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COMMITTEE 6

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>> CHAIR: Thank you. Good morning. Welcome to the second meeting of Committee 6. We're going to get started. If everyone would please take your seats. We have a special guest today, so I would like to propose a few ‑‑ our agenda is in Document ADM/10 Revision 2. ADM/10 Revision 2. And as we indicated ‑‑ today is Wednesday so on Tuesday at the first meeting, remember we have a few ground rules, right. We are going to be brief as possible, and brief as possible except for our special guest is 3 minutes. And as we discussed yesterday, right, we are going to after 3 minutes, if we have not completed the introduction of your proposal, what I will do if it is going to an ad‑hoc group. We will finish discussing the item in the ad‑hoc group. So, those are our ground rules for our Committee.

If you look at our proposed agenda, our theme under Theme 5 is events and publications and management is further down the agenda. However, I would like to propose that we move Theme 5.1 up because our special guest, Minister of Communications and Digitalization, Ursula Owusu‑Ekuful. And I'm butchering her last name, I'm sorry, is here today as she was the Chair for the WTPF and we would like to have her present the report, and I would like to move that up. Any objections to that? No objections? Thank you. So, we will move that up to the very beginning of our meeting.

And then I was just also informed that Theme 8, 8.1, the proponents are ready to introduce that document so this will come off our agenda as well. I don't think there should be any objections to that. Okay.

With that, I would like to turn it over to our Guest of Honor, the Minister. Good morning.

>> URSULA OWUSU‑EKUFUL: Good morning. I speak as Chair of the 6th World Telecommunications and Policy Forum held online from 16 to 18 of December last year, and I'm pleased to present Document 33, the Report on the 6th World Telecommunications and ICT Policy Forum, WTPF‑21, which summarizes the preparatory process, rollout and outcome of the 6th ITU WTPF‑21. It was attended by more than 400 delegates, representing 29 Member States, 42 Sector Members and close to 10 observer entities. VIPs also participated in the forum, including Ministers and Deputy Ministers as well as several heads of regulatory agencies. The preparatory process for the Forum took place through the IG‑WTPF‑21 over a period of two years chaired by Dr. Fabio Bigi. The opinions ultimately adopted by the Forum touched upon a wide range of issues, opinion 1, dealt with the enabling environment for the development and deployment of new and emerging telecommunications and ICT services and technologies to advance sustainable development.

Opinion 2 was an affordable and secure connectivity in mobilizing new and emerging telecommunications and ICTs for sustainable development. Opinion 3 dealt with digital literacy and skills for inclusive access. Opinion 4 was on new and emerging technologies and services to facilitate the use of telecommunications and ICTs for sustainable development. And opinion 5 was on the use of telecommunications and ICTs during COVID‑19 and future pandemic and epidemic preparedness and response.

What we saw during and throughout the preparations for this Forum was the display of spectacular consensus building on opinions that I believe will help align ICTs and emerging technologies with global priorities for sustainable development. It's now up to us to build on this. The 2022 Session of Council as well as the World Telecommunications Standardization Assembly and the World Telecommunications Development Conference, WTDC, have all applauded the outcomes of the WTPF. The conversations in WTSA and WTDC have greatly benefited from the opinions resulting from the WTPF‑21.

I'm confident that PP‑22 can leverage the outcomes of WTPF‑21 in finding agreements to your discussions in related areas. Thank you very much and look forward to working with all of you in the weeks to come to carry this important work forward. Thank you.

>> CHAIR: (Speaking off mic).

(captioner cannot hear Chair).

Any comments?

Thank you. Thank you very much, so if we move back to the top of our agenda, yesterday we said we would come back to ‑‑ we introduced ‑‑ we created two ad‑hoc groups, one from Theme 1, human resources management and Theme 2 strategic resources and government. And under Theme 2, strategic plan for the Union for 2024‑2027, we did not introduce an African Common Proposal, and I want to apologize to the African Regional Group. It was an oversight, so I would like to correct that oversight this morning, and I would like to give you the opportunity to present your proposal. Is there someone here to ‑‑ also, we just realized that our flag ‑‑ not our flag, but our electronic display is not working, so when you want to take the floor, please raise your white flag or your lollipop flag and we will give you the floor.

I would like to give the floor now to ‑‑ who will introduce the Common Proposal on Resolution 71, and that's Document 83, ADD 38. Is there anyone in the room? Okay. All right. So, what I will do is that will be also discussed in ‑‑ that will be discussed in the ad‑hoc group, and so please, I will make sure I talk to the Chair, Mr. Frederic Sauvage from France to make sure that the African Common Proposal is introduced at his meeting.

All right. Now, moving to Resolution 25, that's Theme 2 under Strategy Government and Management. We have Resolution 25, strengthening of regional presence. And my first proposal here is RCC proposals and that's Document 68. Remember, you have 3 minutes to introduce your proposal. Who will introduce that proposal, please? From RCC? Yes. Russian Federation.

>> RUSSIAN FEDERATION: Can I speak in Russian.

>> CHAIR: Yes.

>> RUSSIAN FEDERATION: Thank you. Thank you very much, Madam Chair. Unfortunately, prior to this meeting, I wasn't acquainted with the procedure as to how to request the floor, so if you could give me just a second, please, I will voice our proposals. We think that Resolution 25, 191 and 148 given the proposal submitted by all regions are close and interlinked and we would like to propose to you to consider them one block on the agenda, and in the future to send to the same ad hoc under the chairmanship of one and the same person would be more convenient for us to work with these three resolutions. We hope that you will consider this proposal and maybe we can work in this manner.

Now with regard to the presentation of our document as you see, we have tried to reflect all the progress achieved during the previous four years. We have made many amendments, perhaps there is no need at present to dwell on each and every one, but we tried the reflect the most important areas, including the work done by the general Secretariat and the BDT. We tried to reflect all of this and we stand ready to discuss our proposals during the work of the ad hoc, and I'd like to come back to our proposal once again that if possible, we would suggest to consider the proposals on Resolution 25, 191, and 148 as part of the same ad hoc and the same block on the agenda. Thank you very much, Madam Chair.

>> CHAIR: Thank you very much. I now turn to CITEL to introduce Document 76. Thank you.

>> CITEL: Thank you, Madam Chair. Good morning, everyone. On behalf of CITEL I present our Resolution on point 5. Our proposal to amend resolution .5 is to update the roles and assigned to regional area offices to engage them in the WTDC‑22 approved initiatives of the Network of Women, Generation Connect, and Partner 2 Connect. It calls for the need to realize assessment rereviews of regional presence whenever requested by the ITU Council. It also calls for the need to strengthen relations with regional and sub‑regional organizations through one goal in cooperation to simulate the mutual exchange of experience and assistance with the implementation of the regional initiatives, and to engage them in the capacity‑building and development activities in the framework of the new ITU Academy Training Centers.

Most importantly, it stresses the need for a skilled regional focal point for the three sectors of the Union appointed in the field, an issue that was discussed in the last session of ITU Council, and that remains at the top for the following sessions. Thank you, Madam Chair.

>> CHAIR: Thank you very much, Rosel, for introducing the proposals. We now have the Arab Proposal, the Arab Regional Proposals, please, and Document 78. Who will introduce?

>> EGYPT: Good morning, Chair. This is Egypt and I will be presenting the Arab Proposal and presenting in Arabic.

>> CHAIR: Thank you, go ahead, please. There is no English translation.

>> EGYPT: Activities of regional groups in supporting ‑‑ for it reason we have amended Resolution at that.

>> CHAIR: Can we check the English Channel, please.

>> EGYPT: For this remark, we have sought to reactivate the principle of One ITU. We have tried to enable the offices to take reservations and to include regional objectives and the strategic plan.

Likewise, we thought that it is necessary to increase the resources of regional bureaus, financial resources and human resources, taking into consideration the various differences in resources due to the various offices in order to enable them to implement regional initiatives in a practical manner.

Likewise, we have stressed the need to help countries and to develop an action plan which will be submitted to the Council in the framework of the general regional presence.

The amendments have stressed the importance of coordination between regional offices and the UN System at all levels while ensuring the necessary training of human resources in regional offices and improving their performance. We have also stressed the need to diversify various skills in order to implement the activities of the regional offices, and this in order to support Member States from the various regions is also important to improve cooperation between regional offices and the ITU area offices. Thank you.

>> CHAIR: Thank you very much, Egypt. Now, if I could have a delegate to introduce the EPT Common Proposals and Document 80. Thank you. Is there a delegate in the room that could introduce the ‑‑ yes. Could you, you have the floor.

>> APT: Thank you, Madam Chair. I'm speaking on behalf of APT and will be very brief. Our proposals are mainly editorial, and we would also like to propose to instruct the Council to review the efforts of sectors to the extent practicable, empowering regional offices and strengthening staff if required to support efforts of all ITU sectors in the region. Thank you.

>> CHAIR: Thank you very much. Next on the list is the African Common Proposal and Document 83. Someone please from the African Regional Group please introduce the document. Is there no one here?

Okay. If you would allow me to, we will come back to that document. And the last document here is Czech Republic and Poland proposals, in Document 92. Who will introduce that document? Okay. Yes. Go ahead.

>> CZE/POL: Thank you very much, Madam Chair. As you can see that this multi‑country proposal is a very simple one, and we are happy to follow all of the discussions because our general feeling is that the proposals from all the other regions in large go in the same direction. Our proposal only and mainly mentioned the need of an assessment that is necessary to check if the services provided by the regional offices are properly done and the offices are fully able to fulfill their duties. So, we are ready and prepared to be involved in the discussions and to go through them to find a way forward and possible compromise. Thank you very much.

>> CHAIR: Thank you very much. Here is how I propose we deal with the documents related to Resolution 25. I have spoken with during the last year, the Chair, the Council Working Group on FHR, we had an ad‑hoc group that focused on Resolution 25, so I would like to propose that the ad‑hoc group Chair from that meeting, Ms. Stella Erebor, and you all know here as the Chair of the Admin Committee this last year, that she take on the role as Chair of the ad‑hoc group for Resolution 25, and with that I would also ask that she ‑‑ if she accepts, and I would also ask that the African Common Proposals be given an opportunity to introduce their proposal there as well. So, I will now ‑‑ yes, you have the floor.

>> STELLA EREBOR: Thank you, Chair. I accept responsibility. Thank you.

>> CHAIR: One moment. We recognize that there was a request to have 191 ‑‑ 121, 148 to be discussed together. Please hold on.

So, just making sure, I don't see 121. Was it 121 or 191? Federation of Russia, please.

>> RUSSIAN FEDERATION: Yes. It's 191.

>> CHAIR: Thank you. So, there is a proposal on the table to include Resolution 148 if this discussion. Are there any objections to including 148 into the Resolution 25 discussion?

All right. I see no objections. Before that we can send this over to the ad‑hoc group, I would like to ask that the Russian Federation please introduce Document 148 and you have 3 minutes. Thank you.

>> RUSSIAN FEDERATION: Thank you very much, Madam Chair. Our proposal is the following, it's a resolution specifying the powers of Deputy Secretary‑General under the Constitution says at that time Secretary‑General can delegate some of his powers to the Deputy Secretary‑General. We took into consideration the discussion that took place at the previous PPs, and many regions expressed the view that the Deputy Secretary‑General could undertake a greater coordination function authored for all three sectors to be represented in the regions. So, the essence of our proposal is that the Deputy Secretary‑General could occupy a central role in issues related to coordination between the three sectors on issues related to regional presence as well as help regional offices to cooperate and coordinate with the sectors.

We understand that certain issues are outside the framework of the powers of the BDT and in this case the Deputy Secretary‑General could provide valuable assistance and support for the work of regional offices. This is the essence of our proposal. I thank you.

>> CHAIR: Thank you. So, with that introduction, we will send that document. I see Stella shaking her head. Perfect. On Resolution 191, I think that's a little different that is the strategy for the coordination among the three sectors of the Union. I do think the issue here is a little different; however, I do see there is coordination involved around the Secretariat as well as the three sectors.

And I'm not opposed, but I want to make sure that the room doesn't oppose either, so I will put it to the COM 6. Is there any objection to including Resolution 91 into the ad‑hoc group addressing Resolution 25 and Resolution 148 and then we will also add Resolution 191. Any objection to that?

All right. I see no objection to at that, so that will be done. So that means that we need to introduce the proposals underneath T2.6. Those that know me, know me. Sometimes jumping around will kind of get ‑‑ it makes me like on a seesaw; however, I'm being agile. However, since we agreed to document ‑‑ we go to T2.6 Resolution 191, and I have the proposals from the Russian Federation Document 68. Please introduce your document. Thank you.

>> RUSSIAN FEDERATION: Distinguished Madam Chair; yes, we know how you work and we share your approach, but what I would like to ask, however, is for five minutes if another region is ready to present, then I would let them go ahead because I still need some time. Thank you.

>> CHAIR: Yes. I'm sorry this is an RCC proposal and not Russian Federation. Forgive me. CITEL, are you ready to introduce Document 76 related to Resolution 191?

Okay. Arab States ‑‑ oh, wait. Someone raised their hand? Arab States are you ready to introduce Document 78?

All right. Here is what I would like to do. Since no one objected to moving T2.6 to discussion under the ad‑hoc group related to Res 25. I'm going to ask Stella to have these documents introduced in her ad hoc meeting, so we're just going to forward them to the ad hoc, and on the screen, we'll make it very clear that this includes Res. 25, Res. 148 and 191, so that we all know. Egypt?

>> EGYPT: Yes. Thank you, Madam Chair. My colleague is online and raising her hand. She's also requesting to raise a little bit the voice because it's not hearing very well. Thank you.

>> CHAIR: All right. I don't see ‑‑ we don't see a hand raised online. Yes. Okay. You have the floor.

>> EGYPT: Thank you, Madam Chair. It seems there has been some problem with the raised hand. I have raised my hand, and I would kindly just ask that you speak closer to the microphone because with the online it's a little bit difficult to hear the Chair. I apologize for that, and I'm ready to present Resolution 191 from the Arab States and I will do so in Arabic.

>> CHAIR: Thank you. You have the floor.

>> EGYPT: Thank you very much, Madam Chair. The Arab Group has introduced amendment to Resolution 191 about the coordination of efforts of the C sector of the Union. Those have come as we do believe in the One Union concept and that all the sectors have to coordinate the regional activities through the regional offices and bureaus because they do represent themselves as well the C sectors and they represent as well the Secretariat at the regional level. This is why the amendments that we have introduced refer to the fact that the regional bureaus have to represent the sector of information and ICT development and others so that they can have a good regional presence, and this is why in order to disseminate the concept of the One Union, the Geneva Headquarters as well as the regional bureaus have to play a good effort in order to enforce our endeavors that reach the objectives of the Union. This will lead to empowering the regional offices and bureaus. We would like to ask the Secretary‑General to enforce the coordination activities between the C sectors in order to undertake the regional activities of regional bureaus. We ask the Secretary‑General to present and disseminate all the activities that are being undertaken so that they are implemented through the regional bureaus. Thank you very much, Madam Chair.

>> CHAIR: Thank you very much. With that introduction, we will now send ‑‑ RCC, are you ready? Okay. Thank you.

>> RCC: Thank you very much, Madam Chair. Yes, we are ready to present very quickly in order to help Stella our Chairwoman in her work. Our proposal is also very similar to that of the Arab States. We support strengthening coordination of regional offices and the three sectors in order to achieve and implement the concept of One ITU.

And in order for us to have equal representation of three bureaus in the regions, therefore we note the importance of such coordination when conducting regional fora, workshops, and other events, and also when providing technical assistance to Member States in the regions.

And the Reg and TDAG were mentioned but not TSAG and we added an advisory group which is very important. Thank you, Madam Chair.

>> CHAIR: Thank you very much. With that I am putting Res. 25 in the proposals, Res. 148 and 191 in the hands of you, Chair, Stella, and thank you very much for taking this on. Please let us know what you need and, Mr. Baah will work with you ‑‑ his team will work with you to find time and you will have a Secretariat as well. Thank you.

>> STELLA EREBOR: Thank you, too.

>> CHAIR: Awesome. Thank you. All right. So, I know, again, I thank you all for your flexibility and being agile this morning. So, now, why don't we go to T2.3, and that's Resolution 151, improvement of result's‑based management in the ITU. And so I have one proposal from the RCC region, and RCC, will you please introduce Document 68. Thank you. Thank you. Russian Federation, you have the floor.

>> RUSSIAN FEDERATION: Thank you, Madam Chair. I present Resolution 151 on behalf of the RCC. We thought that it was necessary to increase the importance of this resolution, which is designed to improve the management process in the ITU, taking into consideration the development of results‑based management in the United Nations as a whole.

Furthermore, we understood that the development factors in the area of telecommunications must be reflected in the management methods that the ITU management will required to be used in the next four years. They will affect not only the ITU as a whole, but each ITU staff member.

For this reason, in our joint contribution, I would like to stress that this is an RCC contribution. We suggested to state the goals of results‑based management, which are linked to improvements in efficiency of each individual staff member and the ITU as a whole in order to monitor decision implementation more efficiently and to also monitor our quite limited resources.

Secondly, we saw the need to strengthen coordination and cooperation within the framework of all sectors in order to take into consideration mutual interests of these sectors, the general Secretariat and of course all ITU Members.

Lastly, we wanted for everything linked to management of premise to be reflected in the new accountability reporting system approved in the 2022 by the Council in order to improve the work of the ITU as a whole. Thank you, Madam Chair.

>> CHAIR: Thank you very much. Here is how I would like to ‑‑ there is one proposal from the RCC region, and there are no other regional proposals or multi‑country proposals. I would like to try to see if we can get through this document in Plenary, and if not, after about 10 minutes, I will take this offline and assign a coordinator. I would like to try to see if we can find common ground and have our first document approved that goes to the Editorial Committee. Any objections?

All right, so if we could go to Page 2 of Resolution 151. The editorial changes in considering A., (b), and (c), I do not think we need to spend time on because the Editorial Committee will make sure we have everything correct there. Considering (d), Resolution 191 of the print conference that contains a strategy to enhance coordination strategy for effective and efficient efforts in areas of dual interest to the three ITU sectors and the general Secretariat. I will continue to read. Any objection to including, (d), Resolution 191?

Okay. I see no objections.

Oh, so I have seat 2144. I don't know who that is. Can the audio team help here in so, if you're asking for the floor, you really have to raise your flag and wave. I will not see that as a sign of disrespect. I really cannot see you. And if you raise your lollipop as well.

Okay. Item (e), all right, we can approve that. There is a proposal to delete Item (d) and (e), under considering. Okay. No objection there.

Under noting, please see noting on the screen, all of noting (a), any objection to the edits? Noting (b)? All right. Approved.

Recognizing (a)? No objection. Item (b)? Raising (b)? All right. Approved.

Recognizing (c)? Approved.

Recognizing further? Approved.

Emphasizing, (a)? I have seat 219 ‑‑ 219 seat 2202. Kuwait. You have the floor.

>> KUWAIT: Good morning, Chair. I would like to thank RCC for those amendments that they have introduced. I just have one question about this sentence that it will increase the effectiveness of activities, we need to reinforce accountability. They have added the use of performance indicators for the staff. I don't know whether we have any indicators for staff performance, so what about staff performance? Do we have any indicators for that? Because if there is none, we have to adopt and decide upon the new indicators for staff performance. Thank you very much.

>> CHAIR: Thank you, Kuwait. I will turn to Mr. Diego in the room in okay. Mr. Diego, could you please address that question because I do believe that's a human resources question. Thank you.

>> Mr. DIEGO: Thank you very much for the question. We do have a performance assessment system already. This allows us to measure the performance of our staff as a whole; therefore, I think this covers the question that is being asked here.

>> CHAIR: Thank you very much. I see Kuwait nodding their head that this addresses their question. Any objections to emphasizing (a)? All right. Seat 2144, I also have seat 1989. Please raise your flag. Perhaps this is a mistake.

All right, so we will approve emphasizing (a)

Emphasizing (b), me objection to emphasizing (b)?

I still have seat 2114? Maybe it is me? No, it's not me. Okay. All right. Nope. No questions or comments. Approved.

Next, we're going to go all the way down to resolves to instruct the Secretary‑General and the directors of the three bureaus. Resolve number (vi)? Any objection? Seems pretty clear. We did to this at Council. Okay. Approved.

Item 3. I believe the substantive change here is Council Working Group FHR. Any objection? No objection, so item 3 is approved.

Item 4? Approved.

Item 5? I believe it is an editorial change so we don't need to look there.

As we move down to item 8 is an editorial change as well.

The new instructs the ITU Council number 1, changing implementation to application. Any objection there? Yes. Indonesia? I'm sorry, you have the floor.

>> INDONESIA: Thank you, Madam Chair for the floor. Thank you, Russian Federation, for the presentation. Since this is the first time initially taking the floor, let me congratulate you for your appointment as the Chair of Committee 6.

In part ITU Council 1, propose to keep original text due to application is part of implementation of RPM and RBB and ITU. Thank you, Madam Chair.

>> CHAIR: Cote d'Ivoire, you have the floor.

>> COTE d'IVOIRE: Morning. Thank you very much, Madam Chair. I would also like to align myself for congratulating you on your appointment, and I support the proposal that has been made because implementation does imply application as well. Thank you.

>> CHAIR: Thank you very much. RCC, I do agree with the implementation would cover application, so could we please keep the original text? I see shaking of heads. Okay. We will do that. There will be no change to this instructs. Thank you.

Now, the new instructs of council, number 2. Any comments there? No one asking for the floor. Thank you. Okay.

With that if there are no objections, I'll put the whole document to the floor. If there are no objections, we have approved our first document to go to the Editorial Committee. Thank you.

(Applause).

Now I think that we will take a 15‑minute break? Right now? I can continue? Okay. All right. Moving now to T2.4, that's Resolution 157 of strengthening of the project execution and project monitoring functions of ITU. That's Theme 2 Item 4. I have proposals from the RCC and also proposals from the Africa Region. So, if the RCC would please introduce Document 68 ADD 11, you have the floor.

>> RUSSIAN FEDERATION: Thank you very much, Madam Chair. Yes, we prepared proposals supplementing. I wouldn't call revision but supplements 157 on strengthening of project execution, project monitoring in ITU. There are two of them. The first supplement or edition relates to the overall practice of executing projects within the framework of regional initiatives. Everyone, all countries encounter this in regions when they implement projects. We propose this supplement on the basis of the financial provisions of the ITU, in particular the supplement says that expenditure of no less than 7% of additional expenditure on administrative expenditure of the Union must be agreed upon by participants depending or not whether they will be incurred by the Union.

It's no secret that there are cases sometimes when the ITU Staff are implementing this within the framework of their daily working functions; and therefore, there is no additional burden on them, so we propose to make a proposal that an assessment must be made whether the expenditure will be incurred or not as done in the financial indications of the ITU.

The second edition is to involve experts who work within the framework of technical assistance provided to Member States or who are involved in project implementation. You know very well that many regions on individual issues, in particular those related to new technologies, emerging technologies, do not have many experts. Many experts already 70 years' old and even older. But in those cases when they continue their work in their countries, for example, when they are heading some sort of scientific research departments and institutes academies or other departments, so they are actively working. We propose to involve them as well in the work.

Today, the provisions, the staff provisions limit these possibilities to involve these experts who are over 70 years' old. We suggest to involve these key experts who continue working in their countries to involve them as experts when implementing regional projects within regional initiatives. These are two main proposals. I hope that they will be agreed upon and we stand ready to discuss them. I thank you very much.

>> CHAIR: Thank you very much, and I want you to know that the timer wasn't going off for you and I had set a timer for our previous agenda of 10 minutes, and we finished before the 10 minutes and I just canceled, so I apologize for that.

The next proposal for here is the African Common Proposal in Document 83 ADD 17. Who from the Africa Region will introduce that proposal? I have seat 4021. Kenya, you have the floor. Thank you.

>> KENYA: Thank you, Madam Chair. I'll be very brief. The gist of this proposal is two issues. The first is about reflecting the importance of supporting the ITU through the regional and national data‑collection systems to supplement in the monitoring of the projects.

And, secondly, it's follow‑up of the ITU financial reports and audit reports that feel the BDT project assets were not being properly recorded or monitored. Thank you, Madam Chair.

>> CHAIR: Thank you very much. What I would like to do is if I could ask the RCC and Africa Region to get together and merge your two proposals. I don't ‑‑ in reviewing them, I think that could be easily done, and if we could ‑‑ what we will do is draft and merge the two and have a DT. We tried to have that done and we ran into difficulty with the languages, so what we will do is put it in DT in English and if you could coordinate and bring it back to this group for the ‑‑ let us know when you want me to put it back on the agenda and we will do so and discuss it then. Is that an acceptable way forward for ‑‑ I'm sorry. USA?

>> UNITED STATES OF AMERICA: Thank you, Madam Chair. I was wondering because we have some question or concern about one of the parts of the RCC proposal on including the persons age 70 or above. Is it better to have that conversation when it comes back or should we participate in the group that's merging it together? Just want to know how we should contribute to the conversation. Thank you.

>> CHAIR: Thank you. We can have that conversation here because I've allocated a certain amount of time to discuss, and we can ask ‑‑ you are also welcome to participate in the group of merging the documents, but it would be good to have the conversation here as well. Would you like to make the room aware of your concerns so the two regions can look into this when they're merging? Is that an acceptable way forward? Okay. Thank you. I see thumb's up. Perfect.

>> UNITED STATES OF AMERICA: Thank you, Madam Chair. We just want to say that we don't support the addition in the further resolves 2 about the language to including persons age 70 or above. We support honoring the mandatory age of separation for the ITU to both support continuity beyond the duration of projects and facilitate opportunities for current and future generations to compete and contribute to technical cooperation and assistance activities. So, the mandatory separation age in the UN System is 65 and we think that this additional language is not something that we can support.

For the Africa Group proposal ‑‑ hold on one second. I'm sorry. There are so many documents. Just there is one, the one in the noting, we just maybe can work offline to work on finessing of language in letter (e) that's added and we support the concept to improve the monitoring and evaluation but since it's in a noting section, we thought some of the language could use some clarity in what it's asking. Thank you.

>> CHAIR: Thank you very much, United States. Any other comments on 157? China, you have the floor. Okay. Hold on one second.

>> CHINA: Thank you, Madam Chair. With regard to the RCC proposal, Resolve Paragraph 7, the original text is more inclusive. However, in the RCC proposal, added that it will allow the WTDC under the initiative of the regional projects. We would like to clarify that the original text, whether the original text also includes other projects. However, after modification, it is only limited to regional projects, and we are concerned that whether the range has been reduced.

Therefore, the original text might be more inclusive, that's our point. Thank you.

>> CHAIR: Thank you very much, China. Would RCC like to comment on that, please?

>> RUSSIAN FEDERATION: Thank you, Madam Chair. Yes, with your permission, with regard to Paragraph 7 resolves, of course we didn't want to narrow down the original text. We simply wanted to state that in cases where we're talking about projects within the framework of regional initiatives, they're normally not very large and the sums are not very large. For the convenience of the partners, such negotiations could take place, especially since this is included in the ITU Financial Regulations. Of course, on projects that are implemented DP, we prefer to keep the original text and the concept that was at the basis of this paragraph. We agree with this completely and we're not trying to change. If there are no objections about the reference to projects and within the framework of regional initiatives, maybe we can work on the text and provide more accurate, more specific wording. We stand ready to do this work with our colleagues if the idea itself is supported. If the idea is not supported, of course then, we are used to working on the basis of consensus, so we would be happy to accept the decision taken by the meeting. I thank you.

>> CHAIR: Thank you very much. I'm going to ‑‑ I don't like to be an Indian giver but I'm going to take back the coordination between Africa and RCC and I'm going to ask my Vice‑Chair to take on coordinating the proposals because I now have, I think there is going to be additional comments here. I have Cote d'Ivoire and I have Saudi Arabia. Cote d'Ivoire, you have the floor.

>> COTE d'IVOIRE: Thank you very much, Madam Chair. I would also like to ask for more clarification, so I support the idea of having a group which we can discuss this idea in purpose 7 seems to be relevant to me, but I think in terms of the wording, we need to review it.

Now, as far as the age issue is concerned, I think that the USA has made a comment that should be addressed, since we need to think about future generations. Thank you.

>> CHAIR: Thank you very much, Cote d'Ivoire. Saudi Arabia, you have the floor.

>> SAUDI ARABIA: Thank you, Ms. Chair. Good morning all colleagues. At the outset, I would like to thank the Arab Group for their proposal and the RCC as well. I have one comment that there is more than ‑‑ in more than one place in this resolution, there is a reminder of the UNDP program, but it looks obvious that in the last few years, that the Union ‑‑ that it is very important for the Union to work on amending this resolution so that we are able to resolve this issue. And especially with regards to financing of this program to the Union. That's the UNDP financing.

With regards to the age limit, is there anything that stops us at the moment to be able to take on the experts or the expertise of those experts in order to supervise the work? Thank you very much.

>> CHAIR: Thank you very much, Saudi Arabia. I think that is a question for Mr. Diego. I will turn the floor over to him for the question regarding the age limit. Before I do that, I'm closing the list. Algeria? I'm closing the list. Nope, no one else. Algeria you have the floor. Russian. So, the list is closed, I have Algeria and Russian, and after that I will turn the floor over to the next speaker will be Mr. Diego to address the age‑limit question. Algeria, you have the floor.

>> ALGERIA: Thank you, Madam Chair. Good morning. Part of the discussion on the project execution and I think the external auditor, what we need to consider in this amendment is the fact to consider external auditor's report on hiring external consultant, right, in various projects. And there was some risks and controls that need to be strengthened in that regard inside BDT, right. I think these, you know, we will work with the colleagues who have proposed the including RCC and AFCP proposal and this is important in the discussions and wanted to raise this aspect in the overall project execution function. Thank you very much, Chair.

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

>> RUSSIAN FEDERATION: Thank you very much, madam Chair. I would like to thank all representatives of administrations that have taken the floor and expressed their opinions. We are grateful to you for them. I would like to make a comment because I did not comment during my statement on the age. We are not trying to touch upon the staff hiring policy in the ITU. We're only referring to projects implemented by partners in the regions on their posts. And we know that when this applies to specific technologies, it often happens that there are not so many such experts, and there are cases when these experts are over the age of 70. Thus, we can either not hire that person to do the work or we are forced to find such an expert in another region. But a person from another region might not know the regulatory field, the policies of such Member States, and also the language. This can complicate the implementation of the project. The proposal is aimed at ensuring that when in the case where such experts ‑‑ there are no such experts, it doesn't mean we will hire immediately people over the age of 70s. It's just individual cases when this is justified, but we do think that such a barrier exists and our proposal is to consider how we can tackle this challenge. Thank you.

>> CHAIR: Thank you very much. Mr. Diego? Thank you.

>> Mr. DIEGO: Thank you, Madam Chair. With regards to the mandatory age of separation for staff members and according to our staff regulations and staff rules, which are aligned with the rest of the United Nations system, the mandatory age of separation or maximum age being for staff members on a fixed term or continuous contract is 65, and that is ‑‑ that is a rule that we follow very carefully and strictly.

However, this does not mean that in other contractual modalities, such as what we call SSAs or others, there is the possibility to ‑‑ I mean there is for limitation, or there is no mandatory age of separation. Of course, these are temporary types of contracts and the organization would have the ability to utilize that.

What I would recommend is that as long as we are clear in this resolution that we are not talking about staff members under the staff regulations and staff rules of the ITU, there would be a possibility. Thank you.

>> CHAIR: Thank you very much. I have USA and I have China. Is this on 157 follow‑up? I think that I closed the list and what I would like to do with this is send it to a drafting group, and I'm going to ask ‑‑ I'm going to follow up with the vice‑chairs and have that discussion in the group. Do you still want the floor, China and the United States? No. Okay. Thank you. China, you insist? Okay. Thank you. You have the floor.

>> CHINA: I'll make a very short statement. After listening to the clarification of the RCC and the Secretariat with regard to the concept of the RCC proposal, we do not have any disagreement. We believe some editorial changes might be necessary to make it more clear ‑‑ to make it clearer. Thank you.

>> CHAIR: Thank you. U.S.?

>> UNITED STATES OF AMERICA: I'm sorry. I also want to thank them for the clarifications and as we look at edits to the text it may not be necessary to include the specific reference if there is not a prohibition on age already that exists, but we're happy to talk to the RCC afterwards to understand if that's been a barrier that they're experiencing, but it could be unnecessary language since there is not a restriction. Thank you.

>> CHAIR: Thank you. What I plan to do is plan to send this to a drafting group, not an ad‑hoc group but a drafting group. During the break I will speak with my vice‑chairs and see and then come back to you with a name of who will take this on.

With that please come back at, it is 10:45, so please be back at 11:00. Thank you very much.

(break).

>> CHAIR: Okay. Thank you. Let's see. We still have folks out of the room. If we could take our seats and we can get started. So, I promised during the break to ask one of my vice‑chairs to coordinate the input of Resolution 157 strengthening of project execution and project monitoring functions in the ITU, and we have ‑‑ we were ‑‑ our vice‑chairs were ‑‑ my vice‑chair from the Africa Region has nominated Dominique to coordinate this for us and so Dominique graciously accepted and he will be working with the Secretariat to find some time to merge the two documents and take into account the comments during COM 6 and he will bring that back to COM 6 next Monday, or it will be on our floor and on the agenda next week. With that if there are no objections to that way forward, thank you, and that will be done.

As you can see, we are moving through our agenda pretty quickly, so we did some zig‑zagging this morning and based on the zig‑zagging, we missed a document related to the WTPF, so if we could please go back to our document ‑‑ Theme 5, events, publications, and management, if we could have the Resolution dealing with the WTPF. We had the report. We now have the Arab State proposals and Document 78 that we need to introduce. So, if I could have someone from the Arab Region, please introduce Document 78. Thank you.

All right. So, I don't think we have everyone back in the room, so let's move down to the next set of proposals, please. My computer just crashed or is not working properly. U.S., you have the floor.

>> UNITED STATES OF AMERICA: Thank you, Madam Chair. I know and I appreciate and understand the rolling agenda approach, but I know at least in some conversations we were having, it would be helpful if the agenda could be more clear on the order of presentation, just as I know some of the spokespersons are in different rooms at different times, so if we could have a clear sense. I think we were expecting the 162 to come next. Are we going now back two events, just to make sure we have everyone present. Thank you.

>> CHAIR: So, yes. That would be the next one, but I also recognize that we had not completed all the documents for the WTPF, but since the Arab Group is not in the room, we can move on to Resolution 162, Independent Management advisory Committee, with that I have European regional proposal, Document 44. European Region, you have the floor to introduce Document 44, please.

All right. Moving on to CITEL Regional proposal 76. Is there someone from CITEL? U.S., you have the floor.

>> UNITED STATES OF AMERICA: Thank you, Madam Chair. CITEL is pleased to present Document 76, addendum 5 with the proposed modifications to Resolution 162 on the IMAC Terms of Reference. These revisions take into account the recommendations that came from the IMAC and from the Council to provide for additional information on some of the responsibility of the IMAC. These include ethics, to review and advise on the ethics function. An investigation to review independence and mandate of the internal investigation function. So, if you review the text, the changes are principally in the Annex, which is the terms of reference, and again so we have the main proposed change to include what the IMAC will provide advice to the Council on ITU Management on the actions taken by the ITU Management on audit recommendations.

And then again to add consideration of ethics and the investigation function. And these are consistent with discussions we had in the Council in the FHR. So, thank you.

>> CHAIR: Thank you very much. The next proposal is the Arab proposal, the Arab Regional proposal and Document 78.

All right. The next one is the African Common Proposal, Document 83. Kuwait, you have the floor. Thank you.

>> KUWAIT: Thank you very much, Madam Chair, for handing me the floor. As the Arab Group we have presented amendments on Resolution given the importance of the work undertaken by the Advisory and Technical Committee we have introduced some editorial changes and drafting changes. There is an amendment on Resolution 165, which was amended in 2019 and its number has therefore changed to 15, therefore we have changed the paragraphs on Resolution as amended in 2013 with proposals pertaining to the Council, and we will save that. We'll take into consideration the recommendations, et cetera, and we have also taken into account the United Nations System on the functioning of the Report of the JIU, the committees in the UN System and the report undertaken.

Also asked to increase the number of experts nominated from IMAC from 5 to 6 with a view that all regions of ITU are represented. We have also commented upon that the numbers of members have been 5 since the setting up of this IMAC Committee.

I would like to ensure that all regions are represented within the Committee, and we have asked the Secretary‑General to work with the Audit and Oversight Committee in the United Nations System. Also made comment to the mandate of the committee according to the IMAC Report which was submitted to the ITU Council in order to improve the functioning of the audit, and to offer advice to the council pertaining to risk management inter alia, while focusing on ICTs.

Moreover, we will also have comments pertaining to the new members of the committee. They must be aware of the objectives and culture of the ITU. We would hope that this would be implemented for the experts. We also request an annual report from the Secretary‑General submit it to the ITU Council, so I think these are the amendments put forward by the Arab Group and we stand ready to answer any questions. Thank you.

>> CHAIR: Thank you for the Arab Regional proposals. Now can we have the representative from the African ‑‑

>> KUWAIT: I forgot to mention an important sentence in the Annex, Madam Chair, pertaining to the selection of members and to request that they have knowledge and experience in risk management, as well as external verification of the auditors, ICT, cybersecurity, and data protection, and you have experience within the ethics area. This has also been added into Paragraph C. Thank you, Madam Chair.

>> CHAIR: Thank you very much, Kuwait. I noted that. Can we now have a representative from the African Region introduce AFCP proposal in Document 83?

Yes, Algeria, you have the floor.

>> ALGERIA: Thank you, Madam Chair. On behalf of the African Region, I present the amendment on Resolution 162. We paid a lot of attention on the IMAC resolution since the third line of defense actors are very important in functioning of the Union, so IMAC is one of these actors, so in the first part of the resolution, we reference the recent joint inspection unit report on the review of the Audit Oversight Committee in the United Nations System and this report is one of the drivers of IMAC's Terms of Reference review.

We also considered in the Terms of Reference, the Annex of the resolution, strengthen responsibility. So, we act on the internal audit function. We also provided amendment on the risk management and internal controls while we strengthen the existing function. We also provided amendment on the financial statement part, the external audit part, and we considered also the proposed Terms of Reference by IMAC themselves presented in Council 2022; namely, for prevention ‑‑ namely ethics and (?), I'm sorry.

We also added new items under responsibility which are in line with the best practices, namely for prevention and coordination of oversight activities.

We also at some part amended ethics and compliance aspects in this resolution, and of course we have joint inspection unit report on the ethics function also in the UN. We paid particular attention; we introduced new responsibility and a new competence in IMAC members around IT cybersecurity and data protection auditing expertise.

We also had similar proposals with the Arab Group on the fact that the new members of IMAC should undertake formal induction training to become familiar with culture and objectives of ITU as well as operational activities. I thank you, Madam Chair.

>> CHAIR: Thank you very much, Algeria, for introducing the African Common Proposals. Now, is there ‑‑ I see the room is ‑‑ is there anyone from the European Region that can introduce Document 44? Germany, you have the floor.

>> GERMANY: Thank you. I think G stand for United Kingdom.

>> CHAIR: I'm sorry, my mistake.

>> UNITED KINGDOM: Yes, in the absence of the lead on this, I'll just briefly introduce. My understanding is in terms of the changes to the responsibilities, these were raised at the last Plenipotentiary by IMAC itself, but as there was no contribution, no change could be made to the responsibilities at that time.

So, there are two new responsibilities added. There is a new G relating to ethics, and there is a new H relating to investigation. In addition, there is just a small change in 2 of the purpose, and it's to amend 2 (b) that IMAC will provide advice to the Council and ITU Management on the actions taken by ITU Management on audit recommendations. So, they are the simple changes that Europe has proposed. Thank you.

>> CHAIR: Thank you very much, UK, United Kingdom, for introducing the European proposals.

So, I have a request for ‑‑ so, I have four proposals from Europe, CITEL, Europe region as well as the Africa region, and the proposals have been put to get, merged together into a DT/16. What I would like to do is to have a drafting group for Resolution 162, and my request is can I have a volunteer from Europe, CITEL, Arab, or Africa to coordinate the merging of these proposals into one document that we can come back and have a discussion next week?

I realize that there are not ‑‑ U.S.? You have the floor.

>> UNITED STATES OF AMERICA: So, my question is, I can offer a person from the United States if we can present the document next week because our expert is coming in, I think, on Friday or Saturday or Sunday. So, if it's something that we can report back on Monday or Tuesday next week, I think we can help you out unless you can find somebody else. But if it's something that we can have a little space on, then we're happy to offer someone from the U.S. delegation. Thank you.

>> CHAIR: U.S., thank you. Let me continue to speak offline because I notice that there are a number of ‑‑ (alarm) ‑‑ that's not for you but our conversation on this issue.

My Secretariat, Mr. are Baah, who is my expert is telling me we really should be working to have the presentation on Monday, so let me come back. I may be coming back to you, actually. Okay? Thank you.

So, the next item on the agenda has to do with Theme 5, and if you recall T5.1, we moved the introduction of Document 33 up so that our special guest, the Minister from Ghana could make the presentation, and now I would like to ask the Arab ‑‑ we're going to come back to this agenda item, and I would like the Arab states to present their proposal to document 78 Rev. 2. Saudi Arabia, you have the floor. I'm sorry, Saudi Arabia, understand that I can't see you over there, so my apologies. You have the floor.

>> SAUDI ARABIA: Thank you very much, Madam Chair. Thank you for having given us the opportunity to present the revision to Resolution 2 pertaining to the World Telecommunication Policy Forum. The proposal is brief. The objective of this is to highlight the last WTPF and to include recommendations to resolve some issues which arose during the last forum. In this resolution, we would like to have further cooperation well relevant bodies in order for them to participate in this important forum. And this is the thrust of the Arab Group proposal. Thank you.

>> CHAIR: Thank you very much, Saudi Arabia, for introducing the proposals. So, this is the only proposal related to Res. 2. We have an hour left in our meeting, so I would like to try, similar to our last proposal on 151, to see if we can get through Res. 2 and perhaps this will be our second document that we send to the Editorial Committee. So, with that, if we could have this on the screen, please.

Okay. Res. 2, the editorial changes, we can let the Editorial Committee take care of that. United States, you have the floor.

>> UNITED STATES OF AMERICA: Thank you, Madam Chair. I guess one question that we have is the U.S. has a proposal under Resolution 77 that's somewhat related to this question. We had suggested that after the past four years'' and in light of some of the ‑‑ we also participated very actively in the expert group, and I think if everyone remembers, it was a very lengthy online experience for all of us. So, I think the conference was successful, but we're taking ‑‑ we're kind of taking stock of the past four years and in our proposal to resolution 77, we wanted to get back to the balance of having one major event per year. One of the questions we have, I guess for the Arab Group, is we have some of the challenges with some edits proposed, but overall I think if we are ‑‑ they're proposing to have the next WTPF in 2025, and we were wondering if we could have maybe a conversation just generally, if there is other views on having the WTPF take place in the next four years' since extensive edits that changes the nature of the WTPF and it changes the topic ‑‑ and I think looking at change to the resolution maybe takes away from a holistic view of the Union of whether this is an event that we want to have take place in the next four years'. Thank you.

>> CHAIR: Thank you, U.S. So, in looking at reviewing Resolution 77, the documents for Res. 77 and documents for Res. 2, I recognize the when to hold the WTPF would need to be in square brackets, so I would say in reviewing the Arab State Proposal, that when to hold the WTPF is in question. The question is the view that we can't look at the text of Res. 2 without resolving when WTPF will take place? Thank you.

>> UNITED STATES OF AMERICA: Maybe can't is not the right word but more I think some of the changes ‑‑ maybe we can ask for some clarifications for the Arab Group because I think some of the changes seem to pertain to what the topic might be and the format of the negotiations and how the outcomes will be considered. So, some of those are pertinent as much as we'll be having one in the next four years', and if we aren't, some of those questions that might not be resolvable, I mean we're happy to have a conversation on each of the items, but if we opt not to have a WTPF some of the questions about preparations and format and theme are less pertinent. But we also are happy to raise the questions and get some more clarification from the Arab Group if you like.

>> CHAIR: Right, so Res. 77, if I'm quoting right is 4.4 which is the 6th World Telecommunication Policy Forum shall be preferably held ‑‑ that's the only place that that comes up, and it doesn't necessarily talk about the process of the WTPF.

So, I'm happy, I'm in your hand and happy to ‑‑ Saudi Arabia and I have Australia. Saudi Arabia and Australia. Anyone else wishes to take the floor on this topic?

>> SAUDI ARABIA: Thank you, Madam Chair. We have the pleasure to clarify some of the points that have been inquired into by the U.S. delegates.

Regarding all the procedures for the preparation of the forum, the selection of the theme and the like, we have not changed, in fact, the mechanism. The mechanism that is adopted now is that the Council will be looking into the issues in order to define the format of the forum and other issues. So, we haven't talk about the mechanisms nor did we cover the issue of changing that mechanism now.

As for the themes that are suggested, our proposal in this resolution was that we need to include those themes, and those themes may be decided by the working group that is assigned to that issue, and the working group may study those themes and see whether they can be applied for the next edition of the forum.

As for the other amendments we have made, they are only to reflect the latest developments, and we don't see there is a major change compared to the status quo.

Regarding the holding of the forum and in light of the major echos that we have heard and major impact that the forum had, and because the latest edition of the forum was really successful and had good attendance, so we thought that at least it has to be organized once every four years between the two PPs. And this is just some clarifications regarding the proposals made by the Arab Group. Thank you very much.

>> CHAIR: Australia, you have the floor.

>> AUSTRALIA: Thank you, Madam Chair. Australia would like to support the proposal made by the United States that this resolution could be considered together with the resolution 77. Thank you.

>> CHAIR: Okay. So, I have a proposal to move the discussion, we've introduced Res. 2, but move the discussion to with 77 which won't occur until next week. So similar to what we've done this morning with Res. 148 and 191, if there is no objection because there is a nexus between Res. 2 and Res. 77 that we do that as well. You have the floor, Russia. Thank you.

>> RUSSIAN FEDERATION: Madam Chair, thank you for giving me the floor. As far as the proposed procedure for work is considered, we are not denying that amendments to this resolution can be considered to proposals on Resolution 77. Nonetheless, we could be not ready for this joint discussion. The proposals that we see to this resolution, we think that they are advisable and that they reflect the results that we have reached while preparing for the last forum. Moreover, the issues and proposals contained in the revisions, allow us to prepare the next forum much more efficiently in a more transparent manner. So, the proposal is such that we could work on the substantive proposals of this revision, and then together with Resolution 77, considering the specific schedule. Thank you.

>> CHAIR: Thank you very much, Russian Federation. So, I have Poland and then I would like to ‑‑ I'm closing the list. So, Poland, if you would like to take the floor on this issue. Switzerland and Poland.

>> POLAND: Thank you, Madam Chair. Congratulations for chairing the group efficiently. The CEPT is to support the proposal made by the U.S. to move the discussion to next week and discuss the resolution 2 within the discussion of other relevant resolutions. Thank you.

>> CHAIR: Thank you very much, Poland. I have Switzerland.

>> SWITZERLAND: As the first time I take the floor I take advantage to congratulate you as the Chairwoman of this Committee. We will be happy to work with you. I have taken the floor because we have information to the proposal to hold the world forum prior to the next Plenipotentiary Conference that falls during the work on the new building, so the consequence of this is that there will be serious disruptions in the Secretariat because the building will be dismantled and the ITU staff will be working sometimes from home and sometimes from their offices, and not to mention the fact that delegates will not be able to meet face to face. This will lead to a very difficult situation. We will need feedback from the Secretariat with regard to the number of meetings that we will have had in order to prepare the next WTPF and the group of experts chaired and in terms of the Secretariat as well, and for the forum itself, we'll need a large room because it's a large event. So, we are expecting from the Secretariat certain logistical data in order to have an idea of whether it's possible in terms of resources to organize such a forum prior to the next Plenipotentiary Conference. Thank you, Madam Chair.

>> CHAIR: Thank you. The last speaker, Vanuatu. Thank you.

>> VANUATU: Thank you, Madam Chair. We associate ourselves with the statements made regarding congratulations to you as the Chair of this Committee 6. We thank delegations for the comments already made. Our intervention is simply this, to support the proposal of the United States and look at combination of Resolution 77 as well. We thank you.

>> CHAIR: Thank you very much. So, if you recall earlier this morning, we took a decision to merge Res. 191 and 148 with Res. 25. They were similar. Some of the concepts were not the same, so with that I plan to do the same with this one. Do I understand that there are concepts in Res. 2 that are dealing with the schedule and Res. 77 that deals with the schedules of the union; so therefore, what I will ask is that we conclude the discussion on it today and that I will move this to the discussion of when we discuss Res. 77 and events and management of the Union and that is my suggested course of action and consistent with the approach that we have taken earlier. Any objection?

Thank you for that. All right. Moving now to, we're still in ‑‑ excuse me, we're still in Theme 5. The next is Resolution 11, ITU Telecom Events. What I would like to ask is the Secretariat could introduce their document 51, and please remember you have 3 minutes. Secretariat, who is going to introduce this document? You have the floor.

>> SECRETARIAT: Thank you, Madam Chairman. This is the report of the telecom events after the discussions ‑‑

>> CHAIR: I'm sorry, we can't hear you.

>> SECRETARIAT: I'm sorry. Thank you, madam chairperson. So, this is a report which highlights which was discussed during the last Council, and it highlighted issues related to the problem the telecom events had due to the COVID pandemic, and also the way forward. It also highlighted findings and recommendations of an external consultancy, which was held after PP‑18. The Secretariat was asked to hire an external consultant to assess strategies and financial situation of telecom. So, this report gives all the details relating to the discussions, which were held, and the purpose here is to be able to take decision, whether what will be the future of telecom events and also if we need to have a second phase of a consultancy to determine a new business model for telecom events. Thank you.

>> CHAIR: Thank you very much, Secretariat. I appreciate that. Now, if we could have an introduction from CITEL, Document 76. Thank you. Algeria, are you asking for the floor? Thank you. Is it on Resolution 11?

>> ALGERIA: Thank you Madam Chair. Just if you allow comment on Document 51. I think the external auditor raised an important aspect to consider within the topic of telecom and with regard to telecom Secretariat. I was reading with concerns the report of the external auditor, and the telecom Secretariat is also ‑‑ to figure out here, in consequences of decline of telecom event, so it is impacting the Secretariat, and there was a call for an effective HR strategy for telecom Secretariat in these circumstances. One of the options were redeployment of telecom Secretariat across department. This is good, and which guarantee their continuous duties and the integrations into the department and this impacts staff on this report and not the future amendment. Just wanted to attract attention. Thank you, Madam Chair.

>> CHAIR: Thank you, Algeria. Thank you for the comment on the Secretariat report. Welcome back after we introduce proposals but that comment is noted. CITEL, are you available in okay. U.S., I believe you're going to introduce. Thank you.

>> UNITED STATES OF AMERICA: Thank you Madam Chair and thank you also to the Secretariat for their presentation. The CITEL proposal also takes into account and reflects on the discussions we've had at Council and the consultancy report, the external auditor report, and the review of telecom and its financial sustainability.

Essentially, what our proposal does is it proposes that we ‑‑ we consider having telecom only virtually in the next ‑‑ in the foreseeable future or not at all given the financial challenges, and then also consider to have the Council take into consideration the future of telecom events.

I think as we have heard, that some of the staff have been repurposed and there has been financial losses, and I think there is still some conversations happening within the Council on the future of telecom, but on the interim period, the proposal suggests that it should be virtually or not at all in the interim period. Thank you very much. We look forward to conversations with others on how we can assess a way forward on ITU Telecom and take into account all of the recommendations that we have heard from the auditor and the Dalberg. Thank you.

>> CHAIR: Thank you very much, U.S. Now I have Asian Common Proposals. APT, will you please introduce your document?

>> APT: Thank you, Madam Chair. On behalf of APT region, Viet Nam would like to brief you on the document 80, addendum 1. Madam Chair, the ITU telecom events go along with the history of telecom development. ITU telecom started online in Geneva in 1971 with message to the 21st Century. Since the 1971, ITU telecom event has connected the unconnected, and spread the benefit of ICT. They offer a window for the world on to a rapidly involving ICT industry, debate, and set the agenda for development new technology for mobile and Internet to broadband, AI, 5G, and beyond.

ITU Telecom event in 2020 and 2021 has been occurring under the plan ITU digital world reflecting the accelerating conversion of the telecommunication and digital communications. Because of this conversion, the number of government Ministers and global ICT industry leaders attending in the event has significantly increased, comparing to the past event. The brand ITU Digital World will open the event space to all digital technologies, attract more digital and innovative companies, particularly SMEs, and bring opportunities to more SMEs to join the world‑class event, to explore the impact of digital technology and accelerate digital transformation.

With that, Madam Chair, the APT Member Administration would like to propose to modify the Resolution 11 with the new name is the ITU Digital Events, so with that I would like to conclude my presentation. Thank you, Madam Chair.

>> CHAIR: Thank you very much, Viet Nam, for introducing the APT Common Proposals. Now I have the African Common proposals. Africa? Algeria, you have the floor.

>> ALGERIA: Thank you, Madam Chair. If you allow, Madam Chair, I also present simultaneously the Arab and African Common Proposals, Document 78 addendum 25 and 83 addendum 10 if you allow, Madam Chair.

>> CHAIR: Yes, that's great. Thank you. That's fine.

>> ALGERIA: The amendment considered the audit being done by the external consultancy firm hired with the resolution 11 of the Plenipotentiary Conference 2018 and considered also that Council was not in a position to adequately address the consultancy firm deliverables.

We also emphasized on the fact that due to COVID pandemic, COVID‑19 pandemic, two editions of telecom World are held virtually applying to the deficit and despite the repositioning of telecom event in 2015, the related value proposition still continues showing clear signs of weaknesses.

Finally, we have highlighted the necessary measures need to be taken to review phase 1 deliverables of the independent consultancy firms with the involvement of Member States, Sector Members, and to report to Council on the appropriate way forward of telecom. Thank you, Madam Chair.

>> CHAIR: Thank you very much. So, in looking at the ‑‑ are we sure of the time involved? In making sure that all of the regional proposals are similar, what I would like to propose is a drafting group for this discussion as well on Resolution 11. Is there a volunteer? Okay. Let me ‑‑ so we will find a coordinator for this, even if it means that one of my vice‑chairs or myself will coordinate Resolution 11. Please note that we do have a DT, DT/15, and welcome back to you with who will coordinate that and provide a readout of this at our meeting on Monday or Tuesday. Okay. Any questions? Any objections? United Kingdom, you have the floor.

>> UNITED KINGDOM: Thank you. Europe has not made a common proposal on this item, but we have a strong interest in it. We think all the proposals are sensible; although, we have a sort of preference to the proposal by CITEL. We would like to be a member of the ad hoc group. Thank you.

>> CHAIR: Thank you very much. Yes. It will not be an ad‑hoc group, but I take note of that. It will be a drafting group and I will make sure to include you in the discussions as well. All right.

Thank you very much. United Kingdom, UK? So, Mr. Baah has made a good suggestion and I would like to put this to you. Would you be amenable to taking on coordinating the drafting group for Res. 11 on ITU telecom events? Okay. We will continue discussing and come back. Thank you very much.

All right. We're moving along at a very good speed. The next theme ‑‑ we're till on Theme 5. T5.3 on Resolution 66, Documents and publications from the Union. One proposal from the African Region so an African Common Proposal Document 83, so can I have a representative from the African Region to please introduce Document 83, proposal 16.

All right. There is no one in the room. All right. We will have to punt this one until the next meeting. Okay.

All right, so we've been very efficient with our work, and some of the proponents to some of the agenda items that we proposed for this meeting are not available, or ‑‑

>> Supervisor, Madam Chair, we can present on Resolution 66.

>> CHAIR: Oh, awesome. Resolution 66.

>> NIGERIA: Okay. Earlier you were talking about Resolution 83 so I got confused. Okay. Thank you very much.

>> CHAIR: Yes. You have the floor, can you please tell me, I can't see your flag, apologies.

>> NIGERIA: Okay. Thank you. I present this proposal on behalf of the African Group on Resolution 66. We proposed brief amendment to the resolution and the amendment is to update and highlight the need to support developing countries, especially members of the academia, by giving free access to publications in digital format. In view of this, we hope that this would in a way support research coming out of the African group, and so the proposal is quite a straightforward one and simple one, to support members of the academia from developing countries to have free access to the publications coming out of, especially the ones that have to do with metrics of the ITU. Thank you very much, Madam Chair.

>> CHAIR: Thank you very much. So, with that can I ‑‑ we have Document 83 related to Resolution 66, and its addendum 16, please, on the screen.

Okay. United States, you have the floor.

>> UNITED STATES OF AMERICA: Thank you, Madam Chair, and I think we support the sentiment. I think at least I know we've been talking a lot about how revenues are declining, but if I recall correctly, I don't think publications has been ‑‑ I think this would not be as much of a challenge. But one question I have for the Secretariat is if the wording in the resolves is implementable, or if you need any more guidance in the way it is phrased to be able to assess particularly the part on non‑funded academic research, and how that could be implemented without a burden or how we can capture the Africa Group proposal in a way that can be implemented. Thank you.

>> CHAIR: Okay. Any other comments on the overall proposal? Russian Federation, you have the floor.

>> RUSSIAN FEDERATION: Thank you, Madam Chair. Overall, we support a need to support scientific members of developing countries by providing them with free‑of‑charge access to publications. However, we would like to mention a few aspects; in particular, we'd like to ask whether there is a mechanism which allows to determine whether there is ‑‑ whether the access to publications free of charge is in the interest of non‑funded academic research, and whether the Secretariat could provide or whether assess, more or less, the number of academic organizations from developing countries in order to evaluate possible financial implications for the Union if this proposal is implemented? I thank you.

>> CHAIR: Thank you, Russian Federation. India, you have the floor.

>> INDIA: Thank you, Chair. The proposal is extremely interesting, but we would like to know like if the publications of ITU are open for the academia, who will be their focal point because there has to be some kind of linear arrangement that the advantages are not given to the elements who can misuse the publications. So, if this goes through the focal points of all the countries or the academic institutions have to be decided upon by ITU. Thank you.

>> CHAIR: Thank you very much. Any other general objections regarding the proposal of Resolution 66 from the Africa region?

All right. So, there are general questions regarding how ‑‑ and well I should ask the Secretariat regarding this. I do ‑‑ I had a question myself as to what does non‑funded academic research is and what it would mean and how is it different from having the ability to have access to free publications now, and what would the difference be? So, I will turn it over to the Secretariat to address the questions. Thank you.

>> SECRETARIAT: Thank you, Madam Chair. I'd like to thank the distinguished delegates for their questions. Firstly, I'm going to reply pertaining to the number of academic members from developing countries. We can provide this information during the next meeting of Committee 6.

I'd just like to say that the adoption of this resolution or this modification to resolution, will not incur financial implications. The Union publications, as you know, especially those which are obligatory, are provided at cost recovery, and the adoption of this resolution will not have any financial implications on the financing of the Union, now pertaining to the right of access, Chris Clark from the membership division could be available, if you could reply to this question, perhaps you could give the floor to my colleague, Chris. Thank you, Madam Chair.

>> CHAIR: Thank you, Mr. Baah. Christopher Clark, are you in the room? Please, would you address.

>> CHRISTOPHER CLARK: Thank you, Madam Chair and thank you of the delegations. Following up about no cost to the proposal. The challenge is in the implementation from internal systems and so on because it's in the necessary to make a distinction between developing countries and other academia, so one of the things to keep in mind is that actually it may be easily to implement and similar at no cost to extend to all academia members. That's something of consideration to the members to facilitate implementation.

This could be done through digital downloads, and this in academia members could use TIES or ITU credentials to download a publication, so that is how we could control it so it doesn't get out of control that anyone could do.

The issue of the non‑funded research, that's something that would perhaps be a little bit challenging to implement, and how do we determine what's non‑funded research. But, again, since the proposal has no financial implications, you may wish not to specify non‑funded versus other types of research. So, in terms of ease of implementation, if it was available to academia members and not ‑‑ and we don't specify funded or non‑funded research, that's something that we could implement in our systems without too much difficulty. I hope that answers the questions. We'll come back ‑‑

Actually, the point of the question if I understood, how many academia members from developing countries, we have 60%. 60% of our academia members are from developing countries.

>> CHAIR: Thank you very much, Mr. Clark. COM 6, we have reviewed the proposal from the ‑‑ the Common Proposal from the Africa Region. Do you still have questions regarding the content of this proposal? Russia? Russian Federation, you have the floor.

>> RUSSIAN FEDERATION: Thank you, Madam Chair. Thank you for the clarification from the Secretariat. If there is no mechanism that allows us to determine publications, in the interest of non‑funded academic research that would be ensured, maybe we can ask the Secretariat to develop such a mechanism and to think how the resolution could reflect this. I thank you.

>> CHAIR: Thank you very much. What I'm hearing is that from you that there is no opposition to the proposal, and just seeking clarity on how it's going to be implemented. So, what I would like to do is I would like to ask ‑‑ I'm sorry.

So, I can ask ‑‑ I'm sorry, may I have the country that introduced the common proposal? Can you tell me?

>> NIGERIA: Nigeria.

>> CHAIR: Nigeria. Thank you very much. Nigeria, I would like to ask that you please take into account all of the comments received here today regarding your proposal. It was not objected to, but it was just how we implement the proposal was ‑‑ it needs more clarification. Would you please work with and take the comments discussed today and if you need help from the Secretariat or myself, please stop by and we will help and bring this back on Monday. I do not need ‑‑ I do not think we need a drafting group, but I'm happy if you have comments, please speak with Nigeria for, especially I have Russian Federation, I have the United States, and there was one other. Please, India, I'm sorry. If you would like to provide additional comments to Nigeria, they will coordinate this. If you would please bring it back on Monday, that would be great. Okay. And if you would send it to me by ‑‑ when is our next meeting? Monday. So, send it to me by Sunday night, please. Thank you very much.

All right. We have 20 minutes left and our next theme is T6.1, Resolution 30 and that is APT Common Proposal. Who from the APT, can I please have a representative from the APT to introduce your common proposal, please.

Okay. I don't think there is a representative from the APT to introduce this document, so we will move this to another time. If you recall at the beginning, so I'm moving down now to Theme 8, and if you recall we agreed to discuss this at a different time at the request of the Member States here.

So, now moving down to ‑‑ I would just like to get an update, just a verbal update from ‑‑ I will give a verbal update, Theme 3.1 2.12, I do know that Member States are still discussing that document and still discussing a path forward, and so I understand that they are going to come back to the next meeting, maybe on Friday, and hopefully we will have an update from the Member States, so that's where we are on 2.1.

On Theme 1 human resources manage am, T1.1 Resolution 48 which is in DT/12, that ad hoc has been created and it meets today, so please ‑‑ at 2:30, so please pay attention to the screens.

And then on Theme 2, Strategy, governance, and management, T2.1, Resolution 71, I understand that that meeting is also scheduled for ‑‑

>> SECRETARIAT: Scheduled today at 2:30 in room ‑‑ let me check, it is in the room Bratianu from 2:30 to 4:00 p.m.

>> CHAIR: I do understand that I've had a number of requests from delegates in COM 6 not to have concurrent meetings of ad‑hoc group 48 and ad hoc group 71. Since this is already scheduled, we will do our best to make sure not to have concurrent meetings ‑‑ I mean to have parallel meetings or concurrent meetings. Please accept the apologies. I understand small delegations, and we want to make sure that we're accommodating those delegations that have one or two members.

Please note that there will be additional meetings, and we will make sure that your voices are heard in these meetings as well. And so going forward, we'll make sure to try not to do that.

Let me just summarize what we did today. Because I know that we were on a see‑saw or merry‑go‑round or however you want to look at it. On Resolution 71, T2.1, the African Common Proposal will be further introduced in the ad‑hoc group on Resolution 71. We will not bring it back on our COM 6 agenda. It is now being delegated to T2.1 for discussion.

On Resolution 25, Theme 2.2, we introduced all of the proposals, and we agreed as a COM 6 that we would also add to the discussion Resolution 148 and Resolution 191, and we created that ad‑hoc group and it should be on the screen under Ms. Stella, and she has gracefully agreed to Chair that group.

We approved one proposal going to the Editorial Committee, that is Resolution 151 improvement of result's‑based management in ITU. That was approved, so clap. Congratulate yourselves. I think we're the first group to have a proposal sent to the Editorial Group.

(Applause).

On T2.4, Resolution 157, strengthening of the project execution and project monitoring functions in the ITU, we agreed to a drafting group, and that drafting group is chaired by Dominique from Kenya and thank you for taking that on.

For Theme 2.5, Resolution 162, independent management advisory Committee. We agreed to send this to a drafting group; however, I need to ‑‑ I owe you a person who is going to coordinate that even if I have to coordinate it myself, so I will ‑‑ if I could please have the contact point from CEP, CITEL, Arab Group and African Group, that would be great.

Resolution 11, we have introduced all of the documents, and we have agreed that that also will go to an ad‑hoc group, and I owe you a person to coordinate that as well, so I will work on that. But I would please understand that I have a representative from CITEL, Arab Group, APT, Africa, as well as Europe, and I will make sure to let you know how that will be coordinated as well.

Resolution 66, generally we support this proposal from the Africa region, the African Common Proposals, however the language needs to be a little bit ‑‑ there is some clarities in the language required to make sure that it's implementable in what we're asking the Secretariat to do. So, Nigeria has agreed to ‑‑ has agreed to take this on as well and bring it back to our group on Monday.

With that ‑‑ oh, no. We have one more.

So, we also for Theme 5, so Theme 5, Resolution 2, we have agreed to merge that with the discussion of Theme 5.4, Resolution 77 so to discuss WTPF with the discussion of scheduling and duration of conference and forums, so that is where that has moved to as well. I believe that that is a summary of what we decided today. If I missed anything, please let me know. Algeria, you have the floor.

>> GERMANY: Thank you, that's Germany.

>> CHAIR: I'm sorry, looking if that direction. Germany.

>> GERMANY: Thank you very much, Chair. Due to the fact I'm asking for the floor for the first time, congratulations on your appointment. I just have a question in terms of a clarification and maybe I'm wrong. You mentioned the Resolution 212 dealing with new headquarter building and new headquarters building is Theme 3, so maybe I'm wrong but if you could clarify that. Thank you.

>> CHAIR: Yes, my understanding ‑‑ not my understanding, on Theme 3 Resolution 212, discussions are still happening on the contents of that resolution and proponents are working, and if you would like to be added to that informal discussion, please I know that it's U.S., UAE for the Arab group, as well as I also believe the Russian Federation is involved in that discussion as well and so is Canada. So, from our discussion at our meeting, or our first meeting, COM 6 agreed not to have an ad‑hoc group for that discussion and that the proposals, the proponents of the proposals believed they could work this offline and then agreed to come back. So, this morning I heard that the discussions were continuing. Thank you. Does that answer your question, Germany?

>> GERMANY: Yeah. Thank you very much. Happy to join at that on behalf of CEPT.

>> CHAIR: Thank you. U.S., could you please make sure that CEPT is involved in those discussions with the group that is assembled. I don't see a UAE rep in the room that is coordinating but I will make sure ‑‑ oh, I'm sorry. Thank you.

>> SAUDI ARABIA: Thank you Madam Chair. Good afternoon, everyone. Can you hear me?

>> CHAIR: Yes.

>> SAUDI ARABIA: I believe the discussion now is taking place between the concerned parties of that resolution. I mean U.S. UAE and Saudi Arabia in order to reach to a conclusion without needing the establishment of an ad hoc or something similar to this. So, we will report to you here in COM 6 the result of that consideration between Saudi, UAE and U.S., and if our colleague from EU wants to participate, they are more than welcome. Thank you.

>> CHAIR: Thank you very much, and I'm ‑‑ you're taking note? Yes, perfect. Russian Federation, you have the floor.

>> RUSSIAN FEDERATION: Thank you very much, Madam Chair. We simply want to be in line with the agreement. Did we also send our proposals? We have sent our proposals to your email address and Mr. Baah's email address, so could you confirm that you have received them? Thank you.

>> CHAIR: Thank you. I will ‑‑ I have not ‑‑ I will check my email. I have not received it yet, but that's possible that it is ‑‑ it is possible that it is ‑‑ I was having email difficulty yesterday.

Mr. Baah ‑‑ I will say that you made a proposal verbally from the floor. Correct? Yes. You made a verbal proposal and you sent that proposal to us. Mr. Baah, you have the floor.

>> SECRETARIAT: Thank you very much, Madam Chair. Indeed, I did receive an email of the representative from RCC pertaining to this matter, but I think that it might be more judicious that this proposal should be sent to the comment group which is in charge of the discussion on this resolution so that is the UAE, Saudi Arabia, the USA, and also others. I think this might be more fitting that this proposal coming from the RCC should be sent to this group so they can address all of this together. Thank you very much.

>> CHAIR: Thank you very much, so I will make sure that Mr. Baah, he did receive it via email the proposal you made on the floor of COM 6, and we will send it over to Saudi Arabia ‑‑ we will send it and make sure that USA, UAE, Saudi Arabia and CEPT have that that was made on the floor of COM of. Saudi Arabia, you're asking for the floor. You have the floor.

>> SAUDI ARABIA: Thank you, Madam Chair. Just to clarify that we're discussing only the joint U.S./Canadian contribution, discussion, I mean there is no group established. So, we're discussing only the contribution submitted by the U.S. and Canada on the new building, and in order it avoid opening that discussion in the ad hoc, we are trying to solve this in an informal manner, and then we will submit it to you here in COM 6. Again, it's an informal discussion between Saudi Arabia, UAE, Canada, and U.S. on at that resolution, and then we will submit it to you in COM 6. Thank you.

>> CHAIR: So, here is what I understood. Currently there is a discussion on informally with the Member States that have submitted formal proposals. What I'm going to do is I would like to defer this question and place it back on the agenda for Monday. I would request that the informal discussions, it's not a drafting group, it's not an ad‑hoc group, and I understand that the Secretariat has received the verbal proposal from the Russian Federation during the meeting on Monday.

Once I receive the informal readout from the proponents of between Saudi Arabia and United States and Canada, I will then bring this back into the meeting for further discussion. My apologies for the ‑‑ my apologies. I made a mistake from a procedural standpoint and I recognize at that this is not optimal, but in an effort to address this, I think that is the best possible way. Russian Federation, you have the floor.

>> RUSSIAN FEDERATION: Thank you very much, Madam Chair. We are trying to help you and colleagues. We heard the statement made by the representative of Saudi Arabia; we support a preliminary dialogue among the contributors. We agree with this approach and your proposal, yes, maybe it's not quite formally in line with the format of our work, but we do know at that we have made a proposal, we have sent it to you. However, we would like to support your desire to help parties reach some sort of common view, but I would like to turn to the colleagues from the Arab Group and United States and Canada to ask them that after they reach some sort of agreement, I would like to ask them to invite or at least to also consider our common proposal. Overall, we support this work. Let's give an opportunity for everyone to work, and we'd like to help you, Madam Chair, it's not an easy task you're dealing with so we'll do everything in our power in order not to create additional difficulties for you. I thank you.

>> CHAIR: Thank you very much, Russian Federation, for that. That is what we will do. We will wait for the informal discussion feedback from U.S., Saudi Arabia, and Canada and then we'll come back and discuss the proposal that was made in COM 6. Thank you very much.

With that, are there any other questions related to how I summarized the meeting today? Kuwait, you have the floor. You have the floor, Kuwait.

>> KUWAIT: Thank you, Madam Chair. I would like to join my ‑‑ I would like to join this informal group, in fact, to discuss the resolution. I would like to coordinate issues related to this resolution with the Arab Group and United States of America. Thank you.

>> CHAIR: Thank you, Kuwait. So, as this is an informal discussion, I have not created a drafting group and I have not created an ad‑hoc group, so I was since informed that the countries that have proposals would get together and informally discuss. I would kindly ask that you speak with those Member States about your proposal in the informal conversations. I plan to come back on Monday if the discussions have not been concluded with bringing a different course of action. Thank you.

>> CHAIR: Thank you, everyone. I really appreciate it, and thank you for your support. I will say that we recognize the difficulty of this room and we will try to figure out if there are other rooms available. Because it is very difficult for me to see and I know it's difficult for participation. So, while it's a gorgeous room and beautiful, we want to make sure that I can hear you and so we will work on that.

Thank you very much. Have a great day and I will see you all later. Bye‑bye.

(session completed at 12:32 PM EEST).

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