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PLENIPOTENTIARY CONFERENCE 2022

BUCHAREST, ROMANIA

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COMMITTEE 6

SEPTEMBER 27, 2022

11:00 AM

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>> CHAIR: Good morning, everyone. I want to thank the audio team for happy music this morning. Whenever you come into Committee 6, you're going to have music to greet you. We're going to keep it light. We're going to have fun, and I take requests. So, if you have a request, let me know.

So, if everyone would take their seats. Good and welcome to Com 6. I'm Vernita Harris. I'm from the United States of America and I would like to thank you all for your confidence in nominating me and my Vice-Chairs to lead the work of Com 6. Let me introduce my Vice-Chairs. Mr. Keiji Hattori from Japan, Ms. Umida Musaeva from Udbekistan and Christopher Kemei from Kenya and Renata Santoyo from Brazil and Blanca Gonzales from Spain. Let me apologize, and Mr. Abdullah Almubadal from Saudi Arabia. And I'm horrible at pronunciations so if I pronounced it wrong, please help me to get it right next time. I would like to thank you the Vice-Chairs for their role, and I rely on them throughout the work of Com 6, so please give them your support in completing the work of Com 6. We will be guided by the expertise of the Secretariat Mr. Baah and his team, especially Ms. Marian and Claire and Jean-Paul Labut and Maria Fernanda and Diego and Kathryn R. Please ensure to help me and the vice-chairs to lead this committee.

Finally, I want to thank the U.S. Delegation for your support. I thank the special assistants, control officers, Taylor and Maria. We have 7 broad themes and topics ahead of us over the next few weeks as articulated in the agenda, DT/10 Rev. 1, ADM/10 Rev. 1. ADM/10, Rev. 1.

So, the agenda is on the screen and if you notice, the agenda is broken down into seven broad themes and topics. And how we plan to work is that if you see it in red, that is the proposal for the day and that's how you will know that the items in bold and red are the topics that we're going to discuss in our meeting.

So, I would like to now adopt the agenda. Any objections to adopting the agenda, or any questions? India? You have the floor.

>> INDIA: From India, we cannot see the document 93, I believe. That is not on the agenda on healthy budget of the union.

>> CHAIR: Thank you, India. In answer to your question, we will get to Document 93, it is however we're not focusing on that item today and it will be on future agendas when we're discussing Decision 5 as it's dealing with the financial plan and budget of the union. Okay? Thank you.

>> INDIA: Thank you, Chair.

>> CHAIR: Zambia, you have the floor.

>> ZAMBIA: Thank you, Madam Chair. We would like to propose the adoption of the agenda. Thank you.

>> CHAIR: Thank you, Zambia. I have one other request. New Zealand, you have the floor.

>> NEW ZEALAND: Thank you Chair to you and the meeting. Confirming the document on the screen has ADM/10 rather than ADM/10 Rev. 1. Can I confirm that it should be Rev. 1? Thank you.

>> CHAIR: Thank you, New Zealand. So, that's a Chair error. I saved it as Rev. 1 on my computer, but the Secretariat has posted the correct document.

So, I will correct that. It's Rev. 1 on my computer and if you look at the top Mr. Baah has corrected me as well and it is Revision 1 so if we can go to the top so that delegates can see. Revision 1, Document 10. Okay.

If there are no other comments on the agenda, we can move to approve and adopt. All right. Thank you. So, if we could go down to the -- yes. So as indicated, the agenda is ordered by themes and we have seven broad themes and agenda items we're going to deal with this in current meeting are in bold and red. We approved the agenda, ADM/10 Rev. 1. The terms of reference of Committee 6 are in DT/9, so if we could go to DT/9 on the screen, please. The Committee 6 will be guided by Document ADM/10. The document is a consolidated lists of all proposals to be examined by the Committee. Each Committee will be examined within the overall context of the general theme which it is hoped will promote maximum efficiency and productivity.

Delegates are invited to draw attention of the Secretariat of Com 6 to any proposals which have been admitted from the ADM/10 document or mistakenly attributed within the body of the document itself.

As indicated, we will be looking at these and examining each theme in detail. It is requested that proposals relating to that theme, you will be invited to make a short presentation of the substance of the proposals. Speakers will be requested to be as brief as possible, maximum of 3 minutes and refrain from going into details of the background proposal if possible.

If there are no objections, I'm proposing that the microphone of the delegation presenting the proposal turn off after 3 minutes to ensure that all delegations are able to present their proposals. I know that 3 minutes -- I see that our Ministers and policy leaders and VIPs are sticking to this 3-minute rule and so I'm hoping that we can adopt this in our meeting as well.

So, this will allow us to complete our work on time in the next few weeks. Please note that consistent with General Rule 90, that international proposals will only be discussed if supported by one delegation when they come to being considered. If Com 6 creates an ad-hoc group, they will be based on the themes articulated in the agenda and extend presentation of delegation proposals to the relevant theme will be introduced in the ad-hoc group instead of Com 6.

The time allocated for discussion at the ad-hoc group will be decided in advance by the Com 6 and its leadership working with the ad-hoc group chairs if one is created. As per the established practice in ITU conferences, and I think this is extremely important, if consensus cannot be achieved on a specific proposal and/or square brackets remain in text under negotiations, then Com of participants are strongly, and I mean strongly, encouraged to maintain the existing text with no change.

With that, I would like any objection to approval of DT/9? Algeria, you have the floor.

>> ALGERIA: Thank you, Madam Chair. Congratulations to you for your appointment, including the Vice-Chairs. Just a question on the agenda, Madam Chair. I think we discuss in Council last Saturday the ASHI liability and wondering why this is not included along with headquarters building and other matters. I think joining is one of the most important things that needs to be further discussed in PP and this is important for the union and it is truly a financial matter. So, thank you, Madam Chair. Just raising this point. Thank you.

>> CHAIR: So, I will say on the building, if you look at the agenda, it's theme 4. So, there you have theme 3 and its Resolution 212 and my plan is to introduce that document today. Anything in red we will be discussing today. I would like to get through the first two themes, and then we will get to this theme, and then we will move to have a discussion on Resolution 212 in the meeting. Algeria, is that okay?

Then I'm going to turn to Mr. Baah for the other question. Thank you.

>> SECRETARIAT: Thank you, Chair. Good morning to everyone. With regard to the intervention of the Distinguished Delegate of Algeria, I would just say that to date we have not received any contribution it's on ASHI or an USMUS but we could discuss that matter with we address Decision 5 on the financial plan to be discussed at the next session of Committee 6. That is why on the agenda, for this first meeting, you do not see that. I should say that to date, we have not received any contributions on USMUS or ASHI but we will be able to discuss that when we discuss the financial plan through Decision 5. Thank you.

>> CHAIR: Thank you, Mr. Baah. Algeria, does that address your question?

>> ALGERIA: Yes. Thank you, Madam Chair, and thank you, Mr. Baah.

>> CHAIR: Thank you. Moving to the working methods of Committee 6. PP-22/97. Mr. Baah, can I turn to you with the working methods? 97.

>> SECRETARIAT: Thank you, Chair, for the working methods as adopted yesterday at the 1st Meeting of the Plenary. Committee 6, of course, is part of the structure of this Plenipotentiary Conference, and we will address all matters concerning financial and human resources matters. As stated by the Chair, we have tried to organize this into several themes. If we do not arrive at consensus through the Com 6 plenary, of course we can establish ad-hoc groups to be chaired by designated persons working on the basis of contributions and proposals received from the Members to arrive at a consensus. A new presentation would then be made in Plenary for adoption before forwarding to the Editorial Committee, that is for the working methods. But we will also try to adapt working hours in view of the time allocated to Committee 6. Sometimes it's from 9:30 to 12:30, except on Friday, and then from 2:30 p.m. to 5:30 p.m. This will be determined according to the time allocated to Committee 6.

You will also find working methods with regard to times and programming and scheduling of ad hoc committee and drafting group meetings that will be necessary to arrive at consensus and to save time for Committee 6.

Those are the main points that I wanted to touch upon with regard to the working methods for Com 6. Thank you.

>> CHAIR: Thank you, Mr. Baah. If there are no comments on agenda item 3, working methods of Committee 6, I move it approve and adopt these working methods that are going across the PP. All right. Thank you. That will be done.

Moving to Agenda Item 4, statement by the staff council, we have an oral presentation. Staff Council?

>> STAFF COUNCIL: Deputy Secretary-General, distinguished colleagues, it's a pleasure to be here today and feeling as I'm sure you are too very pleased and energized to be meeting in person in the wonderful Bucharest at the heart of Eastern Europe and enjoying the warm hospitality of Romanian hosts. We're also hoping many are connected remotely from the four corners of the world and I'm here with an important message on behalf of the ITU Staff as President of the ITU Staff Council. This 2022 Plenipotentiary Conference is a crossroad in digital transformation worldwide for digital development as a lever for achieving the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals and the future of the Union.

Your decisions will define the next four years of our common journey through challenges and uncertainties to new heights creating digital opportunities for the people who need them most in all regions. As we are metaphorically speaking, somewhat holding our breath in eager anticipation before the intellects of the new ITU Management Team, the ITU Staff Council would like to take this opportunity to offer our perspective and experience on the most pressing issues ahead of us through the statement.

We also pledge to renew our readiness and commitment to excel in delivering ITU's mission and to catalyzing digital development everywhere and for all.

The new ITU Management Team will need to take on the legacy of the previous administration and ensure the continuity of work of the three bureaus and the General Secretariat and their delivery as one at the ITU headquarters and across all regional and area offices. This new Management Team will also have the potential and responsibility to bring about meaningful change and align the new ITU to the foundational values and evolving requirements of the United Nations System.

We recall the words of the United Nations Secretary-General Antonio Gutierrez on the ongoing UN-wide system reform, and I quote "the aims of the reform are clear, to focus more on people and less on process, to become more nimble and effective and to build a workplace of equality, diversity, and integrity." Now, we believe this message couldn't be clearer. Its words speak to the most pressing priorities before ITU today. The ITU Staff Council believes that change is needed at multiple levels to achieve one, to achieve greater effectiveness in ITU delivery; two, to put our most critical assets, ITU Staff at the center of the transition towards a more agile, UN variative, and solution-driven organization; and three, to meet the ambition of the ITU members in spearheading digital technologies for social and economic development while tackling global imperatives such as climate change and global emergencies.

We urge you to pay special attention to the following three areas of concern and priority for ITU Staff. One, further efforts are needed in shifting the management paradigm at ITU in line with the United Nations-wide management reform led by Secretary-General Antonio Gutierrez. Many ITU staff are concerned with some of the recommendations of external audit report to be presented here along with direct observations from our work, and we call upon you, our Members and the new ITU Leadership, to consider strengthening integral -- to continue strengthening internal regulatory frameworks in critical areas and building guardrails for human resource management, financial allocation accounting, project management, and performance management. To scale up efforts in reforming and enhancing the internal justice system of the union, reports and recent decisions of the ILO Administrative tribunal, in particular in enhancing transparency in decision-making, strengthening administrative processes, procedures, and internal controls, reinforcing the ethics function and independence, establishing an ombudsman function in the union, ensuring effective whistleblower protection, and enhancing the existing investigation framework.

To ensure the consistent and equal enforcement of internal policies concerning job mobility, harassment and equal opportunity and equal access to family benefits to all staff in line with the UN Systemwide established practices, and pay special attention to ongoing financial management at all levels, including at the level of the three bureaus, to ensure alignment with strategic and operational plan priorities. Focus on member needs and priorities and prevent overspending. Ensure diligent operation and financial planning in consultation with staff and its rigorous implementation, ambitious about realistic objectives, and adequate resources are necessary to deliver our important mission. Empower staff to collaborate across the bureaus, inform internal decision-making and speak up in order to ensure that we're able to efficiently respond to our member needs and rise to your expectations in every situation. Mainstream transparency, accountability, and neutrality principles and practices at all levels of the work of the Union with regards to managerial, operational decisions and the application of the staff rules and regulations along with functioning of the ethics office, the internal audit unit, human resources, and finance departments.

We welcome the recommendations of the external audit for institutionalizing the regular self-assessment and assessment of their work and functioning of all internal processes and systems for checks and balances across bureau and regional offices, and anticipate that the results will be adequately communicated to staff and members in due course.

Success will be shifting the management paradigm in the ITU in the coming years will lay strong foundations for building the new ITU to better serve you, our Members.

Two, ITU Staff has a role to play in reforms at all levels and we need to genuinely put ITU's talent at the center of the change management strategies and reforms as we play a critical role in the success of ITU's delivery of your goals and meeting your needs. We need to ensure that persons disappearing from the organizational chart in redundancies is not equivalent to loss of institutional knowledge, expertise, and reduce capacity to respond at a timely and targeted manner to the needs of our members.

Sound human resource policies and their systematic consistent application, we believe are the key to unlocking the untapped potential of ITU Staff in these critical times. The HR department has been doing a great job recently, but we do have a few remarks and suggestions. The ITU Staff Council believes that the quality of ITU recruitment processes can be improved through more performing systems and better training for HR staff along with ensuring the informed involvement of hiring managers, developing staff expertise in core areas and continuous learning from our members, and external partner organizations need to be elevated to the rank of priority, as without the continuously upskilling of our workforce, the efficiency of our work may suffer, especially given the fact that we may have less support for external consultants in the future, and we're particularly concerned with the proposal of discontinuing the training activities as a cost-saving measure as we believe that such measures will be council productive in the mid and long term. Retention scheme for talent in the core areas of ITU's expertise that needs to be designed and implemented to support the Union's mission. Staff safety is absolute priority especially in high risk and direct threats at ITU regional office, locations, mission destinations, and/or in shared office space during future pandemics, and the diverse voices of ITU staff deserve to be heard and value recognized in line with UN Fundamental Values, clarity is urgently needed on the generalization of outsourcing and out-posting practices and the conditions under which such measures might be introduced.

ITU Staff cherish diversity, transparency, accountability, and a culture of constructive discussion and mutual respect to create a working environment reflective and supportive of the fundamental values of the United Nations, and this is the environment that will allow us to stand up to the challenges ahead of us and support you, our Members, in the best and most efficient way.

Three, and I'm getting to the end here, draft a long-term vision for ITU. We believe that more clarity is needed on the long-term role of the Union on the international arena, are we the global thought leader in enabling digital transformation globally or the digital development platform for partners from the UN, the private sector, the innovators for the treatment of SDGs, or is the Union the sum of the three bureaus and the general Secretariat focusing on issues of common interest from different perspectives?

As important and costly as the new ITU headquarters building in Geneva may be and we really very much appreciate the ongoing consultations and information sessions with ITU staff and the Staff Council our physical presence is, of course, only one facet of the discussion on the future of ITU and our contribution to the development of digital technologies, economies of our society. The new building discussion shouldn't dominate the thinking on how to make the Union more relevant in the fast, changing digital world. New strengths and meaningfully support UN-wide sustainable development efforts. The focus of the discussion needs to concentrate on what matters most. Unique, and capital and how to augment those. Critical importance to communicate the long-term vision to ITU Staff, and the current lack of alignment in some high-level strategic goals in the operations of the various ITU Teams, they prevent wider organizations, the synergies and jeopardize the delivery of our services as One ITU. Of primary importance is a continuing dialogue between management and staff ensuring clarity on how the overall strategy of the Union translates into the activities of each and every team.

Finally, we acknowledge that many of the issues at hand of the history-making conference are complex, interlinked and politically sensitive and we recognize the magnitude of the challenges and the constraints, without suggesting any particular solutions we consider it important to draw your attention to the areas of greatest concern and priority of ITU Staff. We reiterate our commitment to work with you towards the objectives you're set to build a stronger, even more relevant ITU at the forefront of global digital transformation, and facilitating digital development everywhere and for all. The ITU Staff Council and ITU Staff will be closely following your discussions over the next three weeks and stands ready to support your work in the next four years and beyond. We trust your wisdom and vision and recognize your leadership through good and tough times. We stand ready to work with the ITU Administration and the New ITU Leadership to walk the talk and build together a better, stronger, more resilient and agile organization powered by top-notch, diverse perspectives and innovative spirit, sound management practices, and reinforced internal mechanisms. To all our members present physically here in Bucharest, or connecting virtually from the four corners of the world, we count on your support and you can count on ours. Thank you very much for your attention. I wish you a very successful PP-22.

>> CHAIR: Thank you, Mr. Jacobson. Thank you. The report will be published, so are there any questions for the Staff Council? All right. I have no one asking for the floor. I'm sorry. Algeria, you have the floor.

>> ALGERIA: Thank you, Madam Chair, and many thanks for the Staff Council. We always support Staff Council statement, Madam Chair and we rely on the views and expressions during the Council sessions from the Staff Council on each and every project, so we rely a lot on their views, and I echo the initiative by, for example the Word Cafe initiative where we heard a lot from the Staff Council from the staff, measures to reduce expenses on how we can increase revenues, for example. And of course, we echo the good feedback on the current and very important project of the headquarters, and of course the implementation of the staff working conditions strategy, so we wanted to hear a lot from the strategy and being implemented in practice, the change management, the relevant change management and the feedback from the staff on this strategy.

We as Africa Region, for example, propose a draft new resolution on business continuity, and of course we paid attention to the business continuity of the staff and the working conditions, so we paid a lot of attention to this particular topic and we will have an opportunity to discuss this, but I want just to reiterate my support to the Staff Council statement and thank you very much, Madam Chair.

>> CHAIR: Thank you so much, Algeria. Like that, like I indicated previously, the statement will be available, and so I have another request for the floor. I'm closing the list. If there are any other delegates that would like to take the floor, please add your name to the list; otherwise, I'm considering the list closed. The list is closed. Kuwait, you have the floor.

>> KUWAIT: Thank you very much, Chair. We would like on our turn to thank the Staff Council for this presentation. In Kuwait we fully support the staff tasks because we think that the staff are the cornerstone of our work in the ITU and they help us in all the activities, and we would like to reiterate the importance of ensuring all the necessary means so that the staff play a good role. Thank you very much.

>> CHAIR: Thank you, Kuwait. Now, moving on to Theme 1, human resources management. If you note on our agenda -- so I have a request from India. India, is this on, before you take the floor, is this on Theme 1 or is it on the Staff Council? Before you take the floor. I did close the list on comments to the Staff Council, so if it's not on the Staff Council, thank you. Thank you for your understanding.

Theme 1, human resource management. As you can see from this theme, we have a number of resolutions from the regional groups, RCC, CITEL, ICP, African Common Proposals and Arab Common Proposals and so my proposal to the room and to Com 6 is that we take 3 minutes to make brief, brief presentation on these proposals, and then I would like to forward these, if there are no objections, to the ad hoc group for more instance of discussion. That's the way I would like to proceed, and I believe we agreed to that when we approved the DT. I would like to turn this over now to the RCC to introduce their proposal. Please note that I am keeping time. Thank you. Russian Federation, you have the floor.

>> RUSSIAN FEDERATION: Thank you. I'm speaking on behalf of the RCC Regional Commonwealth in the field of communication. I was very happy to listen to the presentation by the Member of the Staff Council because many of our thoughts, many of the things which we have reflected in Resolution 68 are related to the prospects of staff development, and which are mentioned by our colleague from the ITU Secretariat.

There are several intensions behind our proposals. First of all, we should like to reflect the trends which are visible across the UN Common System in respect of human resources management. First of all, we understand that in a multicultural environment, you have to recognize the importance of the work of all the departments of the General Secretariat in ensuring not only competency and skills, which is very important, but also culture, ethics and other things related to human resources.

We believe that all the processes related to human resources management, should be carried out under One ITU and that covers important aspects of our activities, such as regional presence. We will also be referring to that when we discuss Resolution 25.

Turning to the actual content of our proposal, we will I think, be discussing it together and we hope and are ready to work towards building a consensus because there is a lot of valuable information here that we think needs to be discussed.

I'd like draw your attention to the fact that we have Resolution 70 on gender issues, and therefore we have decided that overloading Resolution 48 with gender issues is probably not a good idea. We thought it was better to leave that issue to Resolution 70. Here we are talking about the need to deal with the rights and opportunities for not only women but men as well, and we need to ensure that both can equally participate in and further the work of the Union and therefore take part in achieving its goals.

Lastly, it is our feeling that we should take into account Resolution 21/73 of the UN General Assembly. It is quite an odd one but topical. Every person working in the ITU should have the same rights and freedoms and --

>> CHAIR: Continue the discussion of your comments in the ad-hoc group as we agreed with the rules earlier this morning. Thank you.

We now have the IAP. Someone from the CITEL region, please, Brazil, you have the floor.

>> BRAZIL: Thank you, good morning, Ms. Chairwoman. Thank you for starting the committee work with music. It has cheered our spirits up. The proposal of this IAP aims to modify Resolution 48 to improve transparency in staff recruitment, improve transparent policy and selection processes increases and effectiveness of fulfilling the Union's purpose. It is aligned with the updated United Nations Staff Selection Manual. The compared of the proposal is a new resolve to ensure that the recruitment, policy, and the selection processes should follow the best practices of the transparency.

Besides this proposal brings a new matter to be reported to the Council, measures related to transparency in the recruitment policy and in the selection process. This is a summary of this important IAP, Ms. Chairwoman, thank you.

>> CHAIR: Thank you very much, Brazil, speaking on behalf of CITEL. I have someone from ACP, please present the proposal. New Zealand, you have the floor.

>> NEW ZEALAND: Thank you, Chair. The Asia Pacific Tele-community on Resolution 48 contains a small number of changes and we believe that we look to consensus with we come to the ad-hoc group on Resolution 48, as noted by our Arab colleagues, there are a number of changes related in Resolution 70 and we believe that these changes go hand in hand, despite being allocated to different groups at this meeting. Thank you.

>> CHAIR: Thank you. New Zealand. Finally, AFCP, could I have someone from that region introduce Document 83? Algeria, you have the floor.

>> ALGERIA: Thank you, Madam Chair. So, I'm pleased on behalf of the African Region to present the amendment on 48. So, first of all, the amendment considered the development of the international level, particularly the United Nations, and we echoed the comment by Staff Council with that regard on specifically at the UN Management Reform and the last UN Secretary-General Report on the shifting the management paradigm in the UN review and progress of the implementation of management form. We also emphasized on the amendment on the staff distribution at regional levels, and we also echoed with good note the initiative of word cafe, which involving staff and in expressing ideas on revenue generation and reducing expenses. We also emphasize on the different HR-related projects that the Union has been undertaking so far, such as the digital transformation initiative, the culture and skills project, ITU Accountability Framework.

Finally, we stress on the importance of leadership of high elected officials for the next cycle by promoting the implementation of the UN System Leadership Framework, such as the five senior leadership commitment, and consider amending also the Annex 1 of this resolution, which is related on matters for reporting to the Council on staff issues, including staff regional offices by including the staff working conditions strategy implementation, ITU Accountability a Framework implementation, and also ITU Oversight Body Recommendations Related to Staff. This are just Annex 1. With that I conclude, Madam Chair. Thank you very much.

>> CHAIR: Thank you very much, Algeria. So, with that we have concluded Theme 1, Human Resources management, Resolution.48, human resources management. I asked my co-chair Ms. Blanca Gonzales from Spain to undertake Chairing of this ad-hoc group, and we will work with her as with the Secretariat. So, when you see this, it will be T1.1 Resolution 48 Human Resources Management on the screens.

With that, we will now move to the next theme, Strategy, Governance, and Management. So, the first up is Resolution 71. And so we have some reports from the Secretariat. The Secretariat will have 3 minutes, and if I can ask that they can go to 2 minutes because we've all seen these reports previously -- oh, wait. No. I'm sorry. The Chair is going to introduce this. I'm sorry. Chair, I'm sorry. You have three minutes. Thank you. Over to you. P-22/20. Are you introducing? No? Who is introducing?

>> SECRETARIATE: Thank you, Chairman. Yesterday in Plenary, I think the Chairman of Council already made a presentation of Document 20. Maybe he could simply repeat what he said in respect of the part dealing with strategy. That's my suggestion. It might be the easiest way to deal with this. If not, we could simply take note of the fact that this document was introduced yesterday at the first Plenary session. Thank you.

>> CHAIR: Thank you, Mr. Baah. As always, you're a wise counsel. Chair of Council would you like to do another introduction, please? Thank you so much. You have the floor. I'm sorry. UAE, you have the floor.

>> UAE: Thank you very much, Chair. I have the pleasure to reintroduce this report. I would like first to congratulate you and your team as the Heads of this Committee and we wish you all the success. This report covers the activity of the ITU from 2018 to 2022, and this is the period that is between the two PPs.

This report is following the same structure of the reports that are submitted usually to the Council and in Document CT/22 over 35 and the report has been finalized and has included the results and outcomes of the major events and other activities that took place meanwhile.

The report specified the major way areas and activities of the ITU and also have taken into account the main event, such as the WRC-19 and WRA-19. WTSA 2020 and as well as the World telecommunication, and highlights the major achievements of the report. We have tried to streamline this document and it is now comprehensive and includes all the major activities and events of the ITU taking into account the outcomes, outputs, as well as evidence collected. It shows also the major overall progress towards achieving the goals of the ITU, and it includes as well major information on the major indicators adopted by the members in the three sectors of the ITU.

We have two Annexes in the report. The first one is about the implementation of the decisions taken by the PP, and also this Annex includes major documents that may be referenced so that you can have a more detailed information on implementation of decisions. As for the second Annex, it takes into account the progress achieved in each sector and share and contribution to implementation of the overall ITU goals and objectives. Can you see the reports on the electronic website, and it is also a smart application that you can download in order to check that the website and this is a very simplified way to look into the report.

We have a first of major activities since 2018 to 2022 and we have also the 2022 Connect initiative so that we can achieve digital and global transformation by 2030. I present to you this report and thank you for your kind attention.

>> CHAIR: Thank you very much. So, I will now turn to we also have the Report of the Council of the Working Group of Strategic and Financial Plans, and however I would like to -- I understand that this was Chaired by Mr. Frederick Savage of France and I would like to defer that proposal or that report, and I would like to move to the Arab proposals on Resolution 71. So, who would be introducing that document? ARB proposals? Do I have someone from the Arab Group that is going to introduce Document 80 -- 78, I'm sorry. Kuwait, you have the floor.

>> KUWAIT: Thank you, Chair. Could you, perhaps, defer the presentation of this document of the Arab Group. We are having a computer issue and we are trying to fix that, so at this time I will not be able to present that document. Thank you.

>> CHAIR: Okay. Thank you, Kuwait. Can I now turn to ACP proposal on Document 80? Vietnam, you have the floor.

>> VIETNAM: We would like to present document 80. First, the APC administration express their appreciation for the work and great efforts of the Council Working Group for the Strategic and Financial Plan 2024 to 2027, the ACP region supports in principle the current structure plan developed by the Council Working Group. On another note, APC feels that the ITU should promote the initiatives on providing digital skills and accessing smart phone to achieve sustainable digital transformation. Editorial modification to the draft, we also propose in the detail of the document.

Madam Chair, APT members and administration would like to propose the modification to the draft Resolution 71 and we would be more than happy to be in detail with other regions to meet mutual benefits. Thank you, Chair.

>> CHAIR: Thank you very much, Vietnam, for introducing that proposal. Arab Region, are we able to go back to Document 78? Okay, so I will turn to France, Frederick Savage, if you could, I know this document will be introduced in the ad hoc that we're going to create here, so if we could keep that short, that would be great. France, you have the floor.

>> FRANCE: Thank you very much, Madam Chair. First, I would like to congratulate you for your nomination to this Committee. It is my pleasure to present the work of the Council Working Group on Strategic and Financial Plans 2024-2027, which I had the pleasure to Chair, as well as the outcome of this work. As you know, we had a very short period of time to complete this task. We've been working very intensively since September 2021. Four meetings were organized, as well as virtual consultations. Additional meetings were organized at the request of the members in order to reach an agreement on the documents.

So, I'm not going to go through all the meetings that took place, but just to recall the guiding principles at that we agreed upon at the end of the first meeting in September, 2021. Those principles were adopted as a way to see how the new strategic framework should evolve, and those principles included simplification and clarity focus, meaning that we need to keep the strategic plan at the high level and identify the main themes of work that reinforce synergies across the sectors and of course the principle of One ITU, which needs to be strengthened according to the members of this group in the strategic plan.

So, the last meeting took place just before the last session of the Council in March, 2022. We discussed different Annexes of the document as well as the main body of the Resolution 71. Just to summarize, I just want to go quickly through the four annexes to the report as they were endorsed by the last Council meeting and submitted to this PP for further consideration and adoption.

So first, the Annex 1 to Resolution 71 is the Draft ITU Strategic Plan itself. So, it's been agreed and revised after the fourth CWG at the meeting and only the reflection of the topic of cybersecurity in the thematic priorities is still kept into square brackets for further consideration by Member States.

The new Draft Strategic Plan is indeed a more high-level document than the previous one. Almost half in size, and more focused on the impact of the work of the ITU in enabling universal connectivity and promoting sustainable digital transformation.

The new Draft Strategic Plan is simplified structure of components, introducing thematic priorities, which can also be across sector and reinforcing the concept of One ITU and implementing the guiding principles that I defined before. The strategic plan defines the products and service offerings by the ITU with a view to demonstrate to an external reader the value --

>> CHAIR: I'm sorry. Can we just introduce -- continue having the discussion in the ad-hoc group because I know that Member States are going to rely on this report as they have conversations in the ad-hoc group.

So, with that, Arab Group, are you ready? Or I can send this directly to the ad-hoc group for further discussion? Algeria, you have the floor.

>> ALGERIA: Yes, thank you, Madam Chair. On behalf of the Arab Group, I'm pleased to provide the presentation of the amendment Document 78, Addendum 5. Briefly the Arab group has been engaging in the process of CWG since the first meeting in September 2021, and we had provided the multi-country contribution to the CW and comment on the draft strategic plan. The contribution to the Plenipotentiary Conference is building upon this comment and we are adding an additional layer of contribution. And Annex 1, we suggest to include strategic risk management, so we think that the inclusion of the strategic risks are ahead of the future cycle is important, so we enumerate a number of risks and related mitigation strategies. We also provided amendment on Annex 2, Section 2.5, summary of ITU's strength, weaknesses, opportunities, which is this one, so we think back to the Swot analysis and included a number of bullets inside the table, so this is in summary, Madam Chair, the proposal. Allow me, Madam Chair, just to raise a question of clarification. I think we have Kigali Action Plan document normally discussed at the Plenipotentiary Conference and maybe it's useful to discuss it within the discussion on the strategic plan. Thank you, Madam Chair.

>> CHAIR: Thank you very much, Algeria. As I summarized at the end, I will ask the room that question. I have a multi-country proposal, 78. Who is going to introduce that document, please. United Kingdom? Thank you, you have the floor.

>> UNITED KINGDOM: Thank you. Firstly, I would like to briefly congratulate you on your appointment and important work of this Committee. I'm pleased to introduce this on behalf of 29 named countries which include Member States from across three different regional groups. We would like to express our strong support for the draft of the strategic plan that was developed by the Council Working Group under the leadership of Frederick Savage from France which was agreed by consensus and then endorsed by the Council.

This draft sets high-level strategic priorities for the Union, consistent with the One ITU approach and it successfully simplifies the strategic plan compared with previous equivalents to better guide the activities of the Union.

We also comment in this contribution on the single unresolved issue in the draft, and it is our view that cybersecurity is best reflected as a cross-cutting activities within and across other thematic activities, with tailored activities in the operational plans of the sectors as set out in option 2. We look forward to further discussions on this resolution. Thank you, Chair.

>> CHAIR: Thank you very much, UK, for the multi-country proposal. So with that, I would like to propose to send this to the ad-hoc group and I asked the Council Working Group Chair Mr. Frederick Savage if he would take this on and to continue the work so that there will be continuity in the discussions. So, if there is no objections to that, we would -- this would be noted as T2-1 Resolution 1 Strategic Plan for the Union as well as on the screen and as well as -- I will also, if there are no objections from Com of, if we include from WTDC the Kigali Strategic Plan discussions, any objections to including that? India has an objection to include that? No. No objections. Okay. That will be done. India, you have the floor.

>> INDIA: Thank you, Madam Chair. Actually, in the last meeting of Council, India had discussed a document on healthy budget for the Union, which the Council decided it will be taken up by Committee 6 and the budget of the Union for the coming 4 years after 27 will be formulated based on the solutions given by India. And that same document we submitted, was Document 93 for PP but that is not visible anywhere, and the Council agreement at the last meeting held here only in Bucharest, that document will become the way of the ITU budget and is to be taken up by this Committee, Ma'am. Thank you so much.

>> CHAIR: India, thank you very much for that. If you at the very beginning of the meeting, I indicated that, yes, that document is on our list but not part of the discussion for today. When we discuss Decision 5, we will have a discussion of your Document 93. Okay. Thank you.

>> INDIA: Thank you, Chair.

>> CHAIR: With that I have -- so, France, do you agree to take on? Yes. Okay. All right. I now have a request, and I know that this is unusual and I would really appreciate your flexibility here. I would like to move up the discussion of Resolution 212, which is our T3.1 Theme 3 Headquarter premises, and we have 17 minutes left and I do think that we can get through this document for this meeting.

I note that our Deputy Secretary-General would greatly appreciate it. So, are there any objections to moving up T3.1 to discuss now? Thank you. All right. No objections.

So, with that, I would like to ask if we could have a read out of Progress Report on the Union's headquarter premises project, Document 62. Secretariat, you have the floor.

>> SECRETARIAT: Thank you, Madam Chair. So, on behalf of the Secretary-General I'm pleased to present Document PP-22/62 the Progress Report of the Union's Headquarter Premises Project. Since PP-18 in Dubai, considerable progress is made and pleased to inform you that the project remains on schedule and on budget as approved if Council decision 619.

Based on the securing the host country loan, sponsorships and donations and new building fund, and the IMAC recommendation to provide oversight and professional project management services was implemented with the contract placed with Hill International. All of the UNDIS requirements for the new building, the public domain and existing building have been met. The costs for the agreed works are covered by the host country. An HR workplace strategy and implementation plan addressing the future modern flexible workplace environment as at the sign concept for the new So, building as required by decision 619 is being developed. The space allocation enabling fair distribution of space and treatment of staff during relocation is approved and new being implemented in detail.

Test per floor for the General Secretariat department and bureaus are being prepared based on functional requirements gathered with an expensive consultative process. The goal is to provide a healthy and effective work environment for staff within the constraints of the available space that builds on the successful teleworking experience during the pandemic and that will transition towards the new flexible work arrangement as required by Council Decision 619.

After finalization of the workplace assessment report, including post-COVID lessons learned, analyzing the ITU staff profiles, and verifying the departments and seconder-specific needs, we can confirm the building is adequately sized, the introduction of flexible workspace and open-space concept as required in Decision 58 A.is implemented and will allow for a fit out allowing the recent changes for global working environment.

Venues for ITU meetings that currently do not have facilities reserved during the transitional period, when ITU facilities are not available, and has been discussed with interested Member States and we hope that there will be some announcement to that effect during this conference.

Currently, the process of evaluating the package is received from the pre-selected general constructers is underway, and the evaluation --

>> CHAIR: Kathryn, I'm sorry. Let's hold any further introduction or discussion when we discuss the document. Okay. Thank you.

With that, can I ask Canada, U.S. to introduce Document 19, who is making that introduction? United States, you have the floor.

>> UNITED STATES OF AMERICA: Thank you, Madam Chair. One second. On behalf of the United States and Canada, we're pleased to Document 19 addendum 2 with modifications to Resolution 212. We all agree that the current ITU Headquarters does not meet the ITU requirement. We also want to make clear that we continue to support plans for a new building. We thank those who have been working these past few years on this project for the costs and oversee the implementation. It's a huge project for the Union.

We do, however, have some concerns that the pre-COVID plans don't account for the current reality, in particular sky rocketing inflation and contributory units mostly unchanged from 2006 limbed flexibility in the budget. We heard from Mr. Baah the past few weeks there is 47-million gap for unmoneyed mandatory activities. At the same time the UN is rapidly changing how they manage staff and where they allow employees to work, telework, and virtual meeting platforms are changing the way we do business, and we think it's time to -- it's a good time to review the planning to ensure that the ITU headquarters will meet the needs of the ITU, but mostly also to ensure that the financial footing is strong and can absorb any risks.

We recall discussions during Council in the past weekend recalling the external auditors about the value of the tower being underestimated or overestimated. We also heard the report of the progress of building that indicates at least of million Swiss francs and potential risks due to inflation, including those from inflation. So, we have proposed some changes that seek to instruct the Secretariat to review the state of play in a way that's transparent about the financial risks to the ITU, and to take full account of the business operational continuity plans between now and when the new building is available, and have the changes in the working and staffing needs have been taken into account in the plan. We think in supporting as Member States for us to review carefully these concerns at this juncture before we move forward with the project and look forward to conversations. Thank you.

>> CHAIR: Thank you very much, U.S. Now, I have the Arab State proposals. Who is going to introduce Document 78? Thank you. Kuwait, you have the floor.

>> KUWAIT: Thank you very much, Chair. Kuwait has presented a proposal with regard to a loan of 2.5-million. We would like that proposal to be added to Resolution 212 with regard to the amendments that we had proposed for that sum. The space should bear the name of the Shak of Kuwait, the Ma of humanity that is proposed by Kuwait with the cooperation of ITU and part of the proposals put forward by Kuwait, according to the Proposal 619. We must take this into account when discussing this matter. Thank you.

>> CHAIR: Thank you so much, Kuwait. My apologies for having the timer go off during your proposal. With that, I would like to open the floor for general discussion, and with the aim of seeing if we can come to, without having to send this to an ad-hoc group. So, the floor is open. I'm sorry. Before I do that, Deputy General, Malcolm Johnson, would like to take the floor.

>> MALCOLM JOHNSON: I would just like to remind everyone that we have an interest-free loan from Switzerland, 103-million to be repaid over 50 years starting when the new building is opened, in 2027. So that will be 3-million per year, 3-million a year is less than 2% of our annual budget. So, we have all the money we need for that project, thanks to that loan and the sponsorships that have been kindly given. The only exception is the 5.2 million in the Umax and this is for AV equipment, which would need to be bought anyway, even if we didn't have the new building.

As for renting, we don't need to rent because thanks to COVID, we had this experience of working from home, which worked very effectively, so reconfiguring the other two buildings, we will have capacity for 60% of our staff at any one time because they're all working hybrid, and so this is a -- this is the number that we currently have coming into the office. So, no change.

And as we heard from Staff Council, they're generally supportive of the project, and of course there are some people who have always worked in ITU all their lives that have some concerns about the change of culture, but generally speaking, they're supportive.

And the option of refurbing the building instead of building a new building was looked at in 2015 and it was dismissed because it was too expensive. The tower was valued just two years ago of between 30-million and 40-million and that costs $30,000 just to get that estimate.

Currently we have oversight groups in addition to the Council, of course, the IMAC, external audit, MSAG, and internal audit, and if a new committee was to be established to report to the Council next year, we would have to delay the signing of the general contract, and this according to Hill International would cost 1-million extra to the budget.

Also, we have an estimate from Hill International, which of course is a highly reputable international company, that if we were to stop the project as is mentioned, it is going to cost the ITU about 40-million. And, of course, that's going to raise questions about the future of the organization and certainly will harm its reputation.

Regarding the inflation, Hill International has looked at that, and thanks to the strong Swiss franc it's much better than in Switzerland than in other countries and it's currently estimated to be within the contingency that we already have in the budget.

Regarding meeting facilities, we have an offer from Switzerland which I think is going to be very satisfactory. And I finally, just would like to invite everyone to look at the display we have in the ITU exchange downstairs which shows you what a wonderful building this will be for staff and delegates and is the future of the ITU. Thank you very much, Madam Chair.

>> CHAIR: Thank you, Mr. Johnson. All right. I have Russia -- federation of Russia, United Arab Emirates, and I would like to -- all right.

So, I have Saudi Arabia, United States, Algeria. Thank you.

And I would like the interpreters, if I could ask for 10 minutes, please.

>> 10 minutes is okay, Chair.

>> CHAIR: Thank you. Kuwait, the list, I'm now closing the list so if you would like to get -- if you would like to request the floor, please do so now. Russian Federation, you have the floor.

>> RUSSIAN FEDERATION: Thank you very much, Chairman. We're grateful for the documents and I will try to be brief in responding. Thank you for the report. We would like to make the report that there is a lot of information that hasn't been brought up to date since June, despite the fact that the meeting relating to this was held in September, and I think a lot of updated information was at that meeting. We would, therefore, urge the Secretariat to update its information and include that which was brought to the previous meeting -- to the latest meeting, and that includes information on WSIS.

Now, the expenditure on the project at the end of June was, we think, 16-million francs. However, there is no specific indication as to which particular services to whom are included in that victim. We have raised this question before, we always do raise it and Member States would like to have this information so as to have a full picture on the progress with respect to the project. We'd urge the Secretariat, therefore, to provide this information either in the report or in an additional information document.

On the contributions from Member States, we would like to express our thanks to the Member States from the Arab Region, United States, and Canada for their proposal, which seem to be in line with our approach. We don't have an official contribution, but we would also like to participate in the reconsideration and review of Resolution 212. We share the opinion that life is forcing us to make very quick corrections and adjustments everywhere and that needs to be done with this project as well and we need to bring it up to date. So, the Russian Federation will be happy to participate in it work, and we'd like you to take note of that intention. Thank you.

>> CHAIR: Thank you very much, Russian Federation. Now I have the UAE, please, you have the floor.

>> UAE: Thank you very much, Madam Chair. First, we would like to congratulate you for chairing this Committee. I would also like to thank for the report submitted ITU on the progress of the building going on, on the building project.

Madam Chair, all of us here are also here and heard from the Secretary-General about the progress going on and when I saw the progress right now and how it's going on with all of those things that we have here right now, why we need to go back again to have another committee to review this resolution to see and do the same progress we have done before, the same work that we have done before. Already the work has been done, and we can see that the progress is going well. One thing that we have here right now from the Deputy Secretary-General, if there will be a delay, there will be a penalty about 40-million U.S. franc -- Swiss franc and that will have a big implication on ITU. So, on behalf of Arab Group we are surprised that we would go back right now again to review the resolution to have a committee. We cannot support at that right now on this progress or on this proposal to review resolution except for the modification that additional fund is made by one of the Arab Countries, Kuwait, and other than that to go back to Committee with the explanation that we just heard from the Deputy Secretary-General, I don't think we need to go back to have another committee. Also, we would like to hear from MSAC Committee if he's available to say what is going on with this project. That is also from us. This is on behalf of Arab Group our comments, Madam Chair. We are happy to discuss it, but we cannot accept to have ad-hoc group. We would like to discuss it here. Thank you.

>> CHAIR: Thank you very much, UAE, on behalf of Arab States. Now I have Saudi Arabia, you have the floor.

>> SAUDI ARABIA: Thank you, Chairman. To begin with, congratulations on being appointed to Chair this very important Committee. We wish you the best of luck in your work. Chairman, I should also like to thank all the Member States and all the regions which have submitted proposals relating to this issue, which is of course an issue of enormous interest to us.

I'm not going to hide from you, Chairman, that we have already discussed these questions in the MSAC committee dealing with the management issues, and if those meetings, I did express some of the concerns that we had. Those relating to proposals concerning inter alia, the evaluation of the ongoing work and possible delays in certain areas of that work. As has already been said and as the Committee emphasized, delays could lead to cost-over runs and additional expenditure.

At the moment, colleagues, we do have tools, and there are groups monitoring the questions and if the groups they have the opportunity to discuss the concerns and discuss the matter further. I hope we'll be able to do that. Thank you.

>> CHAIR: Thank you very much, Saudi Arabia. United States, you have the floor.

>> UNITED STATES OF AMERICA: Thank you, Madam Chair. Thank you to the Deputy Secretary-General for his comments and explanations, and I just want to -- we do understand the points around the timing and cost and the intention is not to totally delay or derail the progress on the building. I think, you know, as we're looking at the reports from the external auditor and some of the risks identified, we have had some conversations about where there are some risks, and where the financial status to the Union overall doesn't give a lot of room for absorbing any of those risks. I think that for us, we think there is certainly some conversations available to have about the timing of it, and we understand there are other mechanisms or groups where we can have these conversations. I think we're here at the Plenipotentiary, we're looking at our budget picture, we're looking at the future of the next four years of the Union, and we think that it's important for us to have a means to make sure that we have the full financial picture, all of the costs and risks that are part of the building and to make sure that that does not impact the ITU's ability to execute on its core mandate.

I hear the points, and I know we're at the end of the time here. I think we would be happy to have some more conversations again. We're open to views on the proposal to see how we can have these conversations about addressing some of the risks that have been identified and the concerns also expressed by the Member States here. Thank you very much.

>> CHAIR: Thank you very much, United States. Algeria, you have the floor.

>> ALGERIA: Thank you, Madam Chair. Speaking on behalf of the African Region. We echo the comment made by the Arab Group and of course Madam Chair we echo the sentiment by the United States in the risks reflected in the external auditor report, but the, you know, creating a new platform is -- it might not be relevant way forward, so we speak on the manner which we are dealing with the risks, I echo the wise comment by the Deputy Secretary-General in exploring the existing platforms, we have MSAG, external auditors and IMAC that we can rely on in moving forward. So, that's our comment, Madam Chair. Thank you very much.

>> CHAIR: Thank you very much, Algeria. Kuwait, you have the floor.

>> KUWAIT: Thank you, Chairman. I'd like to associate myself with the statements made by my colleagues from the UAE, Saudi Arabia, and Algeria. We would rather not set up another group to deal with this issue. We would prefer to go forward as we decided earlier. Thank you.

>> CHAIR: Thank you very much, Kuwait. Finally, Iran, you have the floor.

>> ISLAMIC REPUBLIC OF IRAN: Thank you very much, Madam Chair. Let me congratulate you on your appointment as the Chair of this very important Committee. On the substance, I would like to associate myself with the comments by my distinguished colleague from UAE, Saudi Arabia, Algeria, Kuwait, I think we have already done some extensive studies, and maybe time has come for us to move forward. We prefer to have discussions on this topic if needed in this Committee and not in any ad hoc. Thank you very much.

>> CHAIR: Thank you very much, Iran. So, as my -- as we agreed to on the agenda, but it's extremely clear that the room would prefer to have the discussion on 212 not in an ad-hoc group, so what I'm going to propose is that we only have three minutes left, and I will -- we will move this not to an ad-hoc group, but we will continue to discuss it in Com 6. However, at our next meeting, we didn't make it as far as I wanted on our agenda and we have a substantial group left, Res25, and I will start with Res 25 at the next meeting and then we'll move to discussing 212 in the room.

Any objections to that path forward?

I would encourage everyone to have -- please collaborate on Resolution 212. I do think that there is -- there is room for consensus here and just remember if there is no consensus, we will move back to the no change from 2018. So, with that, UK, is it on Resolution 212? No. Not on Resolution 212. Federation of Russia, is it on Resolution 212? Is it on Resolution 212?

If you recall, I closed the floor on Resolution 212, and if we could bring this back to our next Committee 6 meeting for further discussion. Okay. I appreciate your patience. Thank you very much. All right, so before we close the meeting, UK, you have an announcement, I believe. You have the floor.

>> UNITED KINGDOM: Thank you, Chair. I'm delighted to invite colleagues to lunch hosted by the United Kingdom starting now in the hall on the way to the plenary room. Thanks.

>> CHAIR: Thank you very much for that invitation, UK. Thank you. The meeting is adjourned. Thank you very much. Bye-bye.

(session completed at 4:39 a.m. CST)

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