



**NISSABA**



## Daily report

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# International Telecommunication Union (ITU) Council 2019 – Day 6

*17 June 2019, in Geneva, Switzerland*

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

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### Significant developments

- Informal Group on CWG-Internet concludes without any agreement on topics for future consultations and will recommend Council refer topic selection back to CWG-Internet.
- Informal Working Group on WTPF-21 ends with agreement on timing, theme and draft decision for Council to approve.

### Decisions about upcoming ITU conferences

ITU Telecom World 2020 will be held in Hanoi, September 2020.

### Informal consultations

- 1. COMPLETED: Working Group on WTPF**  
*Agreed on timing and theme of ITU World Telecommunication/ ICT Policy Forum (WTPF) 2021. To report to Plenary.*  
Meeting 3: 12:45-2:00 pm, 17 June  
Meeting 4: 8:00-8:44 pm, 17 June
- 2. ENDED: Informal Group on CWG-Internet open consultation topics**  
*Agreed consensus not possible. Will suggest to Plenary to send open consultation topics discussions to CWG-Internet in September.*  
Meeting 3: 6.30-8.00 pm, 17 June
- 3. Informal consultations on merging Council Resolutions 1336 and 1344**  
*To address concerns about potentially omitting parts of CWG-Internet resolutions during merge.*  
Meeting 1: 5:30-6:30 pm, 17 June  
Meeting 2: 12.30-1.30 pm, 18 June
- 4. Informal group on draft Council Decision on a general audit following the case of fraud at a regional office**  
*To draft Council decision instructing the Secretary-General to conduct a general audit of ITU headquarters and all regional offices and bureaux.*  
Meeting 3: 8:00-9:30 am, 17 June  
Meeting 4: 8:00-9:30 am, 18 June
- 5. COMPLETED: Informal consultations on Council Resolution 925, Financial conditions for UN & other international organizations participating in ITU meetings**  
*Questions about revisions resolved.*
- 6. COMPLETED: Informal drafting of revised Council Decision 563, "Council Working Group on Financial and Human Resources (CWG-FHR)"**  
*Amended some proposed revisions. To report to ADM.*  
Meeting 1: 1:00-2:00 pm, 17 June
- 7. 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
- 8. COMPLETED: Informal consultation on Global Cybersecurity Agenda guidelines**  
*Recommendations to be presented to Plenary.*
- 9. NEW: Informal Group on ITU Fellowships**  
*To incorporate various suggestions raised on the floor.*  
No formal meeting organised.

## Decisions made on Day 6

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### Plenary<sup>1</sup>

*Endorsed:*

- *Report by the Council Working Group on Languages* including the revision of Council Resolution 1372, “Council Working Group on Languages (CWG-LANG),” contained in Appendix 2 of the report, with the additional amendment to paragraph 7 of the Terms of the Reference for the CWG-LANG, as proposed in *Proposals for the work of the Council Working Group on Languages*.  
<https://www.itu.int/md/S19-CL-C-0012/en>  
<https://www.itu.int/md/S19-CL-C-0072/en>

*Noted:*

- *Report by the Secretary-General: ITU’S activities related to Resolution 70 (Rev. Dubai, 2018) and new approach to gender equality and mainstreaming planning*  
<https://www.itu.int/md/S19-CL-C-0006/en>
- *Legal clarifications concerning the role of TSAG in the creation of regional groups of ITU-T Study Groups, and the rights of participation of Sector Members, Associates and Academia*  
<https://www.itu.int/md/S19-CL-C-0068/en>

Plenary also noted that the Plenipotentiary Conference has clearly delegated the matter to the TSAG and that the work is being undertaken by the Rapporteur group assigned to the issue.

In addition, the Chair request the Secretariat to provide its legal opinion together with this document (C19/68) to the next TSAG meeting.

- *Report by the Secretary-General: Report on ITU Telecom events*  
<https://www.itu.int/md/S19-CL-C-0019/en>

*Also, noted with appreciation:*

- Vietnam’s invitation to host ITU Telecom World 2020 in September 2020.
- The “Draft plan for the full achievement of the provisions concerning the adoption of alternative translation procedures included in Decision 5 (Rev. Dubai, 2018) and Resolution 154 (Rev. Dubai, 2018)” contained in *Report by the Secretary-General: Implementation of Resolution 154 (Rev. Dubai, 2018) on use of the six official languages of the Union on an equal footing* (C19/14 Revision 1)  
<https://www.itu.int/md/S19-CL-C-0014/en>

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<sup>1</sup> 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

## Standing Committee for Administration and Management (ADM)

*Endorsed:*

- The proposal on Universal International Freephone Numbers (UIFNs) and Issuer Identifier Numbers (IINs) contained in Section 5 of the *Report by the Secretary-General: Status report on implementation of Council Decisions 600 and 601 (UIFN, IIN)*.  
<https://www.itu.int/md/S19-CL-C-0047/en>
- Recommendations contained in Section 12 of *Report by the Secretary General UN Sustainable Development Group (UNSDG) and Coordination Levy (C19/54 Rev. 1)*.  
<https://www.itu.int/md/S19-CL-C-0054/en>
- The recommendations contained in Section 4 of *Report by the Secretary-General: Improvement of management and follow-up of the defrayal of ITU expenses by Sector Members, Associates, and Academia*  
<https://www.itu.int/md/S19-CL-C-0052/en>

*Authorised the Secretary-General:*

- To write off interest on arrears and irrecoverable debts, as requested in *Report by the Secretary-General: Arrears and special arrears accounts*  
<https://www.itu.int/md/S19-CL-C-0011/en>

*Also, adopted:*

- The draft Decision attached in Annex B of the report.

*Confirmed:*

- The action taken by the Secretary-General regarding the admission of 15 entities dealing with telecommunication matters, accounting for 16 memberships in total, as listed in the *Annex of Provisional participation of entities dealing with telecommunication matters in the activities of ITU*.  
<https://www.itu.int/md/S19-CL-C-0020/en>

*Noted:*

- The draft implementation plan contained in *Report of the Secretary General: Implementation of Resolution 167 (Rev. Dubai, 2018): Strengthening and developing ITU capabilities for electronic meetings and means to advance the work of the Union*.  
<https://www.itu.int/md/S19-CL-C-0029/en>
- *Report by the Secretary-General: Memoranda of Understanding having financial and/or strategic implications*  
<https://www.itu.int/md/S19-CL-C-0060/en>

The Council also:

- Noted that the Secretariat should continue to take care with respect all existing resolutions and decisions regarding MoUs.
- Requested the Secretariat to report annually on all MoUs, clearly categorising MoUs into those with financial implications for the Union and those with none.

- Requested a compilation document containing all decisions and resolutions of the Plenipotentiary conferences.
- *Memorandum of Understanding* (C19/62 Rev. 1)  
<https://www.itu.int/md/S19-CL-C-0063/en>
- *Report by the Secretary-General: The After-Service Health Insurance (ASHI) Liability*  
<https://www.itu.int/md/S19-CL-C-0046/en>
- *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 Rev. 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>

The Secretariat reported that it had already been looking into creating such a monitoring system.

- *Report by the Secretary-General: Information and Communication Technologies Development Fund (ICT-DF)*  
<https://www.itu.int/md/S19-CL-C-0034/en>

Note: C19 INF/15 is to be read in conjunction with the above report.

<https://www.itu.int/md/S19-CL-INF-0015/en>

- *Report on the Information and Communication Technologies Development Fund (ICT-DF)*  
<https://www.itu.int/md/S19-CL-C-0091/en>

## Other developments on Day 6

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- ITU Council was presented with an overview of the report of the United Nations Secretary-General’s High-Level Panel on Digital Cooperation.
- Participants in the **Informal Group** on the **topic of the next two open consultations of the CWG-Internet** agreed that it was not going to be possible to reach consensus on topics. From the many proposed topics submitted to Council, three topics had been the main focus of discussions:
  - Capacity building on Internet governance for developing countries (this had been close to, but didn’t quite managed to, reach consensus during the January CWG-Internet meeting)
  - AI/machine learning
  - Affordable Internet connectivity

The first two topics had the strongest levels of support, but also the strongest levels of objection. Efforts to have both topics accepted, using the method invoked by the CWG-Internet in 2017, where gender and OTTs – both of which had Member States objecting to them – were agreed as topics for the next two upcoming consultations, making “everyone equally unhappy”, was unsuccessful in the Informal Group, as differences of opinion were too deeply divided to be solved in the same manner. The new Chair of the Informal Group (the previous Chair having left Geneva over the weekend) will report to

Plenary that the group proposes returning discussion and decision on the open consultation topic to the CWG-Internet when it next meets in September.

- The **Informal Working Group on WTPF-21** completed its work. The proposed overarching theme for Plenary to approve: “**Policies to mobilise new and emerging telecommunications/ICTs for sustainable development**”.  
<https://www.itu.int/md/S19-CL-190610-DL-0009/en>
- The **Global Cybersecurity Agenda (GCA) informal consultations** concluded its work, recommending that Council instruct the Secretary-General submit a report to Council 2020 explaining how ITU is currently utilizes the GCA framework and, with the involvement of Member States, develop appropriate guidelines developed for ITU’s utilization of the GCA, to be approved by Council.  
<https://www.itu.int/md/S19-CL-190610-DL-0008/en>
- The **Informal Group** on Council Decision 563 - **Council Working Group on Financial and Human Resources** completed its work to update the Terms of Reference and produce an updated draft Council Decision 563, based on Plenipotentiary 2018 updates to Resolution 71, as well as some other modifications. To be presented to ADM.  
<https://www.itu.int/md/S19-CL-190610-TD-GEN-0008/en>
- **Informal consultations** 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** have completed their work and will present their proposed draft resolution to ADM.  
<https://www.itu.int/md/S19-CL-190610-TD-GEN-0006/en>
- The Chair of ADM created an **Informal Group** following discussion of Report by the Secretary-General: Improving, promoting, and strengthening **ITU fellowships**.  
<https://www.itu.int/md/S19-CL-C-0031/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>