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Daily report

International Telecommunication Union (ITU) Council 2019 – Day 5

14 June 2019, in Geneva, Switzerland

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Published 17 June 2019



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

Significant development

- Discussions on the **ITU headquarters rebuilding project** dominated the day, with the possibility raised of deferring starting the rebuilding project until the project budget can be confirmed as stabilised, with no additional costs to be factored in.

Informal consultations

1. Working Group on WTPF

To agree on timing and theme of ITU World Telecommunication/ ICT Policy Forum (WTPF) 2021.

Meeting 3: 12:45-2:00 pm, 17 June

2. COMPLETED: Working Group on ITRs

Completed Terms of Reference for Expert Group on International Telecommunication Regulations at Meeting 3, 6:30-8:00 pm, 14 June. To be presented to Plenary.

3. Informal consultations on CWG-Internet open consultation topics

To agree on open consultations topics for next two CWG-Internet meetings.

Meeting 2: 6:00-7:30 pm, 14 June

Meeting 3: 6:30-8:30 pm, 17 June

4. Informal consultations on merging Council Resolutions 1336 and 1344

To address concerns about potentially omitting parts of CWG-Internet resolutions during merge.

Meeting 1: 1:30-2:30 pm, 14 June

Meeting 2: 12:30-1:30 pm, 18 June

5. Informal group on draft Council Decision on a general audit following the case of fraud at a regional office

To draft decision instructing Secretary-General to conduct a general audit of ITU headquarters and all regional offices and bureaux.

Meeting 2: 12:00-13:00 pm, 14 June

Meeting 3: 8:00-9:30 am, 17 June

Meeting 4: 8:00-9:30, 18 June

6. NEW: Informal consultations on revising Council Resolution 925, financial conditions for participation of UN, Specialized Agencies & other international organizations in ITU conferences & meetings

To resolve minor questions about the proposal.

7. NEW: Informal drafting group on proposed revision of Council Decision 563, "Council Working Group on Financial and Human Resources (CWG-FHR)"

To amend some of the proposed revisions without taking up ADM's time.

Meeting 1: 1:00-2:00 pm, 17 June

8. NEW: Informal consultations on Union's headquarters premises project

To consider additional detailed cost documentation to be provide by Secretariat.

Meeting 1: 5:45-6:45 pm, 17 June

Decisions made on Day 5

Plenary

There was no plenary on Day 5.

Standing Committee for Administration and Management (ADM)¹

Approved:

- Secretary-General's recommendations for entities requesting exemption from Sector member fees as ITU Sector membership as listed in *Request for Exemption from any financial contribution to defraying expenses relating to participation in the work of ITU* <https://www.itu.int/md/S19-CL-C-0039/en>

The Secretary-General recommended four entities receive exemption from Sector member fees - including International Corporation for Assigned Names and Numbers (ICANN) and the Commonwealth Telecommunication Organization (CTO) – and recommended another three requests for exemption not be accepted, due to not meeting the established criteria for exemptions.

- Revision of Council Decision 482 as contained in Annex 2 of Part 1, “Recommendations on possible revision to Decision 482, Concerning complex/large non-GSO satellite filings”, of *Progress report recommending possible revision to Decision 482 concerning complex/large non-GSO satellite filings and exceptionally complex GSO satellite filings* (C19/36 Revision 1). <https://www.itu.int/md/S19-CL-C-0036/en>

Also, recommends ITU Council 2022 to review:

- Decision 482, on the basis of statistics to be provided by the Radiocommunications Bureau, taking into account the items listed in Section 2 of *Cost Recovery for the processing of Non-GSO Satellite Network Filings: Views on Procedure B and Proposal to Establish A Working Group to Consider Modification of the Methodology for Calculation of Units for Non-GSO systems*.
- <https://www.itu.int/md/S19-CL-C-0064/en>

Also, recommends to ITU Council:

- That regarding Procedure C, the cost associated with the software updates related to APFD examinations be discussed, based on the procedures described in section 7.1 of Part 1 of C19/36 Revision 1.
- *To instruct the director of the radiocommunications Bureau to:*
 - Include the information regarding potential regulatory solutions contained in Part 2, “Recommendations on possible revision to decision 482, Concerning

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

exceptionally complex GSO satellite filings” of Document, C19/36 Revision 1, in his report to World Radiocommunication Conference 2019.

- *To endorse:*
 - The instructions of the Radio Regulations Board to the Radio Regulations Bureau to contact the notifying administration of those networks drawing their attention to the consequences of processing of such networks: staff resource absorption and complications which could have a negative impact for subsequent submissions.

In addition, informal discussions on updating the Terms of Reference for the Council Expert Group on Resolution 482 are currently taking place and will be reported back to the next meeting of the ADM Committee.

Noted:

- *Possible action to promote the work of ITU among Small and Medium-sized Enterprises*
<https://www.itu.int/md/S19-CL-C-0087/en>
- *Report by the Chairman of the Council Working Group on Financial and Human Resources*
<https://www.itu.int/md/S19-CL-C-0050/en>
- *Report by the Secretary-General: Cost recovery for the processing of Satellite Network Filings (SNF)*
<https://www.itu.int/md/S19-CL-C-0016/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 2019, 10-20 June 2019, see Nissaba’s pre-meeting report on this year’s Council session:

<http://nissaba.net/pre-meeting-reports/itu-council-2019>

For official ITU information on ITU Council 2019, see:

<https://www.itu.int/en/council/2019/Pages/default.aspx>

Other developments on Day 5

- The Chair of ADM requested that **informal consultations** be conducted on the proposed revision of Council Resolution 925, **Financial conditions for the participation of the United Nations, the Specialized Agencies and other International Organizations in the conferences and meetings of the ITU**. Informal gathering of the group organized for the morning coffee break on 14 June. Proposal author to represent proposal to Standing Committee for Administration and Management (ADM) following conclusion of consultations.

Relevant contribution:

<https://www.itu.int/md/S19-CL-C-0073/en>

- The Chair of ADM requested an **informal drafting group** on proposed revision of Council Decision 563, “**Council Working Group on Financial and Human Resources (CWG-FHR)**”. No formal meeting time was specified.

Relevant contribution:

<https://www.itu.int/md/S19-CL-C-0080/en>

- Following extensive discussions by Council members about the costs of the **Union's headquarters premises project**, the Chair of ADM requested **informal consultations** on the topic based on highly detailed information to be presented to interested parties and for **discussions to resume during ADM on 18 June**.

To summarise:

- Some Council members are concerned about the increase in projected expenses for building project, while other members are satisfied that pledged sponsorships for various rooms and facilities in the new building will cover the increased costs.
- Some members have suggested deferring starting the rebuilding project until finances and project details can be bedded down, with little to no possibilities of additional cost increases being added, meaning there is a **possibility of the building project being delayed**.
- It was noted that deferring, or possibly even cancelling, the rebuilding project at this time could lead to additional costs for ITU.

Relevant contributions:

<https://www.itu.int/md/S19-CL-C-0007/en>

<https://www.itu.int/md/S19-CL-C-0076/en>

<https://www.itu.int/md/S19-CL-C-0048/en>

- The **informal consultations on CWG-Internet open consultation topics** was not able to conclude on Friday evening, despite overrunning its allotted time by one hour. In addition, the Chair of the informal consultations was returning to capital over the weekend, meaning the Chair of Council 2019 will need to **appoint a new Chair** for the informal consultations.
- At its third meeting, the **Working Group on ITRs** completed work on the Terms of Reference for the Expert Group on International Telecommunication Regulations (EG-ITRs), as well as a revised draft Council Resolution 1379. The completed draft (DL/3

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Revision 4 - available only to TIES account holders) will be presented to Plenary for adoption.

<https://www.itu.int/md/S19-CL-190610-DL-0003/en>

- The recommendations contained in *Implementing the new PP-18 resolution on SME participation in ITU*, including the recommendation for a maximum annual revenue level of **CHF 15 million** to fulfil the instruction in *resolves 3* of the new resolution on SMEs, were initially approved by ADM, but following the lunch break, a Council member requested that the decision, and accompanying document, be reopened for discussion. This is likely to happen 18 June.

Relevant contributions:

<https://www.itu.int/md/S19-CL-C-0056/en>

<https://www.itu.int/md/S19-CL-C-0090/en>

- Because of the extensive discussions on the ITU headquarters rebuilding project, the following items on the agenda for ADM Day 5 were not discussed:
 - *UN Sustainable Development Group (UNSDG) and Coordination Levy (C19/54 Revision 1)*
<https://www.itu.int/md/S19-CL-C-0054/en>
 - *Note by the Secretary-General: United Nations General Assembly Resolutions 71/243 and 72/279*
<http://www.itu.int/md/S19-CL-INF-0004/en>
 - *After-Service Health Insurance (ASHI) liability*
<https://www.itu.int/md/S19-CL-C-0046/en>
 - *Arrears and Special Arrears Accounts*
<https://www.itu.int/md/S19-CL-C-0011/en>
 - *Note by the Secretary-General: Situation of Arrears of the Union at 31 March 2019*
<http://www.itu.int/md/S19-CL-INF-0005/en>
 - *Report by the Secretary-General: Improvement of management and follow-up of the defrayal of ITU Expenses by Sector Members and Associates*
<https://www.itu.int/md/S19-CL-C-0052/en>
 - *Report by the Secretary-General: Provisional participation of entities dealing with telecommunication matters in the activities of the Union*
<https://www.itu.int/md/S19-CL-C-0020/en>
 - *Report by the Secretary-General: Report on the implementation of Resolution 191 (Rev. Dubai, 2018) - Strategy for the coordination of efforts among the three Sectors of the Union (C19/38 Revision 1)*
<https://www.itu.int/md/S19-CL-C-0038/en>
 - *Proposal for monitoring and implementation of “instructions to the Council” under Resolutions and Decisions of PP-18*
<https://www.itu.int/md/S19-CL-C-0105/en>
 - *Report by the Secretary-General: Possible areas of mutual interest to the three Sectors and the General Secretariat*
<http://www.itu.int/md/S19-CL-INF-0006/en>
 - *Report by the Secretary-General: Information and Communication Technologies Development Fund (ICT-DF)*
<https://www.itu.int/md/S19-CL-C-0034/en>
<http://www.itu.int/md/S19-CL-INF-0015/en>
<https://www.itu.int/md/S19-CL-C-0091/en>