the Geneva (2003) and Tunis (2005) phases of WSIS.

RESOLUTION 102 (REV. DUBAI, 2018)

ITU's role with regard to international public policy issues pertaining to the Internet and the management of Internet resources, including domain names and addresses

The Plenipotentiary Conference of the International Telecommunication Union (Dubai, 2018),

recalling

a) relevant resolutions of the United Nations General Assembly (UNGA), including UNGA Resolution 70/1, on transforming our world: the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, and UNGA Resolution 70/125, on the outcome document of the UNGA high-level meeting on the overall review of the implementation of the outcomes of the World Summit on the Information Society (WSIS);

b) the WSIS+10 statement on the implementation of WSIS outcomes and vision for WSIS beyond 2015, which were adopted at the ITU-coordinated WSIS+10 High-Level Event (Geneva, 2014), based on the Multistakeholder Preparatory Platform (MPP) process, together with other United Nations agencies and inclusive of all WSIS stakeholders, were endorsed by the Plenipotentiary Conference (Busan, 2014) and were submitted to the UNGA overall review;

c) the results of the World Telecommunication/Information and Communication Technology (ICT) Policy Forum in regard to issues related to Resolutions 101, 102 and 133 (Rev. Guadalajara, 2010) of the Plenipotentiary Conference;

d) Resolutions 47 and 48 (Rev. Dubai, 2012) and 49, 50, 52, 64, 69 and 75 (Rev. Hammamet, 2016) of the World Telecommunication Standardization Assembly (WTSa),

recognizing

a) all relevant resolutions of the Plenipotentiary Conference;

b) all relevant WSIS outcomes;

- c) Internet-related activities of ITU, undertaken within its mandate with respect to the implementation of this resolution and other relevant ITU resolutions;
- d) that emerging telecommunications/ICTs will transform both the Internet and the digital economy and will have an impact on overall achievement of Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs);
- e) that the Internet promises social, economic, cultural and environmental development that can bring out the best in humanity;
- f) that increased availability of online services will contribute to bringing sustainable social and economic development to all the world's inhabitants,

considering

- a) that the purposes of the Union are, *inter alia*:
 - i) 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;
 - ii) to promote, at the international level, the adoption of a broad approach to the issues of telecommunications/ICTs in the global information economy and society, by cooperating with other world and regional intergovernmental organizations and those non-governmental organizations concerned with telecommunications;
 - iii) to promote the extension of the benefits of new telecommunication technologies to all the world's inhabitants;
 - iv) to harmonize the actions of Member States and Sector Members and promote fruitful and constructive cooperation and partnership between Member States and Sector Members in the attainment of those ends;
 - v) to maintain and extend international cooperation among all its Member States for the improvement and rational use of telecommunications/ICT of all kinds;

- vi) to promote and offer technical assistance to developing countries¹ in the field of telecommunications and to promote the mobilization of the material, human and financial resources needed for its implementation as well as access to information;
- b) the need for preserving and promoting multilingualism on the Internet for an integrating and inclusive information society;
- c) that advances in the global information infrastructure, including the development of Internet Protocol (IP)-based networks and the Internet, taking into account the requirements, features and interoperability of next-generation networks (NGN) and future networks, are of crucial importance as an important engine for growth in the world economy in the twenty-first century;
- d) that the development of the Internet is essentially market-led and driven by private and government initiatives;
- e) that the private sector continues to play a very important role in the expansion and development of the Internet, for example through investments in infrastructures and services;
- f) that the public sector and public-private and regional initiatives continue to play a very important role in the expansion and development of the Internet, for example through investments in infrastructures and services;
- g) that management of the registration and allocation of Internet domain names and addresses must fully reflect the geographical nature of the Internet, taking into account an equitable balance of interests of all stakeholders;
- h) the role played by ITU in the successful organization of the two phases of WSIS, and that the Geneva Declaration of Principles and the Geneva Plan of Action, adopted in 2003, and the Tunis Commitment and the Tunis Agenda for the Information Society, adopted in 2005, have been endorsed by UNGA;

¹ These include the least developed countries, small island developing states, landlocked developing countries and countries with economies in transition.

- i) that UNGA agreed, at its high-level meeting on 15-16 December 2015, that Internet governance should continue to follow the Tunis Agenda;
- j) that the management of the Internet is a subject of valid international interest and must flow from full international and multistakeholder cooperation on the basis of the outcomes of the two phases of WSIS;
- k) that, as stated in the WSIS outcomes, all governments should have an equal role and responsibility for international Internet governance and for ensuring the stability, security and continuity of the existing Internet and its future development and of the future Internet, and that the need for development of public policy by governments in consultation with all stakeholders is also recognized;
- l) work being carried out by the Commission on Science and Technology for Development (CSTD) relevant to this resolution;
- m) work being carried out by the Telecommunication Development Bureau to develop its capacity-building activities in the field of Internet governance,

recognizing further

- a) that ITU is dealing with technical and policy issues related to IP-based networks, including the existing Internet and evolution to NGN as well as studies into the future Internet;
- b) that ITU performs worldwide coordination of a number of radiocommunication-related and telecommunication-related resource allocation systems and acts as a forum for policy discussion in this area;
- c) that significant effort has been put in by ITU on ENUM, ".int", internationalized domain name (IDN), and country code top-level domain (ccTLD) issues through workshops and standardization activities;
- d) that ITU has published a comprehensive and useful Handbook on IP-based networks and related topics and Issues;

e) §§ 71 and 78 a) of the Tunis Agenda with regard to the establishment of enhanced cooperation on Internet governance and the establishment of the Internet Governance Forum (IGF), as two distinct processes;

f) the relevant WSIS outcomes in §§ 29-82 of the Tunis Agenda concerning Internet governance and §§ 55-65 of UNGA Resolution 70/125, on the outcome document of the UNGA high-level meeting on the overall review of the implementation of the WSIS outcomes;

g) that ITU should be encouraged to facilitate cooperation with all stakeholders as referred to in § 35 of the Tunis Agenda;

h) that Member States represent the interests of the population of the country or territory for which a ccTLD has been delegated;

i) that countries should not be involved in decisions regarding another country's ccTLD;

j) to take account of the results of the Working Group on Enhanced Cooperation on public policy issues pertaining to the Internet,

emphasizing

a) that the management of the Internet encompasses both technical and public policy issues and should involve all stakeholders and relevant intergovernmental and international organizations, in accordance with §§ 35 a) – e) of the Tunis Agenda;

b) that emerging telecommunications/ICTs will transform the Internet, and policy-makers need to keep pace with change in the Internet to harness the benefits of that transformation;

c) that the role of governments includes providing a clear, consistent and predictable legal framework, in order to promote a favourable environment in which global ICT networks are interoperable with Internet networks and widely accessible to all citizens without any discrimination and to ensure adequate protection of public interests in the management of Internet resources, including domain names and addresses;

d) that WSIS recognized the need for enhanced cooperation in the future, to enable governments, on an equal footing, to carry out their roles and responsibilities, in international public policy issues pertaining to the Internet, but not in the day-to-day technical and operational matters that do not impact on international public policy issues;

e) that ITU, for its part, has started the process towards enhanced cooperation as one of the relevant organizations referred to in § 71 of the Tunis Agenda, and that the Council Working Group on international Internet-related public policy issues (CWG-Internet) should continue its work on Internet-related public policy issues;

f) that ITU can play a positive role by offering all interested parties a platform for encouraging discussions and for the dissemination of information on the management of Internet domain names and addresses and other Internet resources within the mandate of ITU,

noting

a) that CWG-Internet has furthered the objectives of Resolution 75 (Rev. Hammamet, 2016) of WTSA and Resolution 30 (Rev. Dubai, 2014) of the World Telecommunication Development Conference (WTDC) regarding public policy issues pertaining to the Internet;

b) Resolutions 1305, 1336 and 1344 adopted by the ITU Council;

c) that CWG-Internet shall include in its work all relevant decisions of this conference and all other resolutions relevant to the work of the group as stated in Council Resolution 1305 and the annex thereto;

d) the continued importance of openness and transparency in the development of international Internet public policy issues, in line with § 35 of the Tunis Agenda;

e) the need for development of international Internet public policy by governments in consultation with all stakeholders;

f) ongoing activities in relevant ITU Telecommunication Standardization Sector (ITU-T) and ITU Telecommunication Development Sector (ITU-D) study groups relevant to this resolution,

resolves

- 1 to explore ways and means, in accordance with the Tunis Agenda, for greater reciprocal collaboration and coordination between ITU and relevant organizations² involved in the development of IP-based networks and the future Internet in the context of emerging telecommunications/ICTs, through cooperation agreements, as appropriate, in order to increase the role of ITU in Internet governance, and to promote greater participation by Member States in Internet governance, so as to ensure maximum benefits to the global community and promote affordable international connectivity;
- 2 that the sovereign and legitimate interests, as expressed and defined by each country, in diverse ways, regarding decisions affecting their ccTLDs, need to be respected and ensured, upheld and addressed via flexible and improved frameworks and mechanisms;
- 3 to continue to undertake activities on international Internet related public policy issues within ITU's mandate, including in CWG-Internet, in collaboration and cooperation with relevant organizations and stakeholders, as appropriate, with special attention to the needs of developing countries;
- 4 to continue the CWG-Internet activities as listed in the relevant Council resolutions,

² Including, but not limited to, the Internet Corporation for Assigned Names and Numbers (ICANN), the regional Internet registries (RIRs), the Internet Engineering Task Force (IETF), the Internet Society (ISOC) and the World Wide Web Consortium (W3C), on the basis of reciprocity.

instructs the Secretary-General

- 1 to continue to take a significant role in international discussions and initiatives on the management of Internet domain names and addresses and other Internet resources within the mandate of ITU, taking into account future developments of the Internet, the purposes of the Union and the interests of its membership as expressed in its instruments, resolutions and decisions;
- 2 to take the necessary steps for ITU to continue to play a facilitating role in the coordination of international public policy issues pertaining to the Internet, as expressed in §35 d) of the Tunis Agenda, interacting as necessary with other intergovernmental organizations in these domains;
- 3 to continue to raise awareness of the critical importance of sustainable development in discussions and initiatives on international public policy issues pertaining to the Internet and the management of Internet resources;
- 4 in line with § 78 a) of the Tunis Agenda, to continue to contribute as appropriate to the work of IGF;
- 5 to continue to take the necessary steps for ITU to play an active and constructive role in the process towards enhanced cooperation as expressed in § 71 of the Tunis Agenda;
- 6 to continue to take the necessary steps in ITU's own internal process towards enhanced cooperation on international public policy issues pertaining to the Internet as expressed in § 71 of the Tunis Agenda, involving all stakeholders, in their respective roles and responsibilities;
- 7 to report annually to the Council on the activities undertaken on these subjects and to submit proposals as appropriate, and, after the endorsement of this report by Member States through consultation procedures in force, to submit the report to the Secretary-General of the United Nations;
- 8 to continue to disseminate, as appropriate, the reports of CWG-Internet to all relevant international organizations and stakeholders actively involved in such matters for their consideration in their policy-making processes,

instructs the Directors of the Bureaux

- 1 to contribute to CWG-Internet concerning the activities undertaken by their respective Sectors which are relevant to the work of the group;
- 2 to provide advice and assistance, within the Union's expertise, and within available resources, as appropriate, in cooperation with relevant organizations, to Member States, if so requested, in order to achieve their stated policy objectives with respect to the management of Internet domain names and addresses, other Internet resources and international Internet connectivity, within the remit of ITU, such as capacity building, availability and costs related to infrastructure, and with respect to Internet-related public policy issues, as stated in the annex to Council Resolution 1305, which identifies the role of CWG-Internet, within their mandate;
- 3 to liaise and to cooperate with the regional telecommunication organizations pursuant to this resolution,

instructs the Director of the Telecommunication Standardization Bureau

- 1 to ensure that ITU-T performs its role in technical issues, and to continue to contribute ITU-T expertise and to liaise and cooperate with appropriate entities on issues related to the management of Internet domain names and addresses and other Internet resources within the mandate of ITU, such as IP version 6 (IPv6), ENUM and IDNs, as well as any other related technological developments and issues, including facilitating appropriate studies on these issues by relevant ITU-T study groups and other groups;
- 2 in accordance with ITU rules and procedures, and calling upon contributions from the ITU membership, to continue to play a facilitating role in coordination and assistance in the development of public policy issues pertaining to Internet domain names and addresses and other Internet resources within the mandate of ITU and their possible evolution;

3 to work with Member States, Sector Members and relevant international organizations, as appropriate, on issues concerning Member States' ccTLDs and related experiences;

4 to report annually to the Council and the Telecommunication Standardization Advisory Group, and also to WTSA, on the activities undertaken and achievements on these subjects, including proposals for further consideration as appropriate,

instructs the Director of the Telecommunication Development Bureau

1 to organize international and regional forums and carry out necessary activities, in conjunction with appropriate entities, to discuss policy, operational and technical issues on the Internet in general, and on the management of Internet domain names and addresses and other Internet resources within the mandate of ITU in particular, including with regard to multilingualism, for the benefit of Member States, especially for developing countries, taking into consideration the content of the relevant resolutions of this conference, including this resolution, in addition to the content of the relevant resolutions of WTDC;

2 to continue promoting, through ITU-D programmes and study groups, the exchange of information, fostering debate and the development and sharing of best practices on Internet issues, and to continue to play a key role in outreach by contributing to capacity building, providing technical assistance and encouraging the involvement of developing countries in international Internet forums and issues;

3 to continue reporting annually to the Council and the Telecommunication Development Advisory Group, and also to WTDC, on the activities undertaken and achievements on these subjects, including proposals for further consideration as appropriate;

4 to liaise with the Telecommunication Standardization Bureau and to collaborate with other relevant organizations involved in the development and deployment of IP-based networks and the growth of the Internet, aiming to make available to Member States widely accepted best practices for the design, installation and operation of Internet exchange points (IXPs),

instructs the ITU Council Working Group on international Internet-related public policy issues

1 to consider and discuss the activities of the Secretary-General and Directors of the Bureaux in relation to the implementation of this resolution;

2 to prepare ITU inputs into the above-mentioned activities as appropriate;

3 to continue to identify, study and develop matters on international Internet-related public policy issues, taking into account relevant ITU resolutions,

instructs the ITU Council

1 to revise its Resolution 1344 to direct the CWG-Internet, limited to Member States, with open consultation to all stakeholders, and to conduct such open consultation according to the following guidelines:

- CWG-Internet will decide on the international Internet-related public policy issues for open consultation, drawing primarily from Council Resolution 1305;
- CWG-Internet should generally hold both open online consultation and physical open consultation meetings, with remote participation, within a reasonable period, prior to each CWG-Internet meeting;
- relevant inputs received from stakeholders will be submitted to CWG-Internet for consideration of the issues chosen for its next meeting;

- 2 taking into account the annual reports presented by the Secretary-General and the Directors of the Bureaux, to take appropriate measures in order to contribute actively to international discussions and initiatives related to issues on international management of Internet domain names and addresses and other Internet resources within the mandate of ITU;
- 3 to consider the reports of CWG-Internet and take actions as appropriate;
- 4 to report to the 2022 plenipotentiary conference on the activities undertaken and achievements in respect of the objectives of this resolution, including proposals for further consideration as appropriate,

invites Member States

- 1 to participate in the discussions on international management of Internet resources, including domain names and addresses, and in the process towards enhanced cooperation on Internet governance and international public policy issues pertaining to the Internet, so that worldwide representation in the debates can be ensured;
- 2 to continue to participate actively in the discussions and development of public policy issues related to Internet resources, including international Internet connectivity, within the remit of ITU, such as capacity building, availability and costs related to infrastructure, domain names and addresses, their possible evolution and the impact of new usages and applications, cooperating with the relevant organizations, and to contribute to CWG-Internet and ITU study groups on related matters;
- 3 to support a resilient, inclusive and interoperable Internet that is accessible to all, and to strive to ensure universal and affordable Internet access for all citizens, including persons with specific needs, pursuant to Resolution 175 (Rev. Dubai, 2018) of this conference,

invites Member States and Sector Members

to seek the appropriate means to contribute to enhanced cooperation on international public policy issues relating to the Internet, in their respective roles and responsibilities.

RESOLUTION 123 (REV. DUBAI, 2018)

Bridging the standardization gap between developing¹ and developed countries

The Plenipotentiary Conference of the International Telecommunication Union (Dubai, 2018),

noting

a) that "the Union shall in particular facilitate the worldwide standardization of telecommunications, with a satisfactory quality of service" (No. 13 in Article 1 of the ITU Constitution);

b) that, in connection with the functions and structure of the ITU Telecommunication Standardization Sector (ITU-T), in Article 17, the Constitution indicates that those functions shall be "..., bearing in mind the particular concerns of the developing countries, to fulfil the purposes of the Union...";

c) that the strategic plan for the Union for 2020-2023, approved by means of Resolution 71 (Rev. Dubai, 2018) of this conference, and its annexes, includes under the objectives of ITU-T to "promote the active participation of the membership, in particular developing countries, in the definition and adoption of non-discriminatory international standards (ITU-T recommendations) with a view to bridging the standardization gap";

d) that one of the strategic goals of the Union for 2020-2023 is "Inclusiveness: Bridge the digital divide and provide broadband access for all",

noting further

a) that the World Telecommunication Standardization Assembly (WTSA) adopted Resolution 54 (Rev. Hammamet, 2016) to assist in bridging the standardization gap between developing and developed countries;

¹ These include the least developed countries, small island developing states, landlocked developing countries and countries with economies in transition.

b) that the World Telecommunication Development Conference (WTDC) adopted Resolution 47 (Rev. Buenos Aires, 2017), which calls for activities to enhance knowledge and effective application of recommendations of ITU-T and of the ITU Radiocommunication Sector (ITU-R) in developing countries, and Resolution 37 (Rev. Buenos Aires, 2017), which recognizes the need to create digital opportunities in developing countries,

recalling

that the Geneva Plan of Action and Tunis Agenda for the Information Society of the World Summit on the Information Society (WSIS) emphasize efforts to overcome the digital divide and development divides,

considering

a) the following outcome for ITU-T in the strategic plan for the Union for 2020-2023, adopted in Resolution 71 (Rev. Dubai, 2018):

- increased participation in the ITU-T standardization process, including attendance of meetings, submission of contributions, taking leadership positions and hosting of meetings/workshops, especially from developing countries;
- b)* the new strategic plan for the Union, adopted in Resolution 71 (Rev. Dubai, 2018), includes ITU-T output T.2-1 (Bridging the standardization gap) to promote the active participation of the membership, in particular developing countries (e.g. remote participation, fellowships, establishment of regional study groups),

considering further

that focus on the following activities is still needed:

- to develop interoperable, non-discriminatory international standards (ITU-T recommendations);
- to assist in bridging the standardization gap between developed and developing countries;

- to extend and facilitate international cooperation among international and regional standardization bodies;
- to provide assistance to developing countries in bridging the digital divide by achieving broader telecommunication/information and communication technology (ICT)-enabled socio-economic development,

recognizing

a) the continued shortage of skilled human resources in the standardization field in developing countries, resulting in a low level of developing-country participation in ITU-T and ITU-R meetings, in spite of the improvement observed in such participation lately, and, consequently, in the standards-making process, leading to difficulties when interpreting ITU-T and ITU-R recommendations;

b) ongoing challenges relating to capacity building, in particular for developing countries, in the light of rapid technological innovation and increased convergence of services;

c) the difficulty faced by developing countries with stringent budgetary constraints in participating in the activities of ITU, especially regular meetings of study groups and advisory groups, for which the meeting duration could be up to two weeks;

d) the moderate level of participation by representatives of developing countries in ITU standardization activities, whether through lack of awareness of these activities, difficulties in accessing information, lack of training for human talent in standardization-related matters, or lack of financial resources to travel to meeting sites, which are factors with impact in terms of widening the existing knowledge gap;

e) that technological needs and realities vary from country to country and region to region, and in many cases developing countries do not have opportunities or mechanisms to make them known;

- f)* that, for developing countries at the initial stage of introducing and/or switching to a new technology, it is important to have guidelines for the new technology in question that can be used to develop a national standard, which would make it possible to introduce or switch to the new technology in a timely manner;
- g)* that, in implementation of the provisions of the annex to Resolution 44 (Rev. Hammamet, 2016) and of Resolution 54 (Rev. Hammamet, 2016) of WTSA, ITU actions have been carried out through ITU-T to assist in reducing the standardization gap between developing and developed countries;
- h)* the importance for developing countries of developing guidelines regarding the implementation of ITU recommendations pursuant to Resolution 44 (Rev. Hammamet, 2016) of WTSA and Resolution 47 (Rev. Buenos Aires, 2017) of WTDC;
- i)* the need for high-quality, demand-driven international standards, which should be developed rapidly in line with the principles of global connectivity, openness, affordability, reliability, interoperability and security, and which are critical for generating confidence for further investments, specifically in telecommunication/ICT infrastructure;
- j)* digital transformation through the emergence of key technologies, enabling new services and applications and promoting the building of the information society and progress towards sustainable development, which must be taken into account in the work of ITU-T;
- k)* that cooperation and collaboration with other standardization bodies and relevant consortia and forums are key to avoiding duplication of work and achieving efficient use of resources;
- l)* that rapidly evolving technology continues to create a standardization gap between developed and developing countries, and this gap is an obstacle for countries to transition towards the development of their economy, including the digital economy, enabled by access to affordable and interoperable technologies,

recognizing further

that the achievements of ITU-T in transformative digital technologies will contribute towards achievement of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development,

taking into account

a) that developing countries could benefit from improved capability in the application and development of standards;

b) that ITU-T and ITU-R activities and the telecommunication/ICT market could also benefit from better involvement of developing countries in standards-making and standards application;

c) that initiatives to assist in bridging the standardization gap are intrinsic to, and are a high priority task of, the Union;

d) that although ITU is making efforts to reduce the standardization gap, major disparities in knowledge and management of standards remain between developing and developed countries;

e) Resolution ITU-R 7-3 (Rev. Geneva, 2015) of the Radiocommunication Assembly (RA), on telecommunication development, including liaison and collaboration with ITU-D, which resolves that the Radiocommunication Advisory Group (RAG) and the Director of the Radiocommunication Bureau shall continue to cooperate actively with the Telecommunication Development Advisory Group (TDAG) and the Director of the Telecommunication Development Bureau (BDT) in identifying and implementing means of facilitating the participation of developing countries in study group activities;

f) that WTSA adopted Resolutions 32, 44 and 54 (Rev. Hammamet, 2016), all of which share the clear objective of contributing to bridging the standardization gap between developing and developed countries by means of:

- i) providing installations, facilities and capacities in electronic working methods (EWM) in ITU-T meetings, workshops and training courses, especially for developing countries in order to promote their participation;
 - ii) intensifying the participation of the ITU regional offices in the activities of the Telecommunication Standardization Bureau (TSB), in order to promote and coordinate standardization activities in their regions, to apply the relevant parts of the resolution, and to initiate campaigns aimed at encouraging the affiliation to ITU of new Sector Members, Associates and Academia from developing countries;
 - iii) inviting the new regions and Member States to create regional groups within the sphere of the ITU-T study groups, and to create corresponding regional standardization bodies in order to work closely with the ITU-D study groups and TDAG;
- g) Resolution 37 (Rev. Buenos Aires, 2017) of WTDC, on bridging the digital divide, which aims at the establishment of international methods and mechanisms that strengthen international cooperation to bridge the digital divide by means of studies, projects and joint activities with ITU-R which seek to build capacities in efficient use of the satellite orbit/spectrum resource for the provision of satellite services, with a view to achieving affordable access to satellite broadband and facilitating network connectivity between different areas, countries and regions, especially in the developing countries, in accordance with the WSIS Geneva Plan of Action and Tunis Agenda;
- h) Resolution 47 (Rev. Buenos Aires, 2017) of WTDC, on enhancement of knowledge and effective application of ITU recommendations in developing countries, including conformance and interoperability testing of systems manufactured on the basis of ITU recommendations, which invited Member States and Sector Members to continue to engage in activities to enhance the application of ITU-R and ITU-T recommendations in developing countries, and instructs the Directors of TSB and BDT, in close collaboration, to encourage the participation of developing countries in training courses, workshops and seminars by means of fellowships,

resolves to instruct the Secretary-General and the Directors of the three Bureaux

- 1 to work closely with each other on the follow-up and implementation of this resolution, as well as Resolutions 32, 44 and 54 (Rev. Hammamet, 2016) of WTSA, Resolutions 37 and 47 (Rev. Buenos Aires, 2017) of WTDC and Resolution ITU-R 7-3 (Rev. Geneva, 2015) of RA, in order to step up actions intended and to reduce the standardization gap between developing and developed countries;
- 2 to maintain a close coordination mechanism among the three Sectors at the regional level for bridging the digital divide, through activities carried out by the ITU regional offices to that end;
- 3 to provide developing countries with assistance to enhance capacity building in the standardization field, including through collaboration with the relevant academia;
- 4 to identify ways and means to support the participation of representatives of developing countries, including prioritizing fellowships for those who submit contributions to attend the meetings of the three Sectors of ITU and the dissemination of information on standardization;
- 5 to further collaborate with the relevant regional organizations and support their work in this area;
- 6 to strengthen the mechanisms for preparing and submitting reports on the implementation of the action plan associated with Resolution 44 (Rev. Hammamet, 2016) of WTSA, taking into account the four-year rolling operational plans of each Bureau;
- 7 to continue collaboration at the regional level in order to lend further impetus to the development of ITU-T's Bridging the Standardization Gap (BSG) programme in these regions;
- 8 to promote equal access to ITU electronic meetings through the use of remote participation;

9 to promote the timely development of guidelines for developing countries on the basis of ITU-R and ITU-T recommendations, particularly those related to priority standardization issues, including the introduction of and switchover to new technologies, as well as the preparation and application of ITU recommendations;

10 to effectively consolidate all guidelines, recommendations, technical reports, best practices and use cases developed by ITU-R and ITU-T, through the use of ITU web-based tools, and to identify strategies and mechanisms to facilitate and allow Member States to proactively use these tools to hasten the transfer of knowledge,

invites Member States and Sector Members

to make voluntary contributions (financial and in-kind) to the fund for bridging the standardization gap, as well as to undertake concrete actions to support ITU's actions and the initiatives of its three Sectors and its regional offices in this matter,

invites Member States

1 to study the possibility of implementing "national standardization secretariats", taking into account the guidelines provided under the ITU-T BSG programme, in particular in developing countries;

2 to propose candidates for study group chairmanship and vice-chairmanship positions in the three ITU Sectors, particularly from developing countries;

3 to continue the creation of national and regional standardization bodies, as appropriate, and encourage the involvement of these entities in ITU standardization work and the coordination of meetings with ITU-T regional groups, mainly to enable developing countries to communicate about their standardization priorities and requirements;

4 to host regional group and study group meetings as well as international or regional events (forums, workshops, etc.) related to ITU standardization activities in particular in developing countries;

5 to urge national small and medium enterprises, academia and relevant actors, in particular from developing countries, to participate in ITU's standardization activities.

RESOLUTION 125 (REV. DUBAI, 2018)

**Assistance and support to Palestine for rebuilding its
telecommunication networks**

The Plenipotentiary Conference of the International Telecommunication Union (Dubai, 2018),

recalling

- a) Resolutions 125 (Rev. Busan, 2014), 125 (Rev. Guadalajara, 2010), 125 (Rev. Antalya, 2006), 125 (Marrakesh, 2002), 99 (Rev. Busan, 2014), 99 (Rev. Guadalajara, 2010) and 32 (Kyoto, 1994) of the Plenipotentiary Conference;
- b) Resolutions 18 (Rev. Buenos Aires, 2017), 18 (Rev. Dubai, 2014), 18 (Rev. Hyderabad, 2010), 18 (Rev. Doha, 2006), 18 (Rev. Istanbul, 2002) and 18 (Valletta, 1998) of the World Telecommunication Development Conference (WTDC);
- c) the Charter of the United Nations and the Universal Declaration of Human Rights;
- d) Nos 6 and 7 of the ITU Constitution indicating among the purposes of the Union "to promote the extension of the benefits of the new telecommunication technologies to all the world's inhabitants" and "to promote the use of telecommunication services with the objective of facilitating peaceful relations";
- e) the terms of Resolution 67/19 of the United Nations General Assembly (UNGA), under which it was decided to accord to Palestine non-member observer State status in the United Nations;
- f) UNGA Resolution 67/229, which recognizes the Palestinian people's right to permanent sovereignty over their natural resources, specifically land, water, energy and other natural resources, in the occupied Palestinian territory, including East Jerusalem;
- g) Resolution 9 (Rev. Buenos Aires, 2017) of WTDC, which recognizes that it is the sovereign right of every State to manage spectrum use within its territories,

considering

- a) that the ITU Constitution and Convention are designed to strengthen peace and security in the world for the development of international cooperation and better understanding among the peoples concerned;
- b) that ITU's policy of assistance to Palestine for the development of its telecommunication sector has been efficient but has not yet fulfilled its goals, due to the prevailing situation;
- c) that, for Palestine to take an effective part in the new information society, it has to build its information society,

considering further

- a) that the establishment of a reliable and modern telecommunication network is an essential part of economic and social development and is of the utmost importance to the future of the Palestinian people;
- b) that the international community has an important role in assisting Palestine to develop a modern and reliable telecommunication network;
- c) that Palestine at present does not have international telecommunication networks on account of difficulties for their establishment,

mindful

of the fundamental principles contained in the Preamble of the Constitution,

noting

the Telecommunication Development Bureau's (BDT) long-term technical assistance to Palestine for the development of its telecommunications in implementation of Resolution 32 (Kyoto, 1994) of the Plenipotentiary Conference and the urgent need for assistance to be provided in the various fields of communication and information,

noting with grave concern

the restrictions and difficulties related to the current situation in Palestine that are preventing access to telecommunication/information and communication technology (ICT) means, services and applications and which constitute a continuing obstacle to telecommunication/ICT development in Palestine,

resolves

- 1 that the plan of action initiated after the Plenipotentiary Conference (Kyoto, 1994) within the framework of the activities of the ITU Telecommunication Development Sector (ITU-D), with the specialized assistance of the ITU Radiocommunication Sector (ITU-R) and the ITU Telecommunication Standardization Sector (ITU-T), shall be continued and enhanced in order to provide assistance and support to Palestine for rebuilding and developing its telecommunication infrastructure, re-establishing institutions in this sector, developing telecommunication legislation and a regulatory framework including a numbering plan, radio-frequency spectrum management, tariff and human resource development and all other forms of assistance;
- 2 to urgently enable through assistance to Palestine to obtain and manage the required radio spectrum to operate its telecommunication networks and wireless services, in particular those related to the transition and migration to digital terrestrial television broadcasting in the frequency band 470-694 MHz, and identify mechanisms for ensuring that Palestine can exploit expeditiously the 694-862 MHz frequency band resulting from the digital transition for broadband mobile service uses and applications, taking into account the Interim Agreement signed between the Parties, and to express support for Palestine's utilization of new modern mobile and fixed systems and networks, such as IMT-2020, and associated radio frequencies, and the establishment of Palestine international gateways; through full collaboration and support of the Radiocommunication Bureau (BR) and BDT;
- 3 to instruct the Director of BR and the Director of BDT to ensure that this resolution is implemented,

urges Member States

to make every effort with a view to:

- i) preserving the Palestinian telecommunication infrastructure;
- ii) facilitating the establishment of Palestine's own international gateway networks, including satellite earth stations, submarine cables, optical fibre and microwave systems;

- iii) providing all forms of assistance and support to Palestine, bilaterally or through executive measures taken by ITU, in rebuilding, restoring and developing the Palestinian telecommunication network;
- iv) assisting Palestine in recovering its entitlements accruing from incoming and outgoing international traffic;
- v) providing assistance to Palestine in support of the implementation of BDT projects, including human resources capacity building,

invites the ITU Council

to allocate the necessary funds within available resources for the implementation of this resolution,

instructs the Director of the Telecommunication Development Bureau

- 1 to continue and enhance the technical assistance provided to Palestine for the development of its telecommunications, taking into consideration the need to overcome the increasing and escalating difficulties encountered in the provision of this assistance during the previous cycle since 2002;
- 2 to take appropriate measures within the mandate of BDT aimed at facilitating the establishment of international access networks, including terrestrial and satellite stations, submarine cables, optical fibre and microwave systems;
- 3 to implement projects such as e-health, e-education, e-government, spectrum planning and management and human resources development and all other forms of assistance such as consultations,

instructs the Director of the Radiocommunication Bureau

to ensure that ITU-R continues the collaboration with the ITU-D in the implementation of this resolution,

instructs the Secretary-General

- 1 to ensure that this resolution and all other resolutions adopted by the Plenipotentiary Conference on Palestine, in particular in relation to the international access code and the processing of frequency assignment notifications, are implemented, and to submit periodic reports to the Council on progress on these questions;
- 2 to coordinate the activities carried out by the three ITU Sectors in accordance with *resolves* above, to ensure that the Union's action in favour of Palestine is as effective as possible, and to report on the matter to the Council and to the next plenipotentiary conference on the progress achieved on these issues;
- 3 to submit an annual report to the Council on progress made in implementing this resolution.

RESOLUTION 130 (REV. DUBAI, 2018)

Strengthening the role of ITU in building confidence and security in the use of information and communication technologies

The Plenipotentiary Conference of the International Telecommunication Union (Dubai, 2018),

recalling

- a) United Nations General Assembly (UNGA) Resolution 68/198, on information and communication technologies (ICTs) for development;
- b) UNGA Resolution 71/199, on the right to privacy in the digital age;
- c) UNGA Resolution 68/243, on developments in the field of information and telecommunications in the context of international security;
- d) UNGA Resolution 57/239, on the creation of a global culture of cybersecurity;
- e) UNGA Resolution 64/211, on the creation of a global culture of cybersecurity and taking stock of national efforts to protect critical information infrastructures;
- f) the WSIS+10 statement on the implementation of outcomes of the World Summit on the Information Society (WSIS) and vision for WSIS beyond 2015, which were adopted at the ITU-coordinated WSIS+10 High-Level Event (Geneva, 2014), based on the Multistakeholder Preparatory Platform (MPP) platform, together with other United Nations agencies and inclusive of all WSIS stakeholders, were endorsed by the Plenipotentiary Conference (Busan, 2014) and were submitted to the UNGA overall review;
- g) UNGA Resolution 70/125, on the outcome document of the UNGA high-level meeting on the overall review of the implementation of the WSIS outcomes;

- h)* Resolution 174 (Rev. Busan, 2014) of the Plenipotentiary Conference, on ITU's role with regard to international public policy issues relating to the risk of illicit use of ICTs;
- i)* Resolution 179 (Rev. Dubai, 2018) of this conference, on ITU's role in child online protection;
- j)* Resolution 181 (Rev. Guadalajara, 2010) of the Plenipotentiary Conference, on the definitions and terminology relating to building confidence and security in the use of ICTs;
- k)* Resolution 196 (Rev. Dubai, 2018) of this conference, on protecting telecommunication service users/consumers;
- l)* Resolution 45 (Rev. Dubai, 2014) of the World Telecommunication Development Conference (WTDC), on mechanisms for enhancing cooperation on cybersecurity, including countering and combating spam;
- m)* Resolution 140 (Rev. Dubai, 2018) of this conference, on ITU's role in implementing the WSIS outcomes and in the overall UNGA review of their implementation;
- n)* Resolution 58 (Rev. Dubai, 2012) of the World Telecommunication Standardization Assembly (WTSA), on encouraging the creation of national computer incident response teams (CIRTs), particularly for developing countries¹;
- o)* Resolution 67 (Rev. Buenos Aires, 2017) of WTDC, on the role of the ITU Telecommunication Development Sector (ITU-D) in child online protection;
- p)* Resolution 69 (Rev. Buenos Aires, 2017) of WTDC, on the creation of national CIRTs, particularly for developing countries, and cooperation between them;

¹ These include the least developed countries, small island developing states, landlocked developing countries and countries with economies in transition.

q) that ITU Council Resolution 1305, adopted at its 2009 session, identified the security, safety, continuity, sustainability and robustness of the Internet as public policy issues that fall within the scope of ITU,

considering

a) that the ITU-coordinated WSIS+10 High-Level Event reaffirmed the importance of building confidence and security in the use of ICTs, as mentioned in relevant paragraphs of the WSIS+10 outcome documents (Geneva, 2014);

b) the crucial importance of information and communication infrastructures and their applications to practically all forms of social and economic activity;

c) the cybersecurity-related provisions of the Tunis Commitment and the Tunis Agenda for the Information Society and the outcome document of the UNGA high-level meeting on the overall review of the implementation of WSIS;

d) that, with the application and development of ICTs, new threats from various sources have emerged, that have had an impact on confidence and security in the use of ICTs by all Member States, Sector Members and other stakeholders, including all users of ICTs, and on the preservation of peace and economic and social development of all Member States, and that threats to and vulnerabilities of infrastructures, networks and devices continue to give rise to ever-growing security challenges across national borders for all countries, in particular developing countries, while noting in this context the strengthening of ITU's role in building confidence and security in the use of ICTs and the need to further enhance international cooperation and capacity building and develop appropriate existing national, regional and international mechanisms (for example agreements, best practices, memoranda of understanding, etc.);

e) that the ITU Secretary-General has been invited to support other global or regional cybersecurity projects, as appropriate, and all countries, particularly developing countries, have been invited to take part in their activities that are relevant to ITU;

f) the ITU Global Cybersecurity Agenda (GCA), which encourages international cooperation aimed at proposing strategies for solutions to enhance confidence and security in the use of telecommunications/ICTs;

g) that, in order to protect these infrastructures and address these challenges and threats, coordinated national, regional and international action is required for prevention, preparation, response and recovery from computer security incidents, on the part of government authorities, at the national (including the creation of national CIRTs) and sub-national levels, the private sector and citizens and users, in addition to international and regional cooperation and coordination, and that ITU has a lead role to play within its mandate and competencies in this field;

h) that an iterative, risk-based approach to cybersecurity enables cybersecurity practices to be developed and applied as needed to address constantly evolving threats and vulnerabilities, and that security is a continuous and iterative process which must be built into the development and deployment of technologies and their applications from the beginning and continue throughout their lifetime;

i) the need for continual evolution in new technologies to support the early detection of, and coordinated and timely response to, events or incidents compromising computer security, or computer network security incidents that could compromise the availability, integrity and confidentiality of critical infrastructures in ITU Member States, and for strategies that will minimize the impact of such incidents and mitigate the growing risks and threats to which such platforms are exposed;

- j) that UNGA Resolution 70/125, on the outcome document of the UNGA high-level meeting on the overall review of the implementation of the WSIS outcomes, recognized the challenges that States, in particular developing countries, face in building confidence and security in the use of ICTs and called for renewed focus on capacity building, education, knowledge-sharing and regulatory practice, as well as promoting multistakeholder cooperation at all levels and raising awareness among ICT users, particularly the poorest and most vulnerable;
- k) that the number of cyberthreats and cyberattacks is growing, as is dependence on the Internet and other networks that are essential for accessing services and information;
- l) that the ITU Telecommunication Standardization Sector (ITU-T) has adopted around 300 standards relating to building confidence and security in the use of ICTs;
- m) the final report on ITU-D Question 3/2, on securing information and communication networks: best practices for developing a culture of cybersecurity;
- n) that the nature of the cybersecurity standards landscape calls for cooperation between ITU and other national, regional, global and sectoral organizations;
- o) that many developing countries are elaborating or implementing national cybersecurity strategies;
- p) that cybersecurity has become a very important issue at the international level, and that the role and involvement of the United Nations and its relevant specialized agencies such as ITU in building confidence and security in the use of ICTs is therefore important;
- q) the different roles and responsibilities of all stakeholders in ensuring confidence and security in the use of ICTs;
- r) that some small and medium enterprises (SMEs) face additional challenges in implementing cybersecurity practices,

recognizing

a) that cybersecurity is a fundamental element for securing telecommunication/ICT infrastructures and an essential foundation for social and economic development;

b) that the development of ICTs has been and continues to be instrumental for the growth and development of the global economy, including the digital economy, underpinned by security and trust;

c) that WSIS affirmed the importance of building confidence and security in the use of ICTs and the great importance of multistakeholder implementation at the international level, and established Action Line C5 (Building confidence and security in the use of ICTs), with ITU identified in the Tunis Agenda as moderator/facilitator for the action line, and that this task has been carried out by the Union in recent years, for example under the GCA;

d) that WTDC-17 adopted the Buenos Aires Action Plan and its Objective 2, in particular Output 2.2, on building confidence and security in the use of ICTs, which identifies cybersecurity as a priority activity of the Telecommunication Development Bureau (BDT) and defines the main areas of work to be undertaken by BDT; WTDC-14 adopted Resolution 45 (Rev. Dubai, 2014), on mechanisms for enhancing cooperation on cybersecurity, including countering and combating spam, calling on the Secretary-General to bring the resolution to the attention of the next plenipotentiary conference for consideration and required action, and to report the results of these main areas of work to the Council and to the Plenipotentiary Conference in 2018, as appropriate; and WTDC-17 adopted Resolution 69 (Rev. Buenos Aires, 2017), on facilitating the creation of national CIRTs, particularly for developing countries, and cooperation between them;

e) that the Buenos Aires Declaration adopted by WTDC-17 declares: "that building trust, confidence and security in the use of telecommunications/ICTs as well as personal data protection are priorities, with the need for international cooperation and coordination between governments, relevant organizations, private companies and entities in building capacity and exchanging best practices for the development of related public policies and legal, regulatory and technical measures that address, *inter alia*, personal data protection, and that stakeholders should work together to ensure the reliability and security of ICT networks and services";

f) that, to support the creation of national CIRTs in Member States where these are needed and are currently absent, WTSA-16 adopted Resolution 58 (Rev. Dubai, 2012), on encouraging the creation of national CIRTs, particularly for developing countries; and WTDC-17 adopted Resolution 69 (Rev. Buenos Aires, 2017), on facilitating the creation of national CIRTs, including CIRTs responsible for government-to-government cooperation, particularly for developing countries, cooperation among them, and the importance of coordination among all relevant organizations;

g) § 15 of the Tunis Commitment, which states: "Recognizing the principles of universal and non-discriminatory access to ICTs for all nations, the need to take into account the level of social and economic development of each country, and respecting the development-oriented aspects of the information society, we underscore that ICTs are effective tools to promote peace, security and stability, to enhance democracy, social cohesion, good governance and the rule of law, at national, regional and international levels. ICTs can be used to promote economic growth and enterprise development. Infrastructure development, human capacity building, information security and network security are critical to achieve these goals. We further recognize the need to effectively confront challenges and threats resulting from use of ICTs for purposes that are inconsistent with objectives of maintaining international stability and security and may adversely affect the integrity of the infrastructure within States, to the detriment of their security. It is necessary to prevent the abuse of information resources and technologies for criminal and terrorist purposes, while respecting human rights", and that the challenges created by this misuse of ICT resources have only continued to increase since WSIS;

- h)* that the ITU-coordinated WSIS+10 High-Level Event identified several challenges in the implementation of the WSIS action lines that still remain and that will need to be addressed beyond 2015;
- i)* that Member States, in particular developing countries, in the elaboration of appropriate and workable legal measures relating to protection against cyberthreats at the national, regional and international levels, may require assistance from ITU in establishing technical and procedural measures, aimed at securing national ICT infrastructures, on request from these Member States, while noting that there are a number of regional and international initiatives which may support these countries in elaborating such legal measures;
- j)* Opinion 4 (Lisbon, 2009) of the World Telecommunication/ICT Policy Forum, on collaborative strategies for creating confidence and security in the use of ICTs;
- k)* the relevant outcomes of WTSA-16, notably:
- i)* Resolution 50 (Rev. Hammamet, 2016), on cybersecurity;
 - ii)* Resolution 52 (Rev. Hammamet, 2016), on countering and combating spam;
- l)* that secure and trusted networks will build confidence and encourage the exchange and use of information and data;
- m)* that the development of human skills and capacity building are key to enhancing the protection of information networks;
- n)* that Member States make efforts to improve institutional environments;
- o)* that risk assessment and analysis provide a better understanding of the cybersecurity risks that organizations face and how to mitigate them,

aware

- a) that ITU and other international organizations, through a variety of activities, are examining issues related to building confidence and security in the use of ICTs, including stability and measures to combat spam, malware, etc. and to protect personal data and privacy;
- b) that ITU-T Study Group 17, ITU-D Study Groups 1 and 2 and other relevant ITU study groups continue to work on technical means for the security of information and communication networks, in accordance with Resolutions 50 and 52 (Rev. Hammamet, 2016) and Resolutions 45 (Rev. Dubai, 2014) and 69 (Rev. Buenos Aires, 2017);
- c) that ITU has a fundamental role to play in building confidence and security in the use of ICTs;
- d) that ITU-D Study Group 2 continues to carry out the studies called for in ITU-D Question 3/2 (Securing information and communications networks: Best practices for developing a culture of cybersecurity), which has been reflected in UNGA Resolution 64/211;
- e) that ITU is also assisting developing countries in building confidence and security in the use of ICTs and supporting the establishment of CIRTs, including CIRTs responsible for government-to-government cooperation, and the importance of coordination among all relevant organizations;
- f) that Council Resolution 1336, adopted at its 2011 session, established the Council Working Group on international Internet-related public policy issues (CWG-Internet), whose terms of reference are to identify, study and develop matters related to international Internet-related public policy issues, including those issues identified in Council Resolution 1305 (2009), such as security, safety, continuity, sustainability and robustness of the Internet;

g) that WTDC-17 adopted Resolution 80 (Rev. Buenos Aires, 2017), on establishing and promoting trusted information frameworks in developing countries to facilitate and encourage electronic exchanges of economic information between economic partners;

h) of Article 6, on security and robustness of networks, and Article 7, on unsolicited bulk electronic communications, of the International Telecommunication Regulations adopted by the World Conference on International Telecommunications (Dubai, 2012),

noting

a) that, as an intergovernmental organization with private-sector participation, ITU is well-positioned to play an important role, together with other relevant international bodies and organizations, in addressing threats and vulnerabilities, which affect efforts to build confidence and security in the use of ICTs;

b) §§ 35 and 36 of the Geneva Declaration of Principles and § 39 of the Tunis Agenda, on building confidence and security in the use of ICTs;

c) that although there are no universally agreed upon definitions of spam and other terms in this sphere, spam was characterized by ITU-T Study Group 2, at its June 2006 session, as a term commonly used to describe unsolicited electronic bulk communications over e-mail or mobile messaging (SMS, MMS), usually with the objective of marketing commercial products or services;

d) the Union's initiative on cooperation with the Forum for Incident Response and Security Teams,

bearing in mind

the work of ITU established by Resolutions 50 and 52 (Rev. Hammamet, 2016), Resolution 58 (Rev. Dubai, 2012), Resolution 45 (Rev. Dubai, 2014) and Resolution 69 (Rev. Buenos Aires, 2017); Objective 2 of the Buenos Aires Action Plan; the relevant ITU-T questions on technical aspects regarding the security of information and communication networks; and ITU-D Question 3/2,

resolves

- 1 to continue to give this work high priority within ITU, in accordance with its competences and expertise, including promoting common understanding among governments and other stakeholders of building confidence and security in the use of ICTs at national, regional and international level;
- 2 to give high priority to the work of ITU described under *bearing in mind* above, in accordance with its competencies and areas of expertise, and to continue to work closely, as appropriate, with other relevant bodies/agencies within the United Nations and other relevant international bodies, taking into account the specific mandates and areas of expertise of the different agencies, while being mindful of the need to avoid duplicating work between organizations and among the Bureaux or the General Secretariat;
- 3 that ITU shall focus resources and programmes on those national, regional and international areas of cybersecurity within its core mandate and expertise, notably the technical and development spheres, and not including areas related to Member States' application of legal or policy principles related to national defence, national security, content and cybercrime, which are within their sovereign rights, although this does not however exclude ITU from carrying out its mandate to develop technical recommendations designed to reduce vulnerabilities in the ICT infrastructure, nor from providing all the assistance that was agreed upon at WTDC-17, including under Objective 2 and in activities under Question 3/2;
- 4 to promote a culture in which security is seen as a continuous and iterative process, built into products from the beginning and continuing throughout their lifetime, and is accessible and understandable for users;

- 5 to promote greater awareness among ITU members on the activities carried out within ITU and other relevant entities involved in strengthening cybersecurity, including on capacity building, and also to raise awareness among such entities of the particular challenges faced by developing countries in building confidence and security in the use of ICTs;
- 6 to contribute to further strengthening the trust and security framework, consistent with ITU's role as lead facilitator of WSIS Action Line C5, taking into account Resolution 140 (Rev. Dubai, 2018);
- 7 to continue to maintain, in building upon the information base associated with the "ICT Security Standards Roadmap" and ITU-D's efforts on cybersecurity, and with the assistance of other relevant organizations, an inventory of national, regional and international initiatives and activities to promote the development of common approaches in the field of cybersecurity;
- 8 to develop case studies on cybersecurity-related institutional arrangements in cooperation with the membership and relevant organizations;
- 9 to consider the specific cybersecurity challenges faced by SMEs and incorporate those considerations into ITU's activities in the area of building confidence and security in the use of ICTs;
- 10 to take into account the impact of the deployment of emerging technologies on cybersecurity, and incorporate this consideration in ITU's activities in the area of building confidence and security in the use of ICTs;
- 11 to support the development of infrastructure which underpins the ongoing digital transformation of the global economy by building confidence and security in the use of ICTs, in particular in dealing with existing and future threats, within the mandate of ITU;
- 12 to utilize the GCA framework in order to further guide the work of the Union on efforts to build confidence and security in the use of ICTs,

instructs the Secretary-General and the Directors of the Bureaux

- 1 to continue to review:
 - i) the work done so far in the three Sectors, under the GCA and in other relevant organizations and initiatives to address and strengthen protection against existing and future threats in order to build confidence and security in the use of ICTs;
 - ii) the progress achieved in the implementation of this resolution, with ITU continuing to play a lead facilitating role as the moderator/facilitator for Action Line C5, with the help of the advisory groups, consistent with the ITU Constitution and the ITU Convention;
 - iii) the results of work done so far to support developing countries in particular to build capacity and skills in cybersecurity in order to ensure that ITU is effectively focusing its resources to address development challenges;
- 2 consistent with Resolution 45 (Rev. Dubai, 2014), to report to the Council on activities within ITU and other relevant organizations and entities to enhance cooperation and collaboration, regionally and globally, to strengthen building confidence and security in the use of ICTs of Member States, in particular developing countries, taking into account any information provided by Member States, including information on situations within their own jurisdiction that could affect this cooperation;
- 3 consistent with Resolution 45 (Rev. Dubai, 2014), to report on memoranda of understanding (MoU) between countries, as well as existing forms of cooperation, providing analysis of their status, scope and how these cooperative mechanisms can be applied to strengthen cybersecurity and combat cyberthreats, with a view to enabling Member States to identify whether additional memoranda or mechanisms are required;

- 4 to raise awareness on the activities carried out within ITU and other relevant entities involved in strengthening cybersecurity, including on capacity building, and of the particular challenges faced by developing countries in building confidence and security in the use of ICTs, consistent with *resolves* 5;
- 5 to facilitate access to tools and resources, within the available budget, required for enhancing confidence and security in the use of ICTs for all Member States, consistent with WSIS provisions on universal and non-discriminatory access to ICTs for all nations;
- 6 to continue knowledge- and information-sharing of existing and future national, regional and international cybersecurity-related initiatives worldwide through the ITU cybersecurity webpage, and encourage all stakeholders to contribute to these activities, taking into account existing portals;
- 7 to report annually to the Council on these activities and to make proposals as appropriate;
- 8 to further enhance coordination between the study groups and programmes concerned,

instructs the Director of the Telecommunication Standardization Bureau

- 1 to intensify work within existing ITU-T study groups in order to:
 - i) address existing and future threats and vulnerabilities affecting efforts to build confidence and security in the use of ICTs, taking into account new services and emerging applications based on telecommunication/ICT networks, by developing reports or recommendations, as appropriate, with the goal of implementing WTSAs resolutions, particularly Resolutions 50 and 52 (Rev. Hammamet, 2016) and Resolution 58 (Rev. Dubai, 2012), allowing work to begin before a question is approved;
 - ii) seek ways to enhance the exchange of technical information in these fields, promote the adoption of protocols and standards that enhance security, and promote international cooperation among appropriate entities;

iii) facilitate projects deriving from the outcomes of WTSA, in particular:

- Resolution 50 (Rev. Hammamet, 2016), on cybersecurity;
- Resolution 52 (Rev. Dubai, 2012), on countering and combating spam;

2 to consider within ITU-T the promotion of a culture in which security is seen as a continuous and iterative process, and to make proposals to the Council as appropriate;

3 to continue collaboration with relevant organizations with a view to exchanging best practices and disseminating information through, for example, joint workshops and training sessions and joint coordination activity groups, and, by invitation, through written contributions from relevant organizations,

instructs the Director of the Telecommunication Development Bureau

1 consistent with the results of WTDC-17, and pursuant to Resolutions 45 (Rev. Dubai, 2014) and 69 (Rev. Buenos Aires, 2017), Resolution 80 (Buenos Aires, 2017) and Objective 2 of the Buenos Aires Action Plan, to support ongoing regional and global cybersecurity projects, and to encourage all countries to take part in these activities;

2 upon request, to support ITU Member States in their efforts to build capacity, by facilitating Member States' access to resources developed by other relevant international organizations that are working on national legislation to combat cybercrime; supporting ITU Member States' national and regional efforts to build capacity to protect against cyberthreats/cybercrime, in collaboration with one another; consistent with the national legislation of Member States referred to above, assisting Member States, in particular developing countries, in the elaboration of appropriate and workable legal measures relating to protection against cyberthreats at national, regional and international levels; establishing technical and procedural measures aimed at securing national ICT infrastructures, taking into account the work of the relevant ITU-T study groups and, as appropriate, other relevant organizations; establishing organizational structures, such as CIRTs, to identify, manage and respond to cyberthreats, and cooperation mechanisms at the regional and international level;

- 3 to provide the necessary financial and administrative support for these projects within existing resources, and to seek additional resources (in cash and in kind) for the implementation of these projects through partnership agreements;
- 4 to ensure coordination of the work of these projects within the context of ITU's overall activities in its role as moderator/facilitator for WSIS Action Line C5, and to eliminate any duplication regarding this important subject with the General Secretariat and ITU-T;
- 5 to coordinate the work of these projects with that of the ITU-D study groups on this topic, and with the relevant programme activities and the General Secretariat;
- 6 to continue collaboration with relevant organizations with a view to exchanging best practices and disseminating information through, for example, joint workshops and training sessions;
- 7 to support the work of ITU-T Study Group 17 and other ITU-T study groups by promoting and facilitating the implementation of approved security-related ITU-T recommendations by ITU Member States and Sector Members, especially from developing countries;
- 8 to support ITU Member States in the development of their national and/or regional cybersecurity strategies toward building national capabilities for protecting against and dealing with cyberthreats in accordance with the principles of international cooperation, consistent with Objective 2 of the Buenos Aires Action Plan;
- 9 to support the membership in the development of human skills and capacity building to enhance cybersecurity;
- 10 to support the membership in the risk-assessment activities related to cybersecurity;
- 11 to report annually to the Council on these activities and make proposals as appropriate,

further instructs the Director of the Telecommunication Standardization Bureau and the Director of the Telecommunication Development Bureau, each within the scope of their responsibilities

- 1 to implement relevant resolutions of both WTSA-16 and WTDC-17, including output 2.2 under Objective 2 of the Buenos Aires Action Plan, with particular focus on the needs of developing countries as they undertake efforts to improve cybersecurity and build confidence and security in the use of ICTs;
- 2 to identify and promote the availability of information on building confidence and security in the use of ICTs, including the ICT infrastructure, for Member States, Sector Members and relevant organizations;
- 3 without duplicating the work under ITU-D Question 3/2, to continue identifying best practices related to Question 3/2, including establishing CIRTs, to review the reference guide for the Member States and, where appropriate, to contribute to Question 3/2;
- 4 to cooperate with relevant organizations and other relevant international and national experts, as appropriate, in order to identify best practices in building confidence and security in the use of ICTs, including the establishment of CIRTs;
- 5 to take action with a view to new questions being examined by the study groups within the Sectors on the establishment of confidence and security in the use of ICTs;
- 6 to identify and document practical steps to support developing countries in building capacity and skills in cybersecurity, taking into account the specific challenges they face;
- 7 to take into account the challenges faced by all stakeholders, particularly in developing countries, in building confidence and security in the use of ICTs and identifying steps that can help to address them;

8 to identify and document practical steps to strengthen security in the use of ICTs internationally, including the concept that security is seen as a continuous and iterative process, based on widely accepted practices, guidelines and recommendations that Member States and other stakeholders can choose to apply to improve their ability to combat cyberthreats and attacks, including a dynamic and iterative risk-based approach that reflects the evolving nature of threats and vulnerabilities, and to strengthen international cooperation in building confidence and security in the use of ICTs, taking into account the GCA and within the available financial resources;

9 to support strategy, organization, awareness-raising, cooperation, evaluation and skills development;

10 to provide the necessary technical and financial support, within the constraints of existing budgetary resources, in accordance with Resolution 58 (Rev. Dubai, 2012);

11 to encourage the engagement of experts in the ITU's activities in the area of building confidence and security in the use of ICT;

12 to mobilize appropriate extrabudgetary resources, outside the regular budget of the Union, for the implementation of this resolution, to help developing countries;

13 to support and assist developing countries in promoting and facilitating the implementation of security-related ITU-T recommendations,

instructs the Secretary-General

pursuant to his initiative on this matter:

1 to report to the Council, taking into account the activities of the three Sectors, on the implementation and effectiveness of the action plan to strengthen the role of ITU in building confidence and security in the use of ICTs;

2 to cooperate with relevant international organizations, including through the adoption of MoUs, subject to the approval of the Council in this regard, in accordance with Resolution 100 (Minneapolis, 1998) of the Plenipotentiary Conference,

requests the ITU Council

to include the report of the Secretary-General in the documents sent to Member States in accordance with No. 81 of the Convention,

invites Member States

- 1 to consider joining appropriate competent international and regional initiatives for enhancing national legislative frameworks relevant to the security of information and communication networks;
- 2 to closely collaborate in strengthening regional and international cooperation, taking into account Resolution 45 (Rev. Dubai, 2014), with a view to enhancing confidence and security in the use of ICTs, in order to mitigate risks and threats;
- 3 to support ITU initiatives on cybersecurity, including the Global Cybersecurity Index (GCI), in order to promote government strategies and the sharing of information on efforts across industries and sectors;
- 4 to inform the Secretary-General of relevant activities related to this resolution regarding confidence and security in the use of ICTs;
- 5 to benefit from the resources, support and best practices of national, regional and international cybersecurity-related initiatives worldwide through the ITU cybersecurity webpage;
- 6 to collaborate with relevant organizations, through the exchange of best practices in building confidence and security in the use of ICTs, including the development and implementation of national CIRTs;
- 7 to continue to raise awareness through the dissemination of best practices and policies that have been implemented in order to increase the ability to develop appropriate policies to address the protection of users, so as to enhance trust in the use of telecommunications/ICTs,

invites Member States, Sector Members and Associates

- 1 to contribute on this subject to the relevant ITU study groups and to any other activities for which the Union is responsible;

- 2 to contribute to building confidence and security in the use of ICTs at the national, regional and international levels, by undertaking activities as outlined in the WSIS outcome documents, the WSIS+10 statement on the implementation of WSIS outcomes and the WSIS+10 vision for WSIS beyond 2015, and the outcome document of the UNGA high-level meeting on the overall review of the implementation of the WSIS outcomes, and to contribute to the preparation and implementation of those activities;
- 3 to raise awareness among all stakeholders, including organizations and individual users, of the importance of strengthening cybersecurity, including the implementation of basic safeguards;
- 4 to promote the development of educational and training programmes to enhance user awareness of risks in cyberspace and the steps that users can take to protect themselves;
- 5 to incorporate an iterative, risk-based approach towards addressing evolving threats and vulnerabilities, and to promote a culture in which security is seen as a continuous and iterative process which must be built into the development and deployment of technologies and their applications from the beginning and continue throughout their lifetime, in their efforts to build confidence and security in the use of ICTs;
- 6 to collaborate, as appropriate, in order to address and prevent problems that undermine confidence and security in the use of telecommunications/ICTs.

RESOLUTION 131 (REV. DUBAI, 2018)

Measuring information and communication technologies to build an integrating and inclusive information society

The Plenipotentiary Conference of the International Telecommunication Union (Dubai, 2018),

recalling

a) Resolutions 139 (Rev. Dubai, 2018), 140 (Rev. Dubai, 2018), 175 (Rev. Dubai, 2018), 179 (Rev. Dubai, 2018), 180 (Rev. Dubai, 2018) and 198 (Rev. Dubai, 2018) of this conference, in relation to ITU's role in producing comprehensive statistics in the domain of telecommunication/information and communication technologies (ICTs);

b) Resolution 71 (Rev. Dubai, 2018) of this conference, on the strategic plan of the Union for 2020-2023 and Resolution 200 (Rev. Dubai, 2018) of this conference, on the Connect 2030 Agenda for global telecommunication/ICT development, which approved strategic targets and indicators to monitor the development of ICTs and their support to the digital economy, and established a comprehensive linkage between the strategic goals of ITU and the targets and indicators of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs);

c) Resolution 8 (Rev. Buenos Aires, 2017) of the World Telecommunication Conference (WTDC), on collection and dissemination of information and statistics,

taking into account

a) the critical importance of ICT tools as a driver for economic and social development for all countries;

b) the urgent need for national ICT plans and policies for empowering people and achieving the welfare of societies;

c) the pressing need to have ICT access and usage measurements to monitor usage among all citizens in all countries, with special consideration for residents of remote areas,

aware

- a) that technological innovation, digitization and telecommunications/ICTs have the potential to help achieve the SDGs, and to create new opportunities, while contributing to short- and long-term socio-economic development, including the digital economy, building towards an inclusive information society;
- b) that each Member State is seeking to establish its own policies and regulatory frameworks based on telecommunication/ICT statistical data in order to narrow as effectively as possible the digital divide between those who have access to communication and information and those who do not;
- c) that ensuring the integrity, consistency and relevance of ITU's statistics function is one of the Union's highest strategic priorities;
- d) that the United Nations General Assembly (UNGA), through Resolution 70/1, approved "17 Sustainable Development Goals with 169 associated targets which are integrated and indivisible";
- e) that UNGA Resolution 70/125, on the outcome document of the UNGA high-level meeting on the overall review of the implementation of the outcomes of the World Summit on the Information Society (WSIS), highlights "the cross-cutting contribution of information and communications technology to the Sustainable Development Goals and poverty eradication", acknowledges "the importance of data and statistics to support information and communications technology for development", and calls for "further quantitative data to support evidence-based decision-making";
- f) that UNGA Resolution 71/313 established 231 indicators to measure the achievement of the 17 SDGs, and that seven of the 231 indicators are under the custody and monitoring of ITU,

recognizing

a) that the WSIS outcomes referred to in *aware e)* above represented an opportunity to identify a global strategy for narrowing the digital divide in different spheres of activity and social sectors at the international and national levels (including the digital divide between regions, between countries and parts of countries, and between urban and rural areas), in the interests of development;

b) that the outcome of the global Partnership on Measuring ICT for Development, including ITU (represented by the ITU Telecommunication Development Sector (ITU-D)) and key stakeholders, has resulted in agreement on the identification of a set of basic indicators and a methodological framework for producing internationally comparable data for the measurement of telecommunications/ICT for development, as called for by § 115 of the Tunis Agenda for the Information Society;

c) that there will be a continuing need to help developing countries¹ in ICT access and use by ensuring the periodical flow of information to government and society partners,

considering

a) that the Geneva Plan of Action adopted by WSIS provides for the following: "In cooperation with each country concerned, develop and launch a composite ICT Development (Digital Opportunity) Index. It could be published annually, or every two years, in an ICT Development Report. The index could show the statistics while the report would present analytical work on policies and their implementation, depending on national circumstances, including gender analysis";

¹ These include the least developed countries, small island developing states, landlocked developing countries and countries with economies in transition.

b) Resolution 8 (Rev. Buenos Aires, 2017) as well as the Buenos Aires Action Plan, where it is proposed that the work of collecting and producing information and statistical data be mainly focused within the Telecommunication Development Bureau (BDT), in order to avoid duplication in this field;

c) that ITU works on guidelines and studies with the help and advice of experts in the field of measurement and indicators, including from the Expert Group on Telecommunication/ICT Indicators (EGTI) and the Expert Group on ICT Household Indicators (EGH);

d) the Buenos Aires Action Plan and the relevant paragraphs of the Tunis Agenda relating to indicators in the field of telecommunications/ICTs,

highlighting

a) the responsibilities that ITU-D had to assume as a result of the Tunis Agenda, especially §§ 112 to 120 thereof;

b) that the Buenos Aires Declaration adopted by WTDC-17 declares that: "measuring the information society and elaborating proper and comparable indicators/statistics, in sex-disaggregated form, as well as analysing ICT trends, is important for both Member States and the private sector with the former being able to identify gaps that need public policy intervention, and the latter, in identifying and finding investment opportunities, and that particular attention should be focused on tools for monitoring the implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development";

c) the mission statement of ITU, as approved by Resolution 71 (Rev. Dubai, 2018), particularly in regard to promoting, facilitating and fostering affordable and universal access to telecommunications/ICTs,

recognizing further

a) that the rapid development of telecommunications/ICTs is having an impact on the evolution of the digital divide, causing it in particular to widen between the developed and developing countries;

b) that bridging the digital divide is a crucial task in the context of developing the overall economy, including the digital economy, in areas related to telecommunication/ICT infrastructure;

c) that the development of an approach for achieving universal service through broadband access is one of the main goals of ITU;

d) that the ICT Price Basket (IPB) and the ICT Development Index (IDI) are important for measuring the information society and extent of the digital divide in international comparisons,

bearing in mind

a) that for the vast majority of global stakeholders interested and involved in telecommunications/ICTs (i.e. academics; business decision-makers; policy-makers; regulators), ICT statistics, and particularly the IPB and the IDI, are important ITU outputs;

b) that, in order to keep each country's public policy-makers properly informed, ITU-D shall continue to strive to gather and periodically publish a variety of telecommunication/ICT statistics which provide some indication of the degree of progress in and penetration of telecommunication/ICT services in the different regions of the world;

c) that, according to the guidelines of this conference, it is necessary to ensure as far as possible that the policies and strategies of the Union are fully in tune with the constantly changing telecommunication environment, and also to ensure consistency between the telecommunication/ICT development indicators contained in the IDI, the indicators on household ICT use and the goals and targets set out in the ITU strategic plan for 2020-2023,

noting

a) that the Geneva Plan of Action adopted by WSIS identifies indicators and appropriate reference points, including indicators of ICT access, use, skills and affordability, as elements for the follow-up and evaluation thereof;

b) that the IPB studies and the IDI were developed by ITU-D and have been published annually since 2009;

c) that Resolution 8 (Rev. Buenos Aires, 2017) instructs the Director of BDT, among other actions:

- to review, revise and further develop benchmarking, including through consultation and inviting contributions from Member States and experts, and ensure that ICT indicators, the IDI and the IPB reflect the real development of the ICT sector, taking into consideration different levels of development and national circumstances as well as ICT trends, in application of the WSIS outcomes; and
- to continue to work closely with Member States for the sharing of best practices concerning policy and national telecommunication/ICT strategies, including the development of statistics and their dissemination, and considering gender, age and any other information relevant to the development of national public policies in the field of telecommunications/ICT,

resolves

1 that ITU, as a specialized agency of the United Nations, should spearhead the tasks of compiling information and statistical data on telecommunications/ICTs; data for evaluating telecommunication/ICT trends; and data for measuring the impact of telecommunications/ICTs in narrowing the digital divide, showing, to the extent possible, their impact on matters related to gender, persons with disabilities and persons with specific needs, and the different social sectors, as well as social inclusion, resulting from access in the areas of education, health and government services, etc., including their influence on the development and quality of life of all persons, highlighting their contribution to progress, sustainable development and economic growth;

2 that ITU should strengthen its coordination with other international organizations involved in the collection of telecommunication/ICT-related statistical data, and establish a standardized set of indicators through the Partnership on Measuring ICT for Development, improving the quality, comparability, availability and reliability of telecommunication/ICT data and indicators and fostering the development of strategies and national, regional and international public policy in the area of telecommunications/ICTs;

3 that ITU should establish a four-year period of validity for the structure and methodology of the IDI and IPB in order to implement *resolves* 2 above, in case these need to be reviewed and revised as appropriate through an expert group meeting in Geneva representing all countries, developed and developing, on an equal footing,

instructs the Secretary-General and the Director of the Telecommunication Development Bureau

1 to take the measures necessary to enable ITU to carry out the tasks described in *resolves* 1, 2 and 3 above;

2 to ensure that indicators of ICT access, use, skills and affordability are taken into account in regional and world meetings convened for the purpose of evaluating and following up the Geneva Plan of Action, the Tunis Agenda, the WSIS+10 outcome document adopted in UNGA Resolution 70/125, and the emergence of new challenges in achieving the development of an inclusive information society in the wider context of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development;

3 to ensure that projects, while having highly different goals and scopes, take account of the data, indicators and indices for measuring telecommunications/ICTs for their comparative analysis and for measurement of their results,

instructs the Director of the Telecommunication Development Bureau

1 to continue to promote the adoption of the ICT statistics and composite indices developed by ITU using an internationally recognized and transparent methodology based on official data provided by Member States, and to publish them regularly;

- 2 to rely primarily on official data provided by Member States based on internationally recognized and transparent methodologies, while also taking into account their level of ICT and statistical database development; only in the absence of such information may other sources be used, after consulting with the focal points of the Member States concerned in advance on other sources used to obtain the information by means of which ITU fulfils the role referred to in *considering a)* above;
- 3 to start the dissemination of the ICT data surveys to the Member States' focal points by the end of the year, start data collection at the beginning of the following year, and publish the resulting data in the ITU database as soon as they are validated by the Bureau and within three months of their submission by the countries, in order to allow other organizations to build their indices on the basis of recent data from the Member States;
- 4 to publish annually the IPB and the IDI, including rankings, studies, charts, benchmarks and in-depth analysis of successful best practices, so as to reflect progress or lack thereof in access to and use and affordability of ICTs;
- 5 to ensure that the annually published IDI and IPB are not retroactively updated or amended post publication, in order to assist decision-makers and ensure consistency in comparison of time-series data;
- 6 to develop and maintain advanced visualization and analysis tools and databases on statistics and indicators on the ITU website, available to the general public, particularly those related to the IPB and the IDI, allowing comparisons over time and historical series, across regions and countries, and according to levels of socio-economic development;
- 7 to develop a toolkit to assist members in establishing national statistical frameworks;

8 to liaise with other prominent international organizations, in particular those involved in the Partnership on Measuring ICT for Development, the United Nations Statistics Division and the United Nations regional commissions, and to consider their best practices and methodologies in the gathering, analysis, maintenance and presentation of statistics, indicators, reports and graphical tools;

9 to promote, within the ITU mandate and having particular regard to countries' specific characteristics, the activities required to define and adopt new indicators, including e-application and ICT skills indicators, for the purpose of measuring the impact of telecommunications/ICTs in countries' development, including their contribution to the development of the digital economy;

10 to promote efforts for the timely and transparent dissemination of the internationally agreed ICT methodologies and comparable indicators, particularly in relation to surveys that contain data from Member States, having regard to national contexts;

11 to review, revise and further develop benchmarking, with immediate effect, including through consultation and inviting contributions from Member States and experts, and ensure that ICT indicators, the IDI and the IPB reflect the real development of the ICT sector, taking into consideration different levels of development and national circumstances as well as ICT trends, in application of the WSIS outcomes;

12 in order to give full effect to Resolution 8 (Rev. Buenos Aires, 2017), to maintain a group of experts on ICT indicators and statistics (EGTI and EGH) so that Member States can have a full say in the development of telecommunication/ICT indicators, including those in the IDI and IPB, and can systematically review and, where necessary, adapt their definitions, indicators and methodologies for the collection and processing of statistical data, carrying out any such review in accordance with Resolution 8 (Rev. Buenos Aires, 2017) and with this resolution;

13 to continue to hold the World Telecommunication/ICT Indicators Symposium (WTIS) and expert group meetings (EGTI/EGH), periodically, with participation by all Member States, Sector Members, experts on ICT indicators and statistics, and others interested in measuring ICTs and the information society;

14 to monitor the development and improvement of methodologies relevant to indicators and data-collection methods, through consultation with, and inviting inputs from, Member States, among others, particularly by means of EGH, EGTI and WTIS, coordinated by BDT;

15 to the extent possible, to ensure reliability, transparency and openness in the procedures used for processing the data supplied to ITU-D by Member States, in particular by making the IDI and IPB calculation methodologies and structures openly available in the statistical section of the ITU website in all six languages of the Union, including all algorithms, calculation formulae and sub-indices of the relevant index structures, as well as the source data received by ITU from Member States;

16 to hold, on a regular basis, regional seminars and training events for developing countries, in order to raise the level of knowledge and skills in the collection and processing of ICT indicators;

17 to give the necessary support for the implementation of Resolution 8 (Rev. Buenos Aires, 2017), stress the importance of implementing the WSIS outcomes in relation to the indicators mentioned, and continue to avoid duplication in statistical work in this field;

18 by strengthening partnerships and collaboration through ITU-D to leverage the role of telecommunications/ICTs as an enabler that contributes to development of the digital economy, the benefits of which contribute greatly to the overall economy;

19 to review ITU-D's work in developing statistics and indicators taking into account members' input into the process, to which end the Director of BDT is instructed to identify approaches that exist for members to provide regular inputs regarding their concerns in respect of the development and analysis of statistics and indicators as well as the way they are presented;

20 to submit a report to the ITU Council on progress in the implementation of this resolution, and in particular on the work of reviewing the structures and calculation methodologies of the IDI and IPB,

instructs the study groups of the ITU Telecommunication Development Sector

to take into account the relevant findings of the Measuring the Information Society Report in order to help Member States bridge the digital divide,

instructs the Secretary-General

1 to submit a report to the next plenipotentiary conference on progress in the implementation of this resolution;

2 to encourage the participation of organizations which benefit from telecommunications/ICTs, particularly international organizations involved in achievement of the 2030 Agenda, to contribute towards the work of this resolution and to promote their potential membership of ITU;

3 to examine the necessary human and financial resources required in all the ITU Bureaux to conduct ITU's work in gathering, producing and publishing meaningful data, information, statistics and reports, and inform the Council of the results of this study,

instructs the ITU Council

on the basis of the findings of the annual report submitted by the Director of BDT in accordance with *instructs the Director of the Telecommunication Development Bureau* 20 and *instructs the Secretary-General* 3 above, to make appropriate recommendations as necessary regarding the ongoing implementation of this resolution,

invites Member States

- 1 to participate in the submission to ITU-D of their national statistics in the area of telecommunications/ICTs for the purpose of international comparisons and determining the characteristics of the digital divide;
- 2 to participate actively in the implementation of this resolution, by providing the requested information to ITU-D on access, use and skills as well as affordability of telecommunications/ICTs so as to produce telecommunication/ICT benchmarks.

RESOLUTION 133 (REV. DUBAI, 2018)

Role of administrations of Member States in the management of internationalized (multilingual) domain names

The Plenipotentiary Conference of the International Telecommunication Union (Dubai, 2018),

considering

the provisions of Resolutions 101 and 102 (Rev. Dubai, 2018) of this conference, with regard to international public policy issues pertaining to the Internet and the management of Internet resources, including domain names and addresses,

recalling

a) the role of the ITU Telecommunication Standardization Sector (ITU-T), as defined in resolutions adopted at the World Telecommunication Standardization Assembly, including, *inter alia*, Resolution 47 (Rev. Dubai, 2012), on country code top-level domain names, and Resolution 48 (Rev. Dubai, 2012), on internationalized domain names;

b) United Nations General Assembly (UNGA) Resolution 70/125, on the outcome document of the UNGA high-level meeting on the overall review of the implementation of the outcomes of the World Summit on the Information Society (WSIS);

c) UNGA Resolution 70/1, on transforming our world: the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development;

d) the commitment of the Tunis Agenda for the Information Society adopted by WSIS to advance the process for the introduction of multilingualism in a number of areas, including domain names, e-mail, Internet addresses and keyword look-up;

e) the need to continue the regional expansion of the Domain Name System (DNS) root server instances in order to increase DNS resilience, and to promote the use of internationalized domain names (IDNs) to overcome linguistic barriers;

f) past successful standardization activities undertaken by ITU-T with regard to the adoption of recommendations pertaining to non-Latin character sets for telex (five-character code) and data transfer (seven-character code), allowing the use of non-Latin character sets for national and regional telex and for data transfer at global, regional and international level,

aware

a) of the continuing progress towards integration of telecommunications and the Internet;

b) that Internet users are generally more comfortable reading or browsing through texts in their own language and that, for the Internet to become more widely available to a large number of users, it is necessary to make the Internet (DNS) available in non-Latin based scripts, taking into account the progress recently made in this regard;

c) that, recalling the results of WSIS and resolutions of the Plenipotentiary Conference (Antalya, 2006), there should be a continuing commitment to working earnestly towards multilingualization of the Internet, as part of the multilateral, transparent, democratic and multistakeholder process, involving governments and all other stakeholders, in their respective roles in implementation of this resolution;

d) of the progress made by all stakeholders, in particular through relevant organizations and entities, in the introduction of IDNs;

e) of the significant progress made towards the provisions of IDNs and the benefits of using non-Latin character sets available on the Internet;

f) of the progress made in providing multilingualism on the Internet, while recognizing that there are difficulties in some scripts to implement appropriate and language-specific requirements, including variants;

g) of the need to address challenges associated with the use of visually similar characters from different languages or character sets,

emphasizing

- a) that the DNS has made progress in reflecting the diverse and growing language needs of all users, while recognizing that more remains to be done;
- b) that IDNs, and more generally information and communication technologies (ICTs) and the Internet, must be widely accessible to all citizens without regard to gender, race, religion, country of residence or language;
- c) that Internet domain names should not privilege any country or region of the world to the detriment of others, and should take into account the global diversity of languages;
- d) the role of ITU to assist its membership in promoting the use of their language scripts for domain names;
- e) that, recalling the results of WSIS and the needs of linguistic groups, there is an urgent need to:
 - further advance the process for the introduction of multilingualism in a number of areas, including domain names, e-mail addresses and keyword look-up;
 - continue implementing programmes that allow for the presence of multilingual domain names and content on the Internet and the use of various software models in order to fight against the linguistic digital divide and to ensure that everyone can participate in the emerging new society;
 - further strengthen cooperation between relevant bodies for the further development of technical standards and to foster their global deployment,

recognizing

- a) the existing role and sovereignty of ITU Member States with respect to allocation and management of their country code numbering resources as enshrined in Recommendation ITU-T E.164;
- b) that there are a number of challenges with regard to intellectual property and the deployment of IDNs, and adequate solutions should be explored;

- c) the role played by the World Intellectual Property Organization (WIPO) with regard to dispute resolution for domain names;
- d) the role played by the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) with regard to promoting cultural diversity and identity, linguistic diversity and local content;
- e) that ITU enjoys close cooperation with both WIPO and UNESCO;
- f) the role played by governments, technical communities and other stakeholders in advancing multilingualism, including the introduction of internationalized domain names;
- g) that it is paramount to maintain global interoperability as domain names expand to include additional non-Latin character sets,

resolves

to explore ways and means, in accordance with the Tunis Agenda for the Information Society, for greater reciprocal collaboration and coordination between ITU and relevant organizations¹ involved in the development of Internet Protocol (IP)-based networks and the future Internet in the context of emerging telecommunications/ICTs, through cooperation agreements, as appropriate, in order to increase the role of ITU in Internet governance, and to promote greater participation by Member States in Internet governance so as to ensure maximum benefits to the global community and promote affordable international connectivity,

instructs the Secretary-General and the Directors of the Bureaux

- 1 to take an active part in all international discussions, initiatives and activities on the deployment and management of IDNs, in cooperation with relevant organizations, including WIPO and UNESCO;

¹ Including, but not limited to, the Internet Corporation for Assigned Names and Numbers (ICANN), the regional Internet registries (RIRs), the Internet Engineering Task Force (IETF), the Internet Society (ISOC) and the World Wide Web Consortium (W3C), on the basis of reciprocity.

- 2 to take any necessary action to ensure the sovereignty of ITU Member States with regard to Recommendation ITU-T E.164 numbering plans whatever the application in which they are used;
- 3 to explore ways and means for greater collaboration and coordination between ITU and relevant organizations involved in the deployment of IP-based networks;
- 4 to encourage the ITU members, as appropriate, to develop and deploy the IDNs in their respective language scripts using their specific character sets;
- 5 to support Member States in meeting the commitments of the Geneva Plan of Action and the Tunis Agenda in respect of IDNs;
- 6 to make proposals, where appropriate, for achieving the aims of this resolution;
- 7 to bring this resolution to the attention of WIPO and UNESCO, which is facilitator for the implementation of WSIS Action Line C8, stressing the concerns and requests for assistance of Member States, in particular the developing countries², with regard to multilingual IDNs, and their insistence on help from the Union in this field, in order to ensure Internet use and advancement across language barriers, thereby increasing the international use of the Internet;
- 8 to report annually to the ITU Council on the activities undertaken and achievements attained on this subject,

instructs the ITU Council

to consider the activities of the Secretary-General and Directors of the Bureaux with regard to the implementation of this resolution and to take necessary actions, as appropriate,

² These include the least developed countries, small island developing states, landlocked developing countries and countries with economies in transition.

invites Member States and Sector Members

- 1 to take an active part in all international discussions and initiatives on the further development and deployment of IDNs, including the initiatives of relevant language groups, and to submit contributions to ITU in order to help implement this resolution;
- 2 to urge all relevant entities working to develop and implement IDNs in order to expedite their activities in this domain;
- 3 to encourage Member States and Sector Members to consider how to further promote universal acceptance in respect of IDNs and to collaborate and coordinate in enabling the use of IDNs in the Internet.

RESOLUTION 135 (REV. DUBAI, 2018)

ITU's role in the durable and sustainable development of telecommunications/information and communication technologies, in providing technical assistance and advice to developing countries¹ and in implementing relevant national, regional and interregional projects

The Plenipotentiary Conference of the International Telecommunication Union (Dubai, 2018),

recalling

- a) Resolution 135 (Rev. Busan, 2014) of the Plenipotentiary Conference;
- b) Resolution 34 (Rev. Dubai, 2018) of this conference, on assistance and support to countries in special need for rebuilding their telecommunication sector;
- c) relevant resolutions of the World Telecommunication Development Conference (WTDC) – especially Resolution 17 (Rev. Buenos Aires, 2017); the Buenos Aires Action Plan on implementation of initiatives at the national, regional, interregional and global levels approved by the six² regions; Resolution 32 (Rev. Hyderabad, 2010), on international and regional cooperation on regional initiatives; and Resolution 34 (Rev. Buenos Aires, 2017), on the role of telecommunications/information and communication technology (ICT) in disaster preparedness, early warning, rescue, mitigation, relief and response – as well as the provisions of the outputs adopted by WTDC-17 and their linkage with those resolutions;

¹ These include the least developed countries, small island developing states, landlocked developing countries and countries with economies in transition.

² Africa, Americas, Arab States, Asia and the Pacific, Commonwealth of Independent States, Europe.

d) United Nations General Assembly (UNGA) Resolution 70/1, on transforming our world: the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development,

recalling further

a) decisions taken during the two phases of the World Summit on the Information Society (WSIS) regarding non-discriminatory access, in particular §§ 15, 18 and 19 of the Tunis Commitment and §§ 90 and 107 of the Tunis Agenda for the Information Society;

b) UNGA Resolution 70/125, on the outcome document of the UNGA high-level meeting on the overall review of the implementation of the WSIS outcomes,

considering

a) the development goals which require that telecommunications/ICTs be accessible to humanity as a whole, especially the peoples of developing countries;

b) the importance of telecommunications/ICTs, and of the durability and sustainability of their infrastructures, for economic, social and cultural progress, especially for developing countries;

c) the accumulated and advanced experience of ITU in implementing the above-mentioned resolutions;

d) the tasks assigned to ITU as regards Action Lines C2, C5 and C6 in the Tunis Agenda, and the required ITU participation in implementing other action lines that depend on the availability of telecommunications/ICTs and their durable and sustainable evolution, in agreement with the United Nations agencies that collaborate in implementing those action lines;

e) the continued success achieved by the ITU Telecommunication Development Sector in its partnerships to implement many development actions, including developing telecommunication/ICT networks in several developing countries;

f) the Buenos Aires Action Plan and the necessary optimization of resources to achieve the proposed goals;

- g)* the actions undertaken to implement Resolution 157 (Rev. Dubai, 2018) of this conference, on strengthening of the project execution and project monitoring functions in ITU;
- h)* Resolution 59 (Rev. Buenos Aires, 2017) of WTDC, on strengthening coordination and cooperation among the three ITU Sectors on matters of mutual interest;
- i)* that technological advances in telecommunication systems are enabling durable, sustainable and affordable access to information and knowledge as well as development of the economy, including the digital economy, through the provision of highly connected communications services (broadband) of broad coverage (regional or global scope), so that countries can be connected directly, rapidly and reliably;
- j)* that broadband satellite and radiocommunication services are in turn providing highly connected, rapid, reliable and cost-efficient communications solutions both in metropolitan and in rural and remote areas, efficiently complementing fibre-optic and other technologies and serving as a fundamental driver of economic and social growth of countries and regions;
- k)* that ITU's role in achieving the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development will require more widespread collaboration and partnership with other key sectors highlighted under the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) in providing technical assistance and advice on telecommunications/ICTs;
- l)* that it is deemed relevant to deepen collaboration and interrelated work among the different ITU Sectors with a view to carrying out studies and activities, including capacity building, for the provision of better advice and technical assistance to developing countries for optimal use of resources and the execution of national, regional and interregional projects;
- m)* the alignment of the WSIS outcomes with the SDGs,

recognizing

- a) that technological advances in telecommunication systems have an impact on countries' development plans;
- b) that technical advances in telecommunication systems should facilitate incremental technical evolution, especially for aspects of backward compatibility, to ensure sustainability and durability of infrastructures, in particular in developing countries;
- c) that new telecommunication technologies should coexist with existing technologies deployed in present infrastructures, in order to guarantee their durability and sustainability;
- d) that harnessing the potential of telecommunications/ICTs can benefit the socio-economic status of a developing country and help achieve the 17 SDGs adopted in UNGA Resolution 70/1 and contribute towards development of the digital economy,

resolves

- 1 that ITU should:
 - i) continue to coordinate efforts for the harmonization, development and enhancement of telecommunications/ICTs throughout the world towards building the information society, and to take appropriate measures to adapt itself to the trends in the telecommunication/ICT infrastructure development environment;
 - ii) maintain contacts with the United Nations Educational, Social and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) to revise the International Programme for the Development of Communication (IPDC), with a view to the continued implementation of Action Line C7 in the Tunis Agenda relating to education, and cooperation with the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP);
 - iii) contribute, in its areas of competence, to the evolution of the integrating information society, through, among other things, the creation of knowledge societies worldwide based on principles such as freedom of expression, equality and quality education for all, with the aim of ensuring equitable access to telecommunications/ICTs and to information and knowledge, and respect for linguistic and cultural diversity and cultural heritage;

- iv) facilitate sustainable and harmonious technological evolution of telecommunications/ICTs, facilities, services and related applications, based on recommendations of the ITU Telecommunication Standardization and Radiocommunication Sectors, in order to meet the expectations of Member States, to ensure sustainability and durability of infrastructures;
 - v) contribute, in its areas of competence, to defining and implementing ITU's role in achieving the 17 SDGs as well as development of the digital economy, providing technical assistance and advice on the development of telecommunications/ICTs, to harness the potential of and opportunities arising from new and emerging technologies;
 - vi) assist countries, in particular developing countries, that request support for their infrastructure development plans, taking into account their technological migration plans, according to their actual situation and their development specificities;
 - vii) encourage cooperation on technology migration, with minimal environmental impact;
- 2 that the Telecommunication Development Bureau shall:
- i) continue to provide highly qualified technical experts to offer advice in subjects of importance to developing countries, on an individual and collective basis, and to ensure adequate expertise through recruitment or short-term contracts, as appropriate;
 - ii) continue cooperating with financing sources, whether under the United Nations system, UNDP or other financing arrangements, and multiplying partnerships with Member States, Sector Members, financial institutions and international and regional organizations, to finance the activities related to the implementation of this resolution;
 - iii) continue its Special Voluntary Programme for Technical Cooperation, based on financial contributions, expert services or any other form of assistance, to help better meet the requests of developing countries in the telecommunication/ICT field as far as possible;

- iv) take into account, when establishing the above-mentioned actions, previous national or regional connectivity plans, so that the actions carried out give effect to the priority aspects of these plans and the impact of the action undertaken in essential aspects serves the achievement of national, regional and ITU goals; if the administrations do not have these plans, the projects may also consider developing them;
- v) promote and facilitate collaborative actions with the different Sectors of the Union in order to carry out studies and interrelated activities to complement the use of telecommunication technologies and systems so as to achieve optimal use of resources, including orbit resources and associated spectrum resources, and improve access to and the connectivity of telecommunication/ICT networks and systems to address the telecommunication needs of developing countries;
- vi) promote collaborative activities in coordination with the different Sectors of the Union to create and build capacities so as to provide and deepen universal access to knowledge on optimal use of telecommunication resources, including orbit resources and associated spectrum resources, and to increase access to and the connectivity of telecommunication/ICT systems and networks included in national and regional telecommunication projects and plans;
- vii) work on raising the awareness of all related stakeholders, having regard to their development plans, on ICT environmental protection issues, for the well-being of the population, in order to guarantee the prosperity of Member States' economies;
- viii) promote a national, regional and international dialogue with relevant stakeholders to help meet the expectations of the most underprivileged social groups, and raise awareness on new technologies, as well as the emergence of national economies that can ensure effective fulfilment of the SDGs,

invites regional and international financial organizations and agencies, equipment providers, operators, and all potential partners

to consider the possibility of ensuring complete or partial financing to implement cooperation programmes for developing telecommunications/ICTs, including the regionally approved initiatives under the Buenos Aires Action Plan and Resolution 17 (Rev. Buenos Aires, 2017),

instructs the Secretary-General, in close cooperation with the Directors of the three Bureaux

- 1 to submit an annual detailed report to the ITU Council on the results of the implementation of this resolution, including any recommendations which the Secretary-General may deem necessary, to enhance the impact of this resolution;
- 2 to work on the dissemination of information and best practices to ensure a digital transition that benefits citizens and governments, especially of developing countries, and protects the environment;
- 3 to encourage entities in key sectors highlighted under the SDGs that are actively involved in achieving the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development to participate in projects and programmes, as well as to become members of ITU,

invites the ITU Council

to review the results achieved and to take all necessary steps to expedite the implementation of this resolution in the best possible way.

RESOLUTION 136 (REV. DUBAI, 2018)

The use of telecommunications/information and communication technologies for humanitarian assistance and for monitoring and management in emergency and disaster situations, including health-related emergencies, for early warning, prevention, mitigation and relief

The Plenipotentiary Conference of the International Telecommunication Union (Dubai, 2018),

recalling

- a)* Resolution 182 (Rev. Busan, 2014) of the Plenipotentiary Conference, on the role of telecommunications/information and communications technologies (ICTs) in regard to climate change and the protection of the environment;
- b)* Resolution 34 (Rev. Buenos Aires, 2017) of the World Telecommunication Development Conference (WTDC), on the role of telecommunications/ICT in disaster preparedness, early warning, rescue, mitigation, relief and response;
- c)* Resolution 66 (Rev. Buenos Aires, 2017) of WTDC, on ICT and climate change;
- d)* Resolution 48 (Rev. Buenos Aires, 2017) of WTDC, on strengthening cooperation among telecommunication regulators;
- e)* Resolution 646 (Rev.WRC-15) of the World Radiocommunication Conference (WRC), on public protection and disaster relief;
- f)* Resolution 647 (Rev.WRC-15) of WRC, on radiocommunication aspects, including spectrum management guidelines, for early warning and disaster prediction, detection, mitigation and relief operations relating to emergencies and disasters;

- g) Resolution 673 (Rev.WRC-12) of WRC, on the importance of Earth observation radiocommunication applications;
- h) Article 5 of the International Telecommunication Regulations, on safety of life and priority of telecommunications;
- i) the emergency telecommunication/ICT coordination mechanisms established by the United Nations Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA),

recognizing

- a) the recent tragic events in the world that clearly demonstrate the need for resilient communications infrastructure and for the availability and dissemination of information to assist public safety, health and disaster-relief agencies;
- b) that there will be a continuing need to assist developing countries¹ in the use of ICTs to preserve life by ensuring a timely flow of information to government agencies, consumers, humanitarian-oriented organizations and industry involved in disaster-related rescue and recovery operations and in the provision of medical assistance to those affected by health-related emergencies;
- c) that information needs to be accessible and available also in local languages so as to ensure maximum impact;
- d) that policy-makers need to create an enabling environment to leverage the use of ICTs to address infrastructure and information needs in emergency situations, including health-related emergencies,

¹ These include the least developed countries, small island developing states, landlocked developing countries and countries with economies in transition.

taking into account

Resolution 60/125, on international cooperation on humanitarian assistance in the field of natural disasters, from relief to development, adopted by the United Nations General Assembly (UNGA) in March 2006,

noting

- a) § 51 of the Geneva Declaration of Principles adopted by the World Summit on the Information Society (WSIS), on the use of ICT applications for disaster prevention;
- b) § 20(c) of the Geneva Plan of Action adopted by WSIS, on e-environment, which calls for the establishment of monitoring systems, using ICTs, to forecast and monitor the impact of natural and man-made disasters, particularly in developing countries, least developed countries and small economies;
- c) § 30 of the Tunis Commitment adopted by WSIS, on disaster mitigation;
- d) § 91 of the Tunis Agenda for the Information Society adopted by WSIS, on disaster reduction;
- e) the work of the study groups of the ITU Radiocommunication Sector (ITU-R) and the ITU Telecommunication Standardization Sector (ITU-T) in adopting recommendations that provide technical information on satellite and terrestrial radiocommunication systems and wired networks and their role in disaster management, including important recommendations pertaining to the use of satellite networks in times of disasters;
- f) the work of the ITU-T study groups in developing and adopting recommendations for priority/preferential emergency telecommunications and emergency telecommunication services, including consideration of use of both terrestrial and wireless telecommunication systems during emergencies and, in addition, the activities that are carried out in ITU Telecommunication Development Sector (ITU-D) Study Group 2 under its Question 5/2, on utilizing telecommunications/ICTs for disaster risk reduction and management;

g) Sustainable Development Goals 9 (Build resilient infrastructures, promote inclusive and sustainable industrialization and foster innovation), and 11 (Make cities and human settlements inclusive, safe, resilient and sustainable), adopted by UNGA,

considering

a) the devastation suffered from disasters, including, but not limited to, tsunamis, earthquakes and storms, around the world, particularly in developing countries, which may suffer disproportionately due to a lack of infrastructure and, therefore, have the most to gain from information on the subject of disaster early warning, prevention, mitigation and relief efforts;

b) that ICTs are critical for addressing all phases of emergencies, including health-related emergencies, and that aspects of emergency communications associated with emergencies include, *inter alia*, disaster prediction, detection and alert and enabling the flow of information to keep individuals informed as to actions they can take to preserve life;

c) that the ITU-D m-powering initiative is designed to focus on the use of ICTs to empower communities and people;

d) that telecommunications/ICTs play an important role in early warning of disasters and facilitate disaster early warning, prevention, mitigation, relief and recovery efforts;

e) the ongoing cooperation between ITU study groups and other standards development organizations dealing with emergency telecommunications, alert and warning systems;

f) Resolution 59 (Rev. Buenos Aires, 2017) of WTDC, on strengthening coordination and cooperation among the three ITU Sectors on matters of mutual interest;

g) the need to plan for immediate availability of telecommunication services in emergency or disaster situations in affected areas or regions, through primary or back-up telecommunication systems, including those which may be movable or portable, in order to minimize impacts and facilitate relief operations;

h) that satellite services, among other radiocommunication services, may constitute a reliable platform for public safety, especially in natural disasters when existing terrestrial networks are often disrupted, and are highly useful for the coordination of humanitarian assistance by government agencies and other humanitarian entities;

i) that the Intergovernmental Conference on Emergency Telecommunications (Tampere, 1998) adopted the Tampere Convention on the Provision of Telecommunication Resources for Disaster Mitigation and Relief Operations, which entered into force on 8 January 2005;

j) that the United Nations World Conference on Disaster Reduction (Kobe, Hyogo, 2005) encouraged all States, taking into account their domestic legal requirements, to consider, as appropriate, acceding to, approving or ratifying relevant international legal instruments relating to disaster reduction, such as the Tampere Convention,

considering further

a) the activities being undertaken at the international and regional levels within ITU and other relevant organizations to establish internationally agreed means for the operation of systems for public protection and disaster relief on a harmonized and coordinated basis;

b) the ongoing development by ITU, in coordination with the United Nations and other United Nations specialized agencies, of guidelines for applying the international content standard for all-media public warning in all disaster and emergency situations;

c) the contribution of the private sector in the early warning, prevention, preparedness, mitigation and relief of emergency and disaster situations, which is proving to be effective;

d) the need for a common understanding of the network infrastructure components required to provide rapidly installed, interoperable, interworking, robust telecommunication capabilities in humanitarian assistance and disaster relief operations;

e) the importance of working towards the establishment of standards-based monitoring and worldwide early-warning systems, based on telecommunications/ICTs, that are linked to national and regional networks and that facilitate emergency disaster response all over the world, particularly in high-risk regions;

f) the importance of redundancy, infrastructure resilience and the availability of energy supply when planning for disaster situations;

g) the role that ITU-D can play, through such means as the Global Symposium for Regulators and the ITU-D study groups, in collecting and disseminating national regulatory best practices for telecommunication/ICT facilities for disaster early warning, prevention, preparedness, mitigation and relief;

h) that private and public networks include various public safety and group communications features which can play a key role in emergency and disaster preparedness, prevention, mitigation and relief situations,

convinced

a) that an international standard for communication of alert and warning information can assist in the provision of effective and appropriate humanitarian assistance and in mitigating the consequences of disasters, in particular in developing countries;

- b) that there is a need to train rescue and relief agencies, as well as the general public, in the use of telecommunication/ICT networks and services to strengthen both preparedness and response for disasters and health-related emergencies, particularly in developing countries;
- c) that the continuous use of telecommunication/ICT equipment and services is indispensable for the provision of humanitarian and emergency assistance;
- d) that the Tampere Convention provides the necessary framework for such use of telecommunication/ICT resources,

resolves to instruct the Secretary-General

- 1 to collaborate with OCHA, the United Nations Office for Disaster Risk Reduction and the World Food Programme, and with other relevant organizations, to enhance the Union's participation in activities related to emergency communications preparedness and early-warning systems;
- 2 to continue to collaborate with all relevant parties, including the United Nations and its agencies, in particular the World Health Organization, in order to define and engage in programmes to respond to and address health-related emergencies in areas within the scope and mandate of the Union;
- 3 to implement measures aimed at mobilizing support from governments, industry and other partners to respond to and address health-related emergencies;
- 4 to coordinate the activities conducted by the ITU Sectors in line with *instructs the Directors of the Bureaux* 5, in order to ensure the most effective action possible by ITU in this matter;
- 5 to assist Member States, if they so request, in their work towards their national accession to the Tampere Convention, as well as with the development of their practical arrangements for the implementation of the Tampere Convention, in close collaboration with the United Nations Emergency Relief Coordinator;
- 6 to assist Member States in the establishment of early warning systems for emergency situations in developing countries, as requested, and within existing budgetary resources,

instructs the Directors of the Bureaux

- 1 to continue to support studies through the relevant ITU study groups concerning the technical and operational implementation of solutions and the identification of best practices on public policies on emergency telecommunications at the local, national and regional levels in order to enhance disaster early warning, prevention, preparedness, relief and recovery, including response to health-related emergencies, taking into account technical and technological developments;
- 2 to conduct training programmes, workshops and capacity building, including consideration of the roles and participation of academia and other stakeholders, for trainers of relevant organizations and entities, especially in developing countries, on technical and operational aspects of networks and their use for monitoring and management in emergency and disaster situations, including health-related emergencies;
- 3 to support the development of robust, comprehensive, all-hazards emergency and disaster prediction, detection, early-warning, mitigation, response, relief and recovery systems that also take into account the specific needs of persons with disabilities, children, the elderly, displaced persons and the illiterate, at the local, national, regional and international levels, including monitoring and management systems involving the use of telecommunications/ICTs (e.g. remote sensing), in collaboration with other international agencies, in order to support coordination at the regional and global level;
- 4 to promote implementation by appropriate alerting authorities of the international standard for all-media public warning, in concert with ITU guidelines developed through the relevant ITU study groups for application to all disaster and emergency situations;

5 to continue to collaborate with organizations that are working in the area of standards for emergency telecommunications/ICTs and for communication of alert and warning information, in order to study the appropriate inclusion of such standards in ITU's work and their dissemination, in particular in developing countries;

6 to analyse ongoing work in all Sectors of ITU, regional entities and other expert organizations, and promote joint activities to avoid duplication of efforts and resources in the development, use and interworking of public and private telecommunications/ICTs, including radiocommunication and satellite systems, in times of emergencies and disaster relief operations in response to natural disasters;

7 to assist Member States in enhancing and strengthening the use of all available communication systems, including satellite, amateur radio and broadcasting services, in the event of the disruption of conventional power supply or telecommunication networks;

8 to assist Member States, particularly developing countries, in the use of telecommunications/ICTs to support the exchange of timely information on emergencies, including health-related emergencies, and to develop feasibility studies, project management tools and support to respond to and address emergencies, including health-related emergencies,

encourages Member States

1 in emergency and disaster relief situations, to satisfy temporary needs for spectrum in addition to what may be normally provided for in agreements with the administrations concerned, while seeking international assistance for spectrum coordination and management, in accordance with the legal framework in force in each country;

- 2 to work in close collaboration with the Secretary-General, the Directors of the Bureaux and other Member States, while collaborating with the emergency telecommunication/ICT coordination/cluster mechanisms of the United Nations, in the development and dissemination of tools, procedures and best practices for the effective coordination and operation of telecommunications/ICTs in disaster situations;
- 3 to facilitate the use by emergency organizations of both existing and new technologies, systems and applications (satellite and terrestrial), to the extent practicable, in order to satisfy interoperability requirements and to further the goals of public protection and disaster relief;
- 4 to develop and support national and regional centres of excellence for research, pre-planning, equipment pre-positioning and deployment of telecommunication/ICT resources for humanitarian assistance and disaster relief coordination;
- 5 to adopt and promote policies that encourage public and private operators to invest in the development and building of telecommunications/ICTs, including radiocommunication and satellite systems, for early warning systems and the management of emergency and disaster situations, including health-related emergencies;
- 6 to take appropriate measures to ensure that all operators inform local and roaming users, in a timely manner and at no cost, of the numbers in use to contact emergency services;
- 7 to explore the possibility of introducing a globally harmonized emergency number to supplement existing domestic emergency numbers, taking into account the relevant ITU-T recommendations, and to develop plans for preparedness, disaster recovery and continuity of activities that provide essential government information systems with the necessary redundancy and resilience;
- 8 to work towards their accession to the Tampere Convention as a matter of priority;

9 to cooperate and offer all possible assistance and support to consumers, humanitarian-oriented organizations and industry involved in ICTs, including for disease tracking and natural and man-made disaster and emergency response, rescue and recovery operations;

10 to promote regional, subregional, multilateral and bilateral projects and programmes to address the need to use ICTs as a tool to support responses to different types of disasters, so that life-saving infrastructure and information can be provided to local communities, especially in local languages;

11 to participate in the ITU Network of Volunteers for Emergency Telecommunications;

12 to contribute to the Global Emergency Fund for Rapid Response,

urges Member States Parties to the Tampere Convention

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 137 (REV. DUBAI, 2018)

Deployment of future networks in developing countries¹

The Plenipotentiary Conference of the International Telecommunication Union (Dubai, 2018),

recalling

- a) Resolution 139 (Rev. Dubai, 2018) of this conference, on the use of telecommunications/information and communication technologies (ICTs) to bridge the digital divide and build an inclusive information society;
- b) Resolution 92 (Hammamet, 2016) of the World Telecommunication Standardization Assembly (WTSA), on enhancing the standardization activities in the ITU Telecommunication Standardization Sector (ITU-T) related to non-radio aspects of international mobile telecommunications (IMT);
- c) Resolution 93 (Hammamet, 2016) of WTSA, on interconnection of 4G, IMT-2020 networks and beyond;
- d) Resolution 137 (Rev. Busan, 2014) of the Plenipotentiary Conference, on next-generation network (NGN) deployment in developing countries;
- e) Resolution 43 (Rev. Buenos Aires, 2017) of the World Telecommunication Development Conference (WTDC), on assistance in implementing international IMT and future networks,

¹ These include the least developed countries, small island developing states, landlocked developing countries and countries with economies in transition.

considering

- a) that, as stated in § 22 of the Geneva Declaration of Principles adopted by the World Summit on the Information Society (WSIS), a well-developed information and communication network infrastructure and applications, adapted to regional, national and local conditions, easily accessible and affordable, and making greater use of broadband and other innovative technologies, where possible, can accelerate the social and economic progress of countries, and the well-being of all individuals, communities and peoples, and that this is covered by WSIS Action Line C2, expanded to include Action Line C6;
- b) that the existence, at the national, regional, interregional and global levels, of coherent telecommunication networks and services for the development of national, regional and international economies is a very important element in the improvement of the social, economic and financial situation of Member States;
- c) Resolution 44 (Rev. Hammamet, 2016) of WTSA, on bridging the standardization gap between developing and developed countries;
- d) Resolution 17 (Rev. Buenos Aires, 2017) of WTDC, on implementation of and cooperation on regionally approved regional initiatives at the national, regional, interregional and global levels;
- e) that many countries have begun to implement national, regional and international strategies for realizing the vision of a digital economy, for which future networks should form the basis,

noting

- a) that developing countries are still being challenged by rapid change of technologies and service convergence trends;
- b) the ongoing shortages of resources, experience and capacity building within developing countries in planning, deploying and operating networks, especially future networks;

c) that future networks drive substantial transformation in many development-related sectors, including health, education, financial inclusion and food security, making them a key accelerator towards achievement of the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs);

d) that promoting investment in broadband connectivity from a broad range of sectors can help achieve the full potential of these technologies and bring the world closer to the goal of an inclusive digital society accessible by all;

e) that fixed and mobile services are becoming progressively affordable in a large number of countries; however, the cost of transit or access to backhaul bandwidth remains a challenge for developing countries, particularly landlocked countries,

recalling further

a) the efforts and collaboration of the three Bureaux to continue enhancing work aimed at providing information and advice on subjects of importance to developing countries for the planning, organization, development and operation of their telecommunication systems;

b) that technical knowledge and experience of great value to the developing countries is also obtainable from the work of the ITU Radiocommunication Sector (ITU-R), ITU-T and the ITU Telecommunication Development Sector (ITU-D);

c) that, in accordance with Resolution 143 (Rev. Guadalajara, 2010) of the Plenipotentiary Conference, the provisions in all ITU documents relating to developing countries shall be extended to apply adequately to the least developed countries, small island developing states, landlocked developing countries and countries with economies in transition,

recognizing

a) that the developing countries have limited human and financial resources to cope with the ever-increasing digital divide and standardization gap;

b) that the existing digital divide at various levels (including the digital divide between regions, countries and parts of countries, and between urban and rural areas) is likely to be aggravated further with the emergence of new technologies if developing countries are not able to introduce them fully and in a timely manner;

c) that the implementation of future networks can have a positive impact on the environment, in particular by helping to reduce the environmental effects of other sectors, such as transport, agriculture, etc.;

d) that one of the most important expected outcomes of the timely introduction of future networks for developing countries is the reduction of operating costs relating to the operation and technical maintenance of network infrastructure,

taking into account

a) that it is imperative for countries, especially developing countries and many developed countries, that have already invested heavily in their existing telecommunication networks, to facilitate a smooth transition from existing networks to future networks;

b) that future networks are potential tools to meet the new challenges facing the telecommunication industry, and that future networks deployment and standards development activities are essential for developing countries, especially for ensuring equal access to modern telecommunication services for urban populations and populations in rural and remote areas;

c) that many developing countries that have invested significantly in the deployment of their existing telecommunication networks to provide advanced services are still seeking to recover their investment, making it difficult for them to effect a timely transition to future networks;

d) that the migration of existing telecommunication networks to future networks may affect point of interconnection, quality of service and other operational aspects, which may also have an effect on costs to the end user;

e) that countries can benefit from future networks, which can facilitate the delivery of a wide range of advanced ICT-based services and applications for building the information society and developing the digital economy, resolving difficult issues such as the development and implementation of systems for public protection and disaster relief, especially telecommunications for early warning and the dissemination of emergency information;

f) that the challenge, as perceived by WSIS, is to harness the potential of ICTs and ICT applications for promoting the development goals of the Millennium Declaration, namely the eradication of extreme poverty and hunger, achieving universal primary education, promoting gender equality and empowerment of women, reducing child mortality, improving maternal health and combating HIV/AIDS, malaria and other diseases, and so forth;

g) that ITU-T Study Group 13 has established a new focus group entitled "Technologies for Network 2030" (FG NET-2030),

resolves to instruct the Directors of the three Bureaux, in line with the mandates of their respective Sectors

1 to continue and consolidate their efforts on future networks² deployment studies, standards development, training activities and the sharing of best practices on business model evolution and operational aspects, especially for those networks designed for rural areas and for bridging the digital divide and the development divide;

² See the work of the ITU-T Study Group 13 Focus Group on future networks.

2 to coordinate studies and programmes within ITU-R on IMT-2020 and beyond and ITU-T Study Groups 11 and 13 on 2030 networks, and also within the Global Network Planning initiatives (GNPi) of ITU-D, and to coordinate ongoing work being carried out by study groups and the relevant programmes as defined in the Buenos Aires Action Plan in order to assist the membership in deploying future networks effectively, especially in conducting a smooth migration from existing telecommunication infrastructures to future networks and in seeking appropriate solutions to expedite affordable deployment in rural and remote areas, taking into consideration the successes of several developing countries in migrating to and operating these networks, and benefiting from the experience of those countries,

instructs the Secretary-General and the Director of the Telecommunication Development Bureau

1 to take appropriate action in order to seek support and financial provision sufficient for the implementation of this resolution, within available financial resources, including financial support through partnership agreements and through the involvement of regional and international financial organizations and institutions, equipment suppliers, operators and all partners providing complete or partial financing for the implementation of cooperation programmes to develop telecommunications/ICTs, including the regionally approved initiatives under the Buenos Aires Action Plan and Resolution 17 (Rev. Buenos Aires, 2017);

2 to highlight the importance and benefits of future networks development and deployment to other United Nations specialized agencies and financial institutions,

instructs the ITU Council

to consider the reports and proposals made by the Secretary-General and the three Bureaux relating to the implementation of this resolution, having regard to addressing the needs of developing countries,

invites all Member States and Sector Members

- 1 to undertake concrete actions, to support ITU's actions and to develop their own initiatives in order to implement this resolution;
- 2 to strengthen cooperation between developed and developing countries, and among developing countries themselves, in improving national, regional and international capabilities in the implementation of future networks, especially in regard to future networks planning, deployment, operation and maintenance, and the development of NGN-based applications, especially for rural and remote areas, taking into consideration also development in the near future, in the interests of developing the digital economy,

invites regional and international financial organizations and agencies, equipment providers, operators, and all potential partners

to consider the possibility of ensuring complete or partial financing to implement cooperation programmes for developing NGN and future networks, including the regionally approved initiatives under the Buenos Aires Action Plan and Resolution 17 (Rev. Buenos Aires, 2017).

RESOLUTION 139 (REV. DUBAI, 2018)

Use of telecommunications/information and communication technologies to bridge the digital divide and build an inclusive information society

The Plenipotentiary Conference of the International Telecommunication Union (Dubai, 2018),

recalling

- a) the Preamble (No. 1) of the ITU Constitution, "fully recognizing the sovereign right of each State to regulate its telecommunication and having regard to the growing importance of telecommunication for the preservation of peace and the economic and social development of all States";
- b) Resolution 16 (Rev. Buenos Aires, 2017) of the World Telecommunication Development Conference (WTDC), on special actions and measures for least developed countries (LDCs), small island developing states (SIDS), landlocked developing countries (LLDCs) and countries with economies in transition;
- c) Resolution 30 (Rev. Buenos Aires, 2017) of WTDC, on the role of the ITU Telecommunication Development Sector in implementing the outcomes of the World Summit on the Information Society (WSIS), taking into account the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development;
- d) Resolution 37 (Rev. Buenos Aires, 2017) of WTDC, on bridging the digital divide;
- e) Resolution 44 (Rev. Hammamet, 2016) of the World Telecommunication Standardization Assembly, on reducing the disparity among developing¹ and developed countries in terms of standardization;
- f) Recommendation ITU-T D.53 of the ITU Telecommunication Standardization Sector, on International aspects of universal service;

¹ These include the least developed countries, small island developing states, landlocked developing countries and countries with economies in transition.

g) Resolution 23 (Rev. Buenos Aires, 2017) of WTDC, on Internet access and its availability in developing countries and rate-setting principles for international connection to the Internet,

recognizing

a) that the social and economic underdevelopment of a large part of the world is one of the most serious problems affecting not only the countries concerned but also the international community as a whole;

b) that the benefits of the advancement in information and communication technologies (ICTs) can create opportunities for digital services in developing countries, and enables digitization of the infrastructure which underpins the economy, including the digital economy;

c) that the new technologies of telecommunication networks show potential for offering more efficient and economic telecommunication and ICT services and applications, particularly for unserved and/or underserved areas;

d) that WSIS highlighted that the ICT infrastructure is an essential foundation for an inclusive information society, and called for the commitment of all States to placing ICTs and ICT applications at the service of development;

e) that the WSIS+10 High-Level Event, an expanded version of the WSIS Forum, held by ITU in collaboration with the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO), the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD) and the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), recognizes in its statement on the implementation of WSIS outcomes that, since the Tunis Phase of WSIS was held in 2005, the uses of ICTs have developed considerably and become a part of everyday life, accelerating social and economic growth, sustainable development, increasing transparency and accountability, where applicable, and offering new opportunities for both developed and developing countries to leverage the benefits of new technologies;

- f)* that, in turn, the WSIS+10 vision for WSIS beyond 2015 reaffirms that the objective of the Summit is to bridge the digital, technology and knowledge divides and create a people-centric, inclusive, open and development-oriented information society where everyone can create, access, utilize and share information and knowledge;
- g)* that the declarations of previous WTDCs (Istanbul, 2002; Doha, 2006; Hyderabad, 2010; Dubai, 2014; and Buenos Aires, 2017) have continued to affirm that ICTs and ICT applications are essential for political, economic, social and cultural development, that they play an important role in poverty alleviation, job creation, environmental protection and the prevention and mitigation of natural and other disasters (in addition to the importance of disaster prediction), and that they must be placed at the service of development in other sectors; and that, therefore, opportunities offered by new ICTs should be fully exploited in order to foster sustainable development;
- h)* that, even prior to WSIS, in addition to ITU activities, various activities were being executed by many organizations and entities to bridge the digital divide;
- i)* that the use of ICTs enhances social, economic, cultural and environmental growth, contributes to sustainable development and offers new opportunities for developed and developing countries to take advantage of the benefits offered by new technologies;
- j)* that there is a need for affordable digital services in developing countries, which are enabled by the ICT revolution;
- k)* that Resolution 70/125 of the United Nations General Assembly, on the overall review of the implementation of the WSIS outcomes, recognizes that speed, stability, affordability, language, local content and accessibility for persons with disabilities are now basic aspects of quality, and that a high-speed broadband connection is now a factor in facilitating sustainable development,

considering

- a) that, even with all the developments described above and the improvement observed in some respects, in numerous developing countries ICTs and ICT applications are still not affordable to the majority of people, particularly those living in rural or remote areas;
- b) that each region, country and area must tackle its own specific issues regarding the digital divide, with emphasis on cooperation with others in order to benefit from experience gained;
- c) that many countries may not have the necessary basic infrastructure, long-term plans, laws, regulations and such like in place for the development of ICT and ICT applications;
- d) that LDCs, SIDS, LLDCs and countries with economies in transition still face particular problems in bridging the digital divide and would benefit from special measures for the development of telecommunications/ICTs and to improve their connectivity;
- e) that it is necessary to study and analyse the social, demographic, economic and technological context of the communities in which it is necessary to deploy telecommunication/ICT infrastructure and implement plans for capacity building;
- f) that implementing policies that promote access to telecommunication/ICT services in rural, isolated and underserved areas has proven to be a crucial tool for bridging the digital divide;
- g) that it is important to identify sustainable best practices to deploy high-speed broadband networks to help developing countries achieve the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs);
- h) that quality of broadband access will promote inclusion and support the vision of an information society,

considering further

- a) that telecommunication/ICT facilities, services and applications are not only the consequence of economic growth, but a prerequisite for social, cultural and environmental development, including economic growth;
- b) that telecommunications/ICTs and ICT applications are an integral part of the national, regional and international development process;
- c) that a favourable environment, which includes the necessary policies, skills and technical capacities to use and develop technologies, is considered to be as important as infrastructure investments in telecommunications/ICTs;
- d) that recent progress, and particularly the convergence of telecommunication, information, broadcasting and computer technologies and services, in some countries, are agents of change for the information and knowledge societies;
- e) that there is a continuing need in most developing countries for investment in various development sectors, while giving priority to investment in the telecommunication/ICT sector, in view of the pressing need for telecommunications/ICTs as a basis for growth and development in other sectors;
- f) that, in this situation, national digital e-strategies should be linked to overall development goals;
- g) that it continues to be necessary to provide those responsible for developing standards with relevant and timely information on the role and general contribution of ICTs and ICT applications to overall development plans;
- h) that past studies undertaken at the initiative of the Union for assessing the benefits of telecommunications/ICTs and ICT applications in the sector have had a salutary effect in other sectors and are a necessary condition for their development;
- i) that the use of terrestrial and satellite systems to give access to local communities located in rural or remote areas without increasing connection costs due to distance and other geographic characteristics must be considered an extremely useful tool for bridging the digital divide;

- j) that satellite broadband services make it possible to provide cost-effective communications solutions with great connectivity, speed and reliability in metropolitan, rural and even remote areas, becoming an essential engine for the economic and social development of countries and regions;
- k) that the development of low-cost equipment is important for network deployment in unserved and/or underserved areas;
- l) that the use of telecommunications/ICTs creates opportunities and benefits for the economy, including the digital economy;
- m) that the sharing of telecommunication infrastructure could be an effective means of deploying telecommunication networks, in particular in unserved and/or underserved areas,

stressing

- a) the important role played by telecommunications/ICTs and ICT applications in the development of e-government, labour, agriculture, health, education, transport, industry, human rights, environmental protection, trade and transfer of information for social welfare, among others, and in the general economic and social progress of developing countries, especially for people living in rural or remote areas;
- b) that telecommunication/ICT infrastructure and applications are central to achieving the goal of ensuring digital inclusion for all, enabling sustainable, ubiquitous and affordable access to information,

mindful

- a) that some Member States have applied their national strategies and regulatory frameworks to help bridge the digital divide at the national level;
- b) that various ITU Member States have developed national strategies and programmes to encourage investment in implementing projects to deploy telecommunication/ICT infrastructure and networks,

appreciating

- a) the various studies that have been carried out as part of the programme of technical cooperation and assistance activities of the Union;
- b) that ITU, in keeping with its duties and mandate, is helping to bridge the digital divide at the national, regional and international levels by facilitating the connectivity of telecommunication/ICT networks and services, in order to follow up on and meet the key goals and objectives of WSIS,

resolves

- 1 that implementation of Resolution 37 (Rev. Buenos Aires, 2017) should continue;
- 2 that the Union should continue to organize, sponsor and conduct necessary studies in order to highlight, in a different and changing context, the contribution of ICTs and ICT applications to overall development;
- 3 that the Union should continue to act as a clearing-house mechanism for the exchange of information and expertise in this regard, within the implementation of the 2017 Buenos Aires Action Plan and in partnership with other appropriate organizations, and implement initiatives, programmes and projects aimed at promoting access to telecommunications/ICTs and ICT applications;
- 4 that ITU, in cooperation with the relevant organizations, continue its task of preparing adequate ICT reference indicators for measuring the digital divide, collecting statistical data, measuring the impact of ICTs and facilitating a comparative analysis of digital integration, which will continue to be a fundamental need in support of economic growth;
- 5 that ITU continue its work and activities to support Member States, upon request, in strengthening their regulatory and policy frameworks through sharing information on national programmes for unserved and/or underserved areas within their territories;
- 6 that ITU facilitate and promote the development of high-speed broadband infrastructure, including relevant programmes to extend access,

continues to invite

the administrations and governments of Member States, agencies and organizations of the United Nations system, intergovernmental organizations, non-governmental organizations, regional telecommunication organizations, financial institutions and providers of telecommunication equipment and services and ICTs to extend their support for the satisfactory implementation of this resolution,

continues to encourage

all agencies responsible for development aid and assistance, including the International Bank for Reconstruction and Development (IBRD), UNDP and regional and national development funds, as well as donor and recipient Member States of the Union, to continue to attach importance to ICTs in the development process and to accord high priority for resource allocation to this sector,

instructs the Secretary-General

- 1 to bring this resolution to the attention of all interested parties including, in particular, UNDP, IBRD, regional funds and national development funds for cooperation in implementing this resolution;
- 2 to report annually to the ITU Council on the progress made in the implementation of this resolution;
- 3 to arrange for the wide dissemination of the findings resulting from the activities carried out in accordance with this resolution,

instructs the Director of the Telecommunication Development Bureau, in coordination with the Directors of the other Bureaux, within their respective mandates

- 1 to continue to assist the Member States and Sector Members in developing a policy and regulatory framework for ICTs and ICT applications that serves development;
- 2 to continue to assist Member States and Sector Members with strategies that expand access to telecommunication/ICT infrastructure, particularly for rural or remote areas;

- 3 to evaluate models for affordable and sustainable systems for access to information in rural or remote areas, communications and ICT applications on the global network, based on studies of these models;
- 4 to compile and disseminate best practices and regulatory experiences on national and regional strategies employed to promote investment in telecommunication/ICT infrastructure and services in unserved and/or underserved areas, utilizing possible means within countries and/or regions, which may include universal service funds in certain countries, where appropriate;
- 5 to continue to conduct, within available resources, case studies concerning the development of telecommunication/ICT infrastructure and services, in particular within unserved and/or underserved areas such as rural and remote areas, as far as possible;
- 6 to compile and disseminate guiding principles that bring together best practices for the sharing of telecommunication network infrastructure, as appropriate;
- 7 to promote and facilitate collaborative actions between the different Sectors of the Union to carry out studies, projects and inter-related activities identified in action plans of the Sectors, aiming to complement the development of national telecommunication networks;
- 8 to continue to support Member States by providing a database of experts in the required field, and to fund the necessary actions for bridging the digital divide for developing countries within the resources allocated under the financial plan;
- 9 to strengthen cooperation and coordination with the relevant international and regional organizations, in particular those of the developing countries, in activities related to bridging the digital divide;

10 to provide assistance on capacity building, creating a culture of learning and collaboration, on how to navigate and extract benefit from the new industrial revolution, by building programmes or joint programmes in fields relevant to bridging the digital divide, in accordance with the SDGs, within the mandate of ITU,

instructs the Director of the Radiocommunication Bureau

to implement actions, in coordination with the Director of the Telecommunication Development Bureau, in order to support studies and projects and, at the same time, promote joint activities aiming to build capacities for increasingly efficient use of the orbit/spectrum resource, with the purpose of expanding affordable access to satellite broadband and facilitating connectivity between networks, and between different zones, countries and regions, especially in developing countries,

instructs the ITU Council

- 1 to allocate adequate funds, within approved budgetary resources, for the implementation of this resolution;
- 2 to review the Secretary-General's reports and take appropriate measures to ensure the implementation of this resolution;
- 3 to submit a progress report on this resolution to the next plenipotentiary conference,

invites Member States

- 1 to continue to undertake concerted action in order to achieve the objectives of Resolution 37 (Rev. Buenos Aires, 2017);
- 2 to conduct consultations with the beneficiaries of telecommunication/ICT infrastructure plans, programmes and investment, considering current differences stemming from the social conditions and dynamics of the population, so as to ensure suitable appropriation of ICTs;

3 to promote the implementation of policies to foster public and private investments for the development and construction of radiocommunication systems, including satellite systems, in their own countries and regions, and to contemplate the inclusion of their use in the national and/or regional broadband plans as an additional tool that will help bridge the digital divide and meet telecommunication needs, especially in developing countries.

RESOLUTION 140 (REV. DUBAI, 2018)

ITU's role in implementing the outcomes of the World Summit on the Information Society and the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, as well as in their follow-up and review processes

The Plenipotentiary Conference of the International Telecommunication Union (Dubai, 2018),

recalling

- a) Resolution 73 (Minneapolis, 1998) of the Plenipotentiary Conference, which achieved its aims in regard to the holding of both phases of the World Summit on the Information Society (WSIS);
- b) the Geneva Declaration of Principles and the Geneva Plan of Action, adopted in 2003, and the Tunis Commitment and the Tunis Agenda for the Information Society, adopted in 2005, all of which were endorsed by the United Nations General Assembly (UNGA);
- c) UNGA Resolution 70/125, on the outcome document of the UNGA high-level meeting on the overall review of the implementation of the WSIS outcomes;
- d) UNGA Resolution 70/1, on transforming our world: the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development;
- e) the WSIS+10 statement on the implementation of WSIS outcomes and vision for WSIS beyond 2015, which were adopted at the ITU-coordinated WSIS+10 High-Level Event (Geneva, 2014), based on the Multistakeholder Preparatory Platform (MPP) process, together with other United Nations agencies and inclusive of all WSIS stakeholders, were endorsed by the Plenipotentiary Conference (Busan, 2014) and were submitted to the UNGA overall review;
- f) Resolution 140 (Rev. Busan, 2014) of the Plenipotentiary Conference, on ITU's role in implementing the WSIS outcomes and in the UNGA overall review of their implementation,

considering

- a) that ITU plays a fundamental role in providing global perspectives on the development of the information society;
- b) the role played by ITU in the successful organization of the two phases of WSIS and its coordination of the WSIS+10 High-Level Event;
- c) that the core competencies of ITU in the field of information and communication technologies (ICTs) – assistance in bridging the digital divide, international and regional cooperation, radio-spectrum management, standards development and the dissemination of information – are of crucial importance for building the information society, as stated in § 64 of the Geneva Declaration of Principles;
- d) that the Tunis Agenda stated that "each UN agency should act according to its mandate and competencies, and pursuant to decisions of their respective governing bodies, and within existing approved resources" (§ 102b);
- e) the establishment of a United Nations Group on the Information Society (UNGIS) by the Secretary-General of the United Nations, at the request of the Summit, with the main objective of coordinating substantive and policy issues facing the United Nations' implementation of the WSIS outcomes, and that ITU is a permanent member of UNGIS, and shares a rotating chairmanship thereof;
- f) that ITU, the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) and the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) are playing lead facilitation roles in the multistakeholder implementation of the Geneva Plan of Action and Tunis Agenda, as called upon by WSIS;
- g) that ITU is the moderator/facilitator for Action Lines C2 (Information and communication infrastructure), C5 (Building confidence and security in the use of ICTs) and C6 (Enabling environment) of the Tunis Agenda, and a potential partner for a number of other action lines, as identified by WSIS;

h) that Resolution 200 (Rev. Dubai, 2018) of this conference endorsed the high-level strategic goals and targets set out in the strategic plan of the Union and global broadband targets to implement the Connect 2030 Agenda;

i) that ITU is given specific responsibility for maintaining the WSIS stocktaking database (§ 120 of the Tunis Agenda);

j) that ITU is capable of providing expertise relevant to the Internet Governance Forum as demonstrated during the WSIS process (§ 78 a) of the Tunis Agenda);

k) that ITU has, *inter alia*, specific responsibility to study and report on international Internet connectivity (§§ 27 and 50 of the Tunis Agenda);

l) that ITU has a specific responsibility to ensure rational, efficient and economic use of, and equitable access to, the radio-frequency spectrum by all countries, based on relevant international agreements (§ 96 of the Tunis Agenda);

m) that "building an inclusive development-oriented information society will require unremitting multistakeholder effort ... Taking into account the multifaceted nature of building the Information Society, effective cooperation among governments, private sector, civil society and United Nations and other international organizations, according to their roles and responsibilities and leveraging on their expertise, is essential" (§ 83 of the Tunis Agenda);

n) that the vision of an information society cannot be achieved without embracing the principle of inclusiveness in all efforts to promote and achieve the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development,

considering further

a) that ITU and other international organizations should continue to cooperate and coordinate their activities where necessary for the global good;

- b)* the need for ITU to evolve constantly in response to changes in the telecommunication/ICT environment and, in particular, in respect of evolving technologies and new regulatory challenges;
- c)* the needs of developing countries¹, including in the areas of harnessing ICT for sustainable development and bridging the digital divide, building telecommunication/ICT infrastructure enabling the growth of the digital economy, strengthening confidence and security in the use of telecommunications/ICT and implementation of the other WSIS goals;
- d)* the need for ITU to use its resources and expertise for implementation of the WSIS outcomes and achieving the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs);
- e)* the need to efficiently deploy the Union's human and financial resources in a manner consistent with the priorities of the membership and cognizant of budgetary constraints, and the need to avoid duplication among the Bureaux and the General Secretariat;
- f)* that the full involvement of the membership, including Sector Members, Associates and Academia, as well as other stakeholders, is critical to successful ITU implementation of relevant WSIS outcomes;
- g)* that the strategic plan for the Union for 2020-2023 set out in Resolution 71 (Rev. Dubai, 2018) of this conference contains a commitment to and priorities for implementation of the relevant WSIS outcomes and achievement of the SDGs;
- h)* that the ITU Council Working Group on WSIS (CWG-WSIS) constitutes an effective mechanism for facilitating Member State inputs on the role of ITU in implementing WSIS outcomes and achievement of the SDGs;

¹ These include the least developed countries, small island developing states, landlocked developing countries and countries with economies in transition.

- i) that the ITU Secretary-General created the ITU WSIS/SDG Task Force, chaired by the Deputy Secretary-General, the role of which is to formulate strategies and coordinate ITU's policies and activities in relation to WSIS, taking into account the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development;
- j) that the Council, at its 2016 session, resolved to use the WSIS framework as the foundation through which ITU helps achieve the 2030 Agenda, within the ITU's mandate and within the resources allocated in the financial plan and biennial budget, noting the WSIS-SDG Matrix developed by United Nations agencies;
- k) that the international community is invited to make voluntary contributions to the special trust fund set up by ITU to support activities relating to the implementation of WSIS outcomes;
- l) that ITU is capable of providing expertise in the field of statistical work by developing ICT indicators, using appropriate indicators and benchmarking to track global progress, and measuring the digital divide (§§ 113-118 of the Tunis Agenda),

noting

- a) the outcomes of the WSIS Forum, organized annually by ITU in collaboration with the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD), UNESCO and UNDP;
- b) the recognition in UNGA Resolution 70/125 that the WSIS Forum has been a platform for discussion and sharing of best practices in the implementation of the WSIS outcomes by all stakeholders, and should continue to be held annually;
- c) that the Broadband Commission for Sustainable Development, established at the invitation of the Secretary-General of ITU and the Director-General of UNESCO, re-evaluated and launched a new framework of targets for 2025 in support of "Connecting the Other Half" of the world's population, which aim to make broadband policy universal and to increase affordability and uptake in support of internationally agreed development goals, including the SDGs;

- d) the annual reports of the Secretary-General on ITU's contribution to implementation of the WSIS outcomes through the Commission on Science and Technology for Development to the United Nations Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC) and the ITU Council contribution to the High-Level Political Forum on Sustainable Development on relevant ITU activities;
- e) the relevant Sector resolutions on the role of the ITU Sectors in implementing the WSIS outcomes taking into account the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development;
- f) the relevant results of the 2015-2018 sessions of the Council related to implementation of the WSIS outcomes and achieving the SDGs;
- g) the outcomes of the WSIS Forums;
- h) programmes, activities and regional activities established by the 2017 world telecommunication development conference (WTDC) with the objective of bridging the digital divide,

taking into account

that WSIS acknowledged that multistakeholder participation is essential to the successful building of a people-centred, inclusive and development-oriented information society,

recognizing

- a) that the UNGA outcome document on the overall review of the implementation of the WSIS outcomes has substantial implications for the activities of ITU and calls for close alignment between the WSIS process and the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, highlighting the cross-cutting contribution of ICTs to the SDGs and poverty eradication, and noting that access to ICTs has also become a development indicator and aspiration in and of itself;
- b) that the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development has substantial implications for the activities of ITU;
- c) that implementation of the WSIS outcomes will facilitate development of the digital economy and help achieve the SDGs;

- d) the importance of ITU's role and participation in UNGIS, as a permanent member, and sharing a rotating chairmanship;
- e) ITU's commitment to implementation of the WSIS outcomes and achieving the SDGs, as one of the most important goals for the Union;
- f) the essential role of telecommunications/ICTs to facilitate digital transformation and the development of the digital economy and help achieve the SDGs and other internationally agreed development goals²;
- g) that UNGA, in its Resolution 70/125, decided to hold a high-level meeting on the overall review of the implementation of the WSIS outcomes in 2025,

resolves

- 1 that ITU's role regarding implementation of the WSIS outcomes and the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development should focus on telecommunications/ICTs, in accordance with ITU's mandate;
- 2 that ITU should play a leading facilitating role in the implementation of the WSIS outcomes, along with UNESCO and UNDP;
- 3 that ITU should continue to coordinate WSIS Forums, World Telecommunication and Information Society Day (WTISD) and WSIS Prizes and maintain the WSIS Stocktaking database, as well as continuing to coordinate and support the activities of the Partnership on Measuring ICT for Development;
- 4 that ITU should continue to play a lead facilitation role in the WSIS implementation process, as a moderator/facilitator for implementing Action Lines C2, C5 and C6;
- 5 that ITU should continue its work on implementation of the WSIS outcomes and realization of the WSIS vision beyond 2015, carrying out those activities that come within its mandate and participating, together with other stakeholders, as appropriate;

² Buenos Aires Declaration, 2017.

6 that ITU should continue to use the WSIS framework as the foundation through which ITU helps achieve the SDGs, noting the WSIS-SDG Matrix developed by all UN WSIS action line facilitators, working through CWG-WSIS, including by:

- i) updating its roadmaps for WSIS Action Lines C2, C5 and C6 to take into account activities under way to also implement the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development;
- ii) providing input, as appropriate, into the roadmaps/work plans for WSIS Action Lines C1, C3, C4, C7, C8, C9 and C11, also related to the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development;

7 that ITU should continue to adapt itself, taking into account technological developments and its potential to contribute significantly to building an inclusive information society and to the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development;

8 that there is a need to integrate the implementation of the Buenos Aires Action Plan, and in particular Resolution 30 (Rev. Buenos Aires, 2017) of WTDC, and relevant resolutions of plenipotentiary conferences, with the multistakeholder implementation of the WSIS outcomes and achievement of the SDGs;

9 that the ITU Sectors should carry out those activities that come within their mandates and participate with other stakeholders, as appropriate, in the implementation of all relevant action lines and other WSIS outcomes and in achieving relevant SDGs and considering in their studies the work of CWG-WSIS&SDG³ and other Council working groups on issues relevant to WSIS and the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development;

³ See *requests the ITU Council* 3 below.

10 that the ITU Telecommunication Development Sector (ITU-D) shall give high priority to building information and communication infrastructure (WSIS Action Line C2), this being the physical backbone for all e-applications, having regard to the Buenos Aires Declaration and Objective 3 of the Buenos Aires Action Plan and calling upon the ITU-D study groups to do the same;

11 that ITU should submit a progress report concerning its implementation of the WSIS outcomes and the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, noting the contribution of telecommunications/ICT to the digital economy, to the plenipotentiary conference in 2022,

instructs the Secretary-General

1 to support ITU's role in implementing the WSIS outcomes and achievement of the SDGs;

2 to ensure that ITU activities related to the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development are implemented through close alignment with the WSIS process and are conducted in accordance with its mandate, within established policies and procedures, and within the resources allocated in the financial plan and biennial budget;

3 to report annually to ECOSOC on progress made in implementation of the WSIS action lines for which ITU is the facilitator or co-facilitator, through the Commission on Science and Technology for Development, and to provide this report to CWG-WSIS&SDG;

4 to contribute annually on relevant ITU activities to the High-Level Political Forum, and provide the report to the Council through CWG-WSIS&SDG;

5 to provide annually to the Council a comprehensive report detailing the activities, actions and engagements that the Union is undertaking on these subjects, for consideration and decision;

6 to invite UNGIS to align activities on developing the information society towards a knowledge society, based on results of the overall review of implementation of the WSIS outcomes and the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development;

- 7 to continue to coordinate the WSIS Forum as a platform for discussion and sharing of best practices in the implementation of WSIS by all stakeholders, taking into consideration the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development;
- 8 to adjust the WSIS Stocktaking database and WSIS Prizes competitions in light of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development;
- 9 to take into consideration the outputs of CWG-WSIS&SDG in WSIS/SDG Task Force activities;
- 10 to maintain the special WSIS trust fund to support ITU activities relating to facilitating ITU implementation of the WSIS outcomes through mechanisms including the establishment of partnerships and strategic alliances, and to invite the ITU membership to make voluntary contributions,

instructs the Secretary-General and the Directors of the Bureaux

- 1 to take all necessary measures for ITU to fulfil its role, as outlined in *resolves* 1, 2, 3, and 4 above, in accordance with the appropriate roadmaps and coordinating through the WSIS/SDG Task Force, with the aim of avoiding duplication of work among the ITU Bureaux and the ITU General Secretariat;
- 2 to regularly update the roadmaps for ITU's activities within its mandate in regard to WSIS implementation taking into account the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, to be presented to the Council via CWG-WSIS&SDG;
- 3 to strengthen, involving, among others, the ITU regional and area offices, coordination and collaboration at the regional level with the UN regional economic commissions and the UN Regional Development Group, as well as all UN agencies (in particular those acting as facilitator for WSIS action lines) and other relevant regional organizations, especially in the field of telecommunications/ICT, with the aim of:
 - i) aligning WSIS and SDG processes and their implementation as requested by UNGA Resolution 70/125;

- ii) implementing ICT for SDG actions through the UN's "Delivering as One" approach;
 - iii) incorporating ICTs in the UN development assistance frameworks;
 - iv) developing partnerships for implementation of inter-agency and multistakeholder projects, advancing the implementation of WSIS action lines and advancing achievement of the SDGs;
 - v) highlighting the importance of advocacy for ICTs in national sustainable development plans;
 - vi) strengthening regional input to the WSIS Forum, WSIS Prizes and WSIS Stocktaking;
- 4 to continue to raise public awareness of the Union's mandate, role and activities and provide broader access to the Union's resources for the general public and other actors involved in the emerging information society;
- 5 to prepare and submit a progress report on the ITU activities for WSIS/SDG implementation to the next plenipotentiary conference in 2022,

instructs the Directors of the Bureaux

- 1 to ensure that concrete objectives and deadlines (using results-based management processes) for WSIS and SDG activities are developed and reflected in the operational plans of each Sector;
- 2 to take into account the impact of ITU's work in telecommunications/ICT related to digital transformation on the growth of the digital economy, in line with the WSIS framework, and provide assistance to the membership upon request,

instructs the Director of the Telecommunication Development Bureau

to follow, as soon as possible and in accordance with Resolution 30 (Rev. Buenos Aires, 2017), a partnership approach in ITU-D activities related to its roles in the implementation and follow-up of the WSIS outcomes and achieving the SDGs, with particular attention to the needs of developing countries, in accordance with the provisions of the ITU Constitution and ITU Convention, and to report annually, as appropriate, to the Council,

requests the ITU Council

- 1 to oversee, consider and discuss, as appropriate, ITU's work on implementation of the WSIS outcomes and achievement of the SDGs and related ITU activities, and, within the financial limits set by the Plenipotentiary Conference, to make resources available as appropriate;
- 2 to oversee ITU's adaptation to the information society, in line with *resolves* 5 above;
- 3 to maintain CWG-WSIS and rename it to CWG-WSIS&SDG, in order to facilitate membership input and guidance on the ITU implementation of relevant WSIS outcomes and its activities to help achieve the SDGs;
- 4 to take into account the UNGA decisions relevant to the WSIS process and achieving the SDGs;
- 5 to prepare and submit to the UNGA High-Level Political Forum 2019 the report on the ITU contribution to implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development in 2015-2019;
- 6 to report annually on relevant ITU activities to the ECOSOC High-Level Political Forum through the mechanisms established by UNGA Resolution 70/1;
- 7 to include the report of the Secretary-General in the documents sent to Member States in accordance with No. 81 of the Convention;

8 to examine, with the involvement of the other facilitators/moderators and stakeholders, possible approaches to financing and maintaining a WSIS Forum website, available, wholly or in part, in at least the six official languages of the United Nations (ensuring equal functionality), to invite the secretariat to report to the Council annually on the progress made in this examination and to present a final report to the next plenipotentiary conference;

9 to review and improve, through the CWG-WSIS&SDG:

- i) the ITU activities related to implementation of the WSIS outcomes and achievement of the SDGs;
- ii) the WSIS Prizes rules and guidelines to facilitate the participation of all stakeholders, using the six official languages of the Union, to make them more effective and simpler and serve the interest of all stakeholders;
- iii) promotion of the winners of WSIS Prizes throughout the UN activities related to WSIS and SDGs,

invites Member States, Sector Members, Associates and Academia

1 to participate actively in implementing the WSIS outcomes and achieving the SDGs, contribute to the WSIS Forum and WSIS Stocktaking database maintained by ITU and the WSIS Prizes, and participate actively in the activities of CWG-WSIS&SDG and in ITU's further adaptation in order to build an inclusive information society and achieve the SDGs;

2 to participate actively in ITU WSIS implementation activities to support achieving the SDGs, including those related to digital transformation, which fosters sustainable growth of the digital economy;

3 to support, through relevant United Nations processes, the synergies and institutional linkages between WSIS and the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, taking into account the WSIS-SDG Matrix, so as to continue strengthening the impact of ICT for sustainable development and its contribution towards development of the digital economy;

- 4 to make voluntary contributions to the special trust fund set up by ITU to support activities relating to the implementation of WSIS outcomes;
- 5 to continue to contribute information on their activities to the public WSIS Stocktaking database maintained by ITU;
- 6 to contribute to and closely collaborate with the Partnership on Measuring ICT for Development as an international, multistakeholder initiative to improve the availability and quality of ICT data and indicators, particularly in developing countries,

expresses

its warmest thanks and deepest gratitude to the Governments of Switzerland and Tunisia for having hosted the two phases of the Summit in close collaboration with ITU, UNESCO, UNCTAD and other relevant United Nations agencies.

RESOLUTION 146 (REV. DUBAI, 2018)

**Periodic review and revision of the International
Telecommunication Regulations**

The Plenipotentiary Conference of the International Telecommunication Union
(Dubai, 2018),

recalling

- a) Article 25 of the ITU Constitution, on world conferences on international telecommunications (WCIT);
- b) No. 48 in Article 3 of the ITU Convention, on other conferences and assemblies;
- c) that *recognizing e)* of Resolution 4 (Dubai, 2012) of WCIT, on periodic review of the International Telecommunication Regulations (ITRs) states that "the International Telecommunication Regulations consist of high-level guiding principles that should not require frequent amendment, but in the fast moving sector of telecommunications/ICTs may need to be periodically reviewed";
- d) the final report of the Expert Group on the ITRs (EG-ITR),

resolves

- 1 that the ITRs should normally be reviewed periodically;
- 2 to conduct a comprehensive review of the ITRs with a view to achieving consensus on the way forward in respect of the ITRs,

instructs the Secretary-General

- 1 to reconvene an EG-ITR, open to the ITU Member States and Sector Members, with terms of reference and working methods established by the ITU Council, to review those regulations;
- 2 to submit the report of EG-ITR on the outcome of the review to the Council for consideration, publication and subsequent submission to the 2022 plenipotentiary conference,

instructs the ITU Council

- 1 to review and revise, at its 2019 session, the terms of reference for EG-ITR referred to in *instructs the Secretary-General* 1 above;
- 2 to examine the reports of EG-ITR at its annual sessions and submit the final report of EG-ITR to the 2022 plenipotentiary conference with the Council's comments,

instructs the Directors of the Bureaux

- 1 each within their field of competence, with advice from the relevant advisory group, to contribute to the activities of EG-ITR, recognizing that the ITU Telecommunication Standardization Sector has most of the work relevant to the ITRs;
- 2 to submit the results of their work to EG-ITR;
- 3 to consider providing fellowships, where resources are available, for developing¹ and least developed countries according to the list established by the United Nations, in order to widen their participation in the expert group,

invites Member States and Sector Members

to participate and contribute to the activities of EG-ITR,

invites the 2022 plenipotentiary conference

to consider the EG-ITR report and take necessary action, as appropriate.

¹ These include the least developed countries, small island developing states, landlocked developing countries and countries with economies in transition.

RESOLUTION 150 (REV. DUBAI, 2018)

Approval of the accounts of the Union for the years 2014-2017

The Plenipotentiary Conference of the International Telecommunication Union (Dubai, 2018),

considering

a) No. 53 of the ITU Constitution;

b) the report of the ITU Council to this conference in Document PP-18/46, relating to the financial management of the Union during the years 2014-2017, and the report of the Administration and Management Committee of this conference (Document PP-18/100),

resolves

to give its final approval of the accounts of the Union for the years 2014-2017.

RESOLUTION 151 (REV. DUBAI, 2018)

Improvement of results-based management in ITU

The Plenipotentiary Conference of the International Telecommunication Union (Dubai, 2018),

considering

a) Decision 5 (Rev. Dubai, 2018) of this conference, which indicates the resource limitations for the period 2020-2023 and specifies goals and objectives in regard to improving the efficiency of ITU activities;

b) Resolution 48 (Rev. Dubai, 2018) of this conference, which resolves that human resources management and development in ITU should continue to be compatible with the goals and activities of the Union and the United Nations common system;

c) Resolution 71 (Rev. Dubai, 2018) of this conference, which sets out strategic goals and objectives of the Union and Sectors in a results-based management (RBM) framework;

d) Resolution 72 (Rev. Busan, 2014) of the Plenipotentiary Conference, which noted the need to link strategic, financial and operational planning through relationships between the corresponding documents and the information they contain;

e) Resolution 151 (Rev. Busan, 2014) of the Plenipotentiary Conference, which further instructed the Secretary-General to continue to improve methodologies associated with the full implementation of RBM, including the presentation of biennial budgets based on the concept of results-based budgeting (RBB),

noting

a) that ITU must, using accumulated experience, identify the most efficient management methods in the new and constantly changing conditions in society;

b) that RBM includes the development of indicators to monitor and assess progress and achievement of expected results as well as to increase transparency and accountability of the Union as a whole,

recognizing

a) that continued implementation of RBB and RBM at ITU entails further culture change and staff involvement at all levels to integrate the concepts and terms of RBM into programme planning, management and reporting;

b) that RBM requires a comprehensive strategy aimed at changing the way United Nations system agencies operate, with improving performance (achieving specific results) as the central orientation;

c) that improvements in the RBM system require a constant process of planning, programming, RBB, contract management, monitoring and evaluation; delegation of authority and accountability; and staff performance;

d) that linkage of the strategic, financial and operational plans of the Union is an integral part of RBM and that effective monitoring mechanisms are needed to ensure that the ITU Council can monitor progress in this area,

recognizing further

the need to implement the United Nations Joint Inspection Unit (JIU) recommendations contained in Document JIU/REP/2016/1: Review of management and administration in ITU taking into account the value of RBM in the United Nations system,

emphasizing

that the purpose of RBM and RBB is to ensure that high-priority activities are adequately resourced in order to efficiently achieve planned results,

resolves to instruct the Secretary-General and the Directors of the three Bureaux

- 1 to continue to improve processes and methodologies associated with the full implementation of RBM and RBB at the levels of processing and implementation, including improvements in the presentation of the biennial budgets on an ongoing basis;
- 2 to continue to develop a comprehensive ITU results framework to support implementation of the strategic, financial and operational plans and budget and increase the capability of the Union's membership to assess progress in the achievement of ITU goals, and for this purpose to:
 - i) set out the activities of the Union, the objectives of those activities and the associated resources and results;
 - ii) monitor implementation of the interlinked plans using a comprehensive performance monitoring framework to enable ITU to evaluate progress;
 - iii) continually improve the efficiency of all activities by eliminating duplication, taking into account complementarity between the activities of ITU and those of other relevant international and regional telecommunication organizations in accordance with the mandate of ITU;
 - iv) ensure transparency of reporting by publishing detailed information, including all costs incurred in the use or deployment of financial and human resources (external or internal);
 - v) further develop the risk-management system at the ITU level, in the context of RBM, to ensure that contributions from the ITU membership and other financial resources are used to best advantage;
- 3 to prepare their coordinated and consolidated operational plans reflecting their linkages with the strategic and financial plans of the Union as set out, respectively, in Resolution 71 (Rev. Dubai, 2018) and Decision 5 (Rev. Dubai, 2018), for annual review by the Sector advisory groups and approval by the Council;

4 to provide to conferences and assemblies the necessary information from the full range of new financial and planning mechanisms available so as to enable them to estimate the financial implications of their decisions, and to assist Member States in preparing cost "estimates" for any proposals to all conferences and assemblies of the Union, taking into account the provisions of Article 34 of the ITU Convention;

5 to make steady progress in increasing the capacity, skill level and participation of ITU staff in RBM in accordance with Resolution 48 (Rev. Dubai, 2018), and reflect the relevant results in the report on staff issues;

6 to make appropriate proposals relating to RBM and RBB for consideration by the Council, with a view to introducing changes in the Financial Regulations and Financial Rules of the Union, taking into account the views of Member States and the recommendations of the Sector advisory groups, as well as of the internal and external auditors and the Independent Management Advisory Committee (IMAC);

7 to ensure, as part of the Coordination Committee's standing activities, coherence and avoidance of duplication among the operational plans and biennial budgets, for review by the Council, while identifying particular measures and elements to be included;

8 to monitor on a yearly basis implementation of resolutions of the Plenipotentiary Conference following the 2018 plenipotentiary conference and to prepare an annual report to the Council, within the framework of the annual report on implementation of the strategic plan and activities of the Union (ITU Annual Progress Report),

instructs the Secretary-General

to report annually to the Council on the implementation of this resolution,

instructs the ITU Council

- 1 to continue to take appropriate action to ensure further development and appropriate implementation of RBM and RBB at ITU;
- 2 to monitor the implementation of this resolution at each subsequent session of the Council and to report to the next plenipotentiary conference,

encourages Member States

to liaise with the secretariat at an early stage in developing proposals that have financial implications so that the work plan and associated resource requirements can be identified and, to the greatest extent practicable, included in such proposals.

RESOLUTION 154 (REV. DUBAI, 2018)

Use of the six official languages of the Union on an equal footing

The Plenipotentiary Conference of the International Telecommunication Union (Dubai, 2018),

recalling

- a) United Nations General Assembly Resolution 67/292, on multilingualism;
- b) Resolution 66 (Rev. Dubai, 2018) of this conference;
- c) Resolution 165 (Rev. Dubai, 2018) of this conference;
- d) Resolution 168 (Rev. Guadalajara, 2010) of the Plenipotentiary Conference;
- e) Decision 5 (Rev. Dubai, 2018) of this conference;
- f) Decision 11 (Rev. Dubai, 2018) of this conference,

reaffirming

the fundamental principle of equal treatment of the six official languages, as enshrined in Resolution 154 (Rev. Busan, 2014) of the Plenipotentiary Conference, on the use of the six languages on an equal footing,

noting with satisfaction and appreciation

- a) the progress made in the implementation of Resolution 154 (Rev. Busan, 2014) in regard to alignment of working methods and optimization of staffing levels in the six languages, linguistic unification of databases for definitions and terminology and centralizing editing functions;
- b) ITU's active participation in the International Annual Meeting on Language Arrangements, Documentation and Publications (IAMLADP);
- c) the development of the ITU database for telecommunication/information and communication technology (ICT) terminology and definitions in Arabic, Russian and Chinese;

d) the work accomplished by the joint ITU Coordination Committee for Terminology (CCT), the Coordination Committee for Vocabulary (CCV) of the ITU Radiocommunication Sector, and the Standardization Committee for Vocabulary (SCV) of the ITU Telecommunication Standardization Sector on the adoption and agreement of terms and definitions in the field of telecommunications/ICTs in all six official languages of the Union,

noting further

a) Resolution 1372, adopted by the ITU Council at its 2016 session, on the Council Working Group on Languages (CWG-LANG);

b) Resolution 1386, adopted by the Council at its 2017 session, on CCT;

c) the relevant resolutions of the ITU Sectors on languages,

recognizing

a) that translation and interpretation are essential elements of the work of the Union that enable a common understanding among the entire ITU membership on the important issues under discussion;

b) the importance of maintaining and improving the multilingual content of services required by the universal character of United Nations system organizations, as called for in the United Nations Joint Inspection Unit report on Multilingualism in the United Nations System (Document JIU/REP/2002/11);

c) the work accomplished by CWG-LANG, as well as the work by the secretariat to implement the working group's recommendations as agreed by the Council, in particular with regard to the unification of linguistic databases for definitions and terminology and the centralization of editing functions, the integration of the terminology database for Arabic, Chinese and Russian as well as harmonizing and unifying working procedures in the six language services,

recognizing further

a) the budget constraints facing the Union, and the importance of ensuring that ITU's work on the use of the languages of the Union on an equal footing is considered in conjunction with the budget so as to achieve an efficient allocation of expenses;

b) that Decision 5 (Rev. Dubai, 2018) stipulates in *decides* 1.2 that expenses on interpretation, translation and text processing in respect of the official languages of the Union shall not exceed CHF 85 million for the years 2020-2023,

resolves

to continue to take all necessary measures to ensure use of the six official languages of the Union on an equal footing and to provide interpretation and the translation of ITU documentation, although some work in ITU (for example working parties, regional conferences) might not require the use of all six languages,

instructs the Secretary-General, in close collaboration with the Directors of the Bureaux

- 1 to present annually to the Council and to CWG-LANG a report containing:
 - evolution of the budget for translation of documents to the six official languages of the Union since 2014, taking into consideration variations in the volumes of translation services provided in each year;
 - procedures adopted by other international organizations inside and outside the United Nations system and benchmark studies on their costs of translation;
 - initiatives undertaken by the General Secretariat and the three Bureaux to increase efficiencies and cost savings in the implementation of this resolution and comparison with the evolution of the budget since 2010;
 - alternative translation procedures feasible to be adopted by ITU, in particular the use of innovative technologies, and their advantages and disadvantages;
 - progress made on the implementation of measures and principles for translation and interpretation adopted by the Council;
- 2 to immediately publish all contributions submitted to the ITU secretariat for any ITU event in their original language on the respective event website even before their translation into the other official languages of the Union;

- 3 to continue work on harmonization of the ITU Sectors' websites to ensure clarity, ease of navigation and an image of One ITU;
- 4 to provide timely updates of the pages of the ITU website in all six languages of the Union,

instructs the ITU Council

- 1 to continue to analyse the adoption by ITU of alternative translation procedures, taking into account their financial implications and leveraging the benefits of innovative technologies in order to reduce translation and typing expenses in the budget of the Union, while maintaining or improving the current quality of translation and the correct use of technical telecommunication terminology;
- 2 to continue to analyse, including through the use of appropriate indicators, application of the updated measures and principles for interpretation and translation adopted by the Council at its 2014 session, taking into consideration the financial constraints, and bearing in mind the ultimate objective of full implementation of treatment of the six official languages on an equal footing;
- 3 to pursue and monitor appropriate operational measures, such as:
 - to continue review of ITU documentation and publication services with a view to eliminating any duplication and to creating synergies;
 - to facilitate the timely and simultaneous delivery of high-quality and efficient language services (interpretation, documentation, publications and public-information materials) in the six languages, in support of the Union's strategic goals;
 - to support optimum levels of staffing, including core staff, temporary assistance and outsourcing, while ensuring the required high quality of interpretation and translation;

- to continue implementation of judicious and efficient use of ICTs in language and publications activities, taking into consideration experience gained by other international organizations and best practices;
 - to continue to explore and implement all possible measures to reduce the size and volume of documents (page-limits, executive summaries, material in annexes or hyperlinks), and achieve greener meetings, when justified, without affecting the quality and content of the documents to be translated or to be published, and bearing clearly in mind the need to comply with the United Nations system objective of multilingualism;
 - as a matter of priority, to take, to the extent practicable, all necessary measures for equitable use of the six languages on the ITU website in terms of multilingual content and user-friendliness;
- 4 to monitor the work carried out by the ITU secretariat in regard to:
- merging all existing databases for definitions and terminology into a centralized system, with proper measures for its maintenance, expansion and updating;
 - completion and maintenance of the ITU database for telecommunication/ICT terminology and definitions for all languages;
 - providing the six language service units with the necessary qualified staff and tools to meet their requirements in each language;
 - enhancing ITU's image and the effectiveness of its public-information work, making use of all six languages of the Union, in, among other things, publishing ITU News, creating ITU websites, organizing Internet broadcasting and archiving of recordings, and issuing documents of a public-information nature, including announcements of ITU Telecom events, e-flashes and such like;

- 5 to maintain CWG-LANG, in order to monitor progress and report to the Council on the implementation of this resolution, working in close collaboration with CCT and the Council Working Group on financial and human resources;
- 6 to review, in collaboration with the Sector advisory groups, the types of material to be included in output documents and translated;
- 7 to continue to consider measures to reduce, without sacrificing quality, the cost and volume of documentation as a standing item, in particular for conferences and assemblies;
- 8 to report to the next plenipotentiary conference on the implementation of this resolution,

invites Member States and Sector Members

- 1 to ensure that the different language versions of documents and publications are utilized, downloaded and purchased by the corresponding language communities, for the sake of maximizing their benefit and cost-effectiveness;
- 2 to submit their contributions and inputs sufficiently early before the beginning of conferences, assemblies and meetings of the Union, respecting deadlines for the submission of contributions that require translation, and to contain their size and volume to the greatest extent.

RESOLUTION 157 (REV. DUBAI, 2018)

Strengthening of the project execution and project monitoring functions in ITU

The Plenipotentiary Conference of the International Telecommunication Union (Dubai, 2018),

recalling

a) No. 118 of the ITU Constitution outlining 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/information and communication technology (ICT) development by offering, organizing and coordinating technical cooperation and assistance activities;

b) Resolution 135 (Rev. Dubai, 2018) of this conference, on participation of the Union in the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), in other programmes of the United Nations system and in other funding arrangements, which instructed the ITU Council to take all necessary measures to ensure maximum efficiency of the Union's participation in UNDP and other funding arrangements;

c) Resolution 52 (Rev. Dubai, 2014) of the World Telecommunication Development Conference (WTDC), on strengthening the executing agency role of the ITU Telecommunication Development Sector (ITU-D), which emphasized the importance of establishing partnerships between the public and private sectors as an efficient means of implementing sustainable ITU projects, and of utilizing locally available expertise in executing ITU projects on a regional or country-wide basis;

d) Resolution 17 (Rev. Buenos Aires, 2017) of WTDC, on implementation of and cooperation on regionally approved regional initiatives at the national, regional, interregional and global levels;

e) Annex 2 to Decision 5 (Rev. Dubai, 2018) of this conference, on measures for reducing expenses, which highlights the importance of coordination with regional organizations with a view to sharing the available resources and minimizing the costs of participation,

recognizing

a) that, in order to fulfil its role as executing agency for development projects, ITU requires the funding needed for their implementation;

b) that there continues to be a lack of funding from UNDP and other international financial institutions for project implementation;

c) that greater interaction with Member States, Sector Members, financial institutions and regional and international organizations needs to be promoted in order to find other ways to fund the implementation of these projects;

d) the importance of promoting public-private partnerships, among others, to ensure affordable, equitable and universal access to telecommunications/ICTs,

noting

a) that the sustainability of the role of ITU-D in the implementation of technical cooperation projects with developing countries¹ and the establishment of business/client relationships is dependent on the creation and maintenance of a level of expertise within the secretariat to permit the Telecommunication Development Bureau (BDT) to manage projects effectively and in a timely and efficient manner; to this effect, the enhancement of training capabilities in the Union, as foreseen in Resolution 48 (Rev. Dubai, 2018) of this conference, should contribute toward the sustainability of the requisite expertise to enhance the project execution function;

¹ These include the least developed countries, small island developing states, landlocked developing countries and countries with economies in transition.

- b) that the strengthening of project execution and management expertise in BDT will also require the improvement of skills in the area of resource mobilization and financing;
- c) the Union's implementation of results-based budgeting (RBB) and results-based management (RBM) to ensure that activities being carried out have adequate resources available to achieve planned results;
- d) that the effectiveness of the ITU's project execution role would be enhanced through closer collaboration and coordination with expert organizations at the regional and international levels,

resolves to instruct the Secretary-General, in close collaboration with the Director of the Telecommunication Development Bureau

- 1 to implement a strategy aimed at strengthening the project execution function, taking into account the experience of and lessons learned by ITU-D, identifying suitable methods of implementation, possible means of funding and strategic partners for the implementation of regional initiatives;
- 2 to continue reviewing best practices within the United Nations system and within organizations external to the United Nations in the area of technical cooperation, with a view to promoting such practices when offering, organizing and coordinating technical cooperation and assistance activities, consistent with No. 118 of the Constitution;
- 3 to ensure that priorities and ways of financing are agreed, prior to the implementation and execution of initiatives, fostering a participatory and inclusive process with Member States and regional organizations;
- 4 to ensure that the requisite expertise in the areas of project management and execution as well as resource mobilization and financing is identified;
- 5 to encourage projects from all sources, taking into account achievement of the ITU strategic plan as adopted by Resolution 71 (Rev. Dubai, 2018) of this conference, fostering the participation of the public, regional organizations, the private sector and academia;

- 6 to focus on the implementation of larger-scale projects, while carefully considering delivery of smaller-scale projects;
- 7 to ensure that a minimum support cost of 7 per cent, associated with the execution of projects under UNDP or other funding arrangements, is set as the target to be recovered, while allowing some degree of flexibility for negotiation during the funding discussion;
- 8 to continue to examine the percentage of support-cost resources in respect of such projects, with the aim of increasing them in order to exploit them to improve the implementation function;
- 9 to recruit qualified staff internally and/or externally, if necessary, within the financial limits set by plenipotentiary conferences, or under support-cost resources in respect of such projects, in order to strengthen, and ensure continuity as well as sustainability in, the execution of the Union's responsibility for organizing and coordinating technical cooperation and assistance activities;
- 10 to promote close collaboration with the Directors of the Radiocommunication and Telecommunication Standardization Bureaux for the implementation of regional initiatives;
- 11 to prepare a detailed annual report to the Council on progress achieved in fulfilling the functions specified in No. 118 of the Constitution and in implementing this resolution, including recommendations on how to improve programme/project execution in ITU;
- 12 to inform the Council on a regular basis about ongoing ITU programmes and projects, including details on objectives, outputs, funding and donors;
- 13 to enhance the existing ITU-D projects online database to include all ITU Sectors and the General Secretariat, so as to enable improved monitoring throughout project cycles, especially in regard to objectives achieved and cost analysis, and to grant open access to the database for all stakeholders;

14 to examine how information on programmes could also be shared with the membership in order to increase the transparency and financial sustainability of the Union;

15 to clearly indicate ITU programme/project costs in all relevant budget-related reports,

further resolves

to strengthen the project execution function, consistent with No. 118 of the Constitution, when providing technical cooperation assistance and when executing projects by:

- i) collaborating and partnering with relevant expert organizations at the regional and international levels, particularly in those areas where ITU would benefit from specialized expertise;
- ii) utilizing local and regional experts when offering and coordinating technical cooperation and assistance activities in order to maximize resources and ensure continuity beyond the duration of the project;
- iii) making available to the ITU membership any relevant materials from a technical cooperation or assistance activity so that they may be utilized for future efforts,

instructs the ITU Council

to foster a participatory and inclusive process with the Member States and regional organizations in order to ensure that priorities and possible forms of funding are agreed upon prior to implementation and execution of initiatives.

RESOLUTION 160 (REV. DUBAI, 2018)

Assistance to Somalia

The Plenipotentiary Conference of the International Telecommunication Union (Dubai, 2018)

recalling

Resolution 34 (Rev. Dubai, 2018) of this conference,

recalling further

- a) the purposes of the Union as enshrined in Article 1 of the ITU Constitution;
- b) Resolution 57 (Rev. Hyderabad, 2010) of the World Telecommunication Development Conference, on assistance to Somalia,

recognizing

- a) that no budget was allocated by the Plenipotentiary Conference to accompany Resolution 34 (Rev. Minneapolis, 1998) of the Plenipotentiary Conference for the benefit of countries in special need;
- b) that telecommunication infrastructure in Somalia has been completely destroyed by two and a half decades of war and that the regulatory framework in the country needs to be re-established;
- c) that Somalia at present has inadequate formal national telecommunication infrastructure, and limited access to international telecommunication networks and the Internet;
- d) that a telecommunication system is an essential input for reconstruction, rehabilitation and relief operations in the country;
- e) that, under the present conditions and in the foreseeable future, Somalia will need assistance from the international community, provided bilaterally or through international organizations, to re-establish its telecommunication regulatory framework and national infrastructure,

noting

that Somalia has not benefited fully from the Union's assistance over a long period due to prolonged war in the country,

resolves

that special action be initiated by the Secretary-General and the Director of the Telecommunication Development Bureau, with specialized assistance from the ITU Radiocommunication Sector and the ITU Telecommunication Standardization Sector, resulting in the launch of a special initiative with allocated funds, aimed at providing assistance and support to Somalia for rebuilding and modernizing its telecommunication infrastructure, re-establishing a well-equipped ministry of telecommunications and establishing institutions, developing telecommunication/information and communication technology policy, legislation and regulation, including a numbering plan, spectrum management, tariff and human resource capacity building, and all other necessary forms of assistance,

calls upon Member States

to offer all possible assistance and support to the Government of Somalia, either bilaterally or through the special action of the Union referred to above,

invites the Plenipotentiary Conference

to allocate the necessary funds within available resources for the implementation of this resolution,

instructs the Director of the Telecommunication Development Bureau

to implement fully a programme of assistance for the least developed countries, in which reconstruction and rehabilitation of telecommunication infrastructure is an integral part of the programme, in order that Somalia can receive focused assistance in various areas determined to be of high priority by the country,

instructs the Secretary-General

to coordinate the activities carried out by the three ITU Sectors in accordance with *resolves* above, to ensure that the Union's action in favour of Somalia is as effective as possible, and to report annually on the matter to the ITU Council.

RESOLUTION 165 (REV. DUBAI, 2018)

Deadlines for the submission of proposals and procedures for the registration of participants for conferences and assemblies of the Union

The Plenipotentiary Conference of the International Telecommunication Union (Dubai, 2018),

recognizing

- a) No. 224 of the ITU Constitution, which indicates that any Member State may propose any amendment to the Constitution, provided that such a proposal reaches the Secretary-General not later than eight months prior to the opening date fixed for the plenipotentiary conference;
- b) No. 519 of the ITU Convention, which specifies the requirement for the submission of amendments to the Convention not later than eight months prior to the opening date fixed for the plenipotentiary conference;
- c) Resolution 114 (Marrakesh, 2002) of the Plenipotentiary Conference, on interpretation of No. 224 of the Constitution and No. 519 of the Convention,

recognizing also

- a) Section 8 of the General Rules of conferences, assemblies and meetings of the Union, on time-limits and conditions for submission of proposals and reports to conferences;
- b) Section 17 of the General Rules, on proposals or amendments presented during the conference,

noting

- a) that late submissions not only overburden the ITU secretariat in processing such contributions, but also disadvantage delegations, particularly small delegations, in reading them and preparing positions in a timely and useable manner;
- b) that late contributions also disrupt the efficient functioning of ITU conferences and assemblies as well as their committees and working groups;

c) that there is a need to establish a reasonable deadline for the submission of documentation to the above-mentioned meetings of the Union in the future,

resolves

1 to establish a firm submission deadline for all contributions, with the exception of the deadlines outlined in *recognizing a)* and *b)* above, of no later than 21 calendar days before the opening of conferences and assemblies of the Union, including plenipotentiary conferences, so as to ensure timely translation and their thorough consideration by delegations;

2 to establish a firm submission deadline for ITU secretariat documents of no later than 35 calendar days before the opening of conferences and assemblies of the Union, including plenipotentiary conferences, so as to ensure timely translation and their thorough consideration by delegations,

instructs the Secretary-General, in consultation with the Directors of the Bureaux

1 to prepare a report to the ITU Council on an ongoing basis on the above-mentioned matters, including relevant financial implications;

2 to explore, together with the Sector advisory groups, as appropriate, the issue of harmonizing the procedures governing registration for conferences, assemblies and meetings of the Union.

RESOLUTION 167 (REV. DUBAI, 2018)

Strengthening and developing ITU capabilities for electronic meetings and means to advance the work of the Union

The Plenipotentiary Conference of the International Telecommunication Union (Dubai, 2018),

considering

- a) Objective 4 of the ITU Telecommunication Development Sector (ITU-D) in the ITU strategic plan for 2020-2023, on an inclusive information society, seeking to foster the development and use of telecommunications/information and communication technologies (ICTs) and applications to empower people and societies for sustainable development;
- b) the rapid technological change in the field of telecommunications and the associated policy, regulatory and infrastructure adaptations required at the national, regional and global levels;
- c) the consequent need for the widest possible engagement of the ITU membership from around the world to address these matters in the work of the Union;
- d) that developments in technologies and facilities for the holding of electronic, i.e. paperless, meetings and the further development of electronic working methods (EWM) will enable more open, faster and easier collaboration between participants in the activities of ITU, which may be paperless;
- e) that some activities and procedures associated with certain ITU meetings still require direct face-to-face participation by the Union's membership,

recalling

- a) Resolution 66 (Rev. Dubai, 2018) of this conference, on documents and publications of the Union, regarding the electronic availability of documents;
- b) Resolution 58 (Rev. Busan, 2014) of the Plenipotentiary Conference, on strengthening of relations between ITU and regional telecommunication organizations and regional preparations for the Plenipotentiary Conference, which resolves that the Union, in strengthening its relations with the regional telecommunication organizations and by means of ITU regional preparations for plenipotentiary conferences, radiocommunication conferences and assemblies, world telecommunication development conferences (WTDC) and world telecommunication standardization assemblies (WTSA) shall, with the assistance of its regional offices when necessary, cover all Member States without exception, even if they do not belong to any of the six regional telecommunication organizations;
- c) Resolution 175 (Rev. Dubai, 2018) of this conference, on telecommunication/ICT accessibility for persons with disabilities, including age-related disabilities, which resolves to take account of persons with disabilities and persons with specific needs;
- d) Resolution 32 (Rev. Hammamet, 2016) of WTSA, on strengthening electronic working methods in the work of the ITU Telecommunication Standardization Sector (ITU-T) and the implementation of EWM capabilities and associated arrangements in the work of ITU-T;
- e) Resolution 73 (Rev. Hammamet, 2016) of WTSA, on ICTs and climate change and, in particular, *recognizing g)* thereof concerning energy-efficient working methods;

f) Resolution 5 (Rev. Buenos Aires, 2017) of WTDC, on enhancing participation by developing countries¹ in the activities of the Union and, in particular, *further instructs the Director of the Telecommunication Development Bureau* thereof, on continuing to promote remote participation and meetings and EWM so as to encourage and facilitate participation in the work of ITU-D;

g) Resolution 66 (Rev. Buenos Aires, 2017) of WTDC, on ICT and climate change and, in particular, *instructs the Telecommunication Development Advisory Group* thereof, on considering possible changes in working methods, such as extending the use of electronic means, virtual conferencing, teleworking, etc. to meet the objectives of the EWM initiatives;

h) Resolution 81 (Buenos Aires, 2017) of WTDC, on further development of EWM for the work of ITU-D, which identifies the role of the Telecommunication Development Bureau in providing support to EWM and the benefits to the ITU membership;

i) Resolution ITU-R 7-3 (Rev. Geneva, 2015) of the Radiocommunication Assembly, on the development of telecommunications, including coordination and collaboration with ITU-D,

recognizing

a) that electronic participation has been producing significant benefits for the Union's membership, by reducing travel costs, and has facilitated wider participation in both the work of the Union and in meetings that require attendance;

¹ These include the least developed countries, small island developing states, landlocked developing countries and countries with economies in transition.

- b) that numerous ITU meetings are already available as audio and video webcasts and that use of videoconferencing, audio conference calls, real-time captioning and web-based collaboration tools for electronic participation in certain types of meetings have been advanced in meetings of the Sectors and the General Secretariat;
- c) the budgetary difficulty that delegates from many countries, and in particular developing countries, have in travelling to participate in face-to-face ITU meetings;
- d) that the current status of interactive remote participation (IRP) allows "remote intervention" rather than "remote participation", insofar as a remote participant cannot take part in decision-making;
- e) that the regional offices are an extension of ITU as a whole and, therefore, EWM will serve to build up the effectiveness of the Union's activities, including project implementation;
- f) that the expected role of the regional offices is essential in order to fully comply with the basic mandates of the Union and, to this end, it is necessary that these offices be able to rely on affordable means of communication (videoconferencing), such as those that can be accessed over the web, to hold electronic meetings with the Member States,

recognizing further

- a) the annual reports by the Secretary-General to the ITU Council on the implementation of this resolution;
- b) the report from the 2018 session of the Council to this conference;
- c) the financial, legal, procedural and technical difficulties of providing remote participation to all, particularly with respect to:
- the difference in time zones among regions and in relation to Geneva, and particularly with the Americas and Asia-Pacific regions;
 - the costs of infrastructure, broadband, equipment, applications, meeting-room renovations and staff, especially in developing countries;

- the rights and legal status of remote participants and chairmen;
- the limitation in terms of formal procedures available to remote participants in comparison with physically present participants;
- the telecommunication infrastructure limitations in some countries due to unstable or inadequate connections;
- increased accessibility for people with disabilities and specific needs,

noting

- a) that the existence of electronic meetings, with well-documented rules and procedures, will help ITU in widening the involvement of potential stakeholders, both member and non-member experts, particularly from developing countries, who are unable to participate in face-to-face meetings;
- b) that EWM has made important contributions to the work of Sector groups, such as rapporteur groups, and of Council working groups, and that work, such as the development of texts, has been progressed in various parts of the Union through electronic communications;
- c) that different modes of participation are suitable for different types of meetings;
- d) that managing electronic meetings from the regional offices can facilitate regional coordination, in order to promote greater participation by Member States in the work of the study groups of the three Sectors;
- e) that there needs to be a coordinated and harmonized approach to the technology used,

emphasizing

- a) that there is a need for procedures to ensure fair and equitable participation by all;
- b) that electronic meetings can contribute to bridging the digital divide;

c) that the implementation of electronic meetings is beneficial to ITU's role in leading coordination on ICTs and climate change, and on accessibility,

resolves

- 1 that ITU should continue to develop its facilities and capabilities for remote participation by electronic means in appropriate meetings of the Union, including working groups created by the Council;
- 2 that ITU should continue to develop its EWM in relation to the elaboration, distribution and approval of documents and the promotion of paperless meetings;
- 3 that the Union continue to develop EWM, within budget availability, for the participation of persons with disabilities and persons with specific needs, which may include, *inter alia*, captioning for the hearing-impaired, audioconferencing for the visually impaired, and webconferencing for persons with restricted mobility, as well as solutions and facilities to address other similar challenges;
- 4 that the Union further study the impact of remote participation on existing rules of procedure;
- 5 that ITU should provide facilities and capabilities for EWM at ITU meetings, workshops and training courses, particularly to assist developing countries that have bandwidth limitations and other constraints;
- 6 to encourage e-participation of developing countries in meetings, workshops and training by providing simplified facilities and guidelines, and by waiving, within the appropriations that the Council is empowered to authorize, any expenses for those participants, other than the local call or Internet connectivity charges,

instructs the Secretary-General, in consultation and collaboration with the Directors of the three Bureaux

- 1 to take action regarding the EWM measures in Annex 1 to this resolution, addressing the legal, technical, security and financial implications of increasing the EWM capability of ITU;

- 2 to build upon trials for electronic meetings, in collaboration with the Directors of the Bureaux, such that their subsequent implementation is technology neutral, to the greatest extent possible, and cost effective, in order to allow as broad participation as possible, satisfying the necessary security requirements;
- 3 to identify and review the costs and benefits of the action items on a regular basis;
- 4 to involve the advisory groups in the evaluation of the use of electronic meetings and to develop further procedures and rules associated with electronic meetings, including the legal aspects;
- 5 to report to the Council on an ongoing basis on the developments made with regard to electronic meetings, in order to assess progress in their use within ITU;
- 6 to report to the Council on the feasibility of extending the use of languages in electronic meetings,

instructs the Secretary-General

to share information about developments and progress made with regard to electronic meetings with the United Nations and other specialized agencies, for their consideration,

instructs the Directors of the Bureaux

to continue taking action, in consultation with the Sector advisory groups, in order to provide appropriate electronic participation or observation facilities in Sector meetings for delegates unable to attend face-to-face meetings,

instructs the Director of the Telecommunication Development Bureau

to take all necessary measures to implement, in the shortest possible time-frame and according to budgetary availability, a suitable technological platform that makes it possible for all the regional offices to host electronic meetings with their respective ITU Member States,

instructs the ITU Council

to consider the financial requirements to implement this resolution and allocate the necessary financial resources, within the limits of the resources available and consistent with the financial and strategic plans.

ANNEX 1 TO RESOLUTION 167 (REV. DUBAI, 2018)

Action to be taken on EWM measures

- Submit a detailed plan of action to the Council
- Upgrade infrastructure at headquarters and regional offices to support the use of e-participation
- Implement technical solutions to extend ITU interpretation services to e-participants
- Implement technical solutions to implement self-service provisioning and running of e-meetings
- Establish guidelines for e-participation in ITU meetings
- Provide training, as appropriate, to ITU meeting organizers, regional office staff, chairmen, rapporteurs, editors and delegates
- Review current applicable policies and practices
- Review legal issues related to amendments that would be required to legal instruments of the Union
- Implement the collection of statistics across all Sectors so as to track trends in e-participation
- Report annually to the Council on the results of the EWM and remote participation policies, including statistical evaluation of those results, perspectives and forecasts for the coming year, and on procedural, financial, technical and legal matters
- Discuss the improvement of ITU capabilities in terms of EWM and remote participation and propose the necessary amendments to the rules of procedure to the Council and the 2022 plenipotentiary conference.

RESOLUTION 169 (REV. DUBAI, 2018)

Admission of academia¹ to participate in the work of the Union

The Plenipotentiary Conference of the International Telecommunication Union (Dubai, 2018),

recalling

a) Resolution 71 (Rev. Buenos Aires, 2017) of the World Telecommunication Development Conference, on strengthening cooperation between Member States, Sector Members, Associates and Academia of the ITU Telecommunication Development Sector (ITU-D) and the evolving role of the private sector in ITU-D;

b) Outcome T.2-2 in Resolution 71 (Rev. Busan, 2014) of the Plenipotentiary Conference, on the strategic plan for the Union for 2016-2019, which highlights the need to attract new members from industry and academia to participate in the work of the ITU Telecommunication Standardization Sector (ITU-T),

considering

a) that the trial period for the participation of academia in the Union has proven to benefit the work of the Sectors, particularly as academia address the research, study and follow-up of developments in modern technology within ITU's field of competence, while having a perspective and future vision allowing modern technologies and applications to be addressed in a timely manner;

b) that the intellectual and scientific contributions of these bodies far outweigh their financial contributions;

¹ This includes colleges, institutes, universities and their associated research establishments concerned with the development of telecommunications/ICT.

c) that these entities also contribute to disseminating information about the activities of the Union in academic fields related to telecommunications/information and communication technologies (ICTs) around the world;

d) that the Kaleidoscope event, held annually since 2008, is an ITU initiative to strengthen cooperation with academia that has been highly successful, and has addressed many topics, including innovations for digital inclusion, new emerging technologies and building sustainable communities,

recognizing

the outcomes of the ITU Secretary-General's Academia Consultation (Bangkok, 13 November 2016), which provided a platform to have an open discussion with academia and other stakeholders on three topics: a new electronic ITU journal/magazine; an Academia Advisory Board to the Secretary-General; and a platform/consultation mechanism to strengthen cooperation between ITU and academia,

noting

that a comprehensive analysis of the current methodologies for the participation of Sector Members, Associates and Academia has been initiated in ITU pursuant to relevant resolutions of the Plenipotentiary Conference: Resolution 158 (Rev. Guadalajara, 2010), Resolution 158 (Rev. Busan, 2014) and Resolution 187 (Busan, 2014),

resolves

1 to admit academia to participate in the work of the Union, pursuant to the provisions of this resolution, without the need for any amendment to Articles 2 and 3 of the ITU Constitution and Article 19 of the ITU Convention or any other provision of the Convention;

2 to set the level of the financial contribution for participation in the Union at one-sixteenth of the value of the Sector Member contributory unit in the case of organizations from developed countries, and one-thirty second of the value of the Sector Member contributory unit in the case of organizations from developing countries² for defraying Union expenses, and to apply this level of financial contribution to Academia that are already participating in the Union as well as those which join in the future;

3 that payment of the level of financial contribution specified in *resolves* 2 entitles Academia to participate in the work of all three Sectors, including their advisory groups;

4 that Academia also be invited to participate in other global and regional conferences, workshops and activities of the Union, with the exception of plenipotentiary conferences, world radiocommunication conferences, world conferences on international telecommunications and the ITU Council, in conformity with the rules of procedure of the respective Sectors, and taking into account the outcome of the review pursuant to Resolution 187 (Busan, 2014);

5 that Academia should not have a role in decision-making, including the adoption of resolutions or recommendations regardless of the approval procedure;

6 that Academia shall be allowed to participate and make their proposals and interventions remotely, as appropriate, in accordance with the provisions of Resolution 167 (Rev. Busan, 2014) of the Plenipotentiary Conference, on strengthening ITU capabilities for electronic meetings and means to advance the work of the Union;

² These include the least developed countries, small island developing states, landlocked developing countries and countries with economies in transition.

7 that a representative of Academia may serve as rapporteur, vice-rapporteur or associate rapporteur in accordance with the established rules of procedure of the respective Sectors;

8 that acceptance of applications for the participation of academia shall be conditional on the support of the Member States of the Union to which the bodies belong, on the condition that this shall not constitute an alternative for those bodies currently listed with the Union as Sector Members or Associates,

instructs the ITU Council

1 to add any additional conditions, remedial measures or detailed procedures to this resolution, if it deems appropriate;

2 to review the financial contributions and the conditions for admission and participation and report to the next plenipotentiary conference,

instructs the Director of the Telecommunication Standardization Bureau

to continue to organize the Kaleidoscope event annually on a rotational basis, to the greatest extent possible,

instructs the Radiocommunication Assembly, the World Telecommunication Standardization Assembly and the World Telecommunication Development Conference

to mandate their respective Sector advisory groups to continue to study whether there is a need for any additional measures and/or arrangements to facilitate such participation that are not covered by relevant resolutions or recommendations of the above-mentioned assemblies and conference, and adopt such modalities, if they deem it necessary or required, and report the results through the Directors of the Bureaux to the Council,

instructs the Secretary-General and the Directors of the three Bureaux

1 to take necessary and appropriate action in order to implement this resolution;

- 2 to continue their successful efforts to explore and recommend, taking into account the advice of the Council, various mechanisms such as the use of voluntary financial and in-kind contributions from Member States and other stakeholders to encourage increased participation of academia;
- 3 to encourage the participation of academia in various open events and activities organized or co-organized by ITU, such as ITU Telecom World, ITU Kaleidoscope, World Summit on the Information Society forums and other workshops and forums;
- 4 to encourage the participation of academia in the development of technical work in the Union,

invites ITU Member States

to inform their academia of this resolution, and encourage and support them to participate in the Union.

RESOLUTION 175 (REV. DUBAI, 2018)

**Telecommunication/information and communication technology
accessibility for persons with disabilities and persons with specific
needs**

The Plenipotentiary Conference of the International Telecommunication Union (Dubai, 2018),

recalling

a) Article 12 of the International Telecommunication Regulations (ITR), adopted by the World Conference on International Telecommunications (WCIT) (Dubai, 2012), which states that Member States should promote access for persons with disabilities and persons with specific needs to international telecommunication services, taking into account the relevant ITU Telecommunication Standardization Sector (ITU-T) recommendations;

b) the outcome document of the High-Level Meeting on Disability and Development (HLMDD) convened by the United Nations General Assembly (UNGA) at the level of Heads of State and Government on 23 September 2013, under the theme "The ICT Opportunity for a Disability-Inclusive Development Framework", which stresses the need for inclusive development in which persons with disabilities are both agents and beneficiaries;

c) Resolution 70 (Rev. Dubai, 2012) of the World Telecommunication Standardization Assembly, on telecommunication/information and communication technology (ICT) accessibility for persons with disabilities and persons with specific needs, the current regulatory framework, and the studies, initiatives and events on this issue undertaken by ITU-T and its study groups, in particular Study Group 2, Study Group 16 and Study Group 20, in collaboration with the Joint Coordination Activity on Accessibility and Human Factors (JCA-AHF);

d) Goal 10 of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), which emphasizes that people, including persons with disabilities and persons with specific needs, should have equivalent access and use of ICTs;

e) that the Intersector Rapporteur Group on Audiovisual Media Accessibility (IRG-AVA), between the ITU Radiocommunication Sector (ITU-R) and ITU-T, is working on broadcasting and Internet television in order to include audio description for the visually impaired and captioning/subtitles for persons who are deaf or hard of hearing, as well as to include other persons with disabilities and persons with specific needs in accessing remote Internet participation;

f) the Phuket Declaration on Tsunami Preparedness for Persons with Disabilities (Phuket, 2007), which emphasizes the need for inclusive emergency warning and disaster management systems using telecommunication/ICT facilities based on open, non-proprietary, global standards;

g) the ITU Telecommunication Development Sector (ITU-D) special initiative work carried out through studies conducted within the framework of Question 20/1 of ITU-D Study Group 1, commencing in September 2006 and proposing the wording of Resolution 58 (Hyderabad, 2010) of the World Telecommunication Development Conference (WTDC) and, likewise, the ITU-D initiative on the development of an e-accessibility toolkit for persons with disabilities, in collaboration and partnership with the Global Initiative for Inclusive ICTs (G3ict);

h) Resolution ITU-R 67 (Geneva, 2015) of the ITU Radiocommunication Assembly, on telecommunication/ICT accessibility for persons with disabilities and persons with specific needs;

i) Resolution 58 (Rev. Buenos Aires, 2017) of WTDC, on telecommunication/ICT accessibility for persons with disabilities and persons with specific needs;

j) the Buenos Aires Declaration (WTDC-17),

recognizing

a) ongoing work ITU-R, ITU-T and ITU-D on telecommunication/ICT accessibility for persons with disabilities and persons with specific needs, including JCA-AHF;

b) technical papers addressing:

- use cases for assisting persons with disabilities and persons with specific needs using mobile applications;
- guidelines for accessible meetings,
- guidelines for supporting remote participation in meetings for all;
- Telecommunication Accessibility Checklist,

as well as Recommendation ITU-T F.791, on accessibility terms and definitions;

c) that the strategic plan for the Union as approved by this conference includes inter-Sectoral objective I.3: "Enhance access to telecommunications/ICTs for persons with disabilities and persons with specific needs" and related outcomes and outputs;

d) the outcomes of the World Summit on the Information Society (WSIS), calling for special attention to be given to persons with disabilities and persons with specific needs;

e) that, during the UNGA high-level meeting on the overall review of the implementation of the WSIS outcomes, it was recognized that special attention must be paid to solving the specific issues presented by ICTs for persons with disabilities and persons with specific needs;

f) § 13 of the Geneva Declaration of Principles and § 18 of the Tunis Commitment, reaffirming the commitment to providing equitable and affordable access to ICTs, especially for persons with disabilities and persons with specific needs;

g) various regional and national efforts to develop or revise accessibility guidelines and standards for persons with disabilities and persons with specific needs applicable to telecommunications/ICT;

h) ITU's accessibility policy for persons with disabilities and persons with specific needs, adopted by the ITU Council in 2013;

i) that webcasting using accessible webpages and documents, as well as the use of captioning and audio description in audiovisual content, and the use of sign language interpretation, are invaluable tools, which benefit persons with disabilities and persons with specific needs,

considering

a) that the World Health Organization estimates that there are 1 billion persons living with varying degrees of physical, sensory or cognitive disabilities in the world, meaning 15 per cent of the world's population, and 80 per cent of them live in developing countries¹;

b) that ICTs can provide opportunities and benefits for women and girls with disabilities to overcome exclusion on the basis of their gender and disability;

c) that Article 9 of the United Nations Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities, on accessibility, which entered into force on 3 May 2008, requires States Parties to take appropriate measures, including:

- i) 9 (2g) "To promote access for persons with disabilities to new information and communications technologies and systems, including the Internet";
- ii) 9 (2h) "To promote the design, development, production and distribution of accessible information and communications technologies and systems at an early stage, so that these technologies and systems become accessible at minimum cost";

¹ These include the least developed countries, small island developing states, landlocked developing countries and countries with economies in transition.

d) that the United Nations Human Rights Council established the Special Rapporteurship on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities to allow identification of the barriers and obstacles that persons with disabilities and persons with specific needs still have to overcome to achieve their full, effective participation in society, the mandate of which will be to work in close coordination with all mechanisms and entities of the United Nations system, regional mechanisms, civil society and organizations of and for persons with disabilities and persons with specific needs, and which will incorporate the perspectives of gender, international cooperation and capacity building in all its activities, in accordance with the principles of the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities;

e) the importance of cooperation between governments, the private sector, civil society and relevant organizations to provide possibilities for low-cost access;

f) that it is necessary for governments and multiple stakeholders to pay attention to the outcomes in the report jointly prepared by G3ict and Disabled People's International (DPI), given that the accessibility of the information infrastructure, considered an essential area of ICT accessibility that has an enormous impact on the greatest number of users, falls short of the level of progress called for by the provisions in the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities in terms of general compliance on the part of the countries that have ratified it,

noting

that JCA-AHF was set up for the purposes of awareness-raising, advice, assistance, collaboration, coordination and networking, its historical precedence, and its role to communicate, cooperate and collaborate with all the Sectors on the work of accessibility to prevent duplication of work,

resolves

- 1 to involve persons with disabilities and persons with specific needs in the work of ITU, taking into account their experiences and expertise, so that they may collaborate in the adoption of a comprehensive action plan in order to extend access to telecommunications/ICTs, in collaboration with external entities and bodies concerned with this topic;
- 2 to foster dialogue and communication between persons with disabilities and persons with specific needs (with means of interpretation when necessary) and those who prepare public policies and statistics on telecommunication/ICT users, in order to obtain better information and knowledge about which data to collect and analyse at the national level using international standards and methods;
- 3 to promote cooperation with regional and global organizations and institutions that deal with accessibility for persons with disabilities and persons with specific needs, in order to include telecommunication/ICT accessibility in their agendas and take into account its cross-cutting nature with other topics;
- 4 to maximize use of accessible webcasting facilities, captioning (including transcripts of the captioning) and sign language and, if possible, within the financial and technical limitations of the Union, provide these services in all six official languages of the Union both during and after the conclusion of any session when convening conferences, assemblies and meetings of the Union as articulated in Chapter II, Section 12 "Setting up of committees" of the General Rules of conferences, assemblies and meetings of the Union;
- 5 to build on and consolidate past accomplishments by providing the necessary financial and human resources for the effective and sustained integration of ICT accessibility for persons with disabilities and persons with specific needs into development activities, within budgetary constraints,

instructs the Secretary-General

to bring Resolution 58 (Rev. Buenos Aires, 2017) to the attention of the Secretary-General of the United Nations, in an effort to promote increased coordination and cooperation for development policies, programmes and projects for achieving ICT accessibility for persons with disabilities and persons with specific needs, in line with principles of equitable access, functional equivalence, affordability and universal design, and fully enhancing the available tools, guidelines and standards, to eliminate obstacles and discrimination,

instructs the Secretary-General, in consultation with the Directors of the Bureaux

- 1 to coordinate accessibility-related activities between ITU-R, ITU-T and ITU-D, taking into account JCA-AHF and in collaboration with other relevant organizations and entities where appropriate, in order to avoid duplication and to ensure that the needs of persons with disabilities and persons with specific needs are taken into account;
- 2 to consider the financial implications for ITU of providing, within the available resources, information in accessible formats and through ICTs, as well as access to ITU facilities, services and programmes for participants with visual, hearing or motor disabilities and persons with specific needs, mainly through the inclusion of captioning at meetings, sign language interpretation, access to information through the ITU website in print and adapted formats, and physical access to ITU buildings and meeting facilities, and to facilitate the adoption of accessible ITU recruitment practices and employment;
- 3 pursuant to UNGA Resolution 61/106, to consider accessibility standards and guidelines whenever undertaking renovations or changing the use of space at a facility, so that accessibility features are maintained and additional barriers are not inadvertently implemented;
- 4 to encourage and promote representation by persons with disabilities and persons with specific needs so as to ensure that their experiences and opinions are taken into account when developing and progressing ITU work;

- 5 to consider expanding the fellowship programme in order to enable delegates with disabilities and delegates with specific needs, within existing budgetary constraints, to participate in the work of ITU;
- 6 to identify, document and disseminate examples of best practices for accessibility in the field of telecommunications/ICTs among ITU Member States and Sector Members;
- 7 to work collaboratively on accessibility-related activities with ITU-R, ITU-T and ITU-D, taking into account JCA-AHF, in particular concerning awareness and mainstreaming of telecommunication/ICT accessibility standards, and in developing programmes that enable developing countries to introduce services that allow persons with disabilities and persons with specific needs to utilize telecommunication/ICT services effectively;
- 8 to work collaboratively and cooperatively with other relevant regional and global organizations and entities, in particular in the interest of ensuring that ongoing work in the field of accessibility is taken into account;
- 9 to work collaboratively and cooperatively with disability organizations in all regions to ensure that the needs of persons with disabilities and persons with specific needs are taken into account;
- 10 to direct the regional offices, within their available resources, to organize regional competitions for the development of assistive technologies to enable persons with disabilities and persons with specific needs, having due regard to differences in culture and languages and taking into account the presence of developers with disabilities;
- 11 to make use of and share information regarding the ways in which ICTs can empower persons with disabilities and persons with specific needs, for example guidelines, tools and information sources prepared by ITU and other relevant organizations such as G3ict which are of benefit to the work of ITU and the membership;

12 to encourage the regional offices, within their available resources, to cooperate with stakeholders concerned to promote the development of new technologies that enable persons with disabilities and specific needs;

13 to submit a report annually to the Council and to the next plenipotentiary conference on measures taken to implement this resolution;

14 to promote the collection and analysis of statistical data on disabilities and telecommunication/ICT accessibility that Member States can consider when preparing and designing their own public policies to promote accessibility,

invites Member States

to develop, within their national legal frameworks, guidelines or other mechanisms to enhance the accessibility, compatibility and usability of telecommunication/ICT services, products and terminals, and to offer support to regional initiatives related to this issue,

invites Member States and Sector Members

1 to introduce appropriate telecommunication/ICT services and to encourage the development of applications for telecommunication devices and products in order to enable persons with disabilities and persons with specific needs to utilize these services on an equal basis with others, and to promote international cooperation in this regard;

2 to promote the development of learning opportunities in order to train persons with disabilities and persons with specific needs to use ICTs for their social and economic development, including through train-the-trainer courses and distance learning;

3 to participate actively in accessibility-related activities/studies in ITU-R, ITU-T and ITU-D, and JCA-AHF, including participating actively in the work of the study groups concerned, and to include and promote representation by persons with disabilities and persons with specific needs so as to ensure that their experiences and opinions are taken into account;

- 4 to foster coordination and consensus on ensuring that persons with disabilities and persons with specific needs have access to telecommunication/ICT services;
- 5 to share good and best practices implemented in favour of telecommunication/ICT accessibility for persons with disabilities and persons with specific needs;
- 6 to take into account *considering c) ii) and e)* above, and the benefits of cost affordability for equipment and services for persons with disabilities and persons with specific needs, including universal design;
- 7 to encourage the international community to make voluntary contributions to the special trust fund set up by ITU to support activities relating to the implementation of this resolution.

RESOLUTION 176 (REV. DUBAI, 2018)

Measurement and assessment concerns related to human exposure to electromagnetic fields

The Plenipotentiary Conference of the International Telecommunication Union (Dubai, 2018),

recalling

a) Resolution 72 (Rev. Hammamet, 2016) of the World Telecommunication Standardization Assembly (WTSA), on measurement and assessment concerns related to human exposure to electromagnetic fields (EMF);

b) Resolution 62 (Rev. Buenos Aires, 2017) of the World Telecommunication Development Conference, on assessment and measurement of human exposure to EMF;

c) relevant resolutions and recommendations of the ITU Radiocommunication Sector (ITU-R) and ITU Telecommunication Standardization Sector (ITU-T);

d) that there is ongoing work in the three Sectors relating to human exposure to EMF, and that liaison and collaboration between the Sectors and with other expert organizations are important, in order to avoid duplication of effort,

considering

a) that the World Health Organization (WHO) has the specialized health expertise and competence to assess the impact of radio waves on the human body;

b) that WHO recommends exposure limits from international organizations such as the International Commission on Non-Ionizing Radiation Protection (ICNIRP);

c) that ITU has expertise in a mechanism to verify compliance with levels of radio signals by calculating and measuring field strength and power density;

d) the high cost of equipment used for measuring and assessing human exposure to EMF;

e) that the considerable development in radio spectrum use has resulted in multiple sources of EMF emissions within any given geographic area;

f) the urgent need for regulatory bodies in many developing countries¹ to obtain information on EMF measurement and assessment methodologies in regard to human exposure to radio-frequency energy, in order to establish national regulations to protect their citizens;

g) that without adequate and accurate information, public awareness and/or appropriate regulation, people, particularly in developing countries, may have concerns about the effect of EMF on their health, which may result in increasing opposition to the deployment of radio installations in their vicinity;

h) that guidelines on limits of exposure to EMF have been established by ICNIRP², the Institute of Electrical and Electronics Engineers (IEEE)³ and the International Organization for Standardization/International Electrotechnical Commission (ISO/IEC), and that many administrations have adopted national regulations based on these guidelines; however there is a need to harmonize EMF guidelines for regulators and policy-makers to help them formulate national standards;

i) that most of the developing countries do not have the necessary tools to measure and evaluate the impact of radiowaves on the human body,

¹ These include the least developed countries, small island developing states, landlocked developing countries and countries with economies in transition.

² Guidelines for limiting exposure to time-varying electric, magnetic and electromagnetic fields (up to 300 GHz). Health Physics 74(4): 494-522; 1998.

³ IEEE Std C95.1™-2005, IEEE standard for safety levels with respect to human exposure to radio frequency electromagnetic fields, 3 kHz to 300 GHz.

resolves to instruct the Directors of the three Bureaux

- 1 to collect and disseminate information concerning exposure to EMF, including on EMF measurement methodologies, in order to assist national administrations, particularly in developing countries, to develop appropriate national regulations;
- 2 to work closely with all relevant organizations in the implementation of this resolution, as well as Resolution 72 (Rev. Hammamet, 2016) and Resolution 62 (Rev. Buenos Aires, 2017), in order to continue and enhance the technical assistance provided to Member States,

instructs the Director of the Telecommunication Development Bureau, in collaboration with the Director of the Radiocommunication Bureau and the Director of the Telecommunication Standardization Bureau

- 1 to conduct regional or international seminars and workshops in order to identify the needs of developing countries and build human capacity in regard to measurement of EMF related to human exposure to these fields;
- 2 to encourage Member States in the various regions to cooperate in sharing expertise and resources and identify a focal point or regional cooperation mechanism, including if required a regional centre, so as to assist all Member States in the region in measurement and training;
- 3 to encourage relevant organizations to continue undertaking necessary scientific studies to investigate possible health effects of EMF radiation on the human body;
- 4 to formulate necessary measures and guidelines in order to help mitigate possible health effects of EMF radiation on the human body;
- 5 to encourage Member States to conduct periodic reviews to ensure that ITU recommendations and other relevant international standards related to exposure to EMF are followed,

instructs the Director of the Telecommunication Standardization Bureau, in collaboration with the Director of the Radiocommunication Bureau and the Director of the Telecommunication Development Bureau

to participate in the Electromagnetic Field Project, conducted by WHO, as part of collaborative efforts with other international organizations to encourage the development of international standards for EMF exposure,

instructs the Secretary-General, in consultation with the Directors of the three Bureaux

- 1 to prepare a report on the implementation of this resolution for submission to the ITU Council at each annual session for evaluation;
- 2 to provide a report to the next plenipotentiary conference on measures taken to implement this resolution,

invites Member States

- 1 to take the appropriate measures to ascertain compliance with guidelines produced by ITU and other relevant international organizations with respect to exposure to EMF;
- 2 to implement subregional cooperation mechanisms for acquisition of the requisite equipment to measure EMF;
- 3 to conduct a periodic review to ascertain compliance with levels of radio signals by relevant entities, in accordance with ITU-R and ITU-T recommendations;
- 4 to raise public awareness of the health effects of human exposure to non-ionizing EMF, by conducting awareness-raising campaigns, holding workshops, publishing brochures and providing online information on the subject.

RESOLUTION 177 (REV. DUBAI, 2018)

Conformance and interoperability

The Plenipotentiary Conference of the International Telecommunication Union (Dubai, 2018),

recognizing

a) Resolution 197 (Rev. Dubai, 2018) of this conference, on facilitating the Internet of Things (IoT) and smart sustainable cities and communities, and Resolution 200 (Rev. Dubai, 2018) of this conference, on the Connect 2030 Agenda for global telecommunication/information and communication technology (ICT), including broadband, for sustainable development;

b) Resolution 76 (Rev. Hammamet, 2016) of the World Telecommunication Standardization Assembly (WTSA), on studies related to conformance and interoperability (C&I) testing, assistance to developing countries¹, and a possible future ITU Mark programme, Resolution 96 (Hammamet, 2016) of WTSA, on ITU Telecommunication Standardization Sector (ITU-T) studies for combating counterfeit telecommunication/ICT devices, and Resolution 98 (Hammamet, 2016) of WTSA, on enhancing the standardization of IoT and smart cities and communities for global development;

c) Resolution 47 (Rev. Buenos Aires, 2017) of the World Telecommunication Development Conference, on enhancement of knowledge and effective application of ITU recommendations in developing countries, including C&I testing of systems manufactured on the basis of ITU recommendations;

¹ These include the least developed countries, small island developing states, landlocked developing countries and countries with economies in transition.

d) Resolution ITU-R 62-1 (Rev. Geneva, 2015) of the Radiocommunication Assembly, on studies related to testing for conformance with ITU Radiocommunication Sector (ITU-R) recommendations and interoperability of radiocommunication equipment and systems;

e) the progress reports made by the Directors of the ITU Bureaux to the ITU Council and to this conference,

noting

a) the work carried out under Question 4/2 of the ITU Telecommunication Development Sector (ITU-D), on assistance to developing countries for implementing C&I programmes;

b) the work carried out by ITU-T Study Group 11 on C&I programmes, including on the Conformity Assessment Steering Committee (CASC), and on combating counterfeit ICTs;

c) that several ITU-T study groups have already started pilot projects for conformity with ITU-T recommendations;

d) that ITU-T has launched an informative and voluntary Product Conformity Database and is progressively populating it with details of ICT equipment having undergone testing for conformity with ITU-T recommendations;

e) that an ITU C&I Portal website has been created and is continually updated;

f) that C&I testing can facilitate the interoperability of certain emerging technologies such as IoT and International Mobile Telecommunications 2020 (IMT-2020);

g) that CASC, in collaboration with other certification bodies (e.g. the International Electrotechnical Commission), is working on the establishment of a joint certification scheme for assessing ICT equipment for conformity with ITU-T recommendations,

recognizing further

a) that C&I procedures are used to protect consumers and networks and to prevent radio equipment interference;

- b) that widespread C&I of telecommunication/ICT equipment and systems through seamless transfer of data and through the implementation of relevant programmes, policies and decisions can increase market opportunities and reliability and encourage global integration and trade;
- c) that technical training and institutional capacity building for testing and conformity are one of the essential tools for many ITU members to develop their own capacity and to promote global connectivity;
- d) that many ITU members may also benefit from using the conformity assessment that many existing regional and national standards bodies already provide for conformity assessment, through mechanisms of collaboration with such organizations;
- e) that existing international approaches to conformity assessment provide a robust and well-functioning infrastructure that is also being used by developing countries;
- f) that a decision concerning the implementation of an ITU Mark would be postponed until pillar 1 (conformity assessment) of the Action Plan has reached a more mature stage of development (Council, 2012 session);
- g) that micro, small and medium enterprises in ITU Member States contribute greatly to the economy, including the digital economy, both enabled by access to affordable and interoperable technologies;
- h) that CASC has been set up for the purpose of developing a procedure for the recognition of ITU experts and elaborating detailed procedures for the implementation of a test laboratory recognition procedure in ITU-T,

considering

- a) the Action Plan for the C&I Programme as updated at the 2013 session of the Council, the pillars of which are 1) Conformity assessment, 2) Interoperability events, 3) Capacity building, and 4) Establishment of test centres and a C&I programme in developing countries;

- b) that some countries, especially developing countries, have not yet acquired the capacity to test equipment and provide assurance to consumers in their countries;
- c) that increased confidence in the conformity of telecommunication/ICT equipment to rules and standards in place promotes interoperability of equipment from different manufacturers, reduces interference among communication systems, and assists developing countries in choosing high-quality products;
- d) the importance of C&I to businesses, including to small and medium enterprises (SMEs) and young developers, when designing, developing and marketing telecommunication/ICT equipment;
- e) that, along with ITU-T recommendations, there are a number of specifications for C&I testing developed by other conformity assessment bodies and standards-development organizations (SDOs), forums and consortia;
- f) that conformance testing alone does not guarantee interoperability of devices or detection of counterfeit devices, but provides assurance that the implementation of a standard conforms to the specified standard;
- g) that the conformity assessment process, which includes certification, testing and inspection, can assist in combating counterfeit ICT devices, especially in developing countries;
- h) that the costs of establishing laboratories for the implementation of conformity and interoperability programmes are high in developing countries, in terms of both capital and operating costs;
- i) that conformity and interoperability laboratories require regular updates due to the rapid development of technologies, equipment and terminals,

resolves

- 1 to endorse the objectives of Resolution 76 (Rev. Hammamet, 2016), Resolution 62 (Rev. Geneva, 2015) and Resolution 47 (Rev. Buenos Aires, 2017), and the Action Plan for the C&I Programme reviewed by the Council at its 2014 session (Document C14/24(Rev.1));

2 that this programme of work continue to be implemented, including the informative pilot conformity database and its development into a fully functioning database, in consultation with each region, taking into consideration a) the outcome and effect that the pilot conformity database may have on Member States, Sector Members and stakeholders (e.g. other SDOs), b) the impact the database will have on bridging the standardization gap as relevant to each region, c) the potential liability issues for ITU and for Member States, Sector Members and stakeholders, and taking into account the results of regional ITU conformity and interoperability consultations;

3 to assist developing countries in establishing regional or subregional conformity and interoperability centres suitable to perform conformity and interoperability testing as appropriate and according to their needs and encourage cooperation with governmental and non-governmental, national and regional organizations and international conformity assessment bodies;

4 to facilitate cooperation between ITU, Member States, Sector Members and relevant entities to lower the cost of establishing conformity and interoperability assessment centres (such as the use of virtual laboratories for remote testing) at the national, subregional and regional levels, especially for developing countries,

instructs the Director of the Telecommunication Standardization Bureau

1 to continue consultations and assessment studies in all regions, taking into consideration the needs of each region, on implementation of the Action Plan endorsed by the Council, including, in collaboration with the Director of the Telecommunication Development Bureau (BDT), the recommendations on human capacity building and assistance in the establishment of test facilities in developing countries;

2 to continue to carry out pilot projects for conformity to ITU-T recommendations to increase the probability of interoperability in accordance with the Action Plan;

- 3 to enhance and improve standards-setting processes in order to improve interoperability through conformity;
- 4 to continuously update the Action Plan for the long-term implementation of this resolution;
- 5 to provide the Council with progress reports, including the results of studies, relating to the implementation of this resolution;
- 6 in cooperation with the Director of BDT, and based on the consultations in *instructs the Director of the Telecommunication Standardization Bureau* 1 above, to implement the Action Plan agreed by the Council at its 2012 session and revised by the Council at its 2013 session,

instructs the Director of the Telecommunication Development Bureau, in close collaboration with the Director of the Telecommunication Standardization Bureau and the Director of the Radiocommunication Bureau

- 1 to advance the implementation of Resolution 47 (Rev. Buenos Aires, 2017) and the relevant parts of the Action Plan, and to report to the Council;
- 2 to assist Member States in addressing their concerns with respect to non-compliant equipment;
- 3 to continue providing on-the-job capacity-building activities, in collaboration with recognized institutions and benefiting from the ITU Academy ecosystem, including activities related to preventing radiocommunication interference caused or received by ICT equipment;
- 4 under pillars 3 and 4 of the ITU C&I Programme:
 - a) to raise awareness of the applicability of C&I programmes to certain IoT applications;
 - b) to provide capacity building on technical regulations and compliance testing to support developers, including SMEs and youth, as they design their telecommunication/ICT equipment, to enable them to access local, regional and global markets;
- 5 to use ITU seed money allocated for projects and encourage donor agencies to fund annual capacity-building and training programmes in testing centres adopted as ITU centres of excellence;

6 to assist developing countries in building their capacity and identifying regional and subregional ICT testing centres in developing countries as ITU centres of excellence, as appropriate, in collaboration with the other Bureaux, so as to be able to perform conformance testing and interoperability testing of equipment and systems, relevant to their needs, in accordance with the relevant recommendations, including the development or recognition of conformity assessment bodies, as appropriate;

7 to assist Member States in enhancing their capabilities for conformance assessment and testing in order to combat counterfeit devices and to provide experts for developing countries;

8 to promote collaboration with regional C&I bodies, especially with respect to technical conformance assessment,

invites the ITU Council

1 to consider the reports of the Directors of the three Bureaux and to take all necessary measures so as to contribute to the achievement of the objectives of this resolution;

2 to report to the next plenipotentiary conference on the progress made with respect to this resolution;

3 to consider, after pillar 1 of the Action Plan has reached a more mature stage of development, the possible introduction of an ITU Mark, taking into account the technical, financial and legal implications;

4 to support the implementation of ITU's testing laboratories recognition procedure and make the list of recognized testing laboratories accessible for ITU members,

invites the membership

1 to populate the pilot conformity database with details of products tested to applicable ITU-T recommendations in accredited test laboratories (first, second or third party), or by accredited certification bodies, or according to procedures adopted by an SDO or forum qualified in accordance with Recommendation ITU-T A.5;

- 2 to participate in ITU-facilitated interoperability events and in the work of the ITU study groups related to conformity and interoperability issues;
- 3 to take an active role in building developing countries' capacity in conformity and interoperability testing, including on-the-job training, particularly as part of any supply contract for telecommunication equipment, services and systems to these countries;
- 4 to support the establishment of regional conformity testing facilities, or facilitate the use of existing laboratory infrastructures, particularly in developing countries;
- 5 to participate in ITU assessment studies to promote the establishment of harmonized conformity and interoperability frameworks in the regions,

invites organizations qualified in accordance with Recommendation ITU-T A.5

- 1 to participate in the ITU pilot conformity database activities and, sharing links on a mutual basis, to enrich its extent by referring to more recommendations and standards within a product, and to allow for more exposure of vendors' products and widen the portfolio of selection to the users;
- 2 to participate in developing countries' capacity-building programmes and activities facilitated by the Telecommunication Standardization Bureau (TSB) and BDT, in particular offering opportunities for developing-country experts – particularly from operators – to gain on-the-job experience,

invites Member States

- 1 to contribute to the implementation of this resolution;
- 2 to encourage national and regional testing entities to assist ITU in implementing this resolution;
- 3 to adopt conformity-assessment regimes and procedures based on applicable ITU-T recommendations, leading to better quality of service/quality of experience, and to higher probability of interoperability of equipment, services and systems;

4 to work together to combat counterfeit equipment using nationally and/or regionally established conformance assessment systems,

further invites Member States

to contribute to the next radiocommunication assembly in 2019 in order for it to consider and take appropriate actions as deemed necessary with respect to C&I.

RESOLUTION 179 (REV. DUBAI, 2018)

ITU's role in child online protection

The Plenipotentiary Conference of the International Telecommunication Union (Dubai, 2018),

recognizing

- a) United Nations General Assembly (UNGA) Resolution 70/1, on transforming our world: the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, which addresses various aspects of child online protection in the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), in particular SDGs 1, 3, 4, 5, 9, 10 and 16;
- b) Resolution 175 (Rev. Dubai, 2018) of this conference, on telecommunication/information and communication technology (ICT) accessibility for persons with disabilities and persons with specific needs;
- c) Resolution 67 (Rev. Buenos Aires, 2017) of the World Telecommunication Development Conference (WTDC), on the role of the ITU Telecommunication Development Sector (ITU-D) in child online protection;
- d) Resolution 45 (Rev. Dubai, 2014) of WTDC, on mechanisms for enhancing cooperation on cybersecurity, including countering and combating spam;
- e) other relevant ITU documents,

considering

- a) that the Internet plays a very important role in the provision of education for children, enriching the curriculum and helping to bridge language and other barriers between the children of all nations;
- b) that the Internet has become a major platform for many different kinds of educational, cultural and entertainment activities for children;
- c) that children are among the most active participants online;

- d) that parents, guardians, educators and communities who have responsibility for children's activities may need guidance on mediation approaches on how to protect children online;
- e) that child online protection initiatives always consider the empowerment of the child online and have due regard to an equal balancing of children's right to be protected from harm and their civil and political rights, as well as their access to online opportunities;
- f) that there is an urgent need and global demand for the protection of children from exploitation and exposure to danger and deception when using the Internet or ICT;
- g) the growing development, diversification and spread of access to ICTs worldwide, in particular the Internet, and the increasingly widespread use thereof by children, at times with no mediation, control or guidance;
- h) that, in order to address the issue of cybersecurity for children, it is critical that proactive measures be taken in order to protect children online at national, regional or international level;
- i) the requirement for international cooperation and continued application of a multistakeholder approach in order to promote social responsibility in the ICT sector so as to effectively make use of the variety of tools available to build confidence in the use of ICT networks and services, reducing the risks for children;
- j) that child online protection is a subject of valid international global interest and is listed in the priorities of the world community's global agenda;
- k) that child online protection involves a national, regional and international collaborative network, in conjunction with other United Nations agencies and partners, for action to promote the online protection of children by providing guidance on safe online behaviour and appropriate practical tools,

recalling

a) the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child (1989), the Declaration of the Rights of the Child adopted by UNGA on 20 November 1989 and recognized in the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, and all relevant United Nations resolutions regarding child protection and child online protection;

b) that, within the framework of the Convention on the Rights of the Child, the States Parties undertook to protect the child from all forms of exploitation and sexual abuse, and for that purpose, in particular, to take all appropriate national, bilateral and multilateral measures to prevent a) the inducement or coercion of a child to engage in any unlawful sexual activity; b) the exploitative use of children in prostitution or other unlawful sexual practices; c) the exploitative use of children in pornographic performances and materials (Article 34);

c) that, pursuant to Article 10 of the Optional Protocol to the Convention on the Rights of the Child (New York, 2000) on the sale of children, child prostitution and child pornography, the States Parties shall take all necessary steps to strengthen international cooperation by multilateral, regional and bilateral arrangements for the prevention, detection, investigation, prosecution and punishment of those responsible for acts involving the sale of children, child prostitution, child pornography and child sex tourism; and shall also promote international cooperation and coordination between their authorities, national and international non-governmental organizations and international organizations;

d) United Nations Human Rights Council Resolution 20/8, adopted on 5 July 2012, which stresses that "the same rights that people have offline must also be protected online";

e) that the World Summit on the Information Society (WSIS), in the Tunis Commitment of 2005 (§ 24), recognized the role of ICTs in the protection of children and in enhancing the development of children, urging Member States to strengthen action to protect children from abuse and defend their rights in the context of ICTs, emphasizing that the best interests of the child are a primary consideration; accordingly, the Tunis Agenda for the Information Society (§ 90 q)) set forth the commitment to using ICTs as a tool to achieve the internationally agreed development goals and objectives, including the SDGs set out in the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, by, *inter alia*, incorporating regulatory, self-regulatory and other effective policies and frameworks to protect children and young people from abuse and exploitation through ICTs into national plans of action and e-strategies;

f) ITU Council Resolution 1305 (2009), which invites Member States to recognize the topic of protecting children and young people from abuse and exploitation as one of the international Internet-related public policy matters;

g) Council Resolution 1306 (Rev. 2015), which sets out the mandate of the Council Working Group on child online protection (CWG-COP), with the participation of Member States and Sector Members and the contribution and participation of all relevant stakeholders;

h) that, during the 2012 WSIS Forum held in Geneva, a meeting was held with associates of the Child Online Protection (COP) initiative, at which it was agreed to work closely with the Family Online Safety Institute (FOSI) and the Internet Watch Foundation (IWF) to provide necessary assistance to Member States,

recalling further

a) that ITU is the moderator/facilitator for WSIS Action Line C5 (Building confidence and security in the use of ICTs);

b) that the COP initiative was presented to the High-Level Segment of the Council in 2008, where it was endorsed by the Heads of State, ministers and heads of international organizations globally;

c) that ITU, in collaboration with its COP members, has created four sets of guidelines for the protection of children in cyberspace, namely: Guidelines for children, Guidelines for parents, guardians and educators, Guidelines for industry and Guidelines for policy-makers;

d) that Recommendation ITU T E.1100 of the ITU Telecommunication Standardization Sector (ITU-T), on specification of an international numbering resource for use in the provisioning of international help lines, provides alternative numbering resources to overcome the technical difficulties that have made it impossible to establish a single globally harmonized national number, as provided for in Supplement 5 to Recommendation ITU-T E.164 (11/2009), and that the contributions that the different ITU-T study groups can make are very important in identifying practical solutions and tools to facilitate access to child online protection hotlines worldwide,

taking into account

a) the discussions and online consultations conducted by CWG-COP, and other ITU activities;

b) the existing technological, managerial and organizational tools, at the global, regional and national levels, to protect children online, along with innovative applications to make it easier for children to communicate with child online protection helplines, and the need to continue this work aiming to find available solutions and disseminate them to governments and other stakeholders;

c) the activities undertaken by ITU in the area of child online protection at the national, regional and international levels;

d) the activities undertaken by many countries in recent years;

e) the call of the world's youth at the BYND2015 Global Youth Summit (San José, Costa Rica, 2013) for Member States to develop policies to make online communities safe and secure;

f) the many activities of governments, national, regional and international non-governmental organizations (NGOs) and industry organizations that are promoting the exchange of best practices on child online protection,

resolves

- 1 to continue the COP initiative as a platform to raise awareness and share best practices on child online safety issues;
- 2 to continue providing assistance and support to Member States, especially developing countries¹, in developing and implementing roadmaps for the COP initiative;
- 3 to continue to coordinate the COP initiative, in cooperation with relevant stakeholders;
- 4 to promote collaboration between all stakeholders involved in child online protection, based on the work done in this area, in order to benefit Member States;
- 5 to continue efforts, together with relevant international organizations, to support Member States, upon request, to engage in capacity building and awareness raising on child online protection for parents, guardians, educators and communities, as well as relevant representatives of the public and private sectors,

requests the ITU Council

- 1 to continue the work of CWG-COP, in order to facilitate the membership's input and guidance on ITU's role in child online protection;
- 2 to facilitate the contribution and participation of all relevant stakeholders in the work of CWG-COP to ensure maximum collaboration in implementing this resolution;

¹ These include the least developed countries, small island developing states, landlocked developing countries and countries with economies in transition.

- 3 to encourage CWG-COP to liaise with the Council Working Group on international Internet-related public policy issues (CWG-Internet), as appropriate, in order to contribute in a mutually beneficial manner to fulfilment of work under the respective mandates of these Council working groups on the relevant issues;
- 4 to encourage CWG-COP to conduct, prior to its meetings, online consultations for youth of sufficient proposed duration to listen to their views and opinions on different matters related to child online protection;
- 5 to continue to make output documents related to child online protection issues publicly accessible without password protection,

instructs the Secretary-General

- 1 to continue identifying those activities that are carried out by other United Nations organizations in this domain and to coordinate with them appropriately, with the objective of establishing partnerships to maximize and synergize efforts in this important area;
- 2 to coordinate ITU efforts with other United Nations agencies and entities concerned with this issue, in order to contribute to existing global repositories with useful information, statistics and tools concerning child online protection;
- 3 to maintain and promote the online repository of resources on child online protection efforts;
- 4 to continue the coordination of ITU activities with other similar initiatives being undertaken at the national, regional and international levels, in order to eliminate possible overlaps;
- 5 to bring this resolution to the attention of other COP members and of the United Nations Secretary-General, with the aim of increasing the engagement of the United Nations system in child online protection;
- 6 to submit a progress report on the implementation of this resolution to the next plenipotentiary conference;

- 7 to continue to disseminate the documents and reports of CWG-COP to all international organizations and stakeholders involved in such matters, so that they can collaborate fully;
- 8 to encourage Member States and Sector Members to submit best practices on issues of child online protection,

instructs the Secretary-General and the Directors of the Bureaux

- 1 to continue to coordinate those activities that relate to the implementation of child online protection with respect to the effective application of *resolves* 1, 2 and 3 above, in order to avoid overlapping among the activities of the ITU Bureaux and the General Secretariat;
- 2 to work on enhancing the COP initiative page on the ITU website to make it more informative for all users, within the available resources,

instructs the Director of the Telecommunication Development Bureau

- 1 to report to the Council annually, as appropriate, on the implementation of Resolution 67 (Rev. Buenos Aires, 2017);
- 2 to collaborate closely with CWG-COP and CWG-Internet and to gain the best possible outputs through the work on the relevant ITU-D study questions and the regional initiatives relevant to protecting children online, while avoiding duplication of effort;
- 3 to coordinate with other similar initiatives being undertaken at the national, regional and international level with the objective of establishing partnerships to maximize efforts in this important area;
- 4 to assist developing countries in drawing the greatest possible attention to child online protection;

- 5 to update, as appropriate, the guidelines created by ITU, in collaboration with COP initiative partners, taking into consideration technology developments in the telecommunication industry, including guidelines on children with disabilities and children with specific needs, and to disseminate them through the ITU regional offices and relevant entities in the six official languages;
- 6 to disseminate methodological frameworks for data production and statistics on child online protection with the purpose of maximizing data comparison among countries and capacity development for voluntary data production;
- 7 to consider the needs of children with disabilities in current and future awareness campaigns undertaken in coordination with the Telecommunication Standardization Bureau and in cooperation with relevant stakeholders and interested countries;
- 8 to continue to assist Member States, in particular developing countries, in developing their national child online protection strategies in collaboration with stakeholders;
- 9 to continue promoting training programmes for all stakeholders, including working with COP initiative partners,

instructs the Director of the Telecommunication Standardization Bureau

- 1 to encourage the ITU-T study groups, within the framework of their specific competencies, and considering new technological developments, to continue to explore practical solutions and tools that facilitate access to child online protection hotlines worldwide;
- 2 to encourage the ITU-T study groups, within the framework of their specific competencies, and considering new technological developments, to seek appropriate solutions to help governments, organizations and educators to protect children online (including children with disabilities and children with specific needs);
- 3 to promote cooperation among the ITU-T study groups, and to liaise with the other Sectors as appropriate;

- 4 to continue to work with Member States, upon request, on the allocation of a telephone number on a regional basis for child online protection;
- 5 to assist ITU-T study groups in their various activities related to child online protection, to be performed, as appropriate, in collaboration with other relevant bodies,

invites Member States

- 1 to join and continue participating actively in CWG-COP and in the related ITU activities, for the purposes of a comprehensive discussion and exchange of best-practice information on legal, technical, organizational and procedural issues, as well as capacity building and international cooperation for protecting children online;
- 2 to develop information, to educate and to create consumer-awareness campaigns aimed at parents, guardians, educators, industry, other relevant stakeholders and the population in general, in order to make children aware of the risks that may be encountered online and of measures to protect against such risks;
- 3 to work together to develop awareness campaigns and periodic training to ensure the protection of children online, taking into account the evolving nature of online risks and threats;
- 4 to exchange information on the current state of legislative, organizational and technical measures in the area of child online protection;
- 5 to support the collection and analysis of data and the production of statistics, disaggregated by sex and age, where possible, on child online protection that will contribute to public policy design and implementation, enabling comparisons between countries and encouraging data production by national statistical offices and other data producers;

- 6 to consider establishing frameworks for national child online protection and their incorporation into national cybersecurity strategies, as appropriate, taking into account the ITU guidelines on child online protection;
- 7 to foster the allocation of resources to run child online protection hotlines;
- 8 to foster the allocation of specific numbers to service communications dedicated to child online protection;
- 9 to promote the use of parental or other safety tools that are available and accessible for parents, guardians, educators and communities;
- 10 to involve communities and civil-society organizations in child online protection initiatives, socialization and campaigns;
- 11 to establish mechanisms for collaboration among government offices and institutions working on this issue to gather statistical information on access of students to the Internet,

invites Sector Members

- 1 to participate actively in CWG-COP and in other ITU activities, with the aim of informing the ITU membership about technological tools for protecting children online;
- 2 to develop innovative solutions and applications to facilitate communication between children and child online protection hotlines;
- 3 to collaborate, within their respective areas of competence, in the dissemination of public policies and initiatives that are implemented for child online protection;
- 4 to work on developing different programmes and tools to increase awareness among parents, guardians, educators and communities;
- 5 to inform Member States about modern technological solutions for child online protection, taking into account the best practices of the sector and of other relevant stakeholders,

invites Member States and Sector Members

- 1 to exchange information on practical methods of identifying and introducing the most effective technologies to contribute to more effective child online protection;
- 2 to apply Recommendation ITU-T E.1100 as appropriate;
- 3 to foster and contribute to consultations on child online protection issues with all stakeholders.

RESOLUTION 180 (REV. DUBAI, 2018)

Promoting deployment and adoption of IPv6 to facilitate the transition from IPv4 to IPv6

The Plenipotentiary Conference of the International Telecommunication Union (Dubai, 2018),

considering

- a)* United Nations General Assembly (UNGA) Resolution 70/1, on transforming our world: the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development;
- b)* UNGA Resolution 70/125, on the outcome document of the UNGA high-level meeting on the overall review of the implementation of the outcomes of the World Summit on the Information Society (WSIS);
- c)* the WSIS+10 statement on the implementation of WSIS outcomes and vision for WSIS beyond 2015, which were adopted at the ITU-coordinated WSIS+10 High-Level Event (Geneva, 2014), based on the Multistakeholder Preparatory Platform (MPP) process, together with other United Nations agencies and inclusive of all WSIS stakeholders, were endorsed by the Plenipotentiary Conference (Busan, 2014) and were submitted to the UNGA overall review;
- d)* Resolution 64 (Rev. Hammamet, 2016) of the World Telecommunication Standardization Assembly, on Internet Protocol (IP) address allocation and facilitating the transition to and deployment of IPv6;
- e)* Opinion 3 (Geneva, 2013) of the World Telecommunication/Information and Communication Technology (ICT) Policy Forum (WTPF), on capacity building for the deployment of IPv6;
- f)* Opinion 4 (Geneva, 2013) of WTPF, in support of IPv6 adoption and transition from IPv4;

g) Resolution 63 (Rev. Buenos Aires, 2017) of the World Telecommunication Development Conference, on IP address allocation and encouraging the deployment of IPv6 in the developing countries¹;

h) Resolution 101 (Rev. Dubai, 2018) of this conference, on IP-based networks;

i) Resolution 102 (Rev. Dubai, 2018) of this conference, on ITU's role with regard to international public policy issues pertaining to the Internet and the management of Internet resources, including domain names and addresses;

j) the results of the ITU IPv6 Group, which were endorsed by the 2012 session of the ITU Council,

considering further

a) that the Internet has become a leading factor in social and economic development and a vital tool for communication and technological innovation, creating a major paradigm shift in the telecommunication and information technology sector;

b) that, in view of the exhaustion of IPv4 addresses and in order to ensure the stability, growth and development of the Internet, every effort should be made by all stakeholders to encourage and facilitate IPv6;

c) that many developing countries are experiencing some technical challenges today in this process,

noting

a) the progress towards deployment and adoption of IPv6 that has been made over the last few years;

b) the importance of providing technical assistance from experts in IPv4 and IPv6 deployment to those Member States and Sector Members that request it;

¹ These include the least developed countries, small island developing states, landlocked developing countries and countries with economies in transition.

- c) the support and best practices which are available to Member States and Sector Members from ITU and relevant organizations (e.g. the regional Internet registries (RIRs), network operator groups and the Internet Society);
- d) the ongoing coordination between ITU and relevant organizations on IPv6 capacity building in order to respond to the needs of Member States and Sector Members;
- e) that not enough network operators and end users are actually using IPv6;
- f) that IPv6 traffic represents less than a quarter of the total global Internet traffic;
- g) that deployment of IPv6 facilitates Internet of Things (IoT) solutions, which might require a huge amount of IP addresses;
- h) that the deployment and adoption of IPv6 can happen in parallel with the continued use of IPv4 addresses, and may ultimately lead to a complete transition from IPv4 to IPv6;
- i) that governments play an important part as catalysts for the deployment and adoption of IPv6;
- j) that, in addition to governments, other stakeholders, including Internet organizations responsible for the IPv6 protocol, IPv6 address allocation and assignment, and the design and manufacturing of hardware and software, including for the Domain Name System (DNS), that are compatible with IPv6, have important roles to play in facilitating the transition to, and the adoption and deployment of, IPv6,

recognizing

- a) that IP addresses are fundamental resources needed for the development of IP-based telecommunication/ICT networks and for the world economy and prosperity;

- b) that IPv6 deployment gives an opportunity for the development of ICTs, and that its early adoption is the best way to avoid the scarcity of addresses and the consequences that exhaustion of IPv4 addresses may entail, including high costs;
- c) that accelerating deployment and adoption of IPv6 is necessary in order to respond to global needs in this regard;
- d) that the involvement and cooperation of all stakeholders is crucial for success in this process;
- e) that technical experts are providing assistance regarding IPv6, and progress has been made;
- f) that there are countries that still need expert technical assistance regarding IPv6,

resolves

- 1 to explore ways and means, in accordance with the Tunis Agenda for the Information Society, for greater reciprocal collaboration and coordination between ITU and relevant organizations ² involved in the development of IP-based networks and the future Internet in the context of emerging telecommunications/ICTs, through cooperation agreements, as appropriate, in order to increase the role of ITU in Internet governance, and to promote greater participation by Member States in Internet governance, so as to ensure maximum benefits to the global community and promote affordable international connectivity;
- 2 to step up the exchange of experiences and information with all stakeholders regarding IPv6, with the aim of creating opportunities for collaborative efforts and ensuring that feedback enriches ongoing efforts on this matter;

² Including, but not limited to, the Internet Corporation for Assigned Names and Numbers (ICANN), the regional Internet registries (RIRs), the Internet Engineering Task Force (IETF), the Internet Society (ISOC) and the World Wide Web Consortium (W3C), on the basis of reciprocity.

- 3 to collaborate closely with the relevant international recognized partners, including the Internet community (e.g. RIRs, the Internet Engineering Task Force (IETF) and others), in order to encourage the deployment of IPv6 by raising awareness and through capacity building;
- 4 to support those Member States which, in accordance with the existing allocation policies, require assistance in the management and allocation of IPv6 resources, pursuant to relevant resolutions;
- 5 to continue the studies of IP address allocation, both for IPv4 addresses and for IPv6 addresses, in cooperation with other relevant stakeholders, based on their respective roles,

instructs the Director of the Telecommunication Development Bureau, in coordination with the Director of the Telecommunication Standardization Bureau

- 1 to undertake and facilitate activities under *resolves* above in order that the relevant study groups of the ITU Telecommunication Standardization Sector and of the Telecommunication Development Sector can carry out the work;
- 2 while assisting those Member States that require support in the management and allocation of IPv6 resources, to monitor the current allocation mechanisms (including the equitable distribution of addresses) for ITU Member States or Sector Members, and to identify and point out any underlying flaws in the current allocation mechanisms;
- 3 to communicate proposals for changes to existing policies, if identified under the studies above, in accordance with the existing policy development process;
- 4 to develop statistics on progress made with IPv6, based on information that may be compiled regionally through collaboration with regional organizations;
- 5 to collect and disseminate best practices on coordination efforts undertaken by governments at the national level regarding IPv6,

invites Member States

- 1 to continue to promote specific initiatives at the national level, which foster interaction with governmental, private and academic entities and civil society for the purposes of the information exchange necessary for the deployment and adoption of IPv6 in their respective countries;
- 2 to encourage, with support from the ITU regional offices, the RIRs and other regional organizations in coordinating research, dissemination and training actions with participation by governments, industry and the academic community in order to facilitate the deployment and adoption of IPv6 within the countries and in the region, and to coordinate initiatives between regions to promote its deployment worldwide;
- 3 to develop national policies to promote the technological update of systems in order to ensure that the public services provided utilizing the IP protocol and the communications infrastructure and relevant applications of the Member States are compatible with IPv6;
- 4 to encourage manufacturers to supply to the market fully-featured customer premises equipment that supports IPv6 in addition to IPv4;
- 5 to raise awareness among information service providers on the importance of making their services available over IPv6,

instructs the Secretary-General

to submit to the Council and disseminate, as appropriate, (a) progress report(s) to the ITU membership and the Internet community, on the implementation of this resolution.

RESOLUTION 186 (REV. DUBAI, 2018)

Strengthening the role of ITU with regard to transparency and confidence-building measures in outer space activities

The Plenipotentiary Conference of the International Telecommunication Union (Dubai, 2018),

recalling

Resolution 68/50, on transparency and confidence-building measures in outer space activities, adopted by the United Nations General Assembly on 5 December 2013, together with the associated Report A/68/189,

noting

Resolution 37 (Rev. Buenos Aires, 2017) of the World Telecommunication Development Conference, on bridging the digital divide,

considering

a) that ITU Member States rely, *inter alia*, on reliable space radiocommunication services, such as the Earth exploration-satellite service, radiocommunication satellite services, the radionavigation-satellite service and the space research service;

b) that one of the strategic goals of the ITU Radiocommunication Sector (ITU-R) is "to ensure interference-free operations of radiocommunication systems by implementing the Radio Regulations and regional agreements, as well as updating these instruments in an efficient and timely manner through the processes of world and regional radiocommunication conferences";

c) that the world and regional radiocommunication seminars are an effective way to provide knowledge on the current regulatory framework for international spectrum management, ITU-R recommendations and best practices regarding the use of spectrum for both terrestrial and space services;

d) that the Radiocommunication Bureau is publishing the information received from administrations related to implementation of the due diligence procedure pursuant to Resolution 49 (Rev.WRC-15) of the World Radiocommunication Conference, and the information received from administrations related to the bringing into use of satellite frequency assignments,

taking into account

Articles 15 and 16 of the Radio Regulations,

resolves

to encourage the dissemination of information, capacity building and the sharing of best practices in the use and development of radiocommunication satellite networks/systems, with the objectives of, *inter alia*, bridging the digital divide and enhancing the reliability and availability of the above-mentioned satellite networks/systems,

invites the ITU Council

to consider and review any proposed cooperation agreements on the use of satellite monitoring facilities consistent with the objectives of this resolution, in light of their strategic and financial implications, within the budgetary limitations of the Union,

instructs the Director of the Telecommunication Development Bureau

to encourage all Member States to consider these matters in the context of Resolution 37 (Rev. Buenos Aires, 2017),

instructs the Director of the Radiocommunication Bureau

1 to promote access to information, upon request by administrations concerned, related to satellite-monitoring facilities, in order to address cases of harmful interference in accordance with Article 15 of the Radio Regulations, through cooperation agreements referred to under *invites the ITU Council* above, within the budgetary limitations of the Union, in order to implement the objectives of this resolution;

- 2 to continue taking action to maintain a database on cases of harmful interference reported in accordance with relevant provisions of the Radio Regulations, in consultation with Member States concerned;
- 3 to continue the efforts to disseminate information and assist ITU Member States in the application of coordination and notification provisions through ITU world and regional radiocommunication seminars, workshops, ITU-R publications, software and databases;
- 4 to improve the ease of access to, and transparency of, the information in the Master International Frequency Register published on the ITU website on satellite frequency assignments subject to this resolution;
- 5 to coordinate activities, if necessary, with the Directors of the Telecommunication Standardization Bureau and the Telecommunication Development Bureau;
- 6 to report on the implementation of this resolution as appropriate,

invites Member States and Sector Members

to participate in the activities related to the implementation of this resolution, *inter alia*, involvement in ITU radiocommunication seminars, sharing of best practices, and cooperation agreements on the use of satellite monitoring facilities in order to address cases of harmful interference in accordance with Article 15 of the Radio Regulations.

RESOLUTION 188 (REV. DUBAI, 2018)

Combating counterfeit telecommunication/information and communication technology devices

The Plenipotentiary Conference of the International Telecommunication Union (Dubai, 2018),

recalling

- a) Resolution 177 (Rev. Dubai, 2018) of this conference, on conformance and interoperability (C&I);
- b) Resolution 47 (Rev. Buenos Aires, 2017) of the World Telecommunication Development Conference (WTDC), on enhancement of knowledge and effective application of ITU recommendations in developing countries¹, including C&I testing of systems manufactured on the basis of ITU recommendations;
- c) Resolution 79 (Rev. Buenos Aires, 2017) of WTDC, on the role of telecommunications/information and communication technologies (ICTs) in combating and dealing with counterfeit telecommunication/ICT devices,

recognizing

- a) the noticeable growing sale and circulation of counterfeit telecommunication/ICT devices in the markets, which have an adverse impact on governments, manufacturers, vendors and consumers;
- b) that counterfeit telecommunication/ICT devices may have a negative impact on security and quality of service for users;
- c) that counterfeit telecommunication/ICT devices often contain illegal and unacceptable levels of hazardous substances, threatening consumers and the environment;

¹ These include the least developed countries, small island developing states, landlocked developing countries and countries with economies in transition

- d) that several countries have introduced some awareness-raising campaigns, practices and regulations in their markets in order to limit and deter counterfeit products and devices, which have had a positive impact, and that developing countries may benefit from these experiences;
- e) that Recommendation ITU-T X.1255 of the ITU Telecommunication Standardization Sector (ITU-T), which is based on the digital object architecture, provides a framework for discovery of identity management information;
- f) that unique telecommunication/ICT device identifiers can limit and deter the use of counterfeit ICT devices;
- g) that industry initiatives have been created to establish collaboration between operators, manufacturers and consumers;
- h) that Member States face significant and different challenges in finding effective solutions to combat counterfeit devices, given the innovative and creative ways used by persons engaged in this illicit activity to evade enforcement/legal measures and the different environments in which they operate;
- i) that ITU's Conformity and Interoperability and Bridging Standardization Gap programmes are intended to help by bringing clarity to standardization processes and product conformity with international standards;
- j) that providing interoperability, safety and reliability of telecommunication/ICT devices should be a key objective of ITU recommendations,

considering

- a) that, in general, telecommunication/ICT devices that do not comply with a country's applicable national conformity processes and regulatory requirements or other applicable legal requirements should be considered unauthorized for sale and/or activation on telecommunication networks of that country;

b) that ITU and other relevant stakeholders have key roles to play in fostering coordination between the parties concerned in order to study the impact of counterfeit and tampered telecommunication/ICT devices and the mechanism for limiting their use and to identify ways of dealing with them internationally and regionally;

c) the importance of maintaining user connectivity,

aware

a) that governments play an important role in combating the manufacture and international trade of counterfeit telecommunication/ICT devices by formulating appropriate strategies, policies and legislation;

b) of the related work and studies in relevant ITU-T and ITU Telecommunication Development Sector (ITU-D) study groups that could assist in combating and dealing with counterfeit telecommunication/ICT devices, in particular ITU-T Study Groups 5, 11, 17 and 20 and ITU-D Study Group 2;

c) that tampering with (making unauthorized changes to) telecommunication/ICT devices, especially when replicating a legitimate identifier, may diminish the effectiveness of solutions adopted by the countries to address counterfeiting;

d) that there is currently cooperation with other standards-development organizations (SDOs), the World Trade Organization (WTO), the World Intellectual Property Organization (WIPO), the World Health Organization (WHO) and the World Customs Organization (WCO) on matters related to counterfeit products;

e) that in promoting and adopting solutions there is a need to build confidence and trust,

resolves to instruct the Directors of the three Bureaux

- 1 to assist Member States in addressing their concerns with respect to counterfeit telecommunication/ICT devices, through information sharing, seminars and workshops, at regional or global level, including conformity assessment systems;
- 2 to assist all the membership, considering relevant ITU-T recommendations, in taking the necessary actions to prevent or detect the tampering with (making unauthorized changes to) and/or duplication of unique device identifiers, interacting with other telecommunication SDOs related to these matters,

invites Member States

- 1 to take all necessary measures to combat counterfeit telecommunication/ICT devices and to review their regulations;
- 2 to cooperate and exchange expertise among themselves in this area;
- 3 to encourage participation in industry programmes combating counterfeit telecommunication/ICT devices,

invites all the membership

- 1 to participate actively in ITU studies relating to combating counterfeit telecommunication/ICT devices in the relevant ITU-T and ITU-D study groups;
- 2 to take the necessary actions to prevent or detect tampering with (making unauthorized changes to) unique telecommunication/ICT devices identifiers;
- 3 to raise awareness among consumers regarding the negative impacts of counterfeit devices;
- 4 to exchange best practices in this area,

further invites Member States and Sector Members

to bear in mind the legal and regulatory frameworks of other countries concerning equipment that negatively affects the quality of their telecommunication infrastructure and services, in particular recognizing the concerns of developing countries with respect to counterfeit equipment.

RESOLUTION 189 (REV. DUBAI, 2018)

Assisting Member States to combat and deter mobile device theft

The Plenipotentiary Conference of the International Telecommunication Union (Dubai, 2018),

recalling

Resolution 196 (Rev. Dubai, 2018) of this conference, on protecting telecommunication service users/consumers,

considering

- a) that the positive impact of mobile telecommunications, technological progress and the great coverage and development generated by all related services have made the increasing penetration of mobile devices, including smartphones, possible because of the multiple benefits provided;
- b) that thieves steal expensive personal commodities, including mobile devices;
- c) that the widespread use of mobile telecommunications in the world has also been accompanied by a rise in the problem of mobile device theft;
- d) that the act of mobile device theft can sometimes have a negative impact on the health and safety of citizens, on users' data and on their sense of security and confidence in the use of information and communication technologies (ICTs);
- e) that some governments have implemented laws to make it illegal to modify unique identifiers in mobile devices;
- f) that problems that occur around the crimes related to mobile device theft have become a worldwide issue, since these stolen devices are often very easily resold on the international markets;
- g) that the illicit trading of stolen mobile devices constitutes a risk to consumers and causes loss of revenue for the industry;

h) that some governments as well as industry have implemented regulations, law-enforcement actions, policies and technological mechanisms to prevent and combat mobile device theft;

i) that ITU can assist all members in the use of relevant ITU recommendations and play a positive role by offering all interested parties a platform for encouraging discussions, the exchange of best practices, industry cooperation to define technical guidelines and the dissemination of information on combating mobile device theft;

j) that most manufacturers of mobile devices and operating system vendors, as well as operators, offer solutions for consumers, such as free anti-theft applications and re-activation prevention tools, with the aim of reducing the rate of mobile device theft,

recognizing

a) that, in several regions, tampering with (making unauthorized changes to) or replication of mobile ICT device unique identifiers have become a means of unlawful use of stolen mobile devices;

b) that tampering with (making unauthorized changes to) identifiers adversely affects holders of genuine devices when their unique identifier is replicated in other devices and, as a result, the use of these genuine devices in the mobile networks is being blocked;

c) that it is important to adopt national, regional and worldwide strategies to fight mobile device theft;

d) that several Member States have adopted regulations with the aim of ensuring that mobile service providers generate and share information on stolen mobile device databases at national and international level, and that the implementation of these regulations may serve as a tool to stop the reuse of those devices;

e) that it is becoming important to continue searching for innovative solutions in order to deter mobile device theft,

concerned

that the rate of mobile device theft in some regions of the world remains high, despite efforts made in recent years,

aware

that manufacturers, operators and industry associations have been developing different technological solutions and governments have been developing policies and/or regulations to address this global problem,

resolves

to explore and encourage the development of ways and means to continue to combat and deter mobile device theft, taking into account *considering d)* above,

instructs the Director of the Telecommunication Development Bureau, in coordination with the Director of the Radiocommunication Bureau and the Director of the Telecommunication Standardization Bureau

- 1 to compile information on best practices developed by industry or governments in combating mobile device theft, especially from regions where the rate of mobile phone theft has fallen, including statistics on their effectiveness;
- 2 to consult with the relevant ITU Radiocommunication Sector and ITU Telecommunication Standardization Sector study groups, manufacturers of mobile devices, manufacturers of telecommunication network components, operators and other telecommunication standards-development organizations related to these matters, such as GSMA and 3GPP, in order to identify existing and future technological measures, both software and hardware, to mitigate the use of stolen mobile devices;
- 3 to provide assistance, within the Union's expertise and within available resources, as appropriate, in cooperation with relevant organizations, to Member States, if so requested, in order to reduce mobile device theft and the use of stolen mobile devices in their countries, and also spread best practices in combating mobile device theft;

4 to share information and experiences about measures related to tampering with (making unauthorized changes to) mobile ICT identifiers and its prevention,

instructs the Secretary-General

to report to the ITU Council, as appropriate, on progress of the work,

invites Member States and Sector Members

- 1 to contribute to the studies and experiences in this area;
- 2 to facilitate education initiatives, as needed, in order to reduce the use of stolen mobile devices by users;
- 3 to adopt measures to exchange information on the unique identifiers of devices reported as stolen or lost in other countries and regions, taking necessary actions to protect users' data, taking into account national and regional legal frameworks, and measures to block the use of these devices in their mobile networks;
- 4 to adopt, as needed, the necessary actions to prevent, discover and control tampering with (making unauthorized changes to) and replication of mobile ICT device identifiers, and prevent devices with tampered/replicated identifiers from accessing mobile networks, and to find solutions where users of genuine devices are adversely affected by the use of replicated identifiers;
- 5 to urge the industry and manufacturers of mobile devices to adopt measures to prevent the tampering with (making unauthorized changes to) mobile ICT identifiers.

RESOLUTION 191 (REV. DUBAI, 2018)

Strategy for the coordination of efforts among the three Sectors of the Union

The Plenipotentiary Conference of the International Telecommunication Union (Dubai, 2018),

noting

a) Resolution ITU-R 6-2 (Rev. Geneva, 2015) of the Radiocommunication Assembly (RA), on liaison and collaboration with the ITU Telecommunication Standardization Sector (ITU-T), and Resolution ITU-R 7-3 (Rev. Geneva, 2015) of the RA, on telecommunication development including liaison and collaboration with the ITU Telecommunication Development Sector (ITU-D);

b) Resolution 45 (Rev. Hammamet, 2016) of the World Telecommunication Standardization Assembly (WTSA), on effective coordination of standardization work across study groups in ITU-T and the role of the Telecommunication Standardization Advisory Group (TSAG);

c) Resolution 18 (Rev. Hammamet, 2016) of WTSA, on principles and procedures for the allocation of work to, and strengthening coordination and cooperation among, the ITU Radiocommunication Sector (ITU-R), ITU-T and ITU-D;

d) Resolution 5 (Rev. Buenos Aires, 2017) of the World Telecommunication Development Conference (WTDC), on enhanced participation by developing countries¹ in the activities of the Union;

e) Resolution 59 (Rev. Buenos Aires, 2017) of WTDC, on strengthening coordination and cooperation among the three ITU Sectors on matters of mutual interest;

¹ These include the least developed countries, small island developing states, landlocked developing countries and countries with economies in transition.

f) the establishment of the Inter-Sector Coordination Team on issues of mutual interest (ISCT), set up under decisions of the Sector advisory groups, and of the Inter-Sectoral Coordination Task Force (ISC-TF), headed by the Deputy Secretary-General, in order to eliminate duplication of effort and optimize the use of resources,

considering

- a) the purposes of the Union listed in Article 1 of the ITU Constitution;
- b) the role assigned to each of the three Sectors and to the General Secretariat to contribute to fulfilling the purposes and achieving the objectives of the Union;
- c) that, pursuant to No. 119 of the Constitution, the activities of ITU-R, ITU-T and ITU-D shall be the subject of close cooperation with regard to matters relating to development, in accordance with the relevant provisions of the Constitution;
- d) that, pursuant to No. 215 of the ITU Convention, ITU-R, ITU-T and ITU-D shall keep the matters under study under continuing review with a view to reaching agreement on the distribution of work, avoiding duplication of effort and improving coordination, and the Sectors shall adopt procedures to conduct such reviews and reach such agreement in a timely and effective manner;
- e) that RA, WTSA and WTDC have also identified common areas where work is to be done and that require the internal coordination within ITU,

recognizing

- a) the growing number of areas for common studies carried out by the three Sectors and the related need for coordination and cooperation among the Sectors, providing an integrated approach within the framework of the "One ITU";
- b) the need for developing countries to acquire tools to strengthen their telecommunication sector;
- c) that, despite efforts made, levels of participation by developing countries in the activities of ITU-R and ITU-T are not sufficient, so that it is increasingly necessary to strengthen ITU-R and ITU-T coordination and cooperation with ITU-D;

d) the catalysing role of ITU-D, which seeks optimal resource use so that capacities can be built in developing countries;

e) the need to achieve better representation of the vision and needs of developing countries in the activities and work carried out in ITU-R and ITU-T;

f) that, given the growing number of issues of mutual interest related to the three Sectors, such as development of telecommunication/ICT systems, international mobile telecommunications (IMT), emergency telecommunications, telecommunications/ICT and climate change, cybersecurity, access to telecommunications/ICT for persons with disabilities and persons with specific needs, conformance and interoperability of telecommunication/ICT equipment and systems, and better use of scarce resources, among others, an integrative approach from the Union is increasingly required;

g) that coordinated and complementary efforts make it possible to reach more Member States, with greater impact, so as to bridge the digital divide and the standardization gap, as well as contributing to better spectrum management,

bearing in mind

a) that the activities of inter-Sector teams facilitates collaboration and coordination of activities within the Union;

b) that the strategic plan for the Union for 2020-2023 includes Inter-Sectoral Objective I.6: "Reduce the areas of overlap and duplication and foster closer and more transparent coordination among the General Secretariat and the ITU Sectors, taking into account the Union's budgetary provisions and the expertise and mandate of each Sector";

c) that consultations are under way among the three Sector advisory groups themselves regarding the mechanisms and means needed for better cooperation among them;

d) that these actions should continue to be systematized in a comprehensive strategy whose results are measured and monitored;

- e) that this would provide the Union with a tool for correcting deficiencies and building on success;
- f) that ISCT and ISC-TF are effective tools contributing to the development of an integrated strategy;
- g) that inter-Sector collaboration and coordination should be headed by the General Secretariat, in close collaboration with the Directors of the three Bureaux,

resolves

that the Radiocommunication Advisory Group (RAG), TSAG and the Telecommunication Development Advisory Group (TDAG), including through ISCT, shall continue to consider current and new activities and their distribution among ITU-R, ITU-T and ITU-D for approval by the ITU Member States in accordance with the procedures for approval of new and revised questions,

invites

- 1 RAG, TSAG and TDAG to continue to assist ISCT in identifying of subjects common to the three Sectors and mechanisms to enhance cooperation and collaboration in all Sectors on matters of mutual interest;
- 2 the Directors of the Radiocommunication, Telecommunication Standardization and Telecommunication Development Bureaux and ISC-TF to report to ISCT and the respective Sector advisory groups on options for improving cooperation at the secretariat level to ensure that close coordination is maximized,

instructs the Secretary-General

- 1 to continue enhancing a coordination and cooperation strategy for effective and efficient efforts in areas of mutual interest to the three ITU Sectors and the General Secretariat, in order to avoid duplication of effort and optimize the use of resources of the Union;

- 2 to identify all forms and examples of overlapping functions and activities among ITU Sectors as well as the General Secretariat, and propose solutions to address them;
- 3 to update the list containing the areas of mutual interest to the three Sectors and the General Secretariat pursuant to the mandates of each ITU assembly and conference;
- 4 to submit to the ITU Council and to the Plenipotentiary Conference reports on the coordination activities carried out among the different Sectors and the General Secretariat in each such area, as well as the results obtained;
- 5 to continue ensure close interaction and regular exchange of information between ISCT and ISC-TF;
- 6 to present a report to the next plenipotentiary conference on the implementation of this resolution,

instructs the ITU Council

to include coordination of the work of the three ITU Sectors and the General Secretariat on the agenda of its meetings so as to follow its evolution and take decisions to ensure its implementation,

instructs the Secretary-General and the Directors of the three Bureaux

- 1 to ensure reporting to the Council of the coordination activities carried out among the different Sectors in each area identified as being of mutual interest, as well as the results obtained;
- 2 to identify all forms and examples of overlapping functions and activities between ITU Sectors as well as the General Secretariat, and propose solutions to address them;
- 3 to ensure that the agendas of the respective advisory groups include coordination with the other Sectors, so that strategies and actions are suggested for optimal development of the areas of common interest;
- 4 to provide support to ISCT and to the Sector advisory groups in the inter-Sector coordination activity in areas of mutual interest,

invites Member States and Sector Members

- 1 when preparing proposals submitted to conferences and assemblies of the ITU Sectors, as well as ITU plenipotentiary conferences, to take into account the specifics of the activities of the Sectors and the General Secretariat, the need for coordination of their activities, and the need to avoid duplication of activities of various entities of the Union;
- 2 when making decisions at conferences and assemblies of the Union, to act in accordance with Nos. 92, 115, 142 and 147 of the Constitution;
- 3 to support efforts to improve inter-Sector coordination, including taking an active part in groups established by the Sector advisory groups in respect of coordination activities.

RESOLUTION 196 (REV. DUBAI, 2018)

Protecting telecommunication service users/consumers

The Plenipotentiary Conference of the International Telecommunication Union (Dubai, 2018),

recalling

- a) Resolution 64 (Rev. Buenos Aires, 2017) of the World Telecommunication Development Conference, on protecting and supporting users/consumers of telecommunication/information and communication technology (ICT) services;
- b) Article 4 of the International Telecommunication Regulations;
- c) Resolution 84 (Hammamet, 2016) of the World Telecommunication Standardization Assembly, on studies concerning the protection of users of telecommunication/ICT services;
- d) Resolution 188 (Rev. Dubai, 2018) of this conference, on combating counterfeit telecommunication/ICT devices;
- e) Resolution 189 (Rev. Dubai, 2018) of this conference, on assisting Member States to combat and deter mobile device theft,

recognizing

- a) the United Nations Guidelines for Consumer Protection, revised and approved by the United Nations General Assembly in its Resolution 70/186 of 2015, which establishes the main characteristics that consumer-protection laws should have, the institutions in charge of applying them and the compensation systems in order to be effective;
- b) § 13e) of the Geneva Plan of Action of the World Summit on the Information Society, which states that governments should continue to update their domestic consumer-protection laws to respond to the new requirements of the information society,

considering

- a) that consumer-related protection laws, policies and good and best practices limit fraudulent, deceitful and unfair business conduct, and such protective measures are indispensable for building consumer trust and establishing a more equitable relationship between telecommunication/ICT service providers and users/consumers;
- b) that the development and advancement of telecommunications/ICTs must go hand in hand with strengthening the rights of users/consumers and, to this end, regulatory policy measures are required as well as mechanisms to provide more and better information about products and services;
- c) that consumer trust in telecommunications/ICTs is bolstered by the continuous development of policies that seek to guarantee and stimulate the provision of services with quality, as well as policies and mechanisms of transparency that provide concrete, comparable, updated and truthful information that is easy to read, understand and access for making decisions about services;
- d) that education and dissemination of information on the suitable consumption and use of telecommunication/ICT products and services must be encouraged, mainly regarding the inputs of the digital economy, since users/consumers expect to have legal access to the content and applications of these services;
- e) that access to telecommunications/ICTs must be open, affordable and inclusive, paying special attention to persons with disabilities and persons with specific needs and other vulnerable groups;
- f) that work is currently under way in Study Group 1 of the ITU Telecommunication Development Sector (ITU-D) on setting guidelines and good and best practices on user/consumer protection,

resolves

- 1 to continue work aimed at protecting users/consumers of telecommunication/ICT services, and at supporting Member States in developing policies and/or regulations in this area;
- 2 to establish and maintain updated good and best practices on the protection of users/consumers of telecommunication/ICT services;
- 3 that ITU-D continue to lead the work on the subject, through the ITU-D study groups, in close collaboration with the ITU Telecommunication Standardization Sector (ITU-T) and its study groups, as appropriate,

instructs the Director of the Telecommunication Development Bureau

- 1 to bring to the attention of decision-makers and national regulatory authorities the importance of keeping users/consumers informed about the basic characteristics, quality, security and rates of the different services offered by operators, and of other protection mechanisms promoting user/consumer rights;
- 2 to collaborate closely with the Member States in order to identify critical areas for the establishment of recommendations, guidelines, policies and/or regulatory frameworks for the protection of users/consumers of telecommunication/ICT services;
- 3 to strengthen relations with other international organizations, including standards-development organizations, and bodies that participate in the protection of users/consumers of telecommunication/ICT services;
- 4 to support the organization of international and regional forums for the dissemination of telecommunication/ICT user/consumer rights and for sharing experiences on good and best practices among member countries, and the implementation of technical decisions based on ITU-T recommendations, as appropriate,

invites Member States

- 1 to encourage the creation and promotion of policies and/or regulations that ensure the timely delivery of free, transparent, up-to-date and accurate information to end users/consumers about telecommunication/ICT services, tariffs and prices, including international roaming, as well as relevant applicable conditions, including on the basis of relevant ITU outputs;
- 2 to provide inputs to the ITU-D and ITU-T study groups having the relevant mandates on issues pertaining to the protection of users/consumers of telecommunication/ICT services which allow the dissemination of good and best practices and policies that have been implemented in order to increase the ability to develop public policies related to legal, regulatory and technical measures to address the protection of users/consumers of telecommunication/ICT services, including user/consumer data;
- 3 to share good and best practices and public policies which have yielded beneficial outcomes for users/consumers in relation to the consumption of telecommunication/ICT services, in order to replicate those measures and adapt them to the characteristics of each country;
- 4 to promote policies that foster the provision of telecommunication/ICT services in a manner that delivers suitable quality to the users/consumers of telecommunication/ICT services, based, *inter alia*, on ITU-T recommendations;
- 5 to promote competition in the provision of telecommunication/ICT services, encouraging the formulation of policies, strategies or regulations that drive competitive prices;
- 6 to take into account good and best practices, mechanisms and recommendations for the provision of complete and accurate information to users/consumers by telecommunication/ICT service providers,

invites Member States, Sector Members and Associates

- 1 to participate actively in the work of the relevant ITU-D and ITU-T study groups to allow the dissemination of good and best practices and policies related to the protection of users/consumers of telecommunication/ICT services;
- 2 to promote and cultivate an environment conducive to the protection of users/consumers of telecommunication/ICT services;
- 3 to foster activities that promote user/consumer confidence in the use and operation of telecommunication/ICT services.

RESOLUTION 197 (REV. DUBAI, 2018)

Facilitating the Internet of Things and smart sustainable cities and communities

The Plenipotentiary Conference of the International Telecommunication Union (Rev. Dubai, 2018),

recalling

- a) Resolution 85 (Buenos Aires, 2017) of the World Telecommunication Development Conference (WTDC), on facilitating the Internet of Things (IoT) and smart cities and communities (SCCs) for global development;
- b) Resolution 98 (Hammamet, 2016) of the World Telecommunication Standardization Assembly (WTSA), on enhancing standardization of IoT and SCCs for global development;
- c) Resolution ITU-R 66 (Geneva, 2015) of the Radiocommunication Assembly, on studies related to wireless systems and applications for the development of IoT;
- d) Resolution 71 (Rev. Dubai, 2018) of this conference, on the strategic plan for the Union for 2020-2023;
- e) Resolution 139 (Rev. Dubai, 2018) of this conference, on the use of telecommunications/information and communication technologies (ICTs) to bridge the digital divide and build an inclusive information society;
- f) Resolution 200 (Rev. Dubai, 2018) of this conference, on the Connect 2030 Agenda for global telecommunication/ICT development;
- g) Resolution 176 (Rev. Dubai, 2018) of this conference, on human exposure to and measurement of electromagnetic fields;
- h) Resolution 201 (Rev. Dubai, 2018) of this conference, on creating an enabling environment for the deployment and use of ICT applications;

- i) Resolution 90 (Hammamet, 2016) of WTSA, on open source in the ITU Telecommunication Standardization Sector (ITU-T);
- j) Resolution 958 (WRC-2015) of the World Radiocommunication Conference (WRC), on urgent studies in preparation for the 2019 WRC;
- k) relevant World Summit on the Information Society action lines and relevant United Nations Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), particularly SDG 9, on building resilient infrastructure, promoting inclusive and sustainable industrialization and fostering innovation, and SDG 11, on sustainable cities and communities;
- l) Resolution 130 (Rev. Dubai, 2018) of this conference, on strengthening the role of ITU in building confidence and security in the use of ICTs,

taking into account

- a) the work and outcomes of relevant ITU study groups related to the scope of this resolution, including ITU-T Study Groups 17, 16, 13, 11, 5, 3 and 2, Study Group 2 of the ITU Telecommunication Development Sector (ITU-D) and Study Group 5 of the ITU Radiocommunication Sector (ITU-R);
- b) the work, studies and outcomes of ITU-T Study Group 20 on IoT and SCCs;
- c) the work of United for Smart and Sustainable Cities initiative;
- d) the current studies carried out by relevant ITU-R study groups, as well as relevant ITU-R reports;
- e) the ongoing work under relevant ITU-D study groups;
- f) the Buenos Aires Declaration adopted by WTDC-17, and particularly regional initiatives related to IoT;

g) the ongoing collaboration among the relevant ITU study groups and with other relevant organizations and standards-development organizations (SDOs),

considering

a) that a globally connected IoT world will be built on the connectivity and functionality made possible by telecommunication networks;

b) that the globally connected world also requires considerable enhancement of transmission speed, device connectivity and energy efficiency to accommodate the significant amounts of data exchanged among a plethora of devices;

c) that the rapid development of IoT-related and emerging technologies could enable the globally connected world to be realized faster than expected;

d) that IoT is playing a fundamental role in various fields, including energy, transportation, health, management of urban and rural spaces and smart and sustainable cities and communities (SSCCs), agriculture, emergencies, crisis and disaster management, public safety and home networks, and benefits developing countries¹ as well as developed countries;

e) that IoT is evolving to support a wide variety of applications and use cases involving various stakeholders;

f) that relevant ITU study groups as well as industry forums, consortia and other SDOs are working on the development of various standards and/or technical specifications for IoT;

g) that the impact of IoT is becoming more pervasive and far-reaching thanks to the wide range of applications in both ICT and non-ICT sectors;

¹ These include the least developed countries, small island developing states, landlocked developing countries and countries with economies in transition.

h) that, considering the limited financial and human resources in developing countries, special attention should be given to developing countries, in order to help them deploy necessary infrastructures to facilitate the interconnectivity of things,

recognizing

a) the role of ITU-T in carrying out studies and standardization work associated with IoT and its applications, including SCCs, and its activities in coordinating with other organizations;

b) the role of ITU-R in conducting studies on the technical and operational aspects of radio networks and systems for IoT;

c) the role of ITU-D in encouraging telecommunication/ICT development at the global level, and in particular the relevant work carried out by the ITU-D study groups;

d) the need to continue to collaborate with other relevant organizations, including relevant industry forums, consortia and SDOs;

e) that the Internet Protocol version six (IPv6) may contribute to the future development of IoT;

f) that cooperation between all relevant organizations and communities to raise greater awareness and to promote the adoption of IPv6 within Member States and through capacity building within the mandate of the Union is desired;

g) the work of the Joint Coordination Activity on IoT and SCCs;

h) that the development of IoT creates new opportunities in non-ICT sectors, including a wide range of verticals and industries, thus exerting an impact on economic growth, including the digital economy, and helping to achieve the 17 SDGs adopted in Resolution 70/1 of the United Nations General Assembly;

- i) the challenges and opportunities related to the widespread use of a large number of IoT devices, and their potential impact;
- j) the importance of continuing the work on IoT and SSCCs, within the mandate of ITU,

bearing in mind

- a) that interoperability is required in many sectors in order to develop services enabled by IoT (hereinafter "IoT services") at the global level, to the greatest extent practicable with mutual collaboration among relevant organizations and entities, including other SDOs involved in developing and using open standards, to the extent practicable;
- b) that industry forums are developing technical specifications for IoT;
- c) that the application of IoT is expected to encompass all sectors, including, but not limited to, energy, transportation, health, agriculture, etc. and that it will be necessary to take into account the different aims and requirements of different sectors;
- d) that it is important to encourage the participation of all relevant organizations or entities around the world to promote the early establishment and expansion of IoT;
- e) that the globally connected world through IoT could also contribute to achieving the goals of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development,

resolves

- 1 to promote investment in and development of IoT in order to support the goals of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development;
- 2 to continue and further develop studies and activities on IoT and SSCCs within the remit of ITU, in order to promote the development of IoT and SSCCs and address any possible challenges for ITU members and relevant stakeholders,

instructs the Secretary-General, in consultation and collaboration with the Directors of the three Bureaux

- 1 to coordinate the IoT and SSCC activities of the Union to implement the resolution;
- 2 to facilitate the exchange of experiences and information with all relevant organizations and entities involved in IoT and SSCCs, with the aim of creating opportunities for cooperative efforts to support the deployment of IoT;
- 3 to raise awareness among ITU members of the opportunities and challenges for developing countries in the adoption of IoT, and to facilitate the exchange of experiences and information and increase cooperation with all relevant organizations and entities involved in IoT and SSCCs, with the aim of creating opportunities;
- 4 to submit an annual report on the results of implementation of this resolution to the ITU Council sessions;
- 5 to submit a report to the next plenipotentiary conference in 2022,

instructs the Director of the Telecommunication Standardization Bureau and the Director of the Radiocommunication Bureau

- 1 to support the work of relevant ITU-T and ITU-R study groups on IoT and SSCCs and to facilitate the emergence of diverse services in the globally connected world, in collaboration with relevant sectors;
- 2 to continue cooperation with relevant organizations, including SDOs, for exchanging best practices and disseminating information to increase interoperability of IoT services, through joint workshops, training sessions, joint coordination activity groups and any other appropriate means;

- 3 to encourage the development of IoT and SSCCs, taking into account the outcomes of the work of the relevant ITU study groups on various aspects of IoT and SSCCs,

instructs the Director of the Radiocommunication Bureau

to support work of the ITU-R study groups on relevant radio aspects for IoT,

instructs the Director of the Telecommunication Development Bureau, in close collaboration with the Director of the Telecommunication Standardization Bureau and the Director of the Radiocommunication Bureau

- 1 to encourage and assist those countries which need support in adopting IoT and SSCCs, by providing relevant information, capacity building and best practices to enable the adoption of IoT, through seminars, workshops, etc.;
- 2 to encourage Member States to develop enabling frameworks, such as ICT strategies, for IoT and SSCCs,

instructs the ITU Council

- 1 to consider the reports of the Secretary-General referred to in *instructs the Secretary-General* 4 above and take necessary measures so as to contribute to achieving the objectives of this resolution;
- 2 to report to the next plenipotentiary conference on the progress made with respect to this resolution based on the report of the Secretary-General,

invites Member States

- 1 to foster the development of guidelines and best practices for deployment, planning, and capacity building in the field of IoT and SSCCs;

2 to cooperate in order to promote IoT and SSCCs by encouraging the active participation of relevant stakeholders and exchange of relevant information on this topic;

3 to support studies on radio-related matters on IoT to support cost-effective deployment of IoT ecosystems,

invites the ITU membership

1 to consider developing best practices to enhance the development of IoT and SSCCs;

2 to contribute to the implementation of this resolution;

3 to cooperate in order to promote IoT and SSCCs by encouraging the active participation of relevant stakeholders in the activities of ITU and exchange information on this topic;

4 to participate actively in studies on IoT and SSCCs in the Union through contributions and by other appropriate means;

5 to encourage enterprises in various industries to participate in ITU's activities on IoT and SSCCs.

RESOLUTION 198 (REV. DUBAI, 2018)

Empowerment of youth through telecommunication/information and communication technology

The Plenipotentiary Conference of the International Telecommunication Union (Dubai, 2018),

considering

- a) that youth under the age of 25 constitute the most active population in terms of use of the Internet;
- b) that youth, in many developed and developing countries¹, face disproportionate exposure to poverty and unemployment;
- c) that youth have the right to achieve full economic, social and digital inclusion;
- d) that information and communication technology (ICT) is a tool through which youth can substantively contribute to, participate in and leverage their social and economic development;
- e) that youth are digital natives and the best promoters of ICT;
- f) that ICT tools and applications can facilitate career opportunities for youth,

recalling

- a) that ICT is one of the fifteen priority areas identified under the World Programme of Action for Youth adopted by the United Nations General Assembly (UNGA) through Resolution 62/126;
- b) UNGA Resolution 70/1, on transforming our world: the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development;

¹ These include the least developed countries, small island developing states, landlocked developing countries and countries with economies in transition.

c) Resolution 169 (Rev. Dubai, 2018) of this conference, on the admission of academia to participate in the work of the Union;

d) Resolution 76 (Rev. Buenos Aires, 2017) of the World Telecommunication Development Conference, on promoting ICTs among young women and men for social and economic empowerment;

e) the Tunis Commitment of the 2005 phase of the World Summit on the Information Society, reaffirming Member States' commitment to empowering young people as key contributors to building an inclusive information society in order to actively engage youth in innovative ICT-based development programmes and widen opportunities for youth to be involved in e-strategy processes,

recognizing

a) the annual "Kaleidoscope" academic essay competition organized by the ITU Telecommunication Standardization Sector, targeting young ICT scientists, researchers and engineers;

b) ITU's coordination of the annual "Girls in ICT Day", which encourages young women to seek careers in ICT;

c) the progress made by ITU, and in particular the Telecommunication Development Bureau (BDT), in the development and implementation of actions and projects that use ICT for the economic and social empowerment of youth;

d) the substantive work of BDT on digital inclusion related to youth, including research and analysis, especially BDT's statistical monitoring and reporting on disaggregated ICT data by age;

e) ITU's support to the United Nations Secretary-General's Envoy on Youth, its active involvement in the United Nations Inter-Agency Network on Youth Development and its contribution to the United Nations System-wide Action Plan on Youth;

f) the Young ICT Policy Leaders initiative launched during the 2014 plenipotentiary conference in Busan, which gives young professionals the opportunity to participate, through national delegations, in ITU events and conferences,

resolves

- 1 that ITU continue to engage with youth in outreach, through communications, capacity building and research, from the perspective of digital inclusion;
- 2 that ITU promote innovation, entrepreneurship and skills development, in order to provide tools for self-empowerment of youth and their satisfactory participation in the digital economy and all aspects of society;
- 3 that ITU should promote partnerships with academia for the purpose of youth development;
- 4 to accord high priority to the incorporation of young professionals in the human resources and operations of ITU;
- 5 to continue the work being done at ITU, and particularly in BDT, to help empower youth through ICTs by promoting policies that improve socio-economic conditions for youth, particularly in developing countries;
- 6 to maintain a youth perspective in the implementation of the ITU strategic plan and financial plan for 2020-2023 as well as in the operational plans of the Sectors and the General Secretariat;
- 7 that there is a need for ITU to investigate, analyse and further understand the impact of telecommunication/ICT technologies on youth;
- 8 that all activities foreseen in this resolution should fall within the existing financial resources of the Union;
- 9 to note that age groups of youth shall be defined on a case-by-case basis depending on the nature of ITU activities,

instructs the ITU Council

- 1 to build on the initiatives carried out over the past four years and to accelerate youth empowerment in ITU as a whole, within existing budgetary resources, so as to ensure capacity building and promotion of youth;
- 2 to consider involving youth in the celebrations of World Telecommunication and Information Society Day in accordance with Resolution 68 (Rev. Guadalajara, 2010) of the Plenipotentiary Conference, and launching a special recognition award for young people who make outstanding contributions in the field of ICT,

instructs the Secretary-General

- 1 to continue to ensure that the youth perspective is incorporated in the work programmes, management approaches and human resources development activities of ITU, and to submit an annual written report to the ITU Council on progress made;
- 2 to report to the next plenipotentiary conference on the results and progress made on the inclusion of a youth perspective in the work of ITU, and on the implementation of this resolution;
- 3 to bring this resolution to the attention of the United Nations Secretary-General in an effort to promote increased coordination and cooperation for development policies, programmes and projects that link ICT to the promotion and empowerment of youth;
- 4 to ensure coordination of ITU activities so as to avoid duplication and overlap between three ITU Sectors where possible;
- 5 to strengthen the role of academia within the structures of the Union, and to increase the value of engaging with ITU for academia and youth,

instructs the Director of the Telecommunication Development Bureau

- 1 to continue the work of BDT in promoting the use of ICT for the economic and social empowerment of youth;
- 2 to maintain regular monitoring, reporting and research on the uptake and use of ICT by youth, including the provision of disaggregated data by gender and information on behavioural aspects that may be harmful and dangerous,

instructs the Directors of the three Bureaux

to continue to explore ways and means of involving young professionals in the work of the Bureaux,

invites Member States and Sector Members

- 1 to actively support and participate in the work of ITU in promoting the use of ICTs for the economic and social empowerment of youth;
- 2 to promote up-to-date training for youth on ICT use, including building digital competences among youth through educational campaigns;
- 3 to foster collaboration with civil society and the private sector in order to promote specialized training for young innovators;
- 4 to further develop tools and programming guidelines in the area of promotion of youth and their social and economic empowerment;
- 5 to cooperate with relevant international organizations that have experience in youth economic empowerment through projects and programmes,

encourages Member States and Sector Members

- 1 to review and revise, as appropriate, their respective policies and practices in order to ensure the recruitment, employment, training and advancement of youth through telecommunications/ICT;

2 to promote career opportunities in the telecommunication/ICT field, including in telecommunication/ICT administrations, government and regulatory bodies and intergovernmental organizations as well as in the private sector;

3 to attract more youth to study science, technology, engineering and mathematics (STEM);

4 to encourage youth to take advantage of ICT opportunities to advance their development and promote innovation and economic development at national and international level,

invites Member States

1 to share best practices on national approaches targeting the use of ICT for the social and economic development of youth;

2 to develop strategies for using ICT as a tool for the educational, social and economic development of youth;

3 to promote ICT for youth empowerment and involvement in the decision-making processes of the ICT sector;

4 to support ITU activities in field of ICT for the social and economic development of youth;

5 to consider adopting a youth delegate programme for the inclusion of young delegates, taking into account gender balance, in a country's official delegation to the major conferences of ITU, for raising awareness and knowledge and promoting interest in ICT among youth,

invites Academia

1 to continue providing the necessary structures for effective engagement with youth, through access to information, fellowships and recognition for participation in ITU activities;

2 to support youth networks so that they may act as community-based hubs and innovation centres for providing input to ITU's intellectual processes;

3 to involve young lecturers and researchers as well as students in relevant ITU activities and empower their effective participation therein, including through capacity building.

RESOLUTION 200 (REV. DUBAI, 2018)

Connect 2030 Agenda for global telecommunication/information and communication technology, including broadband, for sustainable development

The Plenipotentiary Conference of the International Telecommunication Union (Dubai, 2018),

recalling

- a) the purposes of the Union as enshrined in Article 1 of the ITU Constitution;
- b) the commitment by all Member States of the United Nations to achieving the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and the 17 Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and related targets, adopted by the United Nations General Assembly (UNGA) in Resolution 70/1;
- c) the call for close alignment between the World Summit on the Information Society (WSIS) process and the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, adopted in UNGA Resolution 70/125;
- d) the targets set by WSIS, which served as global references for improving access to and use of telecommunications/information and communication technology (ICT) in promoting the objectives of the Geneva Plan of Action, and the SDGs in the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, to be achieved by 2030;
- e) § 98 of the Tunis Agenda for the Information Society, which encourages strengthened and continuing cooperation between and among stakeholders and welcomes, in that respect, the ITU-led Connect the World initiative;
- f) the 2025 global broadband targets of the United Nations Broadband Commission for Sustainable Development to support "Connecting the Other Half";

g) the Connect 2020 Agenda for global telecommunication/ICT development agreed by ITU Member States at the 2014 plenipotentiary conference in Busan, Republic of Korea, initially adopted by Resolution 200 (Busan, 2014) of the Plenipotentiary Conference,

considering

a) the Union's dual responsibility as the United Nations specialized agency for telecommunications/ICTs and executing agency for implementing related projects under the United Nations development system;

b) the United Nations system-wide implementation of the 2030 Sustainable Development Agenda and efforts towards achieving the SDGs;

c) the role of ITU as a United Nations specialized agency to support Member States and to contribute towards the worldwide efforts to achieve the SDGs,

noting

that the Busan Declaration on the future role of telecommunications/ICT in achieving sustainable development, adopted by the ministerial meeting held in Busan, Republic of Korea in 2014, endorsed a shared global vision for the development of the telecommunication/ICT sector, under the agenda "Connect 2020",

recognizing

a) the WSIS outcome documents – the Geneva Plan of Action (2003) and the Tunis Agenda (2005);

b) the WSIS+10 statement on the implementation of WSIS outcomes and vision for WSIS beyond 2015, endorsed by the Plenipotentiary Conference (Busan, 2014);

c) the outcomes of the Connect series summits (Connect Africa, Connect CIS, Connect Americas, Connect Arab States and Connect Asia-Pacific) under the Connect the World global multistakeholder initiative set up within the context of WSIS;

d) the Buenos Aires Declaration adopted by the World Telecommunication Development Conference (WTDC-17) and the Buenos Aires Action Plan and relevant WTDC-17 resolutions, including Resolutions 30 and 37 (Rev. Buenos Aires, 2017), as well as Resolutions 135, 139 and 140 (Rev. Dubai, 2018) of this conference;

e) Resolution 71 (Rev. Dubai, 2018) of this conference, which adopted the strategic framework for the Union for 2020-2023 and set the strategic goals, related targets and objectives,

recognizing further

a) that telecommunications/ICT is a key enabler to accelerate social, economic and environmentally sustainable growth and development, while the spread of ICT and global interconnectedness has great potential to accelerate human progress, to bridge the digital divide, and to develop knowledge societies;

b) the need to sustain current achievements and intensify efforts in promoting and financing ICTs for development;

c) the global challenges of the rapidly evolving telecommunication/ICT environment, as identified in Annex 2 to Resolution 71 (Rev. Dubai, 2018);

d) the need for broadband connectivity for sustainable development,

resolves

1 to reaffirm a shared global vision for the development of the telecommunication/ICT sector, under the Connect 2030 Agenda envisaging "an information society, empowered by the interconnected world, where telecommunications/ICTs enable and accelerate social, economic and environmentally sustainable growth and development for everyone";

2 to endorse the high-level strategic goals and targets set out in the strategic plan of the Union and global broadband targets, inspiring and inviting all stakeholders and entities to work together to implement the Connect 2030 Agenda, contributing to the implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development;

3 to call upon Member States to continue leveraging telecommunications/ICT as a key enabler for achieving the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and the SDGs that integrate in a balanced manner the economic, social and environmental dimensions of sustainable development,

instructs the Secretary-General

1 to monitor the progress towards achievement of the Connect 2030 Agenda, leveraging data, among others, from the ITU World Telecommunication/ICT Indicators database and the Partnership on Measuring ICT for Development;

2 to disseminate information and share knowledge and best practices on national, regional and international initiatives contributing to the Connect 2030 Agenda;

3 to further facilitate implementation of the WSIS action lines and achievement of the SDGs assigned to the responsibility of ITU, in accordance with the Connect 2030 Agenda;

4 to present annual consolidated progress reports to the ITU Council and four-year consolidated progress reports to the Plenipotentiary Conference;

5 to bring this resolution to the attention of all interested parties, including, in particular, UNGA, the United Nations Development Programme and the United Nations Economic and Social Council, for cooperation in its implementation;

6 to continue to support Member States, in particular developing countries¹, in their active engagement with regard to *resolves* 3 of this resolution,

¹ These include the least developed countries, small island developing states, landlocked developing countries and countries with economies in transition.

instructs the Directors of the Bureaux

to report on the progress towards achievement of the objectives and outcomes of the work of each Sector, as elaborated in the strategic plan for the Union for 2020-2023 in Annex 1 to Resolution 71 (Rev. Dubai, 2018), that contributes to the Connect 2030 Agenda,

instructs the Director of the Telecommunication Development Bureau

to coordinate the collection, provision and dissemination of indicators and statistics that measure and provide comparative analysis of progress towards achievement of the targets of the ITU strategic plan, and report on the progress through the annual Measuring the Information Society Report,

instructs the ITU Council

- 1 to review the annual progress achieved towards the accomplishment of the Connect 2030 Agenda;
- 2 to present an assessment of the progress towards achieving the Connect 2030 Agenda to the next plenipotentiary conference,

invites the Member States

- 1 to participate actively in the implementation of the Connect 2030 Agenda, and contribute with national, regional and international initiatives;
- 2 to invite all other stakeholders to contribute and work together towards the Connect 2030 Agenda;
- 3 to provide data and statistics, as appropriate, to monitor progress towards the achievement of the Connect 2030 Agenda;
- 4 to report national progress towards the achievement of the Connect 2030 Agenda, and contribute to the database that will collect and disseminate information on national and regional initiatives contributing to the Connect 2030 Agenda;
- 5 to ensure that ICTs are central to the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, by being acknowledged as an important tool to achieve its overall SDGs;

6 to contribute to the work of ITU, as elaborated in the strategic plan for the Union for 2020-2023 in Annex 1 to Resolution 71 (Rev. Dubai, 2018), that contributes to the Connect 2030 Agenda,

invites Sector Members, Associates and Academia

to take an active role towards implementing the Connect 2030 Agenda,

invites all stakeholders

to contribute with their initiatives and their experience, qualifications and expertise to the successful implementation of the Connect 2030 Agenda.

RESOLUTION 201 (REV. DUBAI, 2018)

Creating an enabling environment for the deployment and use of information and communication technology applications

The Plenipotentiary Conference of the International Telecommunication Union (Dubai, 2018),

recalling

a) Resolution 37 (Rev. Buenos Aires, 2017) of the World Telecommunication Development Conference, on bridging the digital divide, especially the role of information and communication technology (ICT) applications that regard;

b) Resolution 137 (Rev. Dubai, 2018) of this conference, on next-generation network deployment in developing countries¹;

c) Resolution 139 (Rev. Dubai, 2018) of this conference, on telecommunications/ICTs to bridge the digital divide and build an inclusive information society;

d) Resolution 140 (Rev. Dubai, 2018) of this conference, on ITU's role in implementing the outcomes of the World Summit on the Information Society (WSIS);

e) WSIS Action Line C7, on ICT applications (hereafter referred to as "e-applications"), which are specified as:

- e-government
- e-business
- e-learning
- e-health
- e-employment
- e-environment

¹ These include the least developed countries, small island developing states, landlocked developing countries and countries with economies in transition.

- e-agriculture
- e-science;

f) § 14 of the WSIS Geneva Plan of Action, which notes that ICT applications can support sustainable development, in the fields of public administration, business, education and training, health, employment, environment, agriculture and science within the framework of national e-strategies,

recalling further

a) Resolution 136 (Rev. Dubai, 2018) of this conference, on the use of telecommunications/ICTs for monitoring and management in emergency and disaster situations for early warning, prevention, mitigation and relief;

b) Resolution 182 (Rev. Busan, 2014) of the Plenipotentiary Conference, on the role of telecommunications/ICTs in regard to climate change and protection of the environment;

c) Resolution 183 (Rev. Busan, 2014) of the Plenipotentiary Conference, on telecommunication/ICT applications for e-health,

noting

a) that the strategic plan for the Union for 2020-2023 aims to foster an enabling environment for ICT development and foster the development of telecommunication/ICT networks as well as relevant applications and services;

b) that ITU, along with the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO), established the Broadband Commission for Digital Development in 2010 in its efforts to strengthen the activities aimed at the expansion of broadband and to give more weight to the utilization of ICT applications;

c) that ITU has played a key role in the implementation of the WSIS outcomes for both networks and e-applications, in the role of mediator/facilitator for information and communication infrastructure (Action Line C2) and the role of co-facilitator in the more active implementation of ICT applications (Action Line C7),

recognizing

- a) that the use of telecommunications/ICT can improve competitiveness and productivity, as well as increasing efficiencies and bringing benefits in all aspects of our daily life;
- b) that the benefits of deploying telecommunication networks will be fully realized through the introduction and active utilization of various ICT applications and services;
- c) that, in order to facilitate the deployment of telecommunication networks and the expansion of ICT applications, cooperation among various respective players is necessary at various levels;
- d) that, in order to enable people to access and use ICT applications, it is important to develop an approach adapted to local needs,

resolves to instruct the ITU Council

- 1 to consider the Secretary-General's report referred to in *instructs the Secretary-General* 5 below;
- 2 to consider ways and means to further explore this topic, as appropriate,

instructs the Secretary-General

- 1 to continue monitoring progress and achievement of the goals set by the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), WSIS and the Broadband Commission;
- 2 to participate actively in discussions relating to the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development in order for the Union to play a pivotal role in enabling greater use of e-applications;
- 3 to continue consultations with all relevant organizations and institutions in ICT sectors as well as non-ICT sectors in order to explore ways to cooperate in promoting the expansion and active utilization of e-applications in various areas;
- 4 to progress all activities related to this resolution within the ITU's mandate;
- 5 to report to the ITU Council on the progress of activities related to this resolution,

instructs the Director of the Telecommunication Development Bureau

- 1 to continue elaborating the ICT Development Index (IDI), reflecting the availability and utilization of ICT applications, and the ICT Price Basket, reflecting affordability, both of which contribute to assessing social and economic impact of ICT applications;
- 2 to enhance awareness of the role and benefits of ICT applications on socio-economic development, especially regarding Internet of Things (IoT) applications and other applications which enable smart cities and communities;
- 3 to work with the Director of the Radiocommunication Bureau and the Director of the Telecommunication Standardization Bureau, as appropriate, in order to encourage cooperation with other relevant organizations in the development of best practices relating to the network infrastructure that enables the use of a wide range of e-applications,

invites Member States, Sector Members, Associates and Academia

- 1 to promote the introduction of e-applications to support sustainable development, in the fields of public administration, business, education and training, health, employment, environment, agriculture, manufacturing industry and science, among others, within the framework of national e-strategies;
- 2 to consider how institutional frameworks can support the utilization of e-applications;
- 3 to promote policy measures that will encourage the adoption of e-applications within their countries;
- 4 to explore measures for greater cooperation and coordination with other Member States, Sector Members and various entities, such as national, regional and international organizations, development institutes, academia, industries and other relevant organizations, in order to strengthen their roles and activities in relation to ICT applications.

RESOLUTION 203 (REV. DUBAI, 2018)

Connectivity to broadband networks

The Plenipotentiary Conference of the International Telecommunication Union (Dubai, 2018),

considering

a) United Nations General Assembly (UNGA) Resolution 70/1, on transforming our world: the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development;

b) UNGA Resolution 70/125, on the outcome document of the UNGA high-level meeting on the overall review of the implementation of the outcomes of the World Summit on the Information Society;

c) the results of the extensive work of the United Nations Broadband Commission for Digital Development, the reports of which recognize, *inter alia*, that affordable and accessible broadband infrastructure, with appropriate policy and strategy, is a fundamental enabling platform that fosters innovation and drives the development of national and global economies and the information society;

d) Resolution 71 (Rev. Dubai, 2018) of this conference and the strategic plan of the Union for 2020-2023, which consider bridging the digital divide and providing broadband access for all as one of the strategic goals for the Union;

e) Opinion 2 (Geneva, 2013) of the fifth World Telecommunication/Information and Communication Technology (ICT) Policy Forum, on fostering an enabling environment for the greater growth and development of broadband connectivity;

f) the overall theme of the World Telecommunication Development Conference (WTDC) (Buenos Aires, 2017), namely "ICT for Sustainable Development Goals";

g) Resolution 77 (Rev. Buenos Aires, 2017) of WTDC, on broadband technology and applications for greater growth and development of telecommunication/information and communication services and broadband connectivity, as well as Question 1/1 of Study Group 1 of the Telecommunication Development Sector, on strategies and policies for the deployment of broadband in developing countries¹;

h) Resolution 9 (Rev. Buenos Aires, 2017) of WTDC, on participation of countries, particularly developing countries, in spectrum management, Resolution 10 (Rev. Hyderabad, 2010) of WTDC, on financial support for national spectrum-management programmes, and Resolution 43 (Rev. Buenos Aires, 2017) of WTDC, on assistance for implementing international mobile telecommunications (IMT) and future networks, and Resolution ITU-R 69 (Geneva, 2015) of the Radiocommunication Assembly, on development and deployment of international public telecommunications via satellite in developing countries;

i) the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, and in particular target 9.c: "Significantly increase access to information and communications technology and strive to provide universal and affordable access to the Internet in least developed countries by 2020";

j) Objective 2 of the Buenos Aires Action Plan: "Modern and secure telecommunication/ICT infrastructure: Foster the development of infrastructure and services", and respective activities on the collection and dissemination of information and analyses on the current status of broadband backbone and submarine cables, in order to assist members in network planning, avoiding duplication of efforts and resources and disseminating information,

¹ These include the least developed countries, small island developing states, landlocked developing countries and countries with economies in transition.

noting

- a) that broadband connectivity empowers families, people, societies and businesses, playing a fundamental role for the social, economic, cultural and environmental development of society as a whole;
- b) the importance of broadband connectivity for facilitating the delivery of a broader range of digital services and applications, promoting investment and providing Internet access at affordable prices to both existing and new users in underserved and unserved areas, and bridging the existing digital divide;
- c) that broadband connectivity can play a major role in providing vital information during emergency events and disaster relief efforts;
- d) that broadband connectivity is vital for social, economic, cultural and environmental development, and broadband plans, policies and strategies are important to support its deployment;
- e) that broadband initiatives not only seek to bridge the digital divide but also foster broadband development in rural areas,

recognizing

- a) that connectivity to broadband networks is directly and indirectly enabled and supported by many diverse technologies, including fixed and mobile terrestrial technologies and fixed and mobile satellite technologies;
- b) that spectrum is essential both for the direct provision of wireless broadband connectivity to users by satellite and terrestrial means and for the underlying enabling technologies;
- c) that broadband plays a vital role in transforming economies and societies, as stated in the open letter from the Broadband Commission to the ITU Plenipotentiary Conference (Busan, 2014);

d) that enabling a regulatory and policy environment that promotes innovation and investment as well as local initiatives covering unserved and/or underserved areas can contribute to increasing broadband connectivity,

resolves

to work towards providing broadband access for all (which will contribute to bridging the digital divide),

instructs the Director of the Telecommunication Development Bureau

to continue to work closely with the Director of the Radiocommunication Bureau and the Director of the Telecommunication Standardization Bureau on capacity-building activities that would enable countries to develop and implement their respective national strategies to facilitate the deployment of broadband networks, including wireless broadband networks, taking into account existing budgetary constraints of the Union,

instructs the Director of the Radiocommunication Bureau and the Director of the Telecommunication Standardization Bureau

to work in cooperation with Sector Members involved in the provision of services and applications to people, families, businesses and societal functions in order to address the need for further improved broadband networks, including wireless broadband networks, and to share relevant information, experience and expertise with the Telecommunication Development Bureau,

invites Member States

- 1 to further reinforce and recognize the overall socio-economic benefits of connectivity to broadband networks and services;
- 2 to support the development and cost-effective deployment of wireless broadband networks as part of their national broadband strategies and policies;
- 3 to promote widespread affordable access to broadband;

- 4 to facilitate connectivity to satellite and terrestrial broadband networks, including enabling access to spectrum, as appropriate, as one important component of access to broadband services and applications, including to remote, underserved and unserved areas;
- 5 to foster an environment for improving and/or enabling the development and deployment of broadband infrastructure, including the review and updating, as necessary, of their regulatory and policy frameworks;
- 6 to contribute to ITU studies and share best practices that advance the quality, affordability, development and deployment of broadband networks, especially for unserved and underserved areas.

RESOLUTION 204 (DUBAI, 2018)

Use of information and communication technologies to bridge the financial inclusion gap

The Plenipotentiary Conference of the International Telecommunication Union (Dubai, 2018),

recalling

a) Resolution 1353 of the ITU Council, which recognizes that telecommunications and information and communication technologies (ICTs) are essential components for developed and developing countries¹ in achieving sustainable development, and instructs the Secretary-General, in collaboration with the Directors of the Bureaux, to identify new activities to be undertaken by ITU to support developing countries in achieving sustainable development through telecommunications and ICTs;

b) Resolution 70 (Rev. Dubai 2018) of this conference, on mainstreaming a gender perspective in ITU and promotion of gender equality and the empowerment of women through telecommunications/ICTs,

recognizing

a) United Nations General Assembly Resolution 70/1, on transforming our world: the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, which builds on the Millennium Development Goals and seeks to complete their unfinished business, and stresses the importance of the implementation of this new ambitious agenda, which has poverty eradication at its core and aims at promoting the economic, social and environmental dimensions of sustainable development;

¹ These include the least developed countries, small island developing states, landlocked developing countries and countries with economies in transition.

b) that this new agenda, *inter alia*, undertakes the adoption and implementation of policies to increase financial inclusion and therefore integrates financial inclusion into several targets associated with the Sustainable Development Goals and their means of implementation;

c) Resolution 89 (Hammamet, 2016) of the World Telecommunication Standardization Assembly, on promoting the use of ICTs to bridge the financial inclusion gap;

d) that the issue of access to financial services is one of global concern and requires global collaboration,

considering

a) that financial inclusion is a key enabler for reducing poverty and boosting prosperity: around 2 billion people globally do not have access to formal financial services and more than 50 per cent of adults in the poorest households are unbanked;

b) that, according to the 2017 World Bank Global Findex Study, an estimated 1.7 billion adults still lack access to a transaction account and are excluded from the formal financial system; that enhancing financial inclusion can improve resistance to economic shocks, boost productivity of businesses, facilitate female empowerment and help eradicate extreme poverty and increase shared prosperity; and that it is estimated that two thirds of the unbanked have access to a mobile phone, which can be leveraged to gain access to financial products and services;

c) that, according to the same report, women in developing economies remain 9 per cent less likely than men to have a bank account;

d) the need for regulators from the telecommunication and financial services sectors to collaborate with one another and with, *inter alia*, their ministries and other stakeholders, and to share best practices, since digital financial services encompass areas which fall under the purview of all parties;

e) that the purposes of the Union include to foster collaboration among the membership for the harmonious development of telecommunications/ICTs, sharing of best practices and enabling services to be offered at the lowest possible cost;

f) that one way to bridge this financial inclusion gap is through ICTs,

considering further

a) the reports of the ITU Telecommunication Standardization Sector (ITU-T) Focus Group Digital Financial Services (FG-DFS) delivered to Telecommunication Standardization Advisory Group (TSAG) in 2017;

b) the studies and ongoing work in relevant ITU-T and ITU Telecommunication Development Sector (ITU-D) study groups on digital financial services;

c) the ITU-T Study Group 3 Technical Report on the DFS Glossary (2018);

d) the activities of the Financial Inclusion Global Initiative (FIGI), which is a collaborative initiative among the World Bank Group, the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation, the Committee on Payments and Market Infrastructures (CPMI) and ITU, with broad participation from public and private sector partners;

e) the work of the ITU-T Focus Group on Digital Currency, including digital fiat currency (FG-DFC) set up by TSAG at its meeting in Geneva, 2017, whose mandate focuses on studying the economic impact, ecosystem and regulatory implications of digital fiat currency,

noting

a) that the World Bank Group has committed to enabling 1 billion people to gain access to a transaction account through targeted interventions;

- b) the target of universal financial access by 2020 set by the World Bank, and that this goal will be achieved globally by providing access to a transaction account or electronic instrument to store money and send and receive payments, as the basic building block for people to manage their financial lives;
- c) that interoperability is, *inter alia*, an important element to enable electronic payments in a convenient, affordable, fast, seamless and secure way through a transaction account; indeed, the need for interoperability was also one of the findings of the CPMI - World Bank Group Task Force on payment aspects of financial inclusion (PAFI), which identified required improvements to existing payment systems and services in order to increase further financial inclusion, recognizing that implementation of existing standards and best practices should be a priority;
- d) the increased interest in using mobile financial services in developing countries;
- e) that, despite the success of mobile financial services in several countries, mobile financial services have not had the same success and scale of usage in many emerging economies, and efforts to roll out standards and systems to support digital financial services will thus need to be continued and accelerated;
- f) the importance of affordability of digital financial services, especially for low-income households, for achieving financial inclusion,

resolves

- 1 to continue studying the topic of digital financial services in order to increase financial inclusion in developing countries;
- 2 to encourage collaboration and dialogue between telecommunication regulators and financial services authorities to develop and implement standards and guidelines;
- 3 to encourage the use of innovative digital tools and technologies, as appropriate, to advance financial inclusion,

instructs the relevant study groups of the ITU Telecommunication Standardization Sector

- 1 to continue studying economic and policy issues, developing standards, recommendations and guidelines in the area of digital financial services, as appropriate;
- 2 to continue studying the areas of interoperability, digitization of payments, consumer protection, quality of service, data monetization, agents, and network security, where such studies, standards and guidelines require collaboration with efforts taking place in other institutions and relate to the mandate of the Union;
- 3 to continue efforts in the area of the collaboration among telecommunication regulators, financial regulators and central banks;
- 4 to coordinate and collaborate with other relevant standards development organizations (SDOs) and institutions with primary responsibility for the development of financial services standards, implementation and capacity building, and with other groups within ITU,

instructs the relevant study groups of the ITU Telecommunication Development Sector

to continue studies and to gather and disseminate best practices related to digital financial inclusion,

instructs the Directors of the Telecommunication Standardization and Telecommunication Development Bureaux

- 1 to collaborate closely and provide information and support on the matters addressed in this resolution;
- 2 to support the development of reports, studies and best practices on digital financial inclusion, taking into consideration relevant studies and relevant outputs of other SDOs and institutions, within the mandate of the Union;

3 to support relevant platforms or, where possible, connect to those already existing, for peer learning, dialogue and experience-sharing in digital financial services among countries and regions, regulators from the telecommunication and financial services sectors, industry experts and international and regional organizations;

4 to continue organizing workshops and seminars for the ITU membership in collaboration with other relevant SDOs and institutions in order to raise awareness and identify regulators' particular needs and challenges in enhancing financial inclusion,

instructs the Secretary-General

1 to continue to cooperate and collaborate with other entities within the United Nations and other relevant entities in formulating future international efforts for effectively addressing financial inclusion;

2 to report to the Council upon the conclusion of the FIGI activities and to update on any next steps and related activities;

3 to submit a progress report on this resolution to the next plenipotentiary conference,

invites Member States, Sector Members and Associates

1 to continue to contribute actively to ITU-T and ITU-D study groups on issues related to the use of ICTs to enhance financial inclusion, within the mandate of the Union;

2 to promote the integration of ICT in financial services and consumer-protection policies, with the goal of enhancing usage of digital financial services so as to increase financial inclusion;

3 to continue their efforts to support relevant stakeholders in raising awareness of digital financial inclusion,

invites Member States

- 1 to contribute to the above activities and take an active part in the implementation of this resolution;
- 2 to develop and implement national strategies to address digital financial inclusion as a matter of priority and to leverage ICTs to bring financial services to the unbanked;
- 3 to accelerate the leveraging of ICTs in order to achieve gender equality within the objectives of this resolution;
- 4 to encourage new regional initiatives for digital financial inclusion.

RESOLUTION 205 (DUBAI, 2018)

ITU's role in fostering telecommunication/information and communication technology-centric innovation to support the digital economy and society

The Plenipotentiary Conference of the International Telecommunication Union (Dubai, 2018),

recalling

- a)* Resolution 198 (Rev. Dubai, 2018) of this conference, on empowerment of youth through telecommunication/information and communication technology (ICT);
- b)* United Nations General Assembly (UNGA) Resolution 70/1, on transforming our world: the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development;
- c)* UNGA Resolution 70/125, on the outcome document of the UNGA high-level meeting on the overall review of the implementation of the outcomes of the World Summit on the Information Society (WSIS);
- d)* UNGA Resolution 68/220, on science, technology and innovation for development,

considering

- a)* that the ongoing digital transformation of the economy and society enables innovation and promotes sustainable and inclusive economic development;
- b)* that ITU's role in increasing access to and promoting development of telecommunications/ICTs contributes to the development of the digital economy, and that the benefits generated by the digital economy contribute greatly to the overall economy;
- c)* the Buenos Aires Declaration and the Buenos Aires Action Plan adopted at the 2017 world telecommunication development conference (WTDC);

d) relevant WTDC and Plenipotentiary Conference resolutions, in particular Resolution 17 (Rev. Buenos Aires, 2017) of WTDC, on implementation of and cooperation on regionally approved regional initiatives at the national, regional, interregional and global levels;

e) that the Union, among others, plays a fundamental role in providing global perspectives on the development of the information society as regards telecommunications/ICTs;

f) that the strategic plan for the Union for 2020-2023 set out in Resolution 71 (Rev. Dubai, 2018) of this conference identifies enabling innovation in telecommunications/ICTs in support of the digital transformation of society as one of the strategic goals of the Union,

noting

a) Goal 9 in the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development: "Build resilient infrastructure, promote inclusive and sustainable industrialization, and foster innovation", and specifically target 9.c: "Significantly increase access to information and communications technology and strive to provide universal and affordable access to the Internet in least developed countries by 2020";

b) ITU's role in the organization of dedicated annual events addressing innovation dynamics at the regional and international level,

bearing in mind

a) that the benefits brought about by the digital economy have mostly followed existing disparities between developing countries¹ and developed countries;

b) that both phases of WSIS made commitments to bridge the digital divide and create digital opportunities,

¹ These include the least developed countries, small island developing states, landlocked developing countries and countries with economies in transition.

resolves

- 1 that the Union, within its mandate, should seek to foster telecommunication/ICT-centric innovation in the development and deployment of telecommunication/ICT infrastructure that contributes to the development of the digital economy, the benefits of which contribute greatly to the overall economy;
- 2 that the Union, within its mandate and existing mechanisms, should support Member States, upon request, in promoting an enabling environment for telecommunication/ICT-centric innovation by small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs), start-ups, incubation centres and young entrepreneurs, supporting relevant activities with other international agencies;
- 3 that the Union should continue to collaborate with other related United Nations agencies and other international organizations to assist Member States in providing capacity building related to digital skills, which are considered a core foundation for digital transformation;
- 4 that the Union should continue supporting WSIS action lines, consistent with its role as specified in Resolution 140 (Rev. Dubai, 2018) of this conference, through responding to the global need to foster telecommunication/ICT-centric innovation that accelerates the digital transformation of society and the economy,

instructs the Secretary-General

- 1 to coordinate cross-sectoral activities in the Union and collaborate with other relevant United Nations agencies and stakeholders in implementing this resolution;
- 2 to ensure implementation of this resolution within the allocated resources in the financial plan and biennial budget as approved by the ITU Council;
- 3 in implementing this resolution, to take into account Resolution 11 (Rev. Dubai, 2018) of this conference, on ITU Telecom events;

4 to provide annually to the Council a comprehensive report detailing the activities, actions and engagements that the Union is undertaking in response to this resolution;

5 to prepare and submit a progress report on ITU activities related to this resolution to the next plenipotentiary conference in 2022,

instructs the Directors of the Telecommunication Standardization Bureau and Radiocommunication Bureau

1 to take this resolution into account when carrying out activities in their respective Sectors;

2 to encourage the participation of SMEs in study groups and relevant ITU activities,

instructs the Director of the Telecommunication Development Bureau

1 to provide technical assistance and capacity-building support to developing countries upon request in facilitating/strengthening their respective telecommunication/ICT-centric innovation ecosystems and developing telecommunication/ICT infrastructures;

2 to cooperate with other related international and regional organizations on enhancing the Digital Skills Toolkit to support Member States in designing national digital skills development strategies;

3 in close collaboration with the Directors of the Telecommunication Standardization Bureau and the Radiocommunication Bureau, to consolidate all guidelines, recommendations, technical reports and best practices developed by all the Sectors that facilitate telecommunication/ICT-centric innovation and its contribution to development of the digital economy, and make them effectively accessible to the developing countries to hasten the sharing of information and transfer of knowledge to narrow the development gap;

4 to cooperate with other relevant organizations and to contribute to efforts to measure development of the digital economy, by sharing information from ongoing Telecommunication Development Bureau measurements of telecommunication/ICT infrastructure, access and use by households and individuals,

invites Member States

1 to promote widespread affordable access to telecommunication/ICT services by supporting telecommunication/ICT-centric innovation ecosystems through encouraging competition, innovation, private investment and public-private partnerships;

2 to promote awareness and involvement of the public in telecommunication/ICT-centric innovation through the promotion of national initiatives with the assistance of ITU, and enhance digital skills development;

3 to participate actively, in collaboration with other stakeholders, in the innovation-related activities of the Union, while facilitating the participation of telecommunication/ICT-related entrepreneurs, SMEs, start-ups and incubation and acceleration centres;

4 to consider establishing policies/strategies that foster telecommunication/ICT-centric innovation,

invites Member States, Sector Members, Associates and Academia

1 to contribute by sharing their experiences and expertise on fostering innovation and supporting the development and deployment of telecommunications/ICTs as described in this resolution;

2 within the framework of this resolution, to encourage the participation of telecommunication/ICT-related entrepreneurs, SMEs, start-ups and incubation and acceleration centres in the ITU Telecom World and other relevant events.

RESOLUTION 206 (DUBAI, 2018)

OTTs

The Plenipotentiary Conference of the International Telecommunication Union (Dubai, 2018),

recalling

a) Resolution 2 (Rev. Hammamet, 2016) of the World Telecommunication Standardization Assembly (WTSA), which stipulates that Study Group 3 of the ITU Telecommunication Standardization Sector (ITU-T) is responsible for studying the economic and regulatory impact of the Internet, convergence (services or infrastructure) and new services, such as over-the-top (OTT), on international telecommunication services and networks;

b) Resolution 44 (Rev. Hammamet, 2016) of WTSA, which instructs the ITU-T study groups to consider including implementation guidelines for ITU-T recommendations where these could provide advice to assist developing countries¹ in adopting them, with emphasis on recommendations having regulatory and policy implications;

c) Resolution 123 (Rev. Dubai, 2018) of this conference, on bridging the standardization gap between developing countries and developed countries,

considering

a) the need to discuss policy issues, as well as the economic implications of OTTs, including issues relating to benefits for consumers, including persons with disabilities and specific needs, competition and innovation;

¹ These include the least developed countries, small island developing states, landlocked developing countries and countries with economies in transition.

- b) that the mutual cooperation between OTTs and telecommunication operators can be an element to foster innovative, sustainable, viable business models and their positive roles in fostering socio-economic benefits;
- c) that, given the global nature of many OTTs, collaboration across multiple Member States and Sector Members should be strongly encouraged;
- d) the policy aspects of OTT, some of which may have international considerations,

considering further

- a) that the private and public sectors play a key role in the expansion of telecommunication/information and communication technologies (ICTs), for example through investments in infrastructures and services;
- b) that the evolution of the telecommunication/ICT sector has led to new market structures, business models, investment strategies and revenue streams,

recognizing

- a) that network operators and OTTs are part of the international telecommunication/ICT ecosystem;
- b) that the Preamble of the ITU Constitution fully recognizes the sovereign right of each State to regulate its telecommunication;
- c) that the development of technology and OTTs in telecommunications/ICTs brings both opportunities and challenges;
- d) that the global telecommunication ecosystem is interdependent and increasingly data-driven,

recognizing further

- a) studies by Study Group 1 of the ITU Telecommunication Development Sector (ITU-D), and the approval by the 2017 world telecommunication development conference of Question 3/1, on emerging technologies, including cloud computing, m-services and OTTs: challenges and opportunities, economic and policy impact for developing countries;
- b) inputs of stakeholders presented to the fifth Open Consultation of the ITU Council Working Group on international Internet-related public policy issues (CWG-Internet), on public policy considerations for OTTs, and the discussions held at the physical open consultation meeting on 18 September 2017;
- c) The final report of the tenth meeting of CWG-Internet (21 September 2017), on the role of ITU with respect to OTTs;
- d) studies and ongoing work in ITU-T and ITU-D study groups, particularly ITU-T Study Groups 3 and 17 and ITU-D Study Group 1;
- e) the ITU-T Technical Report on economic Impact of OTTs;
- f) the ITU-D Report on policy, regulatory and technical aspects of the migration from existing networks to broadband networks in developing countries, including next-generation networks, m-services, OTT services and the implementation of IPv6;
- g) that ITU-D plays an important role in facilitating the discussion and the dissemination and adoption of best practices in telecommunication regulation,

noting

the ongoing cooperation and collaboration with relevant organizations and stakeholders, including but not limited to the World Trade Organization and the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development, to further the objectives of this resolution,

resolves

- 1 to raise awareness and promote a common understanding and dialogue among relevant stakeholders for enabling the OTT environment and ecosystem within the remit of ITU;
- 2 to continue fostering studies on OTT aspects, taking into account *considering d)* and *recognizing further d)*, consistent with ITU's mandate;
- 3 to foster capacity-building programmes among ITU members in order to share information related to best practices and technical guidance on OTTs, especially for developing countries,

instructs the Secretary-General

- 1 to continue cooperation and collaboration with other relevant organizations and stakeholders and to explore opportunities for collaboration between ITU members and those of other organizations to further the objectives of this resolution;
- 2 to foster opportunities for collaboration among relevant stakeholders on capacity-building programmes in order to share information related to best practices and technical guidance on OTTs, especially for developing countries;
- 3 to submit an annual report to the Council on the activities undertaken under this resolution,

instructs the Secretary-General, in consultation and collaboration with the Directors of the three Bureaux

- 1 to foster collaboration and dialogue among relevant groups within the Union and with other relevant stakeholders on OTT activities;
- 2 to foster collaboration and dialogue among relevant groups within the Union and with other relevant stakeholders on the transition from a legacy to an IP-based ecosystem,

instructs the Directors of the Bureaux

- 1 to collaborate closely with the Sector advisory groups to provide information on the matters covered in this resolution;
- 2 to foster studies in relevant ITU study groups on different OTT aspects, such as technical, economic and policy aspects, which may have international considerations;
- 3 upon request, to assist ITU Member States in applying, as appropriate, the relevant outcomes of the study groups related to OTT,

invites Member States and Sector Members

- 1 to contribute to the above activities and take an active part in the implementation of this resolution;
- 2 to promote collaboration and dialogue among relevant stakeholders recognized under this resolution, taking into account *considering b*).

RESOLUTION 207 (DUBAI, 2018)

ITU Journal: *ICT Discoveries*

The Plenipotentiary Conference of the International Telecommunication Union (Dubai, 2018),

recalling

that Resolution 169 (Rev. Busan, 2014) of the Plenipotentiary Conference confirmed the establishment of a new category of participation in ITU for Academia,

considering

a) that Academia play a significant role in the research and development of telecommunications/information and communication technologies (ICTs);

b) that both intellectual and scientific contributions from Academia benefit the work of the Union, particularly the activities of ITU study groups as well as focus groups;

c) that Academia greatly contribute to raising the profile and visibility of the activities of the Union in international research communities related to ICTs, and among young people,

noting

a) that the Kaleidoscope event, held annually since 2008, has increased dialogue between Academia and ICT standardization experts, identifying, through original, peer-reviewed papers, areas in need of international standards to assist the development of the information society;

b) that the ITU Journal was officially launched in September 2017 during an ITU Telecom World, with the aim of showing an interdisciplinary approach that reflects ITU's comprehensive field of interest and explores the convergence of telecommunications/ICTs with other disciplines, and it features review articles, best-practice implementation tutorials and case studies,

resolves

- 1 to support further development of the scholarly, professional, peer-reviewed, digital and online ITU Journal;
- 2 to publish original scientific research on technical developments in telecommunications/ICTs and the policy, regulatory, economic, social and legal dimensions thereof, with the aim of generating forward-thinking discussions around emerging trends of relevance to the work of the Union;
- 3 to establish collaborative efforts with the international research community and to raise awareness of the ITU Journal worldwide with a view to positioning it in scientific journal rankings,

instructs the Director of the Telecommunication Standardization Bureau

to continue to lead the overall operations of the ITU Journal, including the editorial process,

instructs the Secretary-General and the Directors of the three Bureaux

- 1 to contribute to the development of the ITU Journal, providing advice on substantive matters, including the ITU Journal's policy and scope;
- 2 to identify new topics to be addressed by the ITU Journal and nominate reputable scholars and professionals as candidates for the ITU Journal's Editorial Board;
- 3 to promote the ITU Journal and disseminate its calls for papers as widely as possible among the ITU membership, universities and research institutes and other relevant communities, with the aim of soliciting original scientific papers,

invites ITU Member States

- 1 to inform their academic and research communities of this resolution, and to encourage and support these communities in contributing to the ITU Journal's development;
- 2 to also identify new topics to be addressed by the ITU Journal and nominate their reputable scholars and professionals as candidates for the ITU Journal's Editorial Board.

RESOLUTION 208 (DUBAI, 2018)

Appointment and maximum term of office for chairmen and vice-chairmen of Sector advisory groups, study groups and other groups

The Plenipotentiary Conference of the International Telecommunication Union (Dubai, 2018),

recalling

- a)* Resolution 166 (Rev. Busan, 2014) of the Plenipotentiary Conference, on the number of vice-chairmen of Sector advisory groups, study groups and other groups;
- b)* Resolution 58 (Rev. Busan, 2014) of the Plenipotentiary Conference, on strengthening of relations between ITU, regional telecommunication organizations and all Member States without exception, for the regional preparations for the Plenipotentiary Conference;
- c)* Resolution 70 (Rev. Dubai, 2018) of this conference, on mainstreaming a gender perspective in ITU and promotion of gender equality and the empowerment of women through information and communication technologies;
- d)* Resolution ITU-R 15-6 (Rev. Geneva, 2015) of the Radiocommunication Assembly (RA), Resolution 35 (Rev. (Hammamet, 2016) of the World Telecommunication Standardization Assembly (WTSA) and Resolution 61 (Rev. Dubai, 2014) of the World Telecommunication Development Conference (WTDC), on appointment and maximum term of office for chairmen and vice-chairmen of the respective advisory groups and study groups;
- e)* Resolution 1386 adopted by the ITU Council at its 2017 session, on the ITU Coordination Committee for Terminology (CCT),

considering

- a) that No. 242 of the ITU Convention requires RA, WTSA and WTDC to appoint the chairman and one vice-chairman or more for each study group, taking account of competence and equitable geographical distribution, and the need to promote more efficient participation by the developing countries¹;
- b) that No. 243 of the Convention stipulates that, if the workload of any study group requires, the assembly or conference shall appoint such additional vice-chairmen as it deems necessary;
- c) that No. 244 of the Convention provides a procedure for a study group to elect a chairman in the interval between two assemblies or conferences when a chairman is unable to carry out his or her duties;
- d) that procedures and qualifications for the chairmen and vice-chairmen of Sector advisory groups should generally follow those for the appointment of study group chairmen and vice-chairmen;
- e) that experience of ITU in general and of the relevant Sector in particular would be of particular value for the chairmen and vice-chairmen of advisory groups;
- f) that relevant sections of the respective Resolution 1 on working methods of each Sector contain guidelines regarding the appointment of advisory group and study group chairmen and vice-chairmen at the assembly or conference,

¹ These include the least developed countries, small island developing states, landlocked developing countries and countries with economies in transition.

recognizing

- a) that currently the three ITU Sectors have established a similar appointment procedure, required qualifications and guidelines with respect to chairmen and vice-chairmen of Sector advisory groups, study groups and other groups²;
- b) the need to seek and encourage suitable representation of chairmen and vice-chairmen coming from developing countries;
- c) the need to encourage the effective participation of all elected vice-chairmen in the work of their respective advisory groups and study groups, through the establishment of specific roles for each elected vice-chairman, so as to better distribute the management workload of the meetings of the Union,

recognizing further

- a) that the Sector advisory groups, study groups and other groups should appoint only the number of vice-chairmen deemed necessary for the efficient and effective management and functioning of the group in question;
- b) that steps should be taken to provide some continuity between chairmen and vice-chairmen;
- c) the benefits of establishing maximum terms of office in order, on the one hand, to guarantee reasonable stability to advance the work, and, on the other, to allow for renewal with candidates having new perspectives and vision;
- d) the importance of effectively mainstreaming a gender perspective in the policies of all ITU Sectors,

² The criteria contained in this resolution do not apply to the designation of chairmen or vice-chairmen of focus groups.

taking into account

- a) that a maximum time in office of two terms for Sector advisory group, study group and other group chairmen and vice-chairmen provides for a reasonable amount of stability while providing the opportunity for different individuals to serve in these capacities;
- b) that the management team of a Sector advisory group and a study group should include at least the chairman, vice-chairmen and subordinate group chairmen;
- c) the advantages of nominating by consensus up to two candidates per regional organization³ for the vice-chairmen of the advisory groups;
- d) the value of prior experience of the nominee, at least as chairman or vice-chairman of working parties and as rapporteur, vice-rapporteur, associate rapporteur or editor in the respective study groups,

resolves

- 1 that candidates for the posts of chairmen and vice-chairmen of Sector advisory groups, study groups and other groups (including, to the extent practicable, the Conference Preparatory Meeting (CPM) and the Coordination Committee for Vocabulary (CCV) in the ITU Radiocommunication Sector (ITU-R)⁴, and the Standardization Committee for Vocabulary (SCV) in ITU Telecommunication Standardization Sector (ITU-T)⁴), should be appointed according to the procedures given in Annex 1, the qualifications given in Annex 2 and the guidelines given in Annex 3 to this resolution and *resolves* 2 of Resolution 58 (Rev. Busan, 2014);

³ Taking into account *resolves* 2 of Resolution 58 (Rev. Busan, 2014)

⁴ Taking into account Resolution 1386 of the Council (2017).

2 that candidates for the posts of chairmen and vice-chairmen of the Sector advisory groups, study groups and other groups should be identified, taking into account that, for each Sector advisory group, study group and other group, the respective assembly or conference will appoint the chairman and only the number of vice-chairmen deemed necessary for the efficient and effective management and functioning of the group in question, applying the guidelines given in Annex 3;

3 that nominations for the posts of chairmen and vice-chairmen of the Sector advisory groups, study groups and other groups should be accompanied by a biographical profile highlighting the qualifications of the individuals proposed, taking into consideration continuity in participation in the Sector advisory group, study group or other group, and that the Director of the Bureau concerned will circulate the profiles to the heads of delegation present at the assembly or conference;

4 that the term of office for both chairmen and vice-chairmen shall not exceed two terms of office between consecutive assemblies or conferences;

5 that the term of office in one appointment (e.g. as a vice-chairman) does not count towards the term of office for another appointment (e.g. as a chairman) and that steps should be taken to provide some continuity between chairmen and vice-chairmen;

6 that the period served by a chairman or vice-chairman elected under No. 244 of the Convention in the interval between assemblies or conferences does not count towards the term of office,

resolves further

1 that vice-chairmen of Sector advisory groups and study groups should be encouraged to assume a leadership role in activities in order to ensure equitable distribution of the tasks and achieve greater involvement of the vice-chairmen in the management and work of advisory groups and study groups;

2 that the appointment of vice-chairmen of Sector advisory groups should be limited to two candidates and of vice-chairmen of study groups to two or three candidates from each regional organization, taking into account Resolution 70 (Rev. Dubai, 2018) and *resolves* 2 of Resolution 58 (Rev. Busan, 2014), to ensure equitable geographical distribution among the ITU regions so as to ensure that every region is represented by not more than three competent and qualified candidates;

3 that the appointment of candidates from countries that do not hold any chairmanship or vice-chairmanship position should be encouraged;

4 that no single individual may hold more than one vice-chairmanship position in these groups in any one Sector, and only in exceptional cases hold such a position in more than one Sector;

5 that each ITU regional organization attending RA, WTSA and WTDC should be encouraged, when assigning the positions to individual experienced professionals, to observe fully the principle of equitable geographical distribution among ITU regional organizations, and the need to promote more efficient participation by the developing countries;

6 that the above-mentioned guidelines may, to the extent practicable, be applied to CPM in ITU-R,

instructs the ITU Council

to continually discuss the effectiveness of the selection/appointment criteria and the workload performed by all elected chairmen and vice-chairmen in the management of study groups, advisory groups and other groups, and report to the plenipotentiary conference,

invites Member States and Sector Members

1 to support their successful candidates for such posts in the Sector advisory groups, study groups and other groups, and support and facilitate their task during their term of office;

2 to promote the nomination of women candidates for the posts of chairmen and vice-chairmen of the Sector advisory groups, study groups and other groups.

ANNEX 1 TO RESOLUTION 208 (DUBAI, 2018)

Procedure for the appointment of chairmen and vice-chairmen of the Sector advisory groups, study groups and other groups

- 1 Typically, the positions of chairmen and vice-chairmen to be filled are known in advance of the assembly or conference.
- a) In order to help the assembly or conference appoint chairmen/vice-chairmen, Member States and Sector Members of the Sector in question are encouraged to indicate to the Director of the Bureau suitable candidates preferably three months, but no later than two weeks, before the opening of the assembly or conference.
- b) In nominating suitable candidates, Sector Members should carry out prior consultations with the administration/Member State concerned, in order to avoid any possible disagreement in regard to such nomination.
- c) On the basis of proposals received, the Director of the Bureau will circulate to Member States and Sector Members the list of candidates. The list of candidates should be accompanied by an indication of the qualifications of each candidate as given in Annex 2 to this resolution.
- d) On the basis of this document and any relevant comments received, the heads of delegation, at a suitable time during the assembly or conference, should be invited to prepare, in consultation with the Director of the Bureau, a consolidated list of designated chairmen and vice-chairmen of the Sector advisory group, study groups and other groups to be submitted in a document to the assembly or conference for final approval.
- e) In drafting the consolidated list, the following should be taken into account: In cases where there are two or more candidates with equal competence for the same chairman position, preference should be given to candidates from Member States and Sector Members having the lowest number of designated Sector advisory group and study group chairmen.

- 2 Situations which cannot be considered within the above will be dealt with on a case-by-case basis at the assembly or conference. For example, if a merger of two existing study groups is envisaged, the proposals pertaining to the relevant study groups can be considered. Therefore, the procedure outlined in § 1 can still be applied.
- 3 However, if the assembly or conference decides to set up a completely new study group, discussions will have to be held at the assembly or conference and appointments made.
- 4 These procedures should be applied for appointments made by an advisory group under delegated authority of the respective assembly or conference.
- 5 Vacant positions of chairmen and vice-chairmen that occur in mid-term between assemblies or conferences are filled in accordance with No. 244 of the Convention.

ANNEX 2 TO RESOLUTION 208 (DUBAI, 2018)

Qualifications of chairmen and vice-chairmen

1 No. 242 of the Convention states that:

"... In appointing chairmen and vice-chairmen, particular consideration shall be given to the requirements of competence and equitable geographical distribution and to the need to promote more efficient participation by the developing countries."

Whilst giving primary consideration to the qualifications below, there should be an appropriate representation of chairmen and vice-chairmen from developing countries, including the least developed countries, small island developing states, landlocked developing countries and countries with economies in transition.

2 As regards competence, the following qualifications, *inter alia*, appear to be of importance when appointing chairmen and vice-chairmen:

- a) relevant professional knowledge and experience;
- b) continuity in participation in the relevant study group or, for chairmen and vice-chairmen of Sector advisory groups, in ITU in general and the respective Sector in particular;
- c) managerial skills;
- d) availability to assume and discharge duties without delay for the period up to the next assembly or conference;
- e) knowledge of activities related to the Sector's mandate.

3 Particular reference to the above qualifications should be included in the biographical profile to be circulated by the Director of the Bureau.

ANNEX 3 TO RESOLUTION 208 (DUBAI, 2018)

Guidelines for appointment of the optimum numbers of vice-chairmen for Sector advisory groups, study groups and other groups

- 1 Pursuant to No. 242 of the Convention, and to the extent practicable, the requirements of competence, equitable geographical distribution and the need to promote more efficient participation by the developing countries should be taken into account⁵.
- 2 To the extent possible, and taking into account the need for demonstrated competence, appointment or selection to the management team should utilize the human resources of as broad a range of Member States and Sector Members as possible, at the same time recognizing the need to appoint only the number of vice-chairmen necessary for the efficient and effective management and functioning of the study groups, consistent with the projected structure and work programme.
- 3 The workload should be a factor in determining the appropriate number of vice-chairmen to ensure that every aspect within the purview of the Sector advisory groups, study groups and other groups is fully managed. The distribution of tasks among the vice-chairmen shall be made in the framework of each study group and advisory group, and may be modified according to the needs of the work.
- 4 The total number of vice-chairmen proposed by any administration should be reasonable, so as to observe the principle of equitable distribution of posts among the Member States concerned.

⁵ For those regions consisting of numerous administrations and with diverse economic and technological conditions within the region, to the extent possible the number of representatives of those regions may be increased, as appropriate.

5 Regional representation in the advisory groups and study groups of all three Sectors should be taken into account, so that no single individual may hold more than one vice-chairmanship position in these groups in any one Sector, and only in exceptional cases hold such a position in more than one Sector⁶.

⁶ The criterion mentioned in this paragraph should not prevent a vice-chairman of a given advisory group or a vice-chairman of a given study group from holding positions of chairman or vice-chairman of a given working party or as rapporteur or associate rapporteur for any group under the mandate of that Sector group.

RESOLUTION 209 (DUBAI, 2018)

Encouraging the participation of small and medium enterprises in the work of the Union

The Plenipotentiary Conference of the International Telecommunication Union (Dubai, 2018),

recalling

a) the report of the World Telecommunication Standardization Assembly (Hammamet, 2016) inviting the ITU Council to address as soon as possible the participation of small and medium enterprises (SMEs) in the work of ITU, in particular in the Telecommunication Standardization Sector (ITU-T);

b) the decision taken by the Council at its 2017 session to start a pilot project until this conference for the participation of SMEs in the interested study groups of ITU-T and of the ITU Telecommunication Development Sector (ITU-D), under which SMEs may participate fully in the meetings of the study groups that decide to join the project, with limitations regarding their role in decision-making processes, including elections for management positions and the adoption of resolutions or recommendations;

c) that the ITU Telecom events since 2016 have focused on fostering the growth of SMEs in the digital ecosystem, and have recognized the information and communication technology (ICT) solutions invented by SMEs;

d) Sustainable Development Goals 8 and 9 of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, on promoting sustained, inclusive and sustainable economic growth, full and productive employment and decent work for all, and building resilient infrastructure, promoting sustainable industrialization and fostering innovation, especially targets 8.3, on promoting development-oriented policies that support productive activities, decent job creation, entrepreneurship, creativity and innovation, and encourage the formalization and growth of micro-, small- and medium-sized enterprises, including through access to financial services, and 9.3, on increasing the access of small-scale industrial and other enterprises, in particular in developing countries¹, to financial services, including affordable credit, and their integration into value chains and markets;

e) that the United Nations General Assembly recognized the need to improve small business access to microfinance and credit, deciding to designate 27 June 2017 as Micro-, Small and Medium-sized Enterprises Day,

considering

a) that SMEs are essential to achieving national economic growth and development objectives, including advancing the digital ecosystems that are fundamental to sustainable economic development;

b) that SMEs are also central to reducing unemployment, especially for the young; advancement, globally, of gender mainstreaming and adoption of ICTs by women and girls; and promoting innovation and progress in the telecommunication/ICT sector;

¹ These include the least developed countries, small island developing states, landlocked developing countries and countries with economies in transition.

c) that SME innovation and growth is enabled through capacity building, through leveraging existing best practices, and through gaining knowledge of telecommunications and ICT, including relevant ICT technical standards and reports;

d) that, in many countries, mainly developing countries, SMEs have become prominent actors in the industrial expansion process, and in the growth of local production, coming to represent in some cases more than 90 per cent of the national industry;

e) that SMEs' identification of specific telecommunication and other ICT needs and their understanding of barriers to adoption of such telecommunications and other ICTs could be a valuable contribution to the work of the Union, as well as improving the human resources specialized in telecommunications/ICT whose knowledge may have an impact on national development;

f) the participation of SMEs in a pilot project in 2018 conducted by interested ITU-T and ITU-D study groups pursuant to the decision taken by the Council at its 2017 session,

recognizing

a) that SMEs' revenue, number of employees and domicile may have an impact on their available financial resources to participate as Sector Members;

b) that dissemination of the work of the Sectors to SMEs, particularly in developing countries, can build capacity, transfer telecommunications/ICTs and critical best practices, and serve as a factor in fostering national economic development,

resolves

- 1 to encourage the participation of SMEs as Associates in the Sectors of the Union by introducing reduced fees for such entities, pursuant to the provisions of this resolution, without the need for any amendment to Articles 2 and 3 of the ITU Constitution, and Article 19 of the ITU Convention or any other provision of the Convention, with a differentiated level of financial contribution during a trial period that will extend until the next plenipotentiary conference;
- 2 to set the level of the financial contribution for participation in each Sector of the Union at one-sixteenth of the value of the contributory unit for Sector Members in the case of SMEs from developed countries, and one-thirty second of the value of the contributory unit for Sector Members in the case of SMEs from developing countries, subject to ongoing review by the Council;
- 3 that acceptance of applications for participation shall be conditional on the support of the Member States of the Union to which these entities belong, attesting that the applicant is an SME in accordance with the country's definition thereof, and that, if such an entity is approved by their respective Member State as meeting national criteria for an SME, to be eligible for the SME reduced fees they must also have fewer than 250 employees as well as annual revenues below a maximum set by the Council;
- 4 that in no case can a subsidiary or affiliate of a company that would not qualify for reduced fees under this resolution be presented as an SME,

instructs the ITU Council

- 1 to add any appropriate additional clarifications to support implementation of this resolution;
- 2 to submit to the next plenipotentiary conference a progress report on the implementation of the trial and the participation of SMEs, and an economic sustainability analysis of SME participation, taking into account the assessment of the advisory groups of the three Sectors, the purpose which will be the adoption of a final decision regarding the above-mentioned participation,

instructs the Secretary-General and the Directors of the three Bureaux

- 1 to take necessary and appropriate action to implement this resolution;
- 2 to continue encouraging the participation of SMEs in the relevant activities of the Union,

invites the ITU Member States

to inform SMEs of this resolution and to support and encourage SMEs to join ITU and participate in its activities.

RESOLUTION 210 (DUBAI, 2018)

ITU's role as supervisory authority of the international registration system for space assets under the space protocol

The Plenipotentiary Conference of the International Telecommunication Union (Dubai, 2018),

considering

- a) that Article 1 of the ITU Constitution defines the purposes of the Union;
- b) that the 2012 diplomatic conference held in Berlin under the auspices of the International Institute for the Unification of Private Law (UNIDROIT) adopted the Protocol to the Convention on International Interests in Mobile Equipment on Matters Specific to Space Assets (the "Space Protocol");
- c) that the Space Protocol will not come into force until a minimum of ten States ratify, accept, approve or accede to it and the Supervisory Authority confirms that the International Registry is fully operational,

recognizing

- a) that four States have signed the Space Protocol at the date of this conference;
- b) that, at the date of this conference, no State has yet deposited its instrument of ratification, acceptance, approval or accession, and therefore the Protocol has not entered into force;
- c) that, pending the entry into force of the Protocol, a Preparatory Commission was established to act with full authority as Provisional Supervisory Authority for the establishment of the International Registry for space assets, under the guidance of the General Assembly of UNIDROIT,

resolves

at this conference, to not accept the role of Supervisory Authority under the Space Protocol but, should there be a further invitation by UNIDROIT to ITU, through the Secretary-General, to accept this role, a future plenipotentiary conference would reconsider this matter,

instructs the ITU Council

to prepare, upon receipt of the invitation referred to in the *resolves* above, and submit to the following plenipotentiary conference, a report on this matter,

instructs the Secretary-General

- 1 to bring this resolution to the attention of the Secretary-General of UNIDROIT;
- 2 to participate in the work of the Preparatory Commission and its working groups and to report to the ITU Council accordingly.

RESOLUTION 211 (DUBAI, 2018)

Support for the Iraqi Du₃M 2025 initiative for advancement of the telecommunication and information technology sectors

The Plenipotentiary Conference of the International Telecommunication Union (Dubai, 2018),

recalling

- a) the noble principles, purpose and objectives enshrined in the Charter of the United Nations and in the Universal Declaration of Human Rights;
- b) the efforts of the United Nations to promote achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals and the relevant United Nations Security Council resolutions;
- c) the purposes of the Union as enshrined in Article 1 of the ITU Constitution;
- d) the outcomes of the World Summit on the Information Society, in particular §§ 16, 17 and 18 of the Geneva Declaration of Principles and §§ 15, 18 and 19 of the Tunis Commitment;
- e) Resolution 135 (Rev. Dubai, 2018) of this conference, on ITU's role in the development of telecommunications/information and communication technologies (ICTs), in providing technical assistance and advice to developing countries¹ and in implementing relevant national, regional and interregional projects;
- f) Resolution 30 (Rev. Dubai, 2018) of this conference, on special measures for the least developed countries, small island developing states, landlocked developing countries and countries with economies in transition;
- g) Resolution 193 (Busan, 2014) of the Plenipotentiary Conference, on support and assistance for Iraq to rebuild its telecommunication sector,

¹ These include the least developed countries, small island developing states, landlocked developing countries and countries with economies in transition.

recognizing

that achieving an integrated and developed information society that keeps pace with the rapid developments in ICT in the world through an interconnected network is of the utmost importance to the Republic of Iraq,

taking into account

- a) that Iraq launched the Du₃M 2025 initiative for advancement of the ICT sector in order to develop this vital sector and keep pace with the developed countries;
- b) the fundamental role of telecommunications and information technology as an effective factor in establishing the information society and digital economy and developing a supportive environment;
- c) the promotion of the digital economy and social transformation by achieving and encouraging growth in the use of ICT;
- d) the promotion of cooperation and partnership among stakeholders and the consolidation of efforts to remove obstacles in the path of information technology sector development and open new horizons for investors;
- e) human capacity building for persons with special needs and the inhabitants of rural areas by promoting access to ICT at affordable cost;
- f) improvement of Iraq's ranking regionally and internationally according to ICT indicators,

noting

that the goals of the Du₃M 2025 initiative for advancement of the ICT sector necessarily require support for a number of projects including, but not limited to:

- 1) e-government;
- 2) universal service;
- 3) smart cities;
- 4) digital inclusion;

- 5) big data;
- 6) the provision of modern technologies and services,

resolves to instruct the Director of the Telecommunication Development Bureau, in coordination with the Directors of the other two Bureaux

to provide the appropriate technical expertise within or external to the Union for implementation of the Du₃M 2025 initiative, and that the technical resources should be allocated within the financial plan and the budget as approved by the ITU Council,

invites Member States

to offer all possible assistance and support to the Government of the Republic of Iraq to implement the Du₃M 2025 initiative for advancement of the ICT sector in order to achieve economic and social development of the Iraqi people,

instructs the Secretary-General

- 1 to provide the necessary technical resources and to take all possible measures to mobilize additional non-financial resources for such actions, on the basis of an action plan and timetable agreed with the Administration of Iraq;
- 2 to report on the matter annually to the Council on the progress made in the implementation of this resolution and mechanisms used to address difficulties as they occur.

RESOLUTION 212 (DUBAI, 2018)

The Union's future headquarters premises

The Plenipotentiary Conference of the International Telecommunication Union (Dubai, 2018),

recalling

- a) Resolution 194 (Busan, 2014) of the Plenipotentiary Conference, which authorized the ITU Council to establish a Council Working Group on options for the Union's headquarters premises over the long term (CWG-HQP);
- b) that CWG-HQP examined the status of headquarters premises of the Union, analysed options for prudent treatment of the premises into the long-term future, and submitted a recommendation to the ordinary session of the Council in 2016;
- c) that the ordinary session of the Council in 2016 accepted the recommendation of CWG-HQP and approved Council Decision 588, documenting its decision, *inter alia*:
 - i) to replace the Varembe building by a new construction that would also include the offices and facilities of the Tower building, and complement the Montbrillant building which would be retained and refurbished;
 - ii) to establish an advisory board of Member States¹ to provide independent and impartial advice on the project to the Council and the Secretary-General;
 - iii) to authorize a maximum budget for total project costs before sale of the Tower of CHF 140 million and an additional contingency fund of CHF 7 million to be used, if necessary, for unforeseen cost overruns;
 - iv) to instruct the Secretary-General to request an interest-free loan of CHF 150 million from the host country, repayable over 50 years beginning from the first occupation of the new building;

¹ The Council subsequently named this group the Member States Advisory Group (MSAG).

v) to offset total final project costs by applying all proceeds from the sale of the Tower to existing loans on assets that are to be disposed of, to the necessary costs associated with the sale, and to reduce to the maximum the outstanding amount of the loan;

d) that the Independent Management Advisory Committee advised, in its Recommendation 13/2016, that ITU consider the benefits of dedicated internal and external project- and risk-management expertise for this project,

observing

that, as part of the project governance structure, the Secretary-General has created a liaison committee between the ITU secretariat and representatives of the Swiss administrative organs, including representatives of the Canton of Geneva, the Swiss Confederation and the Foundation for Buildings for International Organizations (FIPOI),

noting

a) that during 2017, an ITU headquarters architectural competition was run in two rounds with an international jury that selected a winner, "Christian Dupraz Architects" of Geneva, Switzerland;

b) that the 2018 ordinary session of the Council established a temporary fund for the new building to be financed from budget implementation surpluses and donations;

c) that, as of 16 November 2018, sponsorship of CHF 10 million and CHF 5 million has been generously committed by Saudi Arabia and the United Arab Emirates, respectively, and a donation of USD 100 000 has been generously contributed by the Czech Republic;

d) that, consequently, the principal conference room will be named the Saudi Arabia Room, the second principal conference room will be named Sheik Zayed Room, and the Czech Republic's donation will be recognized at a prominent place in the new building,

recognizing

the need to involve ITU Member States in decisions regarding construction of the Union's future headquarters, given the significant and long-term financial implications for the Union,

resolves

- 1 that the new Headquarters building be constructed in order to provide the premises and facilities necessary to meet the Union's requirements in the long term in accordance with Council Decision 588 (2016) and other relevant Council decisions;
- 2 that the project will be financed primarily by the loan indicated in *recalling c) iv) above* and the amount of the loan shall not exceed this value;
- 3 that the project financing can be supplemented by the sponsorships and donation mentioned above, any subsequent sponsorships for the mutually agreed purposes as specified by the Council and the temporary fund established by the Council also mentioned above;
- 4 to continue MSAG, which should in general meet quarterly to review the project's progress and provide guidance, particularly on issues that directly affect the scope, the cost and the timeline,

instructs the ITU Council

to make all the administrative and financial arrangements and take the decisions necessary to facilitate the implementation of this resolution,

instructs the Member States Advisory Group

to provide advice to the Secretary-General and to submit an annual report to the Council,

instructs the Secretary-General

- 1 to ensure that the detailed design and construction of the building and related installations and facilities are carried out in the most appropriate manner, while respecting *resolves 1, 2 and 3 above* and relevant Council decisions;

- 2 to work closely with MSAG, and with the host country through the Liaison Committee;
- 3 to organize the building project under efficient management, in a manner fully compliant with ITU financial rules and regulations and ITU procurement rules, and with due regard to cost, functional, smart and sustainable design, and quality;
- 4 to reinforce the ITU Management Board with external expertise in the field of project and risk management;
- 5 to hold information meetings at least twice a year with the representatives of permanent missions in Geneva, and to share information with them on a regular basis;
- 6 to submit an annual report to the Council on the progress made in the implementation of this resolution;
- 7 to report to the next plenipotentiary conferences on the implementation of this resolution,

encourages Member States and Sector Members

to follow the example of Saudi Arabia, the United Arab Emirates and the Czech Republic in contributing to the new building.

RESOLUTION 213 (DUBAI, 2018)

Measures to improve, promote and strengthen ITU fellowships

The Plenipotentiary Conference of the International Telecommunication Union (Dubai, 2018),

recognizing

- a) the relevant and important work accomplished in study groups, subregional groups and regional meetings, training courses, workshops and seminars;
- b) that Resolution 58 (Rev. Busan, 2014) of the Plenipotentiary Conference instructs the Secretary-General, in close coordination with the Directors of the three Bureaux, to provide fellowships to delegates from developing countries, which include least developed countries, small island developing states, landlocked developing countries and countries with economies in transition, so they may attend ITU meetings;
- c) that Resolution 123 (Rev. Dubai, 2018) of this conference instructs the Secretary-General and the Directors of the three Bureaux to identify ways and means to support the participation of representatives of developing countries in the meetings of the three ITU Sectors and the dissemination of information on standardization;
- d) Resolution 70 (Rev. Dubai, 2018) of this conference, on gender mainstreaming in ITU and promotion of gender equality and the empowerment of women through information and communication technologies (ICTs);
- e) Resolution 175 (Rev. Dubai, 2018) of this conference, on telecommunication/ICT accessibility for persons with disabilities and persons with specific needs,

considering

a) that, by virtue of the strategic plan of the Union, set out in Resolution 71 (Rev. Dubai, 2018) of this conference, which sets one of the values of the Union as enhancing transparency and accountability processes for better decisions, actions, results and management of resources, ITU communicates and demonstrates progress towards the achievement of its goals;

b) that Resolution 151 (Rev. Dubai, 2018) of this conference instructs the Secretary-General and the Directors of the three Bureaux to contribute to the transparency of ITU by publishing details of all costs incurred in conjunction with external human resources when delivering requirements agreed by the ITU membership,

aware

that criteria for awarding fellowships, including eligibility, are available on the ITU website,

resolves

- 1 to take measures that promote inclusiveness and participation by Member States in ITU meetings and events;
- 2 to ensure that fellowships are awarded in a fair and transparent manner with a view to maintaining equitable geographical distribution, gender balance and the inclusion of delegates with disabilities and with specific needs;
- 3 to take measures that provide accountability of the Union with respect to fellowships,

instructs the Secretary-General and the Directors of the three Bureaux

to prepare annually a report to the ITU Council on fellowships which includes, *inter alia*, information and analysis on:

- ITU Sectors;
- number of fellowships;
- region and country;
- gender/disabilities and specific needs;
- expenses,

instructs the ITU Council

- 1 to take all appropriate measures to implement this resolution;
- 2 to report to the next plenipotentiary conference on the implementation of this resolution;
- 3 to review the existing criteria for awarding fellowships and make recommendations to the Secretary-General, with a view to improving, promoting and strengthening ITU fellowships,

urges Member States

to consider gender balance and the inclusion of delegates with disabilities and delegates with specific needs when proposing delegates eligible for fellowships.

**PART IV – LIST OF RESOLUTIONS ABROGATED BY THE
PLENIPOTENTIARY CONFERENCE (DUBAI, 2018)**

RESOLUTION 36 (REV. GUADALAJARA, 2010)

**Telecommunications/information and communication technology in
the service of humanitarian assistance**

RESOLUTION 72 (REV. BUSAN, 2014)

Linking strategic, financial and operational planning in ITU

RESOLUTION 89 (MINNEAPOLIS, 1998)

Coping with the decreased use of international telex service

RESOLUTION 128 (REV. ANTALYA, 2006)

**Support for the Agenda for Connectivity in the Americas and Quito
Action Plan**

RESOLUTION 166 (REV. BUSAN, 2014)

**Number of vice-chairmen of Sector advisory groups, study groups
and other groups**

RESOLUTION 185 (BUSAN, 2014)

Global flight tracking for civil aviation

RESOLUTION 187 (BUSAN, 2014)

**Review of the current methodologies and development of a future
vision for the participation of Sector Members, Associates and
Academia in the activities of ITU**

RESOLUTION 192 (BUSAN, 2014)

**ITU participation in memoranda of understanding with financial
and/or strategic implications**

RESOLUTION 194 (BUSAN, 2014)

Options for the Union's headquarters premises over the long term

RESOLUTION 202 (BUSAN, 2014)

Using information and communication technologies to break the chain of health-related emergencies such as Ebola virus transmission

PART V – RECOMMENDATION

RECOMMENDATION 7 (DUBAI, 2018)

The role of ITU in supporting the use of information and communication technologies to combat trafficking in persons

The Plenipotentiary Conference of the International Telecommunication Union (Dubai, 2018),

taking into account

- a) United Nations General Assembly (UNGA) Resolution 72/195, on improving the coordination of efforts against trafficking in persons;
- b) UNGA Resolution 72/200, on information and communication technologies (ICTs) for sustainable development,

considering

- a) the crucial importance of ICTs and ICT applications for practically all forms of social and economic activity;
- b) the need to curb trafficking in persons;
- c) the benefits of maximizing the use of ICTs to tackle trafficking in persons, notably vulnerable groups including children and women, in order to mitigate the growing risks and threats,

recognizing

the continued challenge of trafficking in persons leading to loss of life and abuse,

recommends

- 1 that Member States work with ITU to continue improving their national ICT infrastructure and connectivity rates in order to facilitate the use of ICT tools by relevant actors involved in combating trafficking in persons;

2 that Member States engage with relevant international organizations to understand their ICT needs in order to allow them to tackle trafficking in persons effectively,

instructs the Secretary-General

1 to collaborate on supporting the use of ICTs, as appropriate, with relevant bodies/agencies within the United Nations and other relevant international and regional bodies, taking into account the specific mandates and areas of expertise of the different agencies, while being mindful of the need to avoid duplicating work between organizations in combating trafficking in persons;

2 to make appropriate administrative arrangements to keep Member States informed in this regard.

PART VI – SIGNATORIES

The undersigned plenipotentiaries have signed the original of the Final Acts, as adopted by the Plenipotentiary conference (Dubai, 2018).

For the Republic of Albania

ERMAL DREDHA

**For the People's Democratic Republic of
Algeria**

SALAH ATTIA

For the Federal Republic of Germany

WOLFGANG CRISEMAN

MATTHIAS LÖHRL

DIETMAR PLESSE

For the Principality of Andorra

JORDI NADAL

CARLES CASADEVALL

For the Republic of Angola

MÁRIO AUGUSTO DA SILVA OLIVEIRA

ANTÓNIO PEDRO BENGUE

ANTÓNIO DE SOUSA SEREIA SIMBO

MEICK SANDRO DA COSTA LOPES AFONSO

PASCOAL BORGES ALÉ FERNANDES

For the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia

MAJED M. AL-MAZIED

ABDURAHMAN AL HASSAN

MANSOUR ALQURASHI

ABDULRAHMAN ALZAID

ABDULAZIZ AL-FAIZ

For the Argentine Republic

MARÍA VICTORIA SUKENIK

For the Republic of Armenia

ALBERT NALBANDYAN

SERGEY VOSKANYAN

For Australia

RICHARD PAUL BULLOCK

LINDL CARIN ROWE

For Austria

DR. CHRISTIAN SINGER

FRANZ ZIEGELWANGER

IŞIK ŞEYMA GENÇ

For the Republic of Azerbaijan

NAZIM JAFAROV

BAKHTIYAR MAMMADOV

For the Commonwealth of the Bahamas

ELSWORTH N. JOHNSON

For the Kingdom of Bahrain

AYSHA SALMAN BIN SANAD

For the People's Republic of Bangladesh

MD IQBAL HUSSAIN KHAN

For Barbados

JOHN AVERY

JUSTIN BARROW

For Belgium

AXEL DESMEDT

PETER CLAES

JOOST CALLAERT

For Belize

JOHN AVERY

JUSTIN BARROW

For the Kingdom of Bhutan

JIGME TENZING

For the Republic of Botswana

MARTIN MOKGWARE

JOYCE WEMA ISA-MOLWANE

TSHOGANETSO KEPALETSE

BONNY MINE

AARON THATAYOTLHE NYELES

MATSHWENYEGO KWADA

For the Federative Republic of Brazil

JEFERSON FUED NACIF

MARIO RODRIGO CANAZZA

For Brunei Darussalam

HIJH ADINA HAZRI BINTI HJ AZAHARI

JASMINE WONG

For the Republic of Bulgaria

DIMITAR GENOVSKI
KRASIMIRA DIMITROVA
VASIL NEVENOV

For Burkina Faso

RICHARD ANAGO

For the Republic of Burundi

EVELYNE BUTOYI

For the Kingdom of Cambodia

SOK PUTHYVUTH

For the Republic of Cameroon

IYA TIDJANI
ZO'O ZAME PHILEMON
EBOT EBOT ENAW
FOTINDONG FONZOUK CORNELIUS

For Canada

PAMELA MILLER
SANTIAGO REYES-BORDA

For the Central African Republic

CHARLES ZOË BANGA

For Chile

DENIS GONZÁLEZ GRANDJEAN

For the People's Republic of China

ZIPING LIU
GUOLEI CAI

For the Republic of Cyprus

POLYCARPOS ARGYROU

For the Vatican City State

LUCIO ADRIAN RUIZ
PAOLO LAZZARINI
STEFANO CARTA
SERGIO SALVATORI

For the Republic of Colombia

FRANKLIN MERCHÁN CALDERÓN

For the Republic of Korea

CHUNGWON LEE
JONGKEOL SON
SOOA KIM
JAEHYEOK YU

For Costa Rica

FRANCISCO CHACÓN HERNÁNDEZ

For the Republic of Côte d'Ivoire

IBRAHIM COULIBALY

For the Republic of Croatia

KRESO ANTONOVIC
ZELJKO TABAKOVIC

For Cuba

ISABEL GREENUP LOZADA

For Denmark

PETER HJORNAGER PEDERSEN

For the Dominican Republic

AMPARO ARANGO ECHEVERRI

For the Arab Republic of Egypt

DR. ELSAYED ELSAYED AHMED AZZOUZ

For the Republic of El Salvador

ENRIQUE ANTONIO ROSALES OSEGUEDA

For the United Arab Emirates

HAMAD AL MANSOORI
TARIQ AL AWADHI
SAIF BIN GHELAITA
MOHAMMED AL RAMSI
GHAITH AL MAZAINA
ABDULRAHMAN AL MARZOUQI
SAAD HASSAN
NASSER AL MARZOUQI

For Ecuador

MARIO JOAQUIN VALLEJO VELOZ

For Spain

BLANCA MARÍA GONZÁLEZ GONZÁLEZ

ÁNGEL LEÓN ALCALDE

For the Republic of Estonia

MART LAAS

For the Kingdom of Eswatini

ANDREAS SIFISO DLAMINI

MVLAWEMPHI DLAMINI

For the United States of America

ROBERT L. STRAYER

For the Russian Federation

MIKHAIL SHARIKOV

For the Republic of Fiji

SEMISI SERUITANO

For Finland

KATARIINA VUORELA

For France

BENOÎT BLARY

For the Gabonese Republic

STANISLAS OKOUMA LEKHOUYI

For the Republic of the Gambia

ANSUMANA SANNEH

EBRIMA JAMMEH

For Ghana

URSULA OWUSU-EKUFUL

For Greece

ELLI KARYTINOU

THEOFANIS ANAGNOSTOPOULOS

EIRINI ATHANASIOU

DOMNA PAPAMICHAIL

AGGELIKI POLITI

ANTONIOS PERPATIDIS

GEORGIOS DROSSOS

For the Republic of Guatemala

MARCO ANTONIO ESCALANTE HERRERA

For the Republic of Equatorial Guinea

EUCARIO BAKALE ANGÜE OYANA

For Guyana

ANDRE GRIFFITH

For the Republic of Haiti

JEAN MARIE MAIGNAN

For Hungary

TAMÁS PUSS

SZABOLCS SZENTLÉLEKY

For the Republic of India

VARTHAKAVI RAGHUNANDAN

For the Republic of Indonesia

HUSIN BAGIS

FARIDA DWI CAHYARINI

For the Islamic Republic of Iran

HOSSEIN FALLAH JOSHAGHANI

For the Republic of Iraq

ALI NASER AL-KHWILDI

For Ireland

RORY HINCHY

For Iceland

SIGURJÓN INGVASON

For the State of Israel

NAAMA HENIG

NIZAN LIVNE

NATHAN SCHUBERT

JUDITH GALILEE METZER

For Italy

FABIO BIGI

For Jamaica

WAHKEEN MURRAY

For Japan

DR. AKIMA UMEZAWA

For the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan

AL-ANSARI MOHAMMAD ALMASHAKBEH

AHMAD YAHYA AL HANAKTH

For the Republic of Kazakhstan

VITALI YAROSHENKO

For the Republic of Kenya

FRANCIS WANGUSI

DANIEL OBAM

For the State of Kuwait

SAMIRA BILAL MOEMEN MOHAMMAD

For the Kingdom of Lesotho

MOSHOESHOE NTAOTE

TŠIU TŠIU

For the Republic of Latvia

VALTERS BAJĀRS

For the Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia

ELMA ALTOROK

For the Republic of Liberia

COOPER W. KRUAH

PROSPER K. BROWNE

LENN EUGENE NAGBE

ZOTAWON TITUS

RICHMOND TOBII

ISRAEL M. AKINSANYA

IVAN G. BROWN

For the Principality of Liechtenstein

KURT BÜHLER

For the Republic of Lithuania

INGA RIMKEVICIENE

For Luxembourg

ANNE BLAU

For Malaysia

MOHD ALI MOHAMAD NOR

For Malawi

ERICA MAGANGA

ALEX MAULANA

STEWART LIGOMEKA

HENRY SILIKA

For the Republic of Mali

SANÉ KEITA

BABA KONATE

For Malta

IVAN BUGEJA

AMADEO JOSEPH GEORGE VELLA

For the Kingdom of Morocco

MOHAMED AIT OUALI

HICHAM LAHJOMRI

ABDELJALIL EL HAMMOUMI

HASSAN TALIB

BRAHIM KHADIRI

MOHAMED HAMMOUDA

SARA BELMIL

MOHAMED OUHADDOU

For the Republic of the Marshall Islands

ROBERT L. STRAYER

For Mexico

C. EZEQUIEL GIL HUERTA

For the Republic of Moldova

ANDREI GAVRISI

For the Principality of Monaco

CHRISTOPHE PIERRE

For the Republic of Mozambique

AMÉRICO MUCHANGA

HELENA FERNANDES

CONSTANCIO TRIGO

ARNALDO NHAVENTE

VIRGÍLIO VARELA

MÉRCIA MACAMO

For the Republic of Namibia

JAPHET ISAACK

For the Federal Democratic Republic of Nepal

RAMCHANDRA DHAKAL

For the Republic of the Niger

OUMAROU BOUBACAR OLDI

SALOU ABDOU

AHMED JEAN BORAUD

ALMOU HACHIMOU

For the Federal Republic of Nigeria

FESTUS YUSUFU NARAI DAUDU

For Norway

CHRISTINA CHRISTENSEN

For New Zealand

IAN HUTCHINGS

For the Sultanate of Oman

SAID BIN HAMDOUN BIN SEIF AL HARTHI

For the Republic of Uganda

FRED OTUNNU

CHRISTINE MUGIMBA

GEOFFREY SENGENDO

SIMON BUGABA

REBECCA MUKITE

For the Republic of Uzbekistan

SHUKHRAT SADIKOV

For the Islamic Republic of Pakistan

AHMED SHAMIM PIRZADA

For Papua New Guinea

KILA GULO-VUI

For the Republic of Paraguay

RAÚL ANÍBAL PEREIRA SÁNCHEZ

DIEGO LEÓN MIRANDA GÓMEZ

JUAN GABRIEL RAMÍREZ OZORIO

For the Kingdom of the Netherlands

SIMON VAN MERKOM

For Peru

CARLOS EDUARDO TAVERA VEGA

SERGIO MARTIN NOSTAS ARIAS

For the Republic of the Philippines

HJAYCEELYN M. QUINTANA

For the Republic of Poland

PRZEMYSŁAW OŁOWSKI

For Portugal

PAULO PERES

For the State of Qatar

SAID BIN HAMDOUN BIN SEIF AL HARTHI

For the Syrian Arab Republic

MAZEN ALMAKHAYRI

IBAA OUEICHEK

For the Kyrgyz Republic

ESHMAMBET AMATOV

For the Slovak RepublicDUŠAN HORNIÁK
VILIAM PODHORSKÝ
MILAN MIZERA**For the Czech Republic**

JAROMÍR NOVÁK

For Romania

EDUARD LUCIAN LOVIN

**For the United Kingdom of Great Britain
and Northern Ireland**OSCAR TAPP SCOTTING
PAUL BLAKER
STUART BROWN
VINCENT AFFLECK**For the Republic of Rwanda**PAULA INGABIRE
PATRICK NYIRISHEMA
CHARLES SEMAPONDO
ABRAHAM MAKUZA**For the Republic of San Marino**

MICHELE GIRI

For the Republic of SenegalABDOULAYE BIBI BALDE
SOULEYMANE DIALLO
MODOU MAMOUNE NGOM**For the Republic of Serbia**

STANIMIR VUKIČEVIĆ

For the Republic of Seychelles

JEAN CLAUDE ADRIENNE

For the Republic of Singapore

TONG SAN ONG

For the Republic of Slovenia

OTO PUNGARTNIK

For the Federal Republic of Somalia

AHMED ABDI SHEIKH

For the Republic of the Sudan

MOHAMED MOHAMED KHAIR

For the Republic of South Sudan

THOMAS GATKUOTH NYAK

**For the Democratic Socialist Republic of
Sri Lanka**PRIYANA KARUNARATHNA
CHATHURA WEERASEKARA**For the Republic of South Africa**

DR. SIYABONGA CYPRIAN CWELE

For SwedenANDERS JÖNSSON
SUSANNA MATTSSON**For the Confederation of Switzerland**

DIRK-OLIVIER VON DER EMDEN

For the Republic of Suriname

MEREDITH LETER

For the Republic of Tajikistan

SHARIFI BAHODUR MAHMUDZODA

For the United Republic of Tanzania

CLARENCE ICHWEKELEZA

For the Republic of ChadTOMBOYE IBRAHIM MAHAMAT ITNO
MAHAMAT SALEH BEN MALLALA
CESAR TAPOL**For Thailand**

KAJIT SUKHUM

**For the Democratic Republic of
Timor-Leste**

JOÃO OLÍVIO FREITAS

For the Togolese Republic

ABAYEH BOYODI

PEHESSI TABATI

For Tunisia

SAMIR MANSAR

For Turkey

ŞÜKRAN AYTEKIN

For Ukraine

LEONID YEVDCHENKO

For the Eastern Republic of Uruguay

NICOLÁS ANTONIELLO

ADRIANA BAUZÁ

MARÍA LUJÁN VARELA

For the Socialist Republic of Viet Nam

TRIEU MINH LONG

For the Republic of Yemen

MOHAMMED LUTFI BASHAREEF

MOHAMMED MUSA ALKARFOSHI

For the Republic of Zambia

ELLIOT KABALO

For the Republic of Zimbabwe

SAMUEL KUNDISHORA

PART VII – DECLARATIONS

DECLARATIONS
made at the end of the
Plenipotentiary Conference
of the International Telecommunication Union
(Dubai, 2018)*

The undersigned Plenipotentiaries confirm, through their signing of the present document, which forms part of the Final Acts of the Plenipotentiary Conference (Dubai, 2018), that they have taken note of the following declarations made at the end of that Conference.

* *Note by the General Secretariat* - The texts of the declarations are shown in the chronological order in which they were deposited.

In the table of contents, these texts are grouped in the alphabetical order of the names of the Member States which made them.

1**Original:** English**For Georgia:**

At the ITU Plenipotentiary Conference PP-18 (Dubai, 2018) the Delegation of Georgia makes the following statement:

1 The Government of Georgia is deprived of the possibility to exercise its legitimate jurisdiction over the entire territory of Georgia within its internationally recognized borders, among them in the sector of telecommunication and information technology, as 10 years after the military aggression against Georgia in August 2008 the illegal occupation of Georgia's indivisible regions of Abkhazia and Tskhinvali region/South Ossetia further continues in blatant violation of the fundamental norms and principles of international law, Helsinki Final Act, UN Charter and UN Security Council Resolutions.

2 Any action with these Georgian regions or/and in these territories of Georgia in the sector of telecommunication and information technology can be carried out only in full respect for the Constitution and Legislation of Georgia, the acts of International Telecommunication Union and norms of international law. All other cases represent illegal action and violation of the sovereignty of Georgia.

3 With the aim to protect national interests and sovereignty of the State, Georgia reserves its legitimate right to use diplomatic and legal instruments in cases, if a Member State of the International Telecommunication Union does not comply with the obligations under International Telecommunication Union's Constitution, Convention and Acts; by its statements and actions directly or indirectly endangers the normal functioning of the networks and facilities of Telecommunication and Information Technology Sector on the whole territory of Georgia, and undermines Georgia's sovereignty and territorial integrity.

2**Original:** Spanish**For the Republic of Paraguay:**

The delegation of the Republic of Paraguay enters the following reservation on the basis of Article 32B of the Convention of the International Telecommunication Union:

1 The Republic of Paraguay will take any measures it may deem necessary to safeguard its interests should other members of the International Telecommunication Union fail in any way to comply with the Final Acts or should reservations entered by other members jeopardize the smooth operation of its telecommunication services or its full sovereign rights; and

2 The Republic of Paraguay will enter additional reservations or declarations to the international instruments that make up these Final Acts, at any time it deems appropriate between the date of signature and the date of ratification, by virtue of the Vienna Convention on the Law of Treaties of 1969.

3**Original:** English**For the Socialist Republic of Viet Nam:**

On behalf of the Government of the Socialist Republic of Viet Nam, the Vietnamese Delegation to the Plenipotentiary Conference 2018 (PP-18) declares:

1) it maintains the reservations made by Viet Nam at the Nairobi Plenipotentiary Conference (1982), and reaffirmed at the Nice (1989), Geneva (1992), Kyoto (1994), Minneapolis (1998), Marrakesh (2002), Antalya (2006), Guadalajara (2010) and Busan (2014) Plenipotentiary Conferences;

- 2) it reserves for Viet Nam the right to take any action, if necessary, to safeguard its interests should any other State Members in any way fail to comply with the provisions of the Constitution, Convention or Administrative Regulations and Appendices thereto of the International Telecommunication Union, or should reservations by other State Members jeopardize the sovereignty, interests and telecommunication services of the S.R. of Viet Nam;
- 3) it reserves the right of the Socialist Republic of Viet Nam to express additional reservations at the time of ratification of the amendments to the Constitution and the Convention (if any) made at the twentieth ITU Plenipotentiary Conference held in Dubai, UAE.

4

Original: English

For Malaysia:

The delegation of Malaysia:

- 1 reserves the right of its Government to take any action or preservation measures it deems necessary to safeguard its national interest should the Final Acts drawn up by the ITU Plenipotentiary Conference in Dubai, United Arab Emirates (Dubai, 2018) directly or indirectly affect its sovereignty or be in contravention with the Constitution, Laws and Regulations of Malaysia which exist and may result from any principles of international law or should reservations by any Member of the Union jeopardize Malaysia's telecommunications, communications and multimedia services or lead to an increase in its contributory share towards defraying the expenses of the Union;
- 2 further reserves the right of its Government to make such reservations as may be necessary up to and including the time of ratification of the Final Acts of the ITU Plenipotentiary Conference 2018 (Dubai, 2018); and

3 declares that the signing of these Final Acts by the Delegation of Malaysia is not valid with respect to the Member appearing under the name of Israel, and in no way implies its recognition.

5

Original: French

For the Republic of Mali:

In signing the Final Acts of the Plenipotentiary Conference of the International Telecommunication Union (Dubai, 2018), the delegation of the Republic of Mali:

- a) reserves for its Government the sovereign right to take whatever measures or actions may be necessary to safeguard its rights and national interests should any Member State or Sector Member of the Union fail in any way to comply with the provisions of the said Acts, or directly or indirectly jeopardize the interests of its telecommunication services, or put the security of its national sovereignty at risk, or if reservations made by other Member States should entail a change to its obligations towards the Union;
- b) also reserves for its Government the right to express additional specific reservations to these Final Acts, or to any other instrument arising from other relevant ITU conferences which has not yet been ratified, until such time as the respective instrument of ratification has been deposited.

6

Original: Chinese**For the People's Republic of China:**

The delegation of the People's Republic of China, in signing the Final Acts of the Plenipotentiary Conference of the International Telecommunication Union (Dubai, 2018), declares that it reserves for its Government the right:

- to take any action it may deem necessary to safeguard its interests should any Member State fail in any way to comply with the requirements of the Constitution and Convention of the International Telecommunication Union (Geneva, 1992), as amended by Plenipotentiary Conferences (Kyoto, 1994; Minneapolis, 1998; Marrakesh, 2002; Antalya, 2006; Guadalajara, 2010; Busan, 2014 and Dubai, 2018), and the annexes to those instruments, or should declarations made by other countries jeopardize its interests.

7

Original: Spanish**For the Republic of Guatemala:**

In signing the Final Acts of the Plenipotentiary Conference (Dubai, 2018), the delegation of the Republic of Guatemala:

- 1 reserves for its Government and Administration the right to take such measures as it may deem necessary, in accordance with its domestic legislation and international law, to safeguard its interests should reservations by other Member States jeopardize the smooth operation of its telecommunication systems, or should other Member States fail to comply with the provisions of the Constitution and the Convention of the International Telecommunication Union (Geneva, 1992), as amended by the Plenipotentiary Conferences (Kyoto, 1994; Minneapolis, 1998; Marrakesh, 2002; Antalya, 2006; Guadalajara, 2010; Busan, 2014; and Dubai, 2018);
- 2 reserves the right for its Government and Administration to enter additional reservations and declarations before the ratification of the Final Acts of the Plenipotentiary Conference of the International Telecommunication Union (Dubai, 2018).

8

Original: English**For the Republic of Cyprus:**

The delegation of the Republic of Cyprus reserves for its Government the right to take any action it deems necessary to safeguard its interests should any Members of the Union not share in defraying the expenses of the Union or should they fail in any way to comply with the provisions of the Constitution and Convention (Geneva 1992) and/or annexes and protocols thereof, as amended by the Kyoto 1994 Instrument, the Minneapolis 1998 Instrument, the Marrakesh 2002 Instrument, the Antalya 2006 Instrument, the Guadalajara 2010 Instrument, the Busan 2014 Instrument and the Dubai 2018 Instrument, or should reservations by other countries be liable to cause an increase in its contributory share in defraying Union expenses, or jeopardize its telecommunication services, or should any other action taken or intended to be taken or any omission by any person, physical or juridical directly or indirectly affect its sovereignty.

The delegation of the Republic of Cyprus further reserves for its Government the right to make any other declarations or reservations until and up to the time that the Dubai 2018 Instruments, amending the Constitution and Convention of the International Telecommunication Union (Geneva, 1992), and Kyoto 1994 Instruments, and Minneapolis 1998 Instruments, and Marrakesh 2002 Instruments, and Antalya 2006 Instruments, and Guadalajara 2010 Instruments, and the Busan 2014 Instruments, are ratified by the Republic of Cyprus.

Original: Spanish

For Mexico:

The Mexican Government, in the exercise of its power to enter reservations to the Final Acts, reserves for its Government the right:

- 1 to adopt and take whatever measures it considers appropriate to safeguard its sovereign decisions should any other Member State fail to comply with in any way or fail to apply the provisions contained in these Acts, including their decisions, recommendations, resolutions and annexes, or those contained in the basic texts of the Union, the Constitution and the Convention of the International Telecommunication Union;
- 2 to express, in accordance with the Vienna Convention on the Law of Treaties, further reservations to these Acts at any time it may deem appropriate between the date of signing of these Acts and the date of their ratification, in accordance with the procedures established in its domestic legislation;
- 3 not to consider itself bound by any provision of these Acts which restrict its right to enter such reservations as it deems relevant;
- 4 to reject the establishment and application of any additional burden, including financial burdens, over and above the contributory unit adopted by this conference and which may affect the national interest;
- 5 further, the Government of Mexico maintains and reaffirms, as if they were repeated here in full, the reservations it made on signing the Final Acts of the Plenipotentiary Conference (Geneva, 1992; Kyoto, 1994; Minneapolis, 1998; Marrakesh, 2002; Antalya, 2006; Guadalajara, 2010; and Busan, 2014), the reservations it made upon the adoption and revision of the Administrative Regulations referred to in Article 4 of the Constitution of the International Telecommunication Union, and all reservations made by it in respect of other treaties directly relating to telecommunications.

10

Original: English**For the Republic of Indonesia:**

On behalf of the Republic of Indonesia, the delegation of the Republic of Indonesia to the International Telecommunication Union Plenipotentiary Conference 2018 (ITU PP-18) (Dubai, 2018):

- reserves the right for its Government to take any action and preservation measures it deems necessary to safeguard its national interest should any provision of the Constitution, the Convention and the Resolutions, as well as any decision of the International Telecommunication Union Plenipotentiary Conference 2018 (ITU PP-18) (Dubai, 2018), directly or indirectly affect its sovereignty or be in contravention to the Constitution, Laws and Regulations of the Republic of Indonesia as well as the existing rights acquired by the Republic of Indonesia as a party to other treaties and conventions and any principles of international law;
- further reserves the right for its Government to take any action and preservation measures it deems necessary to safeguard its national interest should any Member in any way fail to comply with the provisions of the Constitution, the Convention and the Resolutions, as well as any decision of the International Telecommunication Union Plenipotentiary Conference 2018 (ITU PP-18) (Dubai, 2018) or should the consequences of reservations by any Member jeopardize its telecommunication services or result in an unacceptable increase of its contributory share towards defraying expenses of the Union.

11**Original:** Spanish**For Spain:**

The Spanish delegation declares, on behalf of its Government, that it does not accept any declaration or reservation expressed by other governments which might imply an increase in its financial obligations.

The Spanish delegation reserves for the Kingdom of Spain the right, under the Vienna Convention on the Law of Treaties of 23 May 1969, to express reservations to the Final Acts adopted by the present conference up to the time of deposit of the appropriate instrument of ratification.

12**Original:** English**For the Islamic Republic of Iran:**

In the Name of Allah, the Compassionate, the Merciful

The delegation of the Islamic Republic of Iran, on signing the Final Acts of the 20th Plenipotentiary Conference of the International Telecommunication Union (Dubai, 2018) reserves for its Government the right:

- 1 to take such action as it may consider necessary or to take any measure required to safeguard its rights and interests, should other Member States fail in any way to comply with the provisions of the Final Acts of the 20th Plenipotentiary Conference of the International Telecommunication Union (Dubai, 2018);
- 2 to protect its interests should other Member States not share in defraying the expenses of the Union or should the reservations by other Member States jeopardize the telecommunication services of the Islamic Republic of Iran;
- 3 not to be bound by any provision of the Final Acts of the 20th Plenipotentiary Conference of the International Telecommunication Union (Dubai, 2018) which may directly or indirectly affect its sovereignty and be in contravention with the Constitution, Laws and Regulations of the Islamic Republic of Iran;

4 any issue or matter relating to the application and/or implementation of any provisions of the ITU Constitution and ITU Convention and the Administrative Regulations, according to the case, shall be treated within ITU and under the auspices and the purposes of the Union as contained in the Preamble of the Constitution, the relevant provision of the ITU Constitution and the ITU Convention and its Administrative Regulations;

5 also reserves for its Government the right to express additional specific reservations to these Final Acts or to any other instrument arising from other relevant ITU conferences which have not yet been ratified until such time as the respective instrument of ratification has been deposited.

6 moreover, the Government of the Islamic Republic of Iran reaffirms its reservations as contained in Final Acts of the previous Plenipotentiary Conferences, World Radiocommunication Conferences (WRCs) and World Conferences on International Telecommunications (WCITs).

13

Original: English

For the Republic of San Marino:

In signing the Final Acts of the Constitution and the Convention of the Plenipotentiary Conference of the International Telecommunication Union (Dubai, 2018), the delegation of the Republic of San Marino reserves for its Government the right to take all measures which it deems necessary so as to protect its interests in the event that any Member of the Union fails to adhere to the provisions of the Constitution and the Convention or its annexes, additional protocols and Administrative Regulations.

The same rights are also reserved to the Government of the Republic of San Marino towards reservations made by other Members which might interfere with, limit or jeopardize the correct functioning of the telecommunication services of the Republic of San Marino.

Original: Spanish

For the Argentine Republic:

The Argentine Republic reiterates its legitimate sovereign rights over the Malvinas Islands, South Georgia Islands and the South Sandwich Islands and the surrounding maritime areas, which are an integral part of its national territory and are being illegitimately occupied by the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, and therefore are subject to a sovereignty dispute.

The United Nations General Assembly has adopted resolutions 2665 (XX), 3160 (XVIII), 31/49, 37/9, 38/12, 39/6, 40/21, 41/40, 42/19 and 43/25, in which it recognizes the existence of a sovereignty dispute, referred to as the "Question of the Malvinas Islands", and calls for the Governments of the Argentine Republic and of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland to resume negotiations with the view to finding a peaceful, just and definitive solution to the dispute as soon as possible.

For its part, the United Nations Special Committee on Decolonization has repeatedly expressed a similar view, most recently through the resolution adopted on 21 June 2018. Also, the General Assembly of the Organization of American States adopted on 5 June 2018 a new declaration on the question, which is declared to be of permanent hemispheric interest.

In addition, the Argentine Republic declares that none of the provisions of the Final Acts of the Plenipotentiary Conference (Dubai, 2018) shall be interpreted or applied as affecting its rights over the Argentine Antarctic Sector delimited by the 25° West and 74° West meridians and the 60° South parallel, over which Argentina has claimed and maintains its sovereignty.

15**Original:** French**For the Gabonese Republic:**

The delegation of the Gabonese Republic to the 20th Plenipotentiary Conference of the International Telecommunication Union (Dubai, United Arab Emirates, 2018) reserves for its Government the right:

- 1 to take any measures necessary to safeguard its interests should any Member States fail in any way to comply with the provisions of the Constitution and the Convention of the International Telecommunication Union (Geneva, 1992), or the amending instruments adopted by the Plenipotentiary Conferences (Kyoto, 1994; Minneapolis, 1998; Marrakesh, 2002; Antalya, 2006; Guadalajara, 2010; Busan, 2014; and Dubai, 2018), or should reservations by other Member States be likely to jeopardize the operation of its telecommunication or information and communication technology services;
- 2 to accept or not to accept the financial consequences that may result from such reservations;
- 3 to enter any further reservations until such time as the instruments adopted by this conference enter into force.

16**Original:** English**For Iceland, the Principality of Liechtenstein and Norway:**

The delegations of the above-mentioned Member States of the European Economic Area declare that they will apply the Instruments adopted by the Plenipotentiary Conference (Dubai, 2018) in accordance with their obligations under the Treaty establishing the European Economic Area.

17**Original:** French**For the Vatican City State:**

1 The Vatican City State reserves the right to enter any declaration or reservation and to take any other appropriate measure it deems necessary before ratifying the Final Acts of the Plenipotentiary Conference (Dubai, 2018).

2 The Vatican City State also reserves the right to take any measures it deems necessary to safeguard its interests should certain Members fail, in any way, to abide by the provisions of the Constitution and the Convention of the International Telecommunication Union or should reservations entered by other countries jeopardize its interests.

18**Original:** French**For France:**

1 The French delegation reserves for its Government the right to take any measures that it may deem necessary to safeguard its interests in the event that certain Member States do not assume their share in defraying the expenses of the Union or fail in any manner to comply with the provisions of the amendments to the Constitution and the Convention of the International Telecommunication Union (Geneva, 1992), as amended by the Plenipotentiary Conferences (Kyoto, 1994; Minneapolis, 1998; Marrakesh, 2002; Antalya, 2006; Guadalajara, 2010; Busan, 2014), adopted by the present Plenipotentiary Conference (Dubai, 2018), or should reservations made by other countries jeopardize the proper functioning of France's telecommunication services or entail an increase in its contributory share towards defraying the expenses of the Union.

2 The French delegation formally declares that, with respect to France, the provisional or definitive application of the amendments to the Administrative Regulations of the Union as defined in Article 54 of the Constitution of the International Telecommunication Union (Geneva, 1992), as amended by the Plenipotentiary Conferences (Kyoto, 1994; Minneapolis, 1998; Marrakesh, 2002; Antalya, 2006; Guadalajara, 2010; Busan, 2014; Dubai, 2018), shall be understood as being to the extent authorized under national law.

19

Original: English

For Turkey:

1

The Republic of Turkey, in signing the Final Acts of the Plenipotentiary Conference (Dubai, 2018) declares that it will implement the provisions of the Final Acts only to the State parties with which it has diplomatic relations.

2

In signing the Final Acts of the Plenipotentiary Conference (Dubai, 2018), the delegation of the Republic of Turkey:

1 reserves for its Government the right to take any action as it may consider necessary to safeguard its interests, should any Member State, in any way, fail to comply with the Constitution and the Convention of the International Telecommunication Union (Geneva, 1992), as amended by the Plenipotentiary Conference (Kyoto, 1994), and as amended by the Plenipotentiary Conference (Minneapolis, 1998), and as amended by the Plenipotentiary Conference (Marrakesh, 2002), and as amended by the Plenipotentiary Conference (Antalya, 2006) and as amended by the Plenipotentiary Conference (Guadalajara, 2010), and as amended by the Plenipotentiary Conference (Busan, 2014) and as further amended by the Plenipotentiary Conference (Dubai, 2018) or the annexes or protocols thereto, or should any reservation made by any Member State jeopardize the proper operation of its telecommunication services or lead to an increase in its contribution to defraying the expenses of the Union;

- 2 reserves for its Government the right, if necessary, to make further reservations to the present Final Acts;
- 3 declares on behalf of its Government that it accepts no consequences of any reservation which would lead to an increase in the share it contributes to defraying the expenses of the Union;
- 4 formally declares that reservations previously made with regard to the Constitution, Convention and Administrative Regulations of the Union shall prevail unless declared otherwise.

20

Original: English

For Sweden:

Sweden shall not be deemed to have consented to be bound by revisions of the Administrative Regulations, whether partial or complete, adopted subsequent to the date of signature of these Final Acts, without specific notification to the International Telecommunication Union of its consent to be bound.

21

Original: English

For Sweden:

In the following cases, the Swedish delegation reserves for its Government the right to take any action that they may deem necessary to safeguard its interests:

- other Member States do not assume their share in defraying the expenses of the Union,
- other Member States fail in any manner to comply with the provisions of the amendments to the Constitution and the Convention of the International Telecommunication Union (Geneva, 1992), as amended by subsequent Plenipotentiary Conferences, or
- reservations made by other countries jeopardize the proper functioning of the Swedish telecommunication services or entail an increase in the contributory share towards defraying the expenses of the Union.

22

Original: English**For Sweden:**

The delegation of Sweden reserves the right for its Government to make declarations or reservations before or at the time of depositing its instrument of ratification, acceptance or approval of the Final Acts of the Plenipotentiary Conference of the International Telecommunication Union held in Dubai from 29 October to 16 November 2018.

23

Original: Spanish**For Cuba:**

In signing the Final Acts of the Plenipotentiary Conference of the International Telecommunication Union (Dubai, 2018), the delegation of Cuba reserves for its Government the right to take such measures as it may consider necessary and appropriate to safeguard its interests:

- in the face of the interventionist practice by the Government of the United States of America of directing broadcasting transmissions towards Cuban territory for political and destabilizing purposes, in open violation of the provisions and principles that govern telecommunications, to the detriment of the normal operation and development of Cuba's own radiocommunication services;
- should any Member State fail to comply in any way with the provisions of the Constitution and Convention of the International Telecommunication Union (Geneva, 1992), as amended by the Plenipotentiary Conferences (Kyoto, 1994; Minneapolis, 1998; Marrakesh, 2002; Antalya, 2006; Guadalajara, 2010; and Busan, 2014), or with the Administrative Regulations, or should reservations by any Member State in any way jeopardize Cuba's telecommunication services or lead to an increase in its contribution towards defraying the expenses of the Union;

- take actions not approved under the International Telecommunication Regulations (Dubai, 2012) which cause harm to the operation and development of the country's telecommunications or impede access to international public telecommunication networks and services, including access to the Internet; and
- fail to fulfil their international obligations or to abide by the provisions of the Radio Regulations (Geneva, 2015), or should they use broadcasting stations operating aboard an aircraft to transmit solely into Cuban territory without Cuba's consent, a practice which WRC-07 determined to be contrary to the Radio Regulations; in the face of any telecommunication transmission which affects the security of the State, or conflicts with the country's cultural heritage and values, or violates the sovereignty of the Nation.

The Government of Cuba further states that:

- it does not recognize the notification, registration or use of frequencies by the Government of the United States of America in that part of Cuban territory in the province of Guantánamo which the United States is occupying illegally by force, contrary to the express will of the people and the Government of Cuba;
- it does not accept the Optional Protocol on the settlement of disputes with respect to the present Constitution, Convention and Administrative Regulations; and
- it reserves the right to make any further declaration or reservation that may be necessary at the time of depositing its instrument of ratification of the Constitution and Convention of the International Telecommunication Union (Geneva, 1992), as adopted by the Plenipotentiary Conference (Dubai, 2018).

Original: English

For the Democratic Socialist Republic of Sri Lanka:

In signing the Final Acts of the Plenipotentiary Conference of the International Telecommunication Union (Dubai, 2018) the delegation of the Democratic Socialist Republic of Sri Lanka reserves for its Government the right:

1 to take any measures it considers necessary to safeguard its national interests should any ITU Member State fail in any way to comply with the provisions of the Constitution and Convention of the International Telecommunication Union, and the annexes thereto, as amended by the subsequent Plenipotentiary Conferences to the Plenipotentiary Conference (Dubai, 2018) or should any reservations by other Member States jeopardize the proper functioning of its telecommunication/ICT networks and services;

2 not to be bound by any provision of the Constitution or the Convention of the International Telecommunication Union, and the annexes thereto, as amended by the subsequent Plenipotentiary Conferences to the Plenipotentiary Conference (Dubai, 2018) which may directly or indirectly affect its sovereignty and be in contradiction with the constitution, laws or regulations of the Democratic Socialist Republic of Sri Lanka;

3 not to accept any financial implications for its Government resulting from reservations made by any other Member State on the matters pertaining to the finances of the Union.

The delegation of the Democratic Socialist Republic of Sri Lanka further reserves for its Government right to make, pursuant to the Vienna Convention on the Law of Treaties of 1969, any additional reservations to the Final Acts of the Plenipotentiary Conference of the International Telecommunication Union (Dubai, 2018) at any time it may think fit between the date of signature and the date of ratification of the international instruments constituting such Final Acts.

25

Original: English**For Hungary:**

In signing the Final Acts of the Plenipotentiary Conference of the International Telecommunication Union (Dubai, 2018), the delegation of Hungary reserves for its Government the right to take any action that it may consider necessary to safeguard its interests should any Member State of the Union not share in defraying the expenses of the Union or fail, in any way, to comply with the provisions of the Constitution and the Convention of the International Telecommunication Union (Geneva, 1992), as amended by the Final Acts of the Plenipotentiary Conferences (Kyoto, 1994; Minneapolis, 1998; Marrakesh, 2002; Antalya, 2006; Guadalajara, 2010 and Busan, 2014), and adopted by the Plenipotentiary Conference (Dubai, 2018), or should any reservation made by any Member State jeopardize the proper operation of its telecommunication services or lead to an increase in their contribution towards defraying the expenses of the Union.

The delegation of Hungary further declares that it reserves for its Government the right to make any additional statements or reservations when depositing its instruments of ratification for the Final Acts of the Plenipotentiary Conference of the International Telecommunication Union (Dubai, 2018).

26

Original: English**For Ukraine:**

In signing the Final Acts of the Plenipotentiary Conference of the International Telecommunication Union (Dubai, 2018), the delegation of Ukraine declares the following.

The principle of complete recognition of the sovereign right of each State to regulate its telecommunication is enshrined in the Constitution of the International Telecommunication Union.

Starting from 20 February 2014, the Russian Federation, in violation of the fundamental norms and principles of international law, as well as its obligations under multilateral and bilateral treaties, has been committing an act of armed aggression against Ukraine, which has resulted in the illegal occupation of part of the territory of Ukraine – the Autonomous Republic of Crimea and the city of Sevastopol (hereinafter "Crimea") and certain areas in the Donetsk and Lugansk regions.

In its resolution 68/262 of 27 March 2014 the UN General Assembly affirmed the sovereignty, political independence, unity and territorial integrity of Ukraine within its internationally recognized borders; acknowledged that invalid referendum held in the Autonomous Republic of Crimea and the city of Sevastopol on 16 March 2014, cannot form the basis for any alteration of the status of the Autonomous Republic of Crimea or of the city of Sevastopol; called upon all States, international organizations and specialized agencies not to recognize any alteration of the status of the Autonomous Republic of Crimea and the city of Sevastopol on the basis of the above-mentioned referendum and to refrain from any action or dealing that might be interpreted as recognizing any such altered status.

In its subsequent resolutions 71/205 of 19 December 2016 and 72/190 of 19 December 2017 the UN General Assembly condemned the ongoing temporary occupation of Crimea by the Russian Federation and reaffirmed the non-recognition of its annexation.

Moreover, the UN General Assembly resolution 29/3314 of 14 December 1974 "Definition of aggression" states that no territorial acquisition or special advantage resulting from aggression is or shall be recognized as lawful.

Accordingly, Ukraine does not in any way recognize the illegal use of frequency spectrum and wrongful application of numbering codes of the Russian Federation within the illegally occupied territories of the Autonomous Republic of Crimea and the city of Sevastopol.

The Government of Ukraine also recalls the Agreed statement by the ITU Secretary-General at the 2014 Plenipotentiary Conference (Busan, 2014), published in Document PP-14/174, Annex B (<https://www.itu.int/md/S14-PP-C-0174/en>), and the statement by the ITU Secretary-General, published in the ITU Operational Bulletin No. 1158 dated 15 October 2018 (<https://www.itu.int/pub/T-SP-OB.1158-2018>), through which the Union expressed its serious concerns about situation in Crimea and reaffirmed, *inter alia*, that the ITU took into account the relevant provisions of the UNGA resolution 68/262 of 27 March 2014 "Territorial integrity of Ukraine" calling upon all specialized agencies of the United Nations "not to recognize any alteration of the status of the Autonomous Republic of Crimea and the city of Sevastopol and to refrain from any action or dealing that might be interpreted as recognizing any such altered status", as well as relevant provisions related to such status of the UNGA resolutions 71/205 (2016) and 72/190 (2017).

In the above-mentioned statements the ITU Secretary-General further confirmed that the same principles shall also apply in respect of any actions that might be required of the General Secretariat and the three Bureaux, including the ITU publications and databases publishing, in order to assist Ukraine to ensure the use of all its international telecommunication services and resources as well as of any actions that might be taken by ITU conferences and assemblies pertaining to Ukraine's requirements in regard to use of the frequency spectrum and numbering codes on its territory.

In the light of the provisions of the ITU Constitution and Administrative Regulations and taking into account the above UNGA resolutions, the Government of Ukraine declares its sovereign right to use the telecommunication networks and radio frequency resource of Ukraine in the temporarily occupied territory of the Autonomous Republic of Crimea and the city of Sevastopol, which are now being illegally used by the Russian Federation in contravention of the provisions and principles of ITU's basic texts.

Responsibility for the consequences of any action by the Russian Federation in connection with the illegal use of radio frequency resource and the wrongful application of numbering resource, as well as responsibility for the consequences of any action which the Administration of Ukraine may be obliged to take in order to protect its own telecommunication networks and radio frequency resource from the actions of the Russian Federation in the temporarily occupied territories of the Autonomous Republic of Crimea and the city of Sevastopol will lie entirely with the Government of the Russian Federation.

The Government of Ukraine calls on all Member States of ITU to refrain from routing in the telecommunication public networks of the outgoing/incoming international traffic, which can be received in the indices of numbers of the numbering plan of the Russian Federation, allocated for the use in the territory of Crimea, by telecommunications operators of the Russian Federation, and under the international mobile country identification code of land-based networks with radio access "250" (MCC) identification codes (MNC): 32; 33; 34; 60, and to take note of the fact that any notification to ITU and international coordination of frequency allotments and frequency assignments to radio electronic systems located in the temporarily occupied territory of the Autonomous Republic of Crimea and the city of Sevastopol will continue to be exclusively carried out by the Administration of Ukraine.

The Government of Ukraine reserves its right to take any measures that it may deem appropriate to safeguard its interests should other members fail to comply with the provisions of the Constitution and the Convention of the International Telecommunication Union (Geneva, 1992), as amended by Plenipotentiary Conferences (Kyoto, 1994; Minneapolis, 1998; Marrakesh, 2002; Antalya, 2006 and Guadalajara, 2010), or of the Administrative Regulations, or should reservations and declarations by any Members of the Union jeopardize the smooth operation of Ukraine's telecommunication services, affect its sovereignty, or entail an increase in its financial obligations to the Union.

27

Original: English**For the Republic of South Sudan:**

The delegation of the Republic of South Sudan has taken part in the ITU Plenipotentiary Conference 2018, Dubai, United Arab Emirates. Vested with full powers by the Government of the Republic of South Sudan, the delegation has exercised the rights recognized to Member States in accordance with the instruments of the Union.

The Head of South Sudan delegation has signed the Final Acts of the Plenipotentiary Conference (Dubai, 2018) while reserving for the Government of the Republic of South Sudan the right to denounce and reject any provisions of those Acts which might violate the Constitution of the Republic of South Sudan and international treaties and conventions, jeopardize and/or hamper the development and proper functioning of its telecommunications/ICT sector.

28

Original: Spanish**For the Republic of Colombia:**

On signing the Final Acts of the Plenipotentiary Conference of the International Telecommunication Union (Dubai, 2018), the delegation of the Republic of Colombia:

- 1 states that it reserves for its Government the right:
 - a) to take any action consistent with its domestic law and with international law that it may deem necessary to safeguard its national interests should any other Members fail to comply with the provisions contained in the Final Acts of the Plenipotentiary Conference (Dubai, 2018), or should any reservations entered by representatives of other States affect the telecommunication services of the Republic of Colombia or its full sovereign rights;

b) to enter reservations to the Final Acts of the Plenipotentiary Conference (Dubai, 2018), pursuant to the Vienna Convention on the Law of Treaties of 1969, at any time it sees fit between the date of signature and the date of possible ratification of the international instruments constituting those Final Acts. Accordingly, it shall not be bound by any rules restricting the sovereign right to enter reservations only to the time of signing the Final Acts of conferences and other meetings of the Union;

2 reaffirms, in their essence, Reservations 40 and 79 entered at the World Administrative Radio Conference (Geneva, 1979), Reservation 50 entered at the Plenipotentiary Conference (Minneapolis, 1998) and Reservation 64 entered at the World Radiocommunication Conference (Istanbul, 2000) with respect to the new provisions modifying or amending the Constitution, the Convention and other instruments of the International Telecommunication Union, contained in the documents of the Final Acts of the Plenipotentiary Conference (Dubai, 2018);

3 declares that the Republic of Colombia considers itself bound by the instruments of the International Telecommunication Union, including the provisions modifying or amending the Constitution, the Convention, the protocols and the Administrative Regulations, only insofar as it has expressly and duly consented to be bound by each of the aforesaid international instruments, and subject to completion of the applicable constitutional procedures. Accordingly, it does not agree to be bound by any presumed or tacit consent;

4 declares that, under its Constitution, its Government is unable to give provisional effect to the international instruments which constitute the Final Acts of the Plenipotentiary Conference (Dubai, 2018) and other instruments of the Union, owing to the content and nature of such instruments;

5 reaffirms, in their essence, Reservation 58 entered at the Plenipotentiary Conference (Antalya, 2006) and Reservation 5 entered at the Plenipotentiary Conference (Busan, 2014).

Original: French

For the Republic of the Niger:

The delegation of the Republic of the Niger has taken part in the Plenipotentiary Conference (Dubai, 2018) of the International Telecommunication Union, vested with full powers by the highest authorities of the Republic, and has exercised the rights recognized to Member States in accordance with the instruments of the Union.

In signing the Final Acts of the Plenipotentiary Conference of the International Telecommunication Union (Dubai, 2018), the delegation of the Republic of the Niger, through its head of delegation, formally declares that it reserves for the Government of the Republic of the Niger the right:

- a) to take any measure it may deem necessary to safeguard its interests should any member of the Union fail to comply with the provisions of the Constitution and/or the Convention of the Union, on the one hand, or, on the other hand, should reservations entered or measures taken by other governments jeopardize the smooth operation of its telecommunication services;
- b) to reject any modification of the said Constitution and Convention or of the annexes and protocols thereto which might directly or indirectly affect the sovereignty of the Republic of the Niger or be contrary to its Constitution or laws;
- c) to make any other additional declaration(s) or reservation(s) to the Final Acts of the Conference (Dubai, 2018) up to the date on which the respective instruments of ratification are deposited.

30

Original: English**For Thailand:**

In signing the Final Acts of the Twentieth Plenipotentiary Conference of the International Telecommunication Union (Dubai, 2018), the delegation of Thailand reserves the right of its Government:

To take action it deems necessary to safeguard its interests should any Member State fail, in any way, to comply with the provisions of the Constitution and Convention of the International Telecommunication Union (Geneva, 1992), as amended by the Final Acts of the Plenipotentiary Conference (Kyoto, 1994; Minneapolis, 1998; Marrakesh, 2002; Antalya, 2006; Guadalajara, 2010; and Dubai, 2018) and the Annexes and Protocols attached thereto, or should any reservation made by any Member State jeopardize its sovereignty, its operations of telecommunication networks and services, or lead to an increase in its financial obligations.

31**Original:** Spanish**For the Dominican Republic:**

The delegation of the Dominican Republic reserves for its Government the right not to accept any financial measure which may entail unjustified increases in its contribution to defraying the expenses of the International Telecommunication Union (ITU). It further reserves the right to take any action it may deem necessary to safeguard its interests should reservations by other Member States jeopardize the operation of its telecommunication systems, or should other Member States fail to comply with the provisions of the Constitution and Convention of the International Telecommunication Union (Geneva, 1992), as amended by previous plenipotentiary conferences, and other related instruments, as well as the right to enter reservations and declarations before the ratification and deposit of the Final Acts of the Plenipotentiary Conference of the International Telecommunication Union (Dubai, 2018).

32**Original:** English**For the Republic of Rwanda:**

In signing the Final Acts of the 20th Plenipotentiary Conference of the International Telecommunication Union (Dubai, 2018), the delegation of the Republic of Rwanda reserves the right for its Government to take any measures it deems necessary to protect its interests, in accordance with national legislation and the international treaties to which Rwanda is party, should any ITU Member State fail to observe, in any manner whatsoever, the provisions of the Constitution and the Convention of the International Telecommunication Union or should the reservations expressed by other countries be prejudicial to its interests.

33**Original:** English**For the Republic of Suriname:**

The Government of Suriname reserves the right to make reservations to the Final Acts of the Plenipotentiary Conference of the International Telecommunication Union (Dubai, 2018). We do not consider ourselves bound to other Member States that fail to respect the conditions specified in these Final Acts and subsequent reservations made by other Member States, as far as it relates to the interest of the Republic of Suriname.

34**Original:** English**For the Republic of Azerbaijan:**

The Republic of Azerbaijan reserves for its Government the right:

to adopt and take whatever measures it considers appropriate to safeguard its sovereign rights should any other Member State fail to comply with in any way or fail to apply the provisions contained in these Acts, including the decisions, recommendations and resolutions of the International Telecommunication Union.

35**Original:** English**For the Republic of India:**

1 In signing the Final Acts of the Plenipotentiary Conference of the International Telecommunication Union (Dubai, 2018), the delegation of the Republic of India does not accept any financial implications for its Government resulting from any reservations that might be made by any Member on matters pertaining to the finances of the Union.

2 The delegation of the Republic of India further reserves the right of its Government to take any action it deems necessary to safeguard and protect its interests in the event of any Member failing in any way to comply with one or more provisions of the Constitution and the Convention of the International Telecommunication Union (Geneva, 1992) and amendments made thereto by the Plenipotentiary Conference (Kyoto, 1994), the Plenipotentiary Conference (Minneapolis, 1998), the Plenipotentiary Conference (Marrakesh, 2002), the Plenipotentiary Conference (Antalya, 2006), the Plenipotentiary Conference (Guadalajara, 2010), the Plenipotentiary Conference (Busan, 2014) and the Plenipotentiary Conference (Dubai, 2018) or the Administrative Regulations.

3 In addition, the Republic of India reserves the right to make appropriate specific reservations and statements prior to ratification of the Final Acts.

36

Original: French

For the Republic of Cameroon:

In signing these Final Acts, the Republic of Cameroon reserves the right:

- 1 to take all necessary measures to safeguard its interests should:
 - a) a Member State fail in any way to comply with the provisions of the Constitution and the Convention of the International Telecommunication Union (Geneva, 1992; Antalya, 2006; and Guadalajara, 2010), or with the provisions of the annexes and protocols appended thereto, as well as the Final Acts of the Plenipotentiary Conference of the International Telecommunication Union (Dubai, 2018);
 - b) reservations entered by other Member States impair those interests,
- 2 to enter, until the time of deposit of the instruments of ratification, any additional reservations it may deem necessary.

37**Original:** English**For the Republic of Zambia:**

In signing the Final Acts of the ITU Plenipotentiaries Conference (Dubai, 2018), the delegation of the Republic of Zambia makes the following declaration on behalf of its Government:

That the Republic of Zambia reserves the right of its Government to take any measures it may deem necessary to safeguard its interests should any other Member State of the International Telecommunication Union in any way fail to comply with, or to execute the provisions of the Instruments; or should reservations or declarations made by other Member States jeopardize the proper operation of the telecommunication/ICT services of Zambia, by either directly or indirectly affecting its sovereignty.

The Republic of Zambia, further reserves the right to make any declaration or reservation or any other appropriate action, as may be necessary, prior to ratification of the Dubai 2018 Instruments.

38**Original:** English**For the Republic of Mozambique:**

The delegation of the Republic of Mozambique reserves the right of its Government to take actions that it deems necessary to safeguard its interests should any Member States fail, in any way, to comply with the requirements of the Constitution and the Convention of the International Telecommunication Union (Geneva, 1992), as amended by the Final Acts of the Plenipotentiary Conference (Kyoto, 1994), the Plenipotentiary Conference (Minneapolis, 1998), the Plenipotentiary Conference (Marrakesh, 2002), the Plenipotentiary Conference (Antalya, 2006), the Plenipotentiary Conference (Guadalajara, 2010), the Plenipotentiary Conference (Busan, 2014), or the annexes and protocols attached thereto, or should any reservation made by any Member State jeopardize or are prejudicial to the telecommunication services of the Republic of Mozambique or lead to an increase in its share towards defraying the expenses of the Union.

Furthermore, the Republic of Mozambique reserves the right to make additional specific declarations or reservations at the time of deposit of its notification to the International Telecommunication Union of its consent to be bound by the revisions to the Constitution and Convention and by the decisions adopted by the Plenipotentiary Conference (Dubai, 2018).

39

Original: Arabic

For the Sultanate of Oman:

In taking note of all reservations and declarations by Member States and in signing the present Final Acts of the Plenipotentiary Conference of the International Telecommunication Union (Dubai, 2018), the delegation of the Sultanate of Oman declares that, owing to the absence of provisions in the Constitution and Convention defining the relationship between a Member State and Sector Members that are not under its authority, the Sultanate of Oman reserves the right, in the event of a dispute between Member States signatory to the Final Acts of the Conference and Sector Members, to apply Article 56 of the Constitution in order to resolve the dispute.

The delegation of the Sultanate of Oman to the Plenipotentiary Conference of the International Telecommunication Union (Dubai, 2018) declares that the Government of the Sultanate of Oman reserves its right to take any measure it deems necessary in order to safeguard its interests should other Member States fail to comply with decisions adopted by the present Conference to amend the Constitution and Convention of the Union (Geneva, 1992) as amended (Kyoto, 1994; Minneapolis, 1998; Marrakesh, 2002; Antalya 2006; and Guadalajara, 2010), and the annexes thereto, or should they fail to defray the expenses of the Union, or should their reservations, now or in future, or their failure to comply with the Constitution and the Convention, jeopardize the smooth operation of the telecommunication services of the Sultanate of Oman.

The delegation of the Sultanate of Oman further reserves for its Government the right to enter any additional reservations to the Final Acts adopted by the present Conference until such time as it has deposited its instrument of ratification of these Final Acts.

40**Original:** English

For Austria, Belgium, the Republic of Bulgaria, the Republic of Croatia, the Republic of Cyprus, the Czech Republic, Denmark, the Republic of Estonia, Finland, France, the Federal Republic of Germany, Greece, Hungary, Ireland, Italy, the Republic of Latvia, the Republic of Lithuania, Luxembourg, Malta, the Kingdom of the Netherlands, the Republic of Poland, Portugal, Romania, the Slovak Republic, the Republic of Slovenia, Spain, Sweden, and the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland:

The delegations of the Member States of the European Union declare that the Member States of the European Union will apply the Instruments adopted by the Plenipotentiary Conference (Dubai, 2018) in accordance with their obligations under the Treaty on the European Union and the Treaty on the functioning of the European Union.

41**Original:** English

For the United Arab Emirates:

When signing the present Final Acts of the Plenipotentiary Conference of the International Telecommunication Union (Dubai, 2018), the United Arab Emirates declares that due to the lack of provisions in the Constitution and Convention defining the relationship between Member States and Sector Members that are not under its authority, in case of a dispute between the undersigned Member States and Sector Members, that the United Arab Emirates reserves the right to apply Article 56 of the Constitution to resolve the dispute.

The delegation of the United Arab Emirates to the Plenipotentiary Conference of the International Telecommunication Union (Dubai, 2018) declares that the Government of the United Arab Emirates reserves its right to take any action it deems necessary to safeguard its interest should other Member States fail to comply with the provisions adopted by this conference to amend the Constitution and Convention (Geneva, 1992) and the amendments thereto (Kyoto, 1994; Minneapolis, 1998; Marrakesh, 2002; Antalya, 2006; and Guadalajara, 2010) and the annexes thereto, or should they fail to defray the expenses of the Union or should their reservations, now or in the future, or their failure to comply with the Constitution and the Convention, jeopardize the proper operation of the telecommunication services of the United Arab Emirates.

The delegation of the United Arab Emirates further reserves for its Government the right to make any additional reservations to the Final Acts adopted by this conference until such time as it has deposited its instrument of ratification of these Final Acts.

42

Original: Russian

For the Republic of Armenia, the Republic of Kazakhstan, the Russian Federation and the Republic of Uzbekistan:

The delegations of the above-mentioned countries reserve for their respective Governments the right to take any action they may consider necessary to safeguard their interests should any Member State of the Union fail in any way to comply with the provisions of the Constitution and Convention of the International Telecommunication Union, or should reservations made by other countries jeopardize the operation of the telecommunication services of the above-mentioned countries or lead to an increase in their annual contributions to defraying the expenses of the Union.

43

Original: Spanish

For the Republic of El Salvador:

On signing the Final Acts of the Plenipotentiary Conference of the International Telecommunication Union (Dubai, 2018), the delegation of the Republic of El Salvador declares that it reserves for its Government the right:

- 1 not to accept any financial measure that may entail unjustified increases in its contribution towards defraying the expenses of the International Telecommunication Union;
- 2 not to be bound by any provision of the Constitution or the Convention of the International Telecommunication Union (Geneva, 1992), with the amendments adopted by the Plenipotentiary Conferences (Kyoto, 1994; Minneapolis, 1998; Marrakesh, 2002; Antalya, 2006; Guadalajara, 2010; Busan, 2014; and Dubai, 2018), and the annexes, regulations and protocols to those instruments, which might directly or indirectly affect its national sovereignty or be contrary to the Constitution of the Republic;
- 3 to take any measures it may deem necessary to safeguard its interests with respect to the application of the provisions of the Constitution and the Convention of the International Telecommunication Union (Geneva, 1992), with the amendments adopted by the Plenipotentiary Conferences (Kyoto, 1994; Minneapolis, 1998; Marrakesh, 2002; Antalya, 2006; Guadalajara, 2010; Busan, 2014; and Dubai, 2018), and the annexes, regulations and protocols to those instruments, or should reservations entered by other Member States jeopardize its full sovereign rights or the smooth operation of its telecommunication services or information and communication technologies.

44

Original: English**For Papua New Guinea:**

The delegation of the Independent State of Papua New Guinea reserves for its Government the right to take any action which it considers necessary to safeguard its interests should any Member of the Union fail, in any way, to comply with the requirements of the Constitution and Convention of the International Telecommunication Union (Geneva, 1992) as amended by the Final Acts of the Plenipotentiary Conference (Kyoto, 1994; Minneapolis, 1998; Marrakesh, 2002; Antalya, 2006; Guadalajara, 2010; Busan, 2014; and Dubai, 2018), and the annexes and protocols attached thereto, or should reservation by any Member of the Union jeopardize its telecommunication services, affect its sovereignty or lead to an increase in its contributory share towards defraying the expenses of the Union.

The delegation of the Independent State of Papua New Guinea further reserves for its Government the right to make any additional declarations, reservations or statements prior to ratification of the Final Acts of the Plenipotentiary Conference (Dubai, 2018).

45

Original: French**For the Kingdom of Morocco:**

In signing the Final Acts of the Plenipotentiary Conference (PP-18) (Dubai, 2018), the delegation of the Kingdom of Morocco reserves for its Government the right to take any action or adopt any measures it may deem necessary to safeguard its interests should a Member State (Member) of the International Telecommunication Union (ITU) fail to comply fully with the provisions and the Final Acts of the conference, or should reservations entered by a Member State be such as to compromise, in any way whatsoever, the smooth operation of the telecommunication services of the Kingdom of Morocco.

46

Original: English**For Jamaica:**

In signing the Final Acts of the Plenipotentiary Conference (Dubai, 2018) of the International Telecommunication Union, the delegation of Jamaica reserves for its Government the right to:

- i) question any act or resolution that may be contrary to its Constitution, national sovereignty, fundamental interests or telecommunication services;
- ii) take any action it considers necessary to safeguard its interests should any Member State fail in any way to respect or observe the provisions of the Final Acts and the Regulations and Decisions attached thereto or should the consequences of reservations made by other Member States directly or indirectly prejudice or jeopardize Jamaica's telecommunication services or interest or impair its sovereign rights;
- iii) make any other declarations or reservations it deems necessary to the Final Acts of this Conference and the Regulations and Decisions attached thereto until such time as the appropriate instrument of ratification is deposited by Jamaica.

47

Original: English**For the Federal Republic of Germany:**

With reference to Germany's support of the adoption of the Resolution 99 "Status of Palestine in ITU" and Resolution 125 "Assistance and support to Palestine for rebuilding its telecommunication networks" by the Plenary of the ITU Plenipotentiary Conference in Dubai, 2018, Germany wishes the following reservation to be included in the Final Acts of the Conference: Germany's support of the aforementioned resolutions should not be construed as recognition of a 'State of Palestine' by Germany.

48

Original: English**For New Zealand:**

The delegation of New Zealand declares that it reserves for its Government the right to take such action as it may consider necessary to safeguard its interests should any Member not observe the provisions of the final Acts adopted by the conference, or should reservations by other countries jeopardize the radio or telecommunications services of New Zealand.

The delegation of New Zealand further declares that, consistent with the constitutional status of Tokelau and taking into account the current focus on providing core services for Tokelau before any further act of self-determination is considered, any approval by the Government of New Zealand shall not extend to Tokelau unless and until a Declaration to this effect is lodged by the Government of New Zealand with the Secretary-General on the basis of appropriate consultation with that territory.

49

Original: English**For Guyana:**

In signing the Final Acts of the Plenipotentiary Conference (Dubai, 2018) of the International Telecommunication Union, the delegation of The Co-operative Republic of Guyana reserves for its Government the right to make the following declarations:

- 1) that the Co-operative Republic of Guyana's rights over the Essequibo region were settled by the Award of 1899 of the International Tribunal of Arbitration established under the Treaty of Washington of 1897;
- 2) that the said Award of 1899 was accepted by the parties as a "full, perfect and final settlement of all the questions referred to the Arbitrators";

- 3) that the territorial integrity of the Co-operative Republic of Guyana is broadly supported and acknowledged by the international community and
- 4) that, any action for any reason in Guyana's Essequibo region within the Information, Telecommunication and Technology sectors can be carried out only in accordance with the Constitution of the Co-operative Republic of Guyana.

The delegation of the Co-operative Republic of Guyana further reserves for its Government the right to:

- 1) question any act or resolution that may be contrary to its Constitution, national sovereignty, fundamental interests or the integrity of its telecommunication services;
- 2) take any action it considers necessary to safeguard its interests should any Member State fail in any way to respect or observe the provisions of the Final Acts and the Regulations and Decisions attached thereto or should the consequences of reservations made by other Member States directly or indirectly prejudice or jeopardize the Co-operative Republic of Guyana's telecommunication services or interest or impair its sovereign rights;
- 3) make any other declarations or reservations it deems necessary to the Final Acts of this Conference and the Regulations and Decisions attached thereto until such time as the appropriate instrument of ratification is deposited by The Co-operative Republic of Guyana.

For Canada:

The delegation of Canada would like to emphasize that Canada is committed to the goal of a comprehensive, just and lasting peace between Israel and the Palestinians, including the creation of a Palestinian state living side by side in peace and security with Israel. Ultimately, the best way to address the current situation between Israel and the Palestinians lies in a comprehensive peace agreement achieved through direct negotiation between the parties.

Notwithstanding the references to "State of Palestine" in the text of Resolution 99 (Rev. Dubai, 2018), the Delegation of Canada wishes to underscore that Canada does not recognize "Palestine" as a state as it does not meet the necessary criteria of a State under international law.

51

Original: English

For the Federal Republic of Germany, Austria, the Republic of Azerbaijan, Belgium, the Republic of Bulgaria, the Republic of Cyprus, the Republic of Croatia, Denmark, Spain, the Republic of Estonia, Finland, France, Greece, Hungary, Ireland, Iceland, Italy, the Republic of Latvia, the Principality of Liechtenstein, the Republic of Lithuania, Luxembourg, Malta, the Principality of Monaco, Norway, the Kingdom of the Netherlands, the Republic of Poland, Portugal, the Slovak Republic, the Czech Republic, Romania, the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, the Republic of Slovenia, Sweden, the Confederation of Switzerland, and Turkey:

At the time of signing the Final Acts of the Plenipotentiary Conference (Dubai, 2018), the delegations of the mentioned countries formally declare that they maintain the declarations and reservations made by their countries when signing the Final Acts of previous treaty-making conferences of the Union as if they were made in full at this Plenipotentiary Conference.

52

Original: English

For the People's Democratic Republic of Algeria, the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, the Kingdom of Bahrain, the United Arab Emirates, the Islamic Republic of Iran, the Republic of Iraq, the State of Kuwait, Malaysia, the Kingdom of Morocco, the Sultanate of Oman, the Islamic Republic of Pakistan, the Republic of the Sudan, Tunisia and the Republic of Yemen:

The above-mentioned delegations to the Plenipotentiary Conference of the International Telecommunication Union (Dubai, 2018) declare that the signature and possible ratification by their respective Governments of the Final Acts of this conference, should not be valid for the Union Member under the name "Israel", and in no way whatsoever imply its recognition by these Governments.

53

Original: English

For Canada, Mexico, the Kingdom of the Netherlands, and Sweden:

The delegations of Canada, Mexico, Sweden and the Netherlands wish to express their profound disappointment with the decision by the Sixteenth Plenary of the 2018 Plenipotentiary Conference to adopt Resolution 139 (Rev. Dubai, 2018) "Use of telecommunications/information and communication technologies to bridge the digital divide and build an inclusive information society" excluding in the non-operative section language suggested by CITEL and supported by many Member States, **that simply and factually** recognizes the existence – in some Member States – of small community network operators that provide valuable not-for-profit connectivity services in unserved and underserved regions particularly to aboriginal and marginalized communities.

The above-mentioned delegations fail to understand the rationale behind the opposition to the inclusion of such a simple and factual statement, particularly in light of the title, scope and purpose of the Resolution, and to the existence of language in other ITU Resolutions and Recommendations that refer to local and community initiatives covering unserved and/or underserved areas.

54

Original: English

For the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan:

In signing the Final Acts of the Plenipotentiary Conference (PP-18) of the International Telecommunication Union (Dubai, 2018), the delegation of the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan declares that it firmly reserves for its government the right to take any action it deems necessary to safeguard its interests:

- if any member fails to observe the provisions of the present Final Acts;
- if the application of certain provisions in the present Final Acts should jeopardize the operation and the development of its country's telecommunication services and networks;
- if the application of certain provisions in the present Final Acts may in any form affect the national interest/security and its authority to regulate all telecommunications activities of any person, organization and operating agency.

Furthermore, the delegation of the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan reserves for its government the right to not to be bound by any provision of the Final Acts, which may directly or indirectly affect its sovereignty and be in contravention with the Constitution, Laws and Regulations of the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan.

The delegation of the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan recalls that if any member makes reservations in connection with the application of one or more provisions of these Regulations, its country is not obliged to observe the provision(s) concerned in its relations with the member which made the reservations.

The delegation of the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan further reserves for its Government the right to make any additional declaration or reservation that it may consider necessary until the time of its ratification of these Final Acts.

55

Original: English

For the Republic of Singapore:

The delegation of the Republic of Singapore reserves for its Government the right to take any action which it considers necessary to safeguard its interests should any Member of the Union fail in any way to comply with the requirements of the Constitution and Convention of the International Telecommunication Union (Geneva, 1992), as amended by the Final Acts of the Plenipotentiary Conference (Kyoto, 1994), the Plenipotentiary Conference (Minneapolis, 1998), the Plenipotentiary Conference (Marrakesh, 2002), the Plenipotentiary Conference (Antalya, 2006), the Plenipotentiary Conference (Guadalajara, 2010), the Plenipotentiary Conference (Busan, 2014), or the Annexes and Protocols attached thereto, or should reservation by any Member of the Union jeopardize the Republic of Singapore's telecommunication services, affect its sovereignty or lead to an increase in its contributory share towards defraying the expenses of the Union.

56

Original: English

For the State of Kuwait:

When signing the present Final Acts of the Plenipotentiary Conference of the International Telecommunication Union (Dubai, 2018), the State of Kuwait declares that due to the lack of provisions in the Constitution and Convention defining the relationship between Member States and Sector Members that are not under its authority, in case of a dispute between the undersigned Member States and Sector Members, that the State of Kuwait reserves the right to apply Article 56 of the Constitution to resolve the dispute.

The delegation of the State of Kuwait to the Plenipotentiary Conference of the International Telecommunication Union (Dubai, 2018) declares that the Government of the State of Kuwait reserves its right to take any action it deems necessary to safeguard its interest should other Member States fail to comply with the provisions adopted by this conference to amend the Constitution and Convention (Geneva, 1992) and the amendments thereto (Kyoto, 1994; Minneapolis, 1998; Marrakesh, 2002; Antalya, 2006, and Guadalajara, 2010) and the annexes thereto, or should they fail to defray the expenses of the Union or should their reservations, now or in the future, or their failure to comply with the Constitution and the Convention, jeopardize the proper operation of the telecommunication services of the State of Kuwait.

The delegation of the State of Kuwait further reserves for its Government the right to make any additional reservations to the Final Acts adopted by this conference until such time as it has deposited its instrument of ratification of these Final Acts.

57

Original: English

For the Republic of Botswana:

In signing the Final Acts of the Plenipotentiary Conference, 2018 (PP-18) the delegation of the Republic of Botswana declares that its Administration will comply with the provisions of the Final Acts without prejudice to the Republic of Botswana's sovereign right to take any measures that it may deem necessary to safeguard its national interests, should any Member of the International Telecommunication Union, in any way fail to comply with the provisions of the Final Acts by this conference; and

further declares that it reserves for its Government the right to make any statements or reservations when depositing its instruments of ratification of the Final Acts.

58

Original: English**For the Republic of Korea:**

The delegation of the Republic of Korea, in signing the Final Acts of the Plenipotentiary Conference (Dubai, 2018), reserves for its Government the right to take any action that it may consider necessary to safeguard its interests should any Member State fail in any way to comply with the requirements of the Constitution and the Convention of the International Telecommunication Union (Geneva, 1992), as amended by the Plenipotentiary Conference (Kyoto, 1994; Minneapolis, 1998; Marrakesh, 2002; Antalya, 2006; Guadalajara, 2010; Busan, 2014; and Dubai, 2018) and/or the annexes thereto, or should reservations by other countries jeopardize its interests in any way.

59

Original: English**For Australia:**

In signing the Final Acts of the 2018 Plenipotentiary Conference (Dubai, 2018), the delegation of Australia reserves for its Government the right to take any measures it might deem necessary to safeguard its interests if another Member State of the International Telecommunication Union in any way fails to respect the conditions specified in the Final Acts or if the reservations made by any Member State should be prejudicial to the operation of radiocommunication and telecommunication services in Australia or its full sovereign rights.

Declaration on Resolutions 99 and 125

Australia's longstanding position is in support of a negotiated two-state solution in the conflict between Israel and the Palestinians. In the absence of such a solution, Australia does not recognize Palestinian statehood. Australia remains a committed supporter of the Palestinian people and their aspirations to statehood. This can only be realized from a directly negotiated agreement between Israel and the Palestinians.

Original: English

For the United States of America:

1 The United States of America notes that the Final Acts of this Plenipotentiary Conference do not include any proposed amendments to the Constitution and Convention of the International Telecommunication Union (Geneva, 1992), and amendments thereto. Therefore, nothing in these Final Acts or in statements made by Members States in connection with these Final Acts affect, or can affect, the rights and obligations of the United States of America under the Constitution and Convention or any other treaty. The United States of America recalls that it has made declarations and reservations at world administrative conferences and world radiocommunication conferences and in connection with the signing of Final Acts of prior Plenipotentiary Conferences as well as in connection with its ratification of ITU treaties including the Constitution and Convention and amendments thereto. The United States of America further notes that those declarations and reservations are not affected in any way by the signature of these Final Acts by the United States of America.

2 The United States of America states that it will interpret Resolution 99 (Rev. Dubai, 2018) and Resolution 125 (Rev. Dubai, 2018) in accordance with relevant international agreements, including agreements between Israel and the Palestinians. The United States of America rejects the use of "State of Palestine" in Resolution 99 (Rev. Dubai, 2018) as a preferred nomenclature of the Palestinians as observers at the ITU. Furthermore, this nomenclature does not confer additional rights and privileges on the Palestinian delegation in the ITU beyond those that are otherwise stipulated in Resolution 99. The United States does not believe the "State of Palestine" qualifies as a sovereign State and does not recognize it as such. Only sovereign States may be Member States of the ITU. The United States remains committed to achieving a lasting and comprehensive peace that offers a brighter future to both Israel and the Palestinians.

61

Original: English**For Japan:**

In signing the Final Acts of the Plenipotentiary Conference (Dubai, 2018), the delegation of Japan reserves for its Government the right to take such actions as it may consider necessary to safeguard its interests should any Member State fail in any way to comply with the requirements of the Constitution and the Convention of the International Telecommunication Union (Geneva, 1992) as amended by Plenipotentiary Conferences (Kyoto, 1994; Minneapolis, 1998; Marrakesh, 2002; Antalya, 2006; Guadalajara, 2010; Busan, 2014 and Dubai, 2018), and any contents of the annexes thereto, or should reservations by other Member States jeopardize its interests in any way.

62

Original: English**For the State of Israel:**

- 1 The Government of the State of Israel hereby declares its right:
 - a) to take any action it deems necessary to protect its interests and to safeguard the operation of its telecommunication services, should they be affected by the decisions or resolutions of this conference or by the declarations or reservations made by other Member States;
 - b) to take any action to safeguard its interests should any Member State fail to comply with the requirements of the ITU Constitution and Convention (Geneva, 1992), as amended by the Plenipotentiary Conference (Kyoto, 1994), the Plenipotentiary Conference (Minneapolis, 1998), the Plenipotentiary Conference (Marrakesh, 2002), the Plenipotentiary Conference (Antalya, 2006), the Plenipotentiary Conference (Guadalajara, 2010), the Plenipotentiary Conference (Busan, 2014) and the Plenipotentiary Conference (Dubai, 2018) or the annexes and protocols attached thereto; or should declarations or reservations made by other Member States appear to be detrimental to the operation of its telecommunication services.

2 The Government of the State of Israel refers to ITU Resolution 99 (Rev. Dubai, 2018) and would like to reiterate the position expressed by Israel's Ambassador to the UN on 29 November 2012, in the context of the adoption of General Assembly resolution 67/19 as well as in the Security Council on 23 January 2013. Israel regrets and objects to the use of the misleading terminology "State of Palestine" and to the Palestinian participation in this Union under that title. It is counterproductive to use this term when no such State exists and when such a State can only be established, as has been affirmed repeatedly by the international community and agreed between the Parties, through direct negotiations.

3 The Government of the State of Israel refers to ITU Resolution 125 (Rev. Dubai, 2018) and states its position that the interpretation and application of this resolution by all concerned must be in accordance with and subject to any existing or future bilateral agreements or arrangements between Israel and the Palestinians. Furthermore, Israel shall interpret and apply this resolution in accordance with and subject to applicable Israeli law.

4 The Government of the State of Israel reserves the right to amend the foregoing reservations and declarations and to make any further reservations and declarations it may consider necessary up to the time of depositing its instrument of ratification of the Final Acts of the Plenipotentiary Conference (Dubai, 2018).

63

Original: Arabic

For the People's Democratic Republic of Algeria:

The delegation of Algeria, in signing the Final Acts, reserves for its Government the right to take any measures it deems necessary in order to safeguard its interests should any Member State in any way fail to comply with the provisions of the Constitution and Convention of the International Telecommunication Union (Geneva, 1992), as amended at the Plenipotentiary Conference (Guadalajara, 2010), or should reservations entered by other Member States jeopardize its telecommunication services or lead to an increase in its contributory share in defraying the expenses of the Union.

Original: Arabic**For the Republic of the Sudan:**

In signing the Final Acts of the Plenipotentiary Conference of the International Telecommunication Union (Dubai, 2018), the delegation of the Republic of Sudan takes note of all reservations and declarations issued by Member States and, owing to the absence of provisions in the Constitution and the Convention defining the relationship between a Member State and Sector Members not under its authority, the Republic of Sudan reserves the right, in the event of a dispute between Member States signatory to the Final Acts of the Conference and Sector Members, to apply Article 56 of the Constitution in order to resolve the dispute.

The delegation of the Republic of Sudan to the Plenipotentiary Conference of the International Telecommunication Union (Dubai, 2018) declares that the Government of Sudan reserves its right to take any measure it deems necessary in order to safeguard its interests should other Member States fail to comply with decisions adopted by the present Conference to amend the Constitution and the Convention of the Union (Geneva, 1992), as amended (Kyoto, 1994; Minneapolis, 1998; Marrakesh, 2002; Antalya 2006; and Guadalajara, 2010), and the annexes thereto, or should they fail to defray the expenses of the Union, or should their reservations, now or in the future, or their failure to comply with the Constitution and the Convention, jeopardize the smooth operation of the telecommunication services of the Republic of Sudan.

The delegation of the Republic of Sudan further reserves for its Government the right to enter any additional reservations to the Final Acts adopted by the present Conference until such time as it has deposited its instrument of ratification of these Final Acts.

65

Original: English**For the Republic of Iraq:**

The delegation of the Republic of Iraq, on signing the Final Acts of the Plenipotentiary Conference of the International Telecommunication Union (Dubai, 2018) reserves for its Government the right:

- 1) to take any action or any measure that it may deem appropriate to safeguard its rights and interests, should other Members fail to comply with the provisions contained in the Final Acts of Plenipotentiary Conference (Dubai, 2018); or should any reservation or declaration, now or in the future, by representatives of other States, jeopardize telecommunication services or ICT services of the Republic of Iraq;
- 2) not to be bound by any provision of the Final Acts of the Plenipotentiary Conference of the International Telecommunication Union (Dubai, 2018), and its resolutions and decisions which may directly or indirectly:
 - be in contravention with the Constitution, Laws and Regulations of the Republic of Iraq;
 - jeopardize its national security, telecommunications policy, or its sovereign rights;
- 3) to apply Article 56 of the Constitution vis-à-vis any Member State in the event of a dispute between Iraq and a Sector Member not under its authority but under the authority of the Member State concerned;
- 4) to make, under the Vienna Convention of the Law of Treaties of 1969 any other statements or reservations to the above-mentioned Final Acts adopted by the present conference (Dubai, 2018) until such time as the respective instrument of ratification has been deposited.

66

Original: English**For the Republic of South Africa:**

The delegation of the Republic of South Africa, in signing the Final Acts of the International Telecommunication Union (Dubai, 2018), reserves the right of its Government:

- 1) to take any such action as it may consider necessary to safeguard its interests, should any Member of the Union fail in any way to comply with the provisions of the Final Acts (Dubai, 2018) amending the Final Acts (Geneva, 1992), as amended by the Plenipotentiary Conferences of Kyoto, 1994; Minneapolis, 1998; Marrakesh, 2002; Antalya, 2006; Guadalajara, 2010 and Busan 2014 or should reservations by such Members directly or indirectly affect the sovereignty of the Republic of South Africa or the operation of its telecommunication/ICT services;
- 2) to make such additional reservations as may be necessary up to and including the time of ratification by the Republic of South Africa of the Instruments (Dubai, 2018) amending the Final Acts (Geneva, 1992), as amended by the Plenipotentiary Conferences of Kyoto, 1994; Minneapolis, 1998; Marrakesh, 2002; Antalya, 2006; Guadalajara, 2010 and Busan 2014.

67

Original: French**For the Republic of Senegal:**

- 1 In signing the present Final Acts, the delegation of the Republic of Senegal declares on behalf of its Government that it does not accept any consequences of reservations entered by other governments.

2 In addition, the Republic of Senegal reserves the right to take any measures it may deem appropriate to safeguard its interests should certain members fail to comply with the provisions of the Final Acts of the Plenipotentiary Conference (Dubai, 2018) or of the annexes and resolutions attached thereto, or should reservations entered by other countries be such as to jeopardize the smooth operation of its telecommunication systems and services.

68

Original: Arabic

For the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia:

The delegation of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia to the Plenipotentiary Conference of the International Telecommunication Union (Dubai, 2018), in signing the Final Acts of the present Conference, declares that the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia reserves its full right to take any measures it deems appropriate in order to safeguard its interests should any other Member State fail to comply with decisions adopted by the Conference and with the provisions of the Constitution and Convention of the Union (Geneva, 1992), as amended by the Plenipotentiary Conferences (Kyoto, 1994; Minneapolis, 1998; Marrakesh, 2002; Antalya, 2006; and Guadalajara, 2010), and the annexes thereto, and likewise should reservations entered by any other Member State, now or in future, or the failure of any other Member State to comply with any of the provisions of the Constitution or Convention of the Union, be such as to cause damage to the telecommunication networks, information technology and services of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia.

The Kingdom of Saudi Arabia also reserves its right to make any additional declarations and reservations to the Final Acts adopted by the present Conference until the date on which it deposits its instrument of ratification of these Final Acts.

69

Original: English**For the United Republic of Tanzania:**

In signing the Final Acts of the Plenipotentiary Conference, 2018 (PP-18) the delegation of the United Republic of Tanzania declares that its Administration will comply with the provisions of the Final Acts without prejudice to the United Republic of Tanzania's sovereign rights to take any measures that it may deem necessary to safeguard its national interests, should any member of the International Telecommunication Union, in any way fail to comply with the provisions of the Final Acts by this conference; and

further declare that it reserves for its Government the right to make any statements or reservations when depositing its instruments of ratification of the Final Acts.

70

Original: English**For Ghana:**

In signing the Final Acts of the Plenipotentiary Conference, 2018 (PP-18) the delegation of the Republic of Ghana declares that its Administration will comply with the provisions of the Final Acts without prejudice to the Republic of Ghana's sovereign rights to take any measures that it may deem necessary to safeguard its national interests, should any member of the International Telecommunication Union, in any way fail to comply with the provisions of the Final Acts by this conference; and

further declares that it reserves for its Government the right to make any statements or reservations when depositing its instruments of ratification of the Final Acts.

71**Original:** English**For the Kingdom of Bahrain:**

The delegation of the Kingdom of Bahrain to the Plenipotentiary Conference of the International Telecommunication Union (Dubai, 2018), in signing the Final Acts of the present Conference, declares that the Kingdom of Bahrain reserves its full right to take any measures it deems appropriate in order to safeguard its interests should any other Member State fail to comply with decisions adopted by the Conference and with the provisions of the Constitution and Convention of the Union (Geneva, 1992); as amended by the Plenipotentiary Conferences (Kyoto, 1994; Minneapolis, 1998; Marrakesh, 2002; Antalya, 2006; Guadalajara, 2010; Busan, 2014), and the annexes thereto, and likewise should reservations entered by any other Member State, now or in future, or the failure of any other Member State to comply with any of the provisions of the Constitution or Convention of the Union, be such as to cause damage to the telecommunications networks, information technology and services of the Kingdom of Bahrain.

The delegation of the Kingdom of Bahrain further reserves for its Government the right to make any additional reservations to the Final Acts adopted by this conference until such time as it has deposited its instrument of ratification of these Final Acts.

72**Original:** English**For the Republic of Kenya:**

The delegation of the Republic of Kenya reserves, on behalf of the Government of the Republic of Kenya, the right to take whatever measures it may consider necessary to safeguard its interest should other Member States fail to comply with the provisions of the Constitution and Convention of the International Telecommunication Union (Geneva, 1992) and successive amendments thereto, and the Administrative Regulations, including the annexes and protocols of these instruments, or should reservations made by other Member States jeopardize its full sovereign rights or the proper functioning of telecommunications/ICT systems and services in the Republic of Kenya.

Further, the Republic of Kenya reserves the right to make additional specific declarations or reservations at the time of depositing its notification to the International Telecommunication Union of its consent to be bound by the revisions to the Constitution and Convention and by the decisions adopted by the Plenipotentiary Conference (Dubai, 2018).

73

Original: Russian

For the Russian Federation:

The delegation of the Russian Federation, with reference to Declaration No. 26 made by the delegation of Ukraine (published in Document 167 of 16 November 2018), firmly rejects the claims by the Government of Ukraine contained therein.

In accordance with the universally recognized principle of equality of rights and self-determination of peoples enshrined in the Charter of the United Nations, and based on the free and voluntary expression of the will of the Crimean people in the Crimea-wide referendum held in the Autonomous Republic of Crimea and city of Sevastopol on 16 March 2014, and also in accordance with the Agreement between the Russian Federation and the Republic of Crimea on the accession of the Republic of Crimea to the Russian Federation and the creation of new constituent entities within the Russian Federation (Moscow, 18 March 2014), the Republic of Crimea and city of Sevastopol have become part of the Russian Federation.

This being the case, the Russian Federation has become fully responsible for providing communication services for the population of and facilities within the territory of the Republic of Crimea and city of Sevastopol, including in regard to compliance with the provisions of the Constitution and Convention of the International Telecommunication Union (ITU), the ITU Radio Regulations and the International Convention for the Safety of Life at Sea, 1974.

Ukraine's calls relating to the management of the radio frequency spectrum and number resource on this territory of the Russian Federation, first and foremost, run counter to the requirements of the population, both in terms of daily needs and in the event of emergencies. The chosen frequency assignments to terrestrial stations within the territory of the Republic of Crimea and city of Sevastopol do not generate any harmful interference with stations beyond the borders of the Russian Federation.

For its part and pursuant to its basic texts, ITU has no authority to discuss matters of a general political nature, including questions of the territorial integrity and national sovereignty of States. The Ukrainian document addresses matters related to the status of the Republic of Crimea and city of Sevastopol as parts of the Russian Federation and, therefore, falls outside of ITU's mandate.

Thus, the Russian Federation is acting in full compliance with Article 1 of the ITU Constitution, in satisfying requirements and ensuring availability of telecommunication/ICT means for the inhabitants of the above-mentioned subjects of the Russian Federation.

Should any State take measures to the detriment of the interests of the Russian Federation, the Russian Federation shall reserve the right to take any necessary countermeasures to safeguard its interests in accordance with international law.

With regard to the areas in the Donetsk and Lugansk regions referred to, the Russian Federation continues to support a swift resolution of the conflict in this region on the basis of the package of measures signed in Minsk and approved with the adoption of United Nations Security Council resolution 2202 (2015) of 17 February 2015.

74

Original: English**For the State of Israel:**

Declaration No. 4 and Declaration No. 52 made by certain Member States in respect to the Final Acts, contravenes the principles and purposes of the International Telecommunication Union, and is therefore devoid of legal validity.

The Government of the State of Israel wishes to put on record that it rejects these aforesaid declarations, which politicizes and undermines the work of the ITU.

Should any Member State that has made the foregoing declarations act toward Israel in a manner which violates Israel's rights as a Member State of the ITU, or breaches such Member State's obligations toward Israel as such, the State of Israel reserves its right to act toward such a Member State in a reciprocal fashion.

75

Original: English**For the Arab Republic of Egypt:**

In the name of God, most merciful, most compassionate.

In light of the general declarations made in Document 167 of the Plenipotentiary Conference (Dubai, 2018), with relation to amendments to the Constitution and Convention, the delegation of the Arab Republic of Egypt to the Plenipotentiary Conference of the International Telecommunication Union (Dubai, 2018) on the signing of the Final Acts of the Plenipotentiary Conference (Dubai, 2018), reserves for its Government the right:

1 to take any action or any measure that it may deem appropriate to safeguard its right and interests, should any other Member fail to comply with the provisions contained in the Final Acts (Dubai, 2018), or should any reservation by representatives of other States jeopardize telecommunication services or ICT services of the Arab Republic of Egypt, its national security or its full sovereign rights or lead to an increase in its contributory share in defraying the expenses of the International Telecommunication Union;

2 not to be bound by any provision of the Constitution or the Convention of the International Telecommunication Union (Geneva, 1992), as amended by the Plenipotentiary Conference (Kyoto, 1994), the Plenipotentiary Conference (Minneapolis, 1998), the Plenipotentiary Conference (Marrakesh, 2002), the Plenipotentiary Conference (Antalya, 2006), the Plenipotentiary Conference (Guadalajara, 2010), and the Plenipotentiary Conference (Busan, 2014) and the Plenipotentiary Conference (Dubai, 2018) which may directly or indirectly affect its sovereignty and be in contradiction with the constitution, laws or regulations of the Arab Republic of Egypt;

3 to make, under the Vienna Convention of the Law of Treaties of 1969 any other statements or reservations to the above-mentioned Final Acts adopted by the present conference (Dubai, 2018) until such time as the respective instrument of ratification has been deposited;

4 to apply Article 56 of the Constitution in case of a dispute between Egypt and any of the Sector Members of ITU; this is due to the lack of provisions in the Constitution and the Convention defining the relationship between a Member State and Sector Members that are not under its authority;

5 the Arab Republic of Egypt has the right to make any further reservations and additional declarations until such time as the instruments adopted by the conference enter into force, or the Final Acts of this conference, or should the reservations, declarations or additional reservations and declarations by other countries or administrations jeopardize the proper and efficient operation of its telecommunication services, or infringe the full exercise of the sovereign rights of the Arab Republic of Egypt;

6 the signature of these Final Acts shall be considered valid only in respect of Member States of the International Telecommunication Union recognized by the Arab Republic of Egypt.

76

Original: English

For the Federal Republic of Germany, Australia, Austria, Belgium, the Republic of Bulgaria, Canada, the Republic of Croatia, Denmark, Spain, the Republic of Estonia, the United States of America, Finland, France, Ireland, Iceland, the Republic of Latvia, the Principality of Liechtenstein, the Republic of Lithuania, Luxembourg, Malta, the Republic of Moldova, Norway, New Zealand, the Kingdom of the Netherlands, the Republic of Poland, Portugal, the Czech Republic, Romania, the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, the Republic of Slovenia, Sweden, the Confederation of Switzerland and Turkey:

The delegations of the mentioned countries, referring to the declaration made by the Ukraine (No. 26) declare that we remain committed to uphold the sovereignty and territorial integrity of Ukraine within its internationally recognized borders. We do not recognize the illegal referendum in Crimea, which was in clear violation of the Ukrainian Constitution. We strongly condemn the Russian Federation's illegal seizure of Crimea and Sevastopol. We further believe that there is no place for the use of force and coercion to change borders in Europe in the 21st century.

Therefore, we call upon the International Telecommunication Union (ITU) to implement fully the terms of resolution 68/262 (2014) of the United Nations General Assembly that "calls upon all States, international organizations and specialized agencies not to recognize any alteration of the status of the Autonomous Republic of Crimea and the city of Sevastopol" and to "refrain from any action or dealing that might be interpreted as recognizing any such altered status".

In this regard, we welcome the statement by the ITU Secretary-General at the 2014 Plenipotentiary Conference (Busan, 2014), published in Document PP-14/174, Annex B (<https://www.itu.int/md/S14-PP-C-0174/en>), and the statement by the ITU Secretary-General, published in the ITU Operational Bulletin No. 1158 dated 15 October 2018 (<https://www.itu.int/pub/T-SP-OB.1158-2018>) and encourage the ITU Secretary-General and the Directors of the three Bureaux to continue to take all necessary actions in order to assist Ukraine to ensure the use of its telecommunications resources in accordance with the Constitution and Convention of the International Telecommunication Union and the Administrative Regulations.

77

Original: English

For the United States of America:

1 The United States of America refers to declarations made by various Member States reserving their right to take such action as they may consider necessary to safeguard their interests with respect to application of provisions of the Constitution and Convention of the International Telecommunication Union (Geneva, 1992), and any amendments thereto. The United States of America recalls its initial declaration submitted in connection with these Final Acts and notes that it has reserved the right to take whatever measures it deems necessary to safeguard U.S. interests in response to such actions by other Member States.

2 The United States of America, noting Statement 23 entered by the delegation of Cuba, recalls its right to broadcast to Cuba on appropriate frequencies free of jamming or other wrongful interference and reserves its rights with respect to existing interference and any future interference by Cuba with U.S. broadcasting. The United States of America disassociated from the WRC-07 matter referenced in the Cuban statement. Furthermore, the United States of America notes that its presence in Guantanamo is by virtue of an international agreement presently in force and that the United States of America reserves the right to meet its radiocommunication requirements there as it has in the past.

78

Original: English

For the Federal Republic of Germany, Australia, Austria, Belgium, the Republic of Bulgaria, the Republic of Cyprus, the Republic of Croatia, Denmark, Spain, the Republic of Estonia, the United States of America, France, Greece, Hungary, Iceland, Italy, Japan, the Republic of Latvia, the Principality of Liechtenstein, the Republic of Lithuania, Luxembourg, Malta, the Principality of Monaco, Norway, New Zealand, the Kingdom of the Netherlands, the Republic of Poland, Portugal, the Slovak Republic, the Czech Republic, Romania, the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, the Republic of Slovenia, Sweden, the Confederation of Switzerland and Turkey:

The delegations of the above-mentioned States, referring to the declaration made by Colombia (No. 28), inasmuch as these and any similar statements refer to the Bogotá Declaration of 3 December 1976 by equatorial countries and to the claims of those countries to exercise sovereign rights over segments of the geostationary-satellite orbit, or to any related claims, consider that the claims in question cannot be recognized by this conference.

The above-mentioned delegations also wish to state that the reference in Article 44 of the Constitution to the "geographical situation of particular countries" does not imply recognition of a claim to any preferential rights to the geostationary-satellite orbit.

79

Original: English

For the Federal Republic of Germany, Australia, Austria, Belgium, the Republic of Bulgaria, the Republic of Cyprus, the Republic of Croatia, Denmark, Spain, the Republic of Estonia, the United States of America, France, Greece, Hungary, Iceland, Italy, Japan, the Republic of Latvia, the Principality of Liechtenstein, the Republic of Lithuania, Luxembourg, Malta, the Principality of Monaco, Norway, New Zealand, the Kingdom of the Netherlands, the Republic of Poland, Portugal, the Slovak Republic, the Czech Republic, Romania, the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, the Republic of Slovenia, Sweden, the Confederation of Switzerland and Turkey:

The delegations of the above-mentioned States, referring to the declaration made by Mexico (No. 9), inasmuch as these and any similar statements refer to the Bogotá Declaration of 3 December 1976 by equatorial countries and to the claims of those countries to exercise sovereign rights over segments of the geostationary-satellite orbit, or to any related claims, consider that the claims in question cannot be recognized by this conference.

The above-mentioned delegations also wish to state that the reference in Article 44 of the Constitution to the "geographical situation of particular countries" does not imply recognition of a claim to any preferential rights to the geostationary-satellite orbit.

80

Original: English**For Norway:**

With reference to declarations made by other countries in Document 167 of 16 November 2018, the Norwegian delegation declares:

In the following cases, the Norwegian delegation reserves for its Government the right to take any action that they may deem necessary to safeguard its interests:

- where other Member States do not assume their share in defraying the expenses of the Union;
- where other Member States fail in any manner to comply with the provisions of the amendments to the Constitution and the Convention of the International Telecommunication Union (Geneva, 1992), as amended by subsequent Plenipotentiary Conferences; or
- where reservations made by other countries jeopardize the proper functioning of the Norwegian telecommunication services or entail an increase in the contributory share towards defraying the expenses of the Union.

The Norwegian delegation reserves the right for its Government to make declarations or reservations before or at the time of depositing its instrument of ratification, acceptance or approval of the Final Acts of the Plenipotentiary Conference of the International Telecommunication Union held in Dubai from 29 October to 16 November 2018.

81**Original:** English**For Canada:**

Having noted the declarations and reservations contained in Document 167 of the Plenipotentiary Conference of the International Telecommunication Union (Dubai, 2018), the delegation of Canada reserves on behalf of its Government the right to take whatever measures it may consider necessary to safeguard its interests should other Member States fail to comply with the provisions of the Constitution and the Convention of the International Telecommunication Union (Geneva, 1992) and successive amendments thereto, or the Administrative Regulations particularly to those pertaining to the use of radio frequencies and any associated orbits, including the geostationary-satellite orbit.

82**Original:** English**For the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland:**

The delegation of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, referring to the declaration made by the Argentine Republic (No. 14), declares on behalf of its Government that the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland has no doubt about its sovereignty over the Falkland Islands. The principle and the right of self-determination as set out in Article 1.2 of the Charter of the United Nations and Article 1 of the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights underlies our position. The United Kingdom is clear that the future of the Falkland Islands should be determined by the people of the Falkland Islands, in accordance with our obligations under the UN Charter.

In March 2013 the Falkland Islands Government held a referendum to seek the views of the people. The overwhelming majority of voters (99.8%) voted to remain an Overseas Territory of the United Kingdom. The democratically elected representatives of the Falkland Islands presented the result of that referendum to the Special Committee on Decolonisation in June 2013 and asked the Committee to respect the principle of self-determination. They once again reiterated the historical facts that the Falkland Islands had no indigenous people and that no civilian population was removed prior to their ancestors settling on the Islands. They confirmed that they are a legitimate people with the right to have their wishes respected.

The United Kingdom remains fully committed to defending the rights of the people of the Falkland Islands to determine their own political, social and economic future and calls on the Republic of Argentina to respect their wishes.

Finally, the United Kingdom has no doubt about its sovereignty over South Georgia and the South Sandwich Islands, and the British Antarctic Territory, and their surrounding maritime areas.

83

Original: English

For the Syrian Arab Republic:

Having taken note of the declarations made in Document 167, the delegation of the Arab Republic of Syria, in signing the Final Acts of the Plenipotentiary Conference (Dubai, 2018), reserves for its Government the right to take any action that it may consider necessary to safeguard its interests should any Member State fail in any way to comply with the requirements of the Constitution and the Convention of the International Telecommunication Union, as amended by the Plenipotentiary Conference (Kyoto, 1994), the Plenipotentiary Conference (Minneapolis, 1998), the Plenipotentiary Conference (Marrakesh, 2002), the Plenipotentiary Conference (Antalya, 2006), the Plenipotentiary Conference (Guadalajara, 2010) and the Plenipotentiary Conference (Busan, 2014), and the Plenipotentiary Conference (Dubai, 2018) or the annexes thereto, or should reservations by other countries jeopardize its interests in any way.

84**Original:** English**For the Republic of Angola:**

Having taken note of declarations made in Document 167 and on behalf of the Government of the Republic of Angola, the Angolan delegation to the 20th Plenipotentiary Conference 2018 (PP-18), in signing the Final Acts of the International Telecommunication Union (Dubai, 2018), declares:

- 1 to maintain all the reservations made by the Republic of Angola in all previous plenipotentiary conferences that took part and;
- 2 it reserves for Angola the right to take any action, if necessary, to safeguard its interests should any other Member State in any way fail to comply with the provisions of the Constitution and the Convention or Administrative Regulations and Appendices thereto of the International Telecommunication Union, or should reservations by other Member States jeopardize the sovereignty, interests and telecommunications and ICT services of the Republic of Angola;
- 3 it reserves the right of the Republic of Angola to express additional reservations at the time of ratification of the amendments of the Constitution and the Convention, both made on previous ITU Plenipotentiary Conferences and in particular, at the 20th ITU PP-18 held in Dubai, United Arab Emirates.

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