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COMMITTEE 6

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>> CHAIR: Thanks for your patience.

Good morning.

Let's get started.

Our agenda is in ADM10(Rev.7), please look through the agenda and let me know any objections to approving the agenda.

We'll start with theme 3, decision under financial management issues, starting with Decision 5 and DT/29, we'll look at the report by the Secretary‑General for the Draft Financial Plan, for 2024 to 2027 in Document 57.

We have a couple of proposals from ‑‑ we have a Member State proposal, India, Document 93/1 and we have RCC proposals as well.

Just so you know, then we'll go to 5, and we'll look at T5.4, Scheduling of Conferences and Forums and Council Sessions of the Union. We'll look at ‑‑ we have a Document 37 and common proposal, a U.S.A. proposal, we have Resolution 2 and Arab States proposals as well, and then we have a New Resolution from the Arab States that we're planning to discuss today.

We would like to get to T7.1, on languages, and with that, I'm hoping that we will be able to get through our agenda.

We have a number of new folks in our Committee. Thank you for joining. This is a fun Committee to be at. Let me make sure that since some of you were not here last week, some ground rules for our Committee.

We have ‑‑ the clock should start on 3 minutes for introduction of contributions, 3 minutes, and after 3 minutes, I'm sorry, I will interrupt and you can get back in the cue if the cue is not closed. We have only a certain amount of time to get our work done in Committee 6 and thinking that's the most efficient way to do our work.

For the situational awareness, for Decision 5 issues, dealing with financial management issues, I do plan to send that to an Ad Hoc Group, I do not plan to have extensive conversation or discussion. I have a lot of ‑‑ as I said, for time, for proposals to be introduced, then limited discussion because I do think that that discussion will take place in the Ad Hoc Group.

So with that, any objections to approving the agenda.

Thank you. I also have a request from our ‑‑ from the Chair of the Council Working Group on languages to move 7 ‑‑ to move T7.1 Resolution 154, use of official languages on equal footing and the report as well as the proposals made to the beginning of the agenda. I don't see any issue was that.

I do ‑‑ if we could approve the agenda with the understanding that we're going to take up our theme 7.1 on Resolution 154 on languages of the Union.

Any objection? All right. Thank you for that.

So we will start with Resolution 154, use of the six official languages of the Union on an equal footing. We have a report by the Council and that's in Document 22/49, Council Working Group Chair, you have the floor, please.

Sorry, we're having a few technical difficulties.

Please hold.

Thank you. Sorry about that.

Can I have the RCC introduce their proposals regarding Resolution 154, please? Can we please are the RCC proposal on the screen? RCC, whose intro could you saying the proposals from the RCC on Res. 154.

Thank you, Russian Federation, you have the floor. Thank you.

>> RUSSIAN FEDERATION: Thank you, Madam Chair allow me to present RCC proposals on revising Resolution 154.

Under this section, we propose to renew the reference to GA resolution on multilingualism, this is a resolution that was adopted recently, Resolution  76/1268, not the same as in our Document but a New Resolution has been published so it is 76/268. Then we are basically stating the name of the resolution as is custom and we're proposing to add a reference to Resolution  1372 of the Council on the Council Working Group on languages and to Resolution  1386 on the Coordination Committee ‑‑ on terminology of the ITU and to the sector resolutions relating to languages. There is already a trend to are reduce the number of resolutions linked to languages in order to streamline these resolutions with Resolution 154 of the Plenipotentiary Conference and an aim of our proposal is to include Resolution 1 ‑‑ to include in Resolution 154 the main resolutions related to sectors in order to ensure that at the relevant Assemblies we can consider the possibility of suppressing these resolutions by moving the required Terms of Reference to Resolution 1. However, this will be discussed at the relevant Assemblies.

Here, however, we have tried to include in everything that's necessary and everything shared by all sectors of the ITU and therefore we refer to the relevant sector resolution, Resolution 1, and specific resolutions in the R and T Sectors. Then reaffirm, we refer to Resolution  73/268 recognizing multilingualism as the main aim for the UN and helping to us achieve the UN goals and then we are confirming that we propose to say that equal use of six languages that this approach was approved in Marrakech at the PP in Resolution 115.

Furthermore, we are proposing as we did this earlier to use all official languages, we have done this in the relevant sector resolutions as well and we propose to suppress Arabic, Russian, Chinese, this was already done, this refers to all the official languages of the Union.

Under D, this is a reference ‑‑

>> CHAIR: Sorry. The time has expired.

What my plans are, welcome back to further discussion on this document and at the same time I would like to turn to the Asian common proposals to introduce their document and come back for a discussion.

Thank you very much.

Who will be introducing the Asian common proposals? China? You have the floor, please.

Please give the floor to China.

Thank you.

IT, please give the floor to China.

China, is there another mic near you that you could use possibly? Okay. There. I think it is ready now.

>> CHINA: Thank you, Madam Chair.

This is China representing APT for the common proposal on Revision of Resolution 154.

We know it is important to have the technology translated in all official languages. The equal use of this, it is in terms of ‑‑ in the terms and the definition database, it is considerable, the expectation. The definition and the translation of technologies in different languages, such as for the work that's required for the effort of native speaker, experts, technicians beside ITU translator, interpreters, all regional, regional STOs have a deep understanding of the relevant recovery in their native languages and have experience in deciding the wording of emerging technologies. It is a mandate that the Secretary‑General spoke of relevant states, relevant regional, national, others to refer to the technology in their translation in their individual official languages.

It is also recommended that the Member State and the sector members, that they submit the contribution and inputs to improve the translation of technologies in relevant official languages. We propose in the resolution, in the instructions from the Secretary‑General part of the new bulletin to continue to collaborate with interested Member States and to the extent practical and where necessary to collaborate with related standard development of organizations in partnership with the ITU to refund the translation of technology and the translation into all six official languages and also we propose to revise ‑‑ in site Member States and the sector member parts to continue to cooperate in the official language technologies and the definition Tess request of CCT.

Thank you very much.

>> CHAIR: Thank you very much, China.

Before I put this up for ‑‑ let you know how I'll treat these two documents. The Chair of the language Council Working Group is available now.

Chair, you have the floor.

>> Chair of the language Council Working Group: Thank you very much, Madam Chair.

Dear Delegates, I will present Document PP‑22/49, the four‑year report of the Council Working Group on the Use of the Six Languages, Official Languages of the Union, CWG.

This report summarizes the main activities and achievements of CWG over the four‑year period since PP‑18 in accordance with Resolution 154, revised in Dubai in 2018 and Council Resolution  1372.

As for these resolutions, CWG is mandated to continue to take all necessary measures to ensure the use of the six official languages of the Union on an equal footing, and to provide interpretation and translation of ITU documentation. Since PP‑18 some key achievements of CWG lang are number one, evolution of translation and interpretation budget and procedures in the six official languages focusing on achieving cost efficiency and savings while continuing to reflect full equality of treatment for the six languages;

Number two, provision of statistics to download and purchase of different language versions of ITU documents and publications;

Number three, participation in interinstitutional meetings to benchmark tools, procedures, best practice adopted in international organizations inside and outside of the UN system;

Number four, study and evaluate translation procedures, including pilot projects on remote interpretation, use of external sources for translation, machine translation, automatic captioning, computer‑assisted translation tools and machine translation;

Number five, promotion of the use of the six languages on the ITU website on an equal footing in terms of content and functionality, including improvement of common web design, navigation and harmonization of the sector landing pages;

Number six, establishment of an intersectoral group on multilingualism reporting to the inter‑sectoral coordination taskforce to promote and facilitate a coordinated and insistent approach to multilingualism across ITU;

Number seven, review and update the measures and principles of interpretation and translation in ITU agreed upon by the sectors advisory group and the secretary;

Number 8, development of the policy framework on multilingualism in ITU to ensure ITU ‑‑ to ensure the effective implementation of multilingualism throughout all activities of the Union in line with the recommendations of Joint Inspection Units.

In accordance with Decision 11, revised in Dubai in 2018 the Chairman of the CWG Lang submitted a four‑year report of the group to the 2022 session of the Council for consideration and submission of recommendation to PP‑22 on the need to modify, terminating, establishing the CWG for the next period.

The Council '22 noted the report contained in Document C22/55 and agreed to transmit it to PP‑22 together with the summary record of the meeting capturing councilors' recommendations and use. The Council also had the policy framework on multilingualism with ‑‑

>> CHAIR: Thank you very much.

I do think that we have to stop now. We have a number of documents on our agenda today.

What I would like to do with this issue, it is to have to request that we have about 10 minutes of discussion and then I would like to have the RCC and the Asian ‑‑ and Asia to put together and to provide an edit to one document if Com 6 does not disagree with the row posed edits and the RCC contribution and this proposal.

The floor is open, I have France, I have Switzerland, I have United States, I have Canada.

If you would like to take the floor on this issue, please do so now. I'm closing the list. France, Switzerland, United States, Canada. The list is closed on this topic, Resolution 154.

France, you have the floor.

>> FRANCE: Thank you very much, Madam Chair.

Good morning, everyone. I would like to thank the three speakers who presented.

First of all, Chair of the CWG on languages and the documents from the RC and APT. I'm not only representing France, I'm also Chair of Coordination Committee for Terminology of the ITU. Of course, I'm very interested by this Resolution 154.

My comment is more related to the proposal of the Russian Federation on behalf of the RCC. First of all, I would like to thank the Russian Federation for their proposal that highlights a bit more of the role of the CCT, the Coordination Committee for Terminology that covers the three sectors and this is more and more important for the multilingualism, it is important for this role to be identified through this resolution.

My comment relates to the paragraph which instructs the Director of the Bureau, in particular item 7, proposed to collect all of the new definitions and terms in order to include them in the new terminology database which is what we're doing at every meeting of CCT.

This is, indeed, done. However, afterwards, the Russian Federation is asking for the terms to be published in a biannual technical report and there I'm having a little bit of difficulty. I would require further explanation, for good reason that the databases allows us to separate and to know what new terms are being ‑‑ I'm wondering about the need to publish this New Report, especially since all the new terms are annexed. It is easy to have access to the new terms. This is what I wanted to say.

Thank you, Madam Chair.

>> CHAIR: Thank you, France.

Switzerland, you have the floor.

>> SWITZERLAND: Thank you, Madam Chair.

We also thank the Chair of the Working Group on languages and the two countries that have made contributions on Resolution 154. I have a question, you may remember that at PP‑18 we modified Resolution 140, in particular, we added number 8 for the request of the ITU Council and the Council stipulates to examine ‑‑ it is asked to include other stakeholders to consider the possible approaches to ensure the funding and updating of the WSIS website in the six official languages and to invite the secretary to provide an annual report on the progress made and to submit a final report to the next Plenipotentiary Conference.

I would like to ask where this report is considering the measures taken to implement this instructs Council 8 of Resolution 140 which is related to multilingualism. I recall that the Swiss administration supports all the efforts to strengthen multilingualism at the ITU.

Thank you, Madam Chair.

>> CHAIR: Thank you, Switzerland.

United States, you have the floor.

>> UNITED STATES of AMERICA: Thank you, Madam Chair.

First, United States would like to note with appreciation the report from the Council Working Group on languages. We would also like to express our appreciation to RCC and to the APT for their contributions on this important topic.

Madam Chair, I have just a few areas for further consideration by the Committee. Following on on the intervention from France, the Chairman of CCT, the instructs 7 of the proposal from RCC talks about an additional report. We share also the concern about the additional expense at this time and would also like to supplement that with an observation that this is a similar proposal received at WTSA just a few months ago and it was not accepted. What had been agreed at WTSA was to consider adding a search by date functionality to the on‑line database and Madam Chair, I would ask for you, if we can get clarification from the TSB, it is my understanding that they already have begun implementation of that.

Concerning the instructs 9, which talks about adding ‑‑ translating documents related to intellectual property rights, just this morning, Madam Chair, I have verified on the ITU website that the ITU Patent policy, the guidelines for software copyrights and the guidelines for Trademarks have all been made available in all six languages and so I question whether this additional resolve 9 is needed.

Concerning ‑‑ instructs rather, 9, the resolves on the use of the standards development organizations, due to translation, I would like to have further clarification as to how this is meant to operate, if it is just a matter of having experts from individual Member States reviewing material as it is being developed, that's one thing, if it is to engage in some contractual arrangements to provide official translations, there are issues about open bidding on such contracts. Finally, Madam Chair, I'm curious as to why decision 11 is being removed from the former recalling section because it is there that the financial limits related to translations are.

Thank you, Chair.

>> CHAIR: Thank you, United States.

Canada, you have the floor.

>> CANADA: Thank you. Like my predecessor, I would thank the Chairperson of the Working Group and for that report and again, one key consideration with the previous document and I'm speaking as Vice‑Chair of the Committee on budget, we have to be particularly careful again on adopting any New Resolutions or modifying resolutions that may have financial implications for the Union.

We have to bear in mind that, and that's the extent of our intervention.

Thank you.

>> CHAIR: Thank you, Canada.

So on ‑‑ there is a number of comments related to the RCC common proposal. There were very few ‑‑ not many questions related to the ACP proposal. What I would like to ask, but before we do that, I do believe there is a question that needs to be answered by Mr. Ba, the Secretariat, and if you could take the floor to answer that question. Thank you.

>> MR. BA: Thank you, Madam Chair.

Good morning, everyone.

I think it is more for my colleagues from the Conference of publication department, Mr. Shin could possibly take the floor on this question.

Thank you.

>> CHAIR: Thank you, Mr. Ba.

If we could please give the floor to the ITU staff. Thank you.

>> Thank you very much. With regarding the questions from the Distinguished Delegates regarding WSIS, and there was also a question to TSB regarding the decision at WTSA, that the Distinguished Delegate from the U.S. brought up, we would like to ask that we consult with the WSIS team as well as the WTSA team on this and come back.

>> CHAIR: Thank you.

So we need to get a question answered regarding this is in a report that's requested here and instructs number 8. We also ‑‑ I don't see any ‑‑ I see broad support for some of the ideas in the RCC proposal and I see broad support for the ACP common proposal and I would like to request that RCC coordinator, point of contact as well as the ACP point of contact, please work together to have ‑‑ to merge the two documents and bring it back to our Com 6 meeting for further discussion.

I would request that any Member State that would like to join this discussion, please do so. This is a Drafting Group that I am creating with a coordinator from the RCC and ACP.

Russian Federation, you have the floor.

>> RUSSIAN FEDERATION: Thank you, Madam Chair.

We support your decision. I think not only to reach it, but all those who wish to participate, they can participate, in fact, and I would simply like to respond to the comments made with regard to the application twice a year, we consulted the Secretariat and we are happy to preplace with improving the search means in the database with regard to translation we can add the word to continue translating.

We can discuss this not in Plenary but in the Drafting Group.

I thank you.

>> CHAIR: Thank you, RCC for that.

We have sent Resolution 154 regarding languages and the two proposals to a Drafting Group coordinated by the RCC and ACP. Please contact these points of contact if you would like to participate in this Drafting Group.

Thank you very much.

With that, we would like to move on ‑‑ go back up to our agenda and we're now going to focus on theme 4‑5 having to do with Decision 5, revenue and expenses for the Union for the period of 2024‑2027 and I would ask Mr. Ba to introduce DT/29.

You have the floor.

>> MR. BA:: Thank you, Madam Chair.

Allow me on behalf of the Secretary‑General to present Document DT/29 but also 57 at the same time.

This is a Draft Financial Plan for 2024 and 2027 and proposed Revision of Decision 5. At the outset, Document 57 provides overview of the variance in comparison to the budget of 2020/2021 and also 2022/2023 and the current financial plan for 2022/'23, and this is balanced and amounts to 640 million taking into consideration the increase in the class of contributions and in DT/29. The reduction in revenue comes from the reduction of costs recovery of satellite network with Telecom, it is no longer possible to rely on the savings of implementation of the budget.

This reduction, it is compensated by the increase of the sales and publication and the implementation of revenues from resources, expenses increase because of the annual payments for the health insurance, the new building has reached 3 million Swiss francs as of 2027 and the suppression of the vacancy rate of 5% which can no longer be maintained.

You may remember that in Document 57 there's an overall 90 million reduced to 7.4 million in DT/29 because of the increase in the number of contributory units established in drafting budget 2024/2027, and the 2026 and 2027. To this end, the new management of ITU will need take efficiency measures as well as reorganization prioritization measures and to rely on voluntary separation measures.

There is also 6 million Swiss francs from the reserve fund to finance voluntary, Document 29 providing the updated Draft Financial Plan and the Revision of the financial plan in annex 1 to reflect the increasing contributions and there was an increase in 12.1 units for the four‑year period. We also suppressed the link to Telecom costs for 4 million Swiss francs between 2024 and 2027 and the Draft Financial Plan contained the cut of 90 million reduced following the increases in the classes of contributions but also the suppression of 4 million cost recovery of Telecom to take into account the above mentioned issues.

This is an overview of the two documents, Document 57 and 59 and I remain at your proposal for any question.

Thank you.

>> CHAIR: Thank you very much.

Also we have a report from the Secretary‑General of financial plan.

We also now need to introduce the Indian proposal, Document 93.

We have India proposal, Document 93, and it is submitted by a single Member State. Is there another Member State in Com 6 supporting this ‑‑ discussing this proposal? Brazil, you have the floor.

>> BRAZIL: Thank you, Madam Chair.

Brazil wants to discuss further this proposal. I think we can do that in the next meetings, in the Ad Hoc Group.

Thank you, Madam Chair.

>> CHAIR: Thank you very much Brazil.

India, you have 3 minutes to introduce your proposal in Document 93.

Thank you. It was accepted by Com 6.

>> BRAZIL: This document, it is the proposal for the work of Conference on the balanced budget for the Union, there was a reduction in expenses related to fellowships relating to Swiss francs to 160,000 for 22/23 compared to the Swiss francs for the budget for 2021. This is the reduction of Swiss francs 976,000 which we have for the participation of LDCs, landlocked Developing Countries and small island Developing Countries.

This needs to be increased or kept at the level of 2020/2021 so that the developments of LDCs, others, they may benefit. The reasons are, the cost recovery, it may be done by the reduction and expenses related to languages for 22/23 and the provision which I have discussed with you and to have a healthy budget to look at the various activities of the Union using the generated revenues and contributions from members.

Some measures India has suggested based on the analysis of ITU budget '22/'23 and Draft Financial Plan '24/'27 India provided the appreciation to ITU and also some of the issues as follows: The Draft Financial Plan is to be linked to the thematic priorities and goals identified and to synchronize activities among three sectors to avoid duplication of work.

Efforts to increase revenues from cost recovery as for the extent of resolutions, there should be no reduction in expenses effecting cost recovery revenue, increase role of regional offices by delegation of appropriate financials as well as administrative powers, this will help in further decentralization and democratization of Union's functions, in‑house capacity building of ITU staff, as well as delegates of Member States to reduce the dependence on experts and consultant.

The delegates that are expert in the field as required by ITU may be assigned the task performed by consultants. All revenue models in the digital mode may have to be explored, the best practices adopted by other UN agencies and multilateral organizations notes will be studied. Exploring the quality, the content, in‑kind contributions from Member States, and a list of required in‑kind contributions from the Union could be provided to the Member States to align their contributions accordingly.

On the lines of work conducted with representatives of the three Bureaus, and the General Secretariat, a similar event may be planned with members to provide actionable points on the reducing of expenditure and balancing the Draft Financial Plan.

India will be happy to assist and share its expertise in the field and the Council is requested to consider the suggestions provided by India to enable a healthy, balanced budget for effectively carrying out the activities of the Union.

Thank you, Chair.

>> CHAIR: Thank you very much, India, for your introduction of the proposal.

I now have proposals from the RCC and RCC, who will introduce your proposals in Document 68?

Go ahead.

Russian Federation, you have the floor.

>> RUSSIAN FEDERATION: Thank you, Madam Chair.

Our proposals on Decision 5, overall are designed to increase the efficiency of the use of ITU financial resources including and enhancing the accountability and the transparency of related activities. However, without compromising on requirements related to ensuring the Union's business continuity and performance.

Furthermore, we have reflected the following in our proposal, namely that the distribution of this total financial resources of ITU must be implemented in line with the ITU priorities and program, both One ITU and, of course, in line with the sector goals which, of course, will be linked to thematic priorities of the Strategic Plan.

Some of the Amendments are editorial, we also think that the Council must take measures to ensure all types of funds are at the relevant level or reserved funds of the ITU that are designed to ensure business continuity and we need to introduce new accountability model which was approved at Council 2022 and finally, perhaps we'll need to review the annex to decision 1 inter alia because many measures on enhancing efficiency which we have taken in the past are now outdated.

I thank you.

>> CHAIR: Thank you very much, RCC.

The plan for this document is to send this to the Ad Hoc Group, sent to an Ad Hoc Group for further discussion. If any Member State would like to take the floor to just make a short statement in Plenary to have more situational awareness for the ad hoc Chair and I'm proposing that Switzerland undertake chairing this ad hoc meeting.

I'm going to close the floor now. If you would like to take the floor, please do so on this issue.

I have Brazil, Canada, United States of America, Russian Federation and I also understand that the Director of the R sector would like to take the floor as well.

All right.

The list, I'm closing the list.

I have Brazil, Canada, United States, Russian Federation, Paraguay, France, Uruguay, the list ‑‑ Algeria. The list is closed.

I have closed the list.

Brazil, you have the floor.

>> BRAZIL: Thank you, Madam Chair.

For sure we will participate in these Ad Hoc Groups with the document. For now, I'll be brief, we would like to announce that we would like to propose an addition to the decides 6 and the Decision 5 (b) to add something and it should be, like ‑‑ there should be no reduction in expenses which would affect cost recovery revenue, that's the actual language.

We would add ending funding activities directly linked to the implementation of the Radio Regulations and their associated studies.

The reason for these additions comes from the status given to the ITU contribution to the Radio Regulations which are considered regulations and therefore binding, recalling Article 5, in our view, that should be reflected in a clear guideline for financial resource allocation, recalling also the ITU Constitution, Article 1, we have that the Union shall in particularly effect the bands of radio frequency spectrum, allotment of radio frequencies, and the registration of the radio frequency assignments and to coordinate the efforts to eliminate harmful interference.

Those aspects should be reflected in the guidelines for financial resource allocation. Then we kindly invite the Member States to consider this proposal in the next discussions.

Thank you, Madam Chair.

>> CHAIR: Thank you very much.

We're taking these down and we'll pass these on to the ad hoc Chair.

Canada, you have the floor.

>> CANADA: Thank you.

Very briefly, we thank all those who have previously taken the floor to align ourselves with the comment of our friend and colleagues from Brazil.

Particularly, first of all, in congratulating those that have increased their contributions to the ITU, Brazil, United States, others. The two questions stemming from this, in regards to the allocation of the budget, the increase ‑‑ for the question for Mr. Ba, the increase we saw in the document, 12 and three quarters of a unit, where are those funds going and then we understand the announced deficit, reduction of cuts of 70%, how would that be balanced in regard to the new revenue.

Again, to reiterate that we need more clarity as to how ‑‑ hopefully not it will affect the budget in particular of the radiocommunications in the delivery of key issues for Member States.

Thank you.

>> CHAIR: Thank you very much, Canada. We'll take that question and come back to it.

United States, you have the floor.

>> UNITED STATES of AMERICA: Thank you, Madam Chair.

Thank you to Mr. Ba for the introduction and other members. We look forward to more discussions in the Ad Hoc Group for the informal. We have similar questions as to Canada regarding some more clarity on how the new increases and contributory units were incorporated as well as to see if we could get some answers to the question posed by India in their document regarding the decrease in the fellowship, the amount allocated to fellowships and that there is a reasoning behind that. It may help in our conversations in the next meeting and then to lend support to having conversations about the text proposed by Brazil.

Thank you.

>> CHAIR: Thank you, United States.

Russian Federation, you have the floor.

>> RUSSIAN FEDERATION: Thank you, Madam Chair.

The Russian Federation also supports the proposal of the colleagues related to the proposal by Brazil. We stand ready to participate in the discussion of the relevant Amendments to Decision 5. I also have a request for Mr. Ba to make the relevant changes in Resolution 71 where there is a link between the strategic plan and Decision 5 because I have three different figures and they are all different. I would also like to draw your attention to the fact that, for example, thematic priority 1, spectrum satellite orbit will require almost 235 million‑dollars over a four‑year period.

At the same time, expenses related to the R sector in the version of the plan that was just presented to us, 121.5 million Swiss francs, I would like to know what sector, whether the General Secretariat are involved in this thematic priority, one.

Lastly, we already discussed this with Mr. Ba, the 3% of the budget allocated to languages, could we ‑‑ we wanted to ask, maybe we should have more than 3%, maybe we should have less, maybe we should leave the 3% so that we would understand the prospects linked to languages especially given the general support for multilingualism and keeping our tradition to have all official languages that we already have.

I thank you very much.

>> CHAIR: Thank you very much, Russian Federation.

I have Paraguay. You have the floor now.

>> PARAGUAY: Thank you very much, Madam Chair.

Just to be brief, we would like to say that the Delegation of Paraguay supports the proposal put forward by Brazil pertaining to Decision 5 and we support what they have suggested.

Thank you.

>> CHAIR: Thank you very much, Paraguay.

I now give the floor to France.

>> FRANCE: Thank you very much, Madam Chair.

We would also like to thank Brazil and we support their proposal to ensure that the efficiency measures do not endanger the recovery cost processes, typically to the elimination of the Radio Regulations which is absolutely critical path for the Union which has been very well explained by our colleague from Brazil.

Thank you.

>> CHAIR: Thank you very much, France.

Uruguay, you have the floor.

>> URUGUAY: Thank you very much, Mr. Chair.

Just very briefly we would like to thank and support the proposal put forward by the Brazilian delegation, in addition to what our colleagues have already said, we feel that cannot, nor should we threaten once again the essential time we have with additional delays with the substantive increase of the satellite network filings of non‑GSO satellites.

Thank you.

>> CHAIR: Thank you very much, Uruguay.

Algeria, you have the floor.

>> ALGERIA: Thank you, Madam Chair.

Thank you to the Secretariat for the presentation of our colleagues who have made presentations.

I would like first to thank India for the proposal, very interesting document and proposals and I wanted to say in addition to what India has proposed here, the fact that also good management can contribute to financial efficiency, right, I think that the good management in terms of enhanced internal processes, you know, increase the involvement of staff, many items can be considered with the overall financial budget from India.

Thank you very much for this.

Also on Document 29, I think that irrespective of the internal discussions and Strategic Plan, we cut the strategic goal from 5 to 2 and expect to reduce the expenses and the reverse situation happens. When we see the current Draft Financial Plan in Document 29 in comparison from the previous Draft Financial Plan in the biannual budget, I think that the sectors, expectations rose. So the BR, the BDT also, the expenses have rose and beside the fact that we make a lot of adjustment in the strategy. It will be maybe suitable if we have also the draft biannual budget for the period of 2024 to 2025 as an aforementioned document so we see how RRB is implemented, the budget is allocated, priorities, strategic goals, so on. Better clarity to see how this increase in budget is being justified. I don't see how the expenses are being justified. Perhaps Mr. Ba can clarify.

Thank you, overall, for the presentations.

>> CHAIR: Thank you very much, Algeria.

With that, I would like to give the floor to the communication sector to say a few words.

Thank you.

>> MARIO MANIEWICZ: Thank you very much, Madam Chair.

I will be very brief. I think after what I heard just now, I don't know if I need to intervene at this point. I will do it anyway for the benefit of those who haven't spoken.

I would like to thank Brazil for their proposal as well as other countries for their support and understanding, including India which also included an item on cost recovery in their contribution.

I just wanted to share with you a concern before you start the work in the Ad Hoc Group that you have created, Madam Chair, and it is a fact that we have started to navigate through a period of the de diminishing financial resources for the ITU. This as Mr. Ba had just mentioned in his presentation will most probably last several years. In such a framework that we cannot necessarily use to manage in the long run, where budget reductions have been happening, and will most probably likely to continue to happen, we see how they impact the Radiocommunication Bureau in particular, I think that we need to establish a clear distinction between core activities that are a priority to the membership and those that could be postponed or put in standby until we get additional resources.

The activities in the first group are essential to the Union and its members and shouldn't be the object of budget cuts that would hamper their implementation as was mentioned by many Member States here present.

In particular, those that are related to the implementation of binding treaties such as Radio Regulations. If we start sliding on our services and products regarding the Radio Regulations then the ITU would be missing the reason of the organization. We should be very careful about this and how we prioritize the activities and the use of resources for the Union, in particular, with a diminishing resource scenario.

So my message to you today, it is that in my view we have to somehow embed the concept in the text of Decision 5 so that the future management of the Union would be guided by this principle agreed by the Member States.

Thank you very much, Madam Chair.

>> CHAIR: Thank you very much.

So with that, we have introduced ‑‑ okay.

The documents related to the financial plan, I'm going to give the floor to Mr. Ba to answer questions that came up during the discussion.

We will provide a way forward then.

Mr. Ba, you have the floor.

>> MR. BA: Thank you, Madam Chair.

At the outset, the Secretariat would like to begin by extending its thanks to all of the countries that increased their cluster contribution, mainly Brazil, United States, Guinea, Cambodia amongst others just to not list all of them.

There were a number of questions, I would like to also thank India and the RCC for their contributions pertaining to Decision 5 but also on the proposals to reduce the budget.

Now, pertaining to Canada who asked were these supplementary units, where will they be allocated. As you know, in Document 57, there is a line which sets out that there is a global cut of 19 million. If you look at the table, therefore, we wanted to reduce this global cut for 19% through the increase of 12 and a quarter units versus 56 million Swiss francs. As you know, the difficulties and challenges that Bev for the Telecom event, it is two years since we have not been able to implement the Telecom event which means that we haven't been able to record the cost recovery link to this. Therefore, while we're awaiting for the resolution to be discussed at this PP we have reduced or put to 0 this cost recovery line for the Telecom event. This means that in the Document DT/29 you can see that the global reduction has gone from 90 million to 17.4 million Swiss francs for the four‑year period, 2024 to 2027.

India raised the issue of fellowships. As you know, the 2020/2021, 2022, 2023 budget were approved with the Council with the allocated costs for fellowships. Therefore, we once again will have an opportunity to discuss this during the preparatory for the budget of 2024, 2025 and also 2026 and 2027 budget periods on the fellowship allocation amounts.

The proposal from India also looks at the budget for 2022, 2023 and I don't think we can come back to this, on this 2023 ‑‑ on this period that was approved by the virtual council in 2021 and we take good note of this proposal reflected as much as possible in the preparation for the budget for 2024 and 2025. The Russian Federation also raised the issue of more than 200 million francs for the BR, they will see 120, many of which has been allocated to the BR sector, I say that the 200 million related to the total costs linked to the thematic priorities, however, the financial budget for BR, about 120 million, 2024 and 2027 and '26 and '27, hasn't been a significant reduction in the budget which has been allocated to the BR.

Now, turning to the Russian Federation, also spoke about 3% for languages in Decision 5, you can see that we talk about a maximum ceiling of languages for 85 million Swiss francs, this is also reflected in Decision 5. At each Plenipotentiary Conference, this figure has not changed. We have a fixed ceiling which has been allocated by the PP of 85 million Swiss francs which are dedicated to languages.

Now, turning to the activities, the cost recovery costs, we haven't proposed to reduce these nor to change them. It is only that we wanted to align the current context, if you will recall, at the Council meeting we did present the financial situation of the budget of 2022, the budget allocated for cost recovery, risks not achieved, given the closure of the financial year of 2022. That's taking a cautionary measure, we thought it would be useful to put in a budgetary plan which is realistic and the direction to achieve, when we take these decisions.

Algeria also raised a question pertaining to the budget, putting together Draft Budgets of the future. This will be done when the financial plan, as I just would like to recall, this is a framework which kind of encompasses, so the Plenipotentiary Conference cannot fix these limits, and then based on this Draft Financial Plan, we will then draft the budget.

Turning to the budget of 2024 and 2025, it will be presented to the budget session of 2023 but also the cost estimates for 2026 and 2027 will also be presented. With that, Madam Chair, there are some clarifications I would like to bring to bear, and also we look forward to participating in the work of the Swiss delegate that's going to Chair the Ad Hoc Group on Decision 5 and also on the financial plan and, of course, the Secretariat stands ready to answer all questions that the delegates may like to raise during that Ad Hoc Group meeting.

Thank you very much, Madam Chair.

>> CHAIR: Thank you very much, Mr. Ba.

What I would like and propose, it is that there is no objection, there was actually support from Switzerland chairing the Ad Hoc Group on financial matters and that will be the name of the group.

As part of that group, we will take the documents that we introduced today and as well as the proposal made by Brazil that had brought ‑‑ that had broad support to be included in Decision 5.

Switzerland, do you take on this challenge? Thank you, Madam Chair. Yes, of course, we stand ready to help. I would like it thank you and the whole room for the trust that you have placed in us and we'll do everything we can over this coming week and we'll be delighted to work with the Chair of the Strategic Plan group with whom, of course, there will be the impact and the results from our work.

Thank you very much, Madam Chair.

>> CHAIR: Thank you very much, Switzerland.

I will pass along my notes to you from Plenary on this discussion.

All right.

That will be done and we'll make sure that's posted rather quickly.

We have 3 minutes left in our meeting and I'm hesitant to start any new documents.

I note we did not get to events, obligation and management, so what I would like to propose, tomorrow, we start with scheduling and duration of Conference and forums under theme 5 so that will be the start of our work tomorrow and we will also have a readout on Resolution 212 and we'll also have a readout on Resolution  30 so preview of what's coming up tomorrow.

We'll also have a read out on DT/12, Resolution 48. We'll have a readout on Resolution 71 and a readout from Stella on Resolution 25.

On Res. 148 and 191.

With that, if there are ‑‑ United States, you have the floor.

>> UNITED STATES of AMERICA: Thank you, Madam Chair.

I thought I would offer, we had side conversations with the delegation from India. There should be a DT/20 around Resolution 30, people can look out for that. We offered some possible way forward on the text so that we can help conclude that agenda item. Just for folks to look for a revision to DT/20.

Thank you.

>> CHAIR: Thank you very much, United States, India, working to conclude that.

With that, if there are no more questions regarding what's on our agenda for tomorrow we have three hours. What I would also like to propose, if we conclude our agenda tomorrow, since we have three hours, I would like to allocate the remaining time to the Ad Hoc Group on financial matters so that we could start having that discussion.

If there is no objection to that, that is what we will do.

I thank you all very much. Thank you for coming.

Mr. Ba? Are you sure ‑‑ with that, the meeting is closed. Thank you very much. Welcome to all of you who have been participating.

(Committee 6 concluded at 1730 EEST)

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