Daily report

International Telecommunication Union (ITU) Council 2019 – Day 1

10 June 2019, in Geneva, Switzerland

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Too long; didn't read? A super short summary

Change of Council Chair

Due to unforeseen circumstances, the Chair of ITU Council 2019, Dr Elsayed Elsayed Azzouz of Egypt, will not be able to attend the Council session. Instead, Mr Fabio Bigi of Italy was contacted by the ITU Secretariat on Friday, June 7, and agreed to fill in. Member States approved Mr Bigi as Chair by acclamation (clapping), with many Member States taking the time to thank him for his willingness to serve with so little notice.

Decisions about upcoming ITU conferences

Plenipotentiary Conference 2022:

- Romania, 26 September – 14 October 2022
  (*Dates subject to change subject to further informal discussions at Council*)

World Telecommunication Standards Assembly 2020:

- Hyderabad, India, 16 to 27 November 2020

Improving key ITU processes

- Secretariat was asked to examine how to improve the working processes of Plenipotentiary conferences, including shortening the duration, and formalising a process of inter-regional preparation and coordination to get as much consensus achieved before the Plenipotentiary as possible.

- Member States agreed to refine the ethical principles for ITU election campaign activities, based on the *Ethical aspects of certain campaign activities prior to the 2018 Plenipotentiary Conference* guidelines adopted by ITU Council 2018.

Decisions made by ITU Council 2019 on Day 1

ITU Council members considered a number of reports from the ITU Secretariat as well as contributions from Member States, resulting in a number of actions on the documents. In summary, ITU Council 2019:[1]

Decided:

- The venue for ITU Plenipotentiary Conference 2022 will be Bucharest, Romania

  Also, *adopted*:

  - The draft decision to hold the ITU Plenipotentiary Conference 2022 contained in Annex C of the same document, *Venue and dates of the 2022 Plenipotentiary Conference* (C19/55 Revision 1).

    Note: Provisional dates of 26 September to 14 October 2022 to be further discussed amongst ITU Council Members and a final decision to be made before ITU Council 2019 ends.
    https://www.itu.int/md/S19-CL-C-0055/en

- The venue for the World Telecommunication Standardization Assembly 2020 will be Hyderabad, India, 16 to 27 November 2020.

  Also, *adopted*:

  - The draft decision contained in Annex 2 to the same document, *Preparations for the World Telecommunication Standardization Assembly 2020*.
    https://www.itu.int/md/S19-CL-C-0024/en

Approved:

- *Report on the implementation of the strategic plan and activities of the Union for 2018-2019 (*C19/35 + C19/35 Addendum 1)
  https://www.itu.int/md/S19-CL-C-0035/en

- *Draft four-year rolling operational plans for the Union for 2020-2023*
  https://www.itu.int/md/S19-CL-C-0028/en

Requested the Secretariat:

- To examine possible measures to improve the work of the Plenipotentiary Conference, taking into account possible legal and financial consequences of in preparing reports for the next Council. (Based on contribution document *Suggested improvements to the work of the Plenipotentiary Conference*, and subsequent discussions amongst Member States)
  https://www.itu.int/md/S19-CL-C-0101/en

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[1] Note: this summary is based on the on-the-floor discussions in ITU Council 2019, where the discussions can be very complex and the proposed form of action by Council restated in many ways as the Chair responds to the direction of discussions. The canonical set of Council actions will be issued by the ITU Secretariat

Noted:

- *Preparations for RA-19 and WRC-19*
  https://www.itu.int/md/S19-CL-C-0027/en

- Wide support for, and also *endorsed* basic principles contained in, the Annexed draft decision in *Establishing ethical principles for campaign activities prior to ITU Plenipotentiary Conferences*. The text of the decision to be finalized at ITU Council 2020 based on this contribution, as well as new contributions by other States.
  https://www.itu.int/md/S19-CL-C-0067/en

- *Report on the Twentieth Plenipotentiary Conference (PP-18)*
  https://www.itu.int/md/S19-CL-C-0004/en

- *Draft budget of the Union for 2020-2021* (C19/15+A1)
  https://www.itu.int/md/S19-CL-C-0015/en

  C19/15 will be discussed at the Standing Committee on Administrative and Management (ADM).

Also, the Council Chair *instructed*:

- The Secretary-General to take into account the discussions on *Amendments to the electoral process* and prepare a report for the Council 2020 on implementing ITU Plenipotentiary 2018 Committee 5 Recommendations 6 and 7.
  https://www.itu.int/md/S19-CL-C-0013/en

> For more information about how ITU Council works, as well as brief summaries of issues related to digital policy that will be discussed at ITU Council 2010, 10-20 June 2019, see Nissaba's pre-meeting report on this year's Council session:
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>   http://nissaba.net/pre-meeting-reports/itu-council-2019
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> For official ITU information on ITU Council 2019, see:
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>   https://www.itu.int/en/council/2019/Pages/default.aspx