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>> CHAIR: Good morning. How are you? I hope that everyone is well. I know that you didn't have your ‑‑ we didn't have our music this morning. We forgot to put it on, but remember, if you have a song that you would like to walk in to in the morning and hear it at our next meeting, let me know. We're moving rapidly through our agenda. Our agenda is in document ADM/10 Revision 8.

So as we have done at our previous meetings our agenda items that we're going to discuss today are in red. And as you can see looking through our agenda Resolution ‑‑ Ad Hoc Group on Resolution 48 completed its work and it is in DT/32. I'm really excited about that. So we also have completed under our Theme 2 Resolution 157. We are going to get a readout, but I want to come back to that at the end because Mr. Ba is not in the room right now. And then I would like to move on to Resolution 77, all of the documents under Resolution 77 including the schedule of future conferences and assemblies.

And we also have a new proposal from the Arab States here on side events. So I think that that's going to be our agenda for today. As with that I'm also ‑‑ if you recall, yesterday we discussed giving part of Committee 6's time to the Financial Matters Ad Hoc Group that we created yesterday. I was being very optimist that we would finish our work on Friday and not have to go in to Saturday. But I promise you Sunday you are off. I really promise that.

So if there are no objections to approving the agenda or can we do that? All right. I don't see any objections. So why don't we get to it then. So I would like to turn it over to my Vice‑Chair, Blanca to introduce ad hoc ‑‑ the revisions to Resolution 48 that are in DT/32. Blanca, you have the floor.

>> BLANCA GONZALEZ: Thank you very much, Madam Chair. Good morning. I'm going to present Document DT/32 which is the review of Resolution 48. The Working Group that I had the honor of presiding met on two opportunities. And I will put forward this presentation. The review of Resolution 48 is one ‑‑ what we have done, first of all, is to review and include nearly all of the proposals that were made by the various regions. Then we consolidated and simplified the Resolution text. And thirdly, we updated this Resolution. And in fourth place, we included texts which facilitates understanding of it.

So I would like to take this opportunity to thank all participants for their excellent spirit of cooperation. And I'd like to thank the Secretariat of the ITU, in particular Mr. Ba. Thank you very much, Madam Chair.

>> CHAIR: Thank you. I'm very excited because I do know that this ‑‑ we have a few Resolutions that were ‑‑ that we knew were going to be ‑‑ because of the text would take some time and Blanca did it at rapid speed. Here is how I would like to take this approval of DT/32. I would like to go page by page. I don't want to go line by line. I'm going to start with Page 1. As we have done in previous meetings we are not going to look at the editorial text. We will leave that to our editorial ‑‑ in the capable hands of our Editorial Committee. And they have been doing an excellent job.

With that I ‑‑ let's go through Resolution 48 and Document 32. Page 1, any objections to the text? Kuwait, you have the floor.

>> KUWAIT: Good morning, Madam Chair. We have a very simple comment. In the paragraph where we instruct the Secretary‑General to continue improving results based management and budgeting in the Arab language, we do not use the language used in this document. I would like to ask you to correct the term in the Arab version. Thank you.

>> CHAIR: Kuwait, sorry, my mic was on and I didn't get that clearly. Which word would you like me to have corrected? Thank you. In the Arab version.

>> KUWAIT: I don't know. It was budget or ‑‑ after ‑‑ in Arabic it is not written right. In Arabic we talk about budget, within budgetization. The term chosen here is not right in Arabic. Thank you.

>> CHAIR: Thank you. If we could ‑‑ if Com 6 will allow me we can work with the Editorial Committee and Kuwait to find the correct word here. We will do that. Thank you.

Page 2, any objections to the text on Page 2? Egypt, you have the floor.

>> EGYPT: Thank you very much, Madam Chair. With regards to Resolution 25, the discussions are still ongoing regarding Resolution 25. So could we keep the text in square brackets until the discussions have finished? Thank you very much.

>> CHAIR: Yes. We can do that. Can I ask a question? I know that Resolution 25 is ongoing. However, I don't think that the text regarding evaluation of the staff requirements in regional area offices is one ITU will change. So I would like ‑‑ we can keep a ‑‑ we'll keep it in square brackets since it is still in. All right.

Any other comments on ‑‑ actually, I'm sorry, it is Page 3 is the first page. It is a cover page. Page 3. United States yes, you have the floor.

>> UNITED STATES: I was wondering if we ‑‑ just I understand the request. But maybe we can just get some feedback on if this Resolution 25 could ‑‑ instead of having the document not go forward, I think that the substantive language in here is not going to be materially changed by the negotiations of Res 25, but maybe some guidance on that if that might be the case. Thank you.

>> CHAIR: Thank you, United States. Stella, our Ad Hoc Group Chair for Res 25, are you in the room? So we'll come back. It doesn't appear as if Stella is in the room right now. So we'll come back to that. Thank you.

Russian Federation.

>> RUSSIAN FEDERATION: Thank you. Maybe in brackets we could put Bucharest '22.

>> CHAIR: Thank you, Russian Federation. If you recall, as we have done in previous meetings we decided to leave Bucharest 2022 up to the editorial meeting, so all the final text would be consistent. If you would accept that, I would forever appreciate it. Okay. Thank you.

Now moving to Page 4, Page 4 is available. Any opposition to the text on Page 4? Page 5? Page 6? Page 7? Page 8? So if you could see Page 9 and 10, actually annex ‑‑ the annex 1, annex 2 has been deleted. Any opposition to those to Page 9 and Page 10? We are going to take them together since they are deletions.

All right. This is totally amazing. Totally. Because we have been talking about streamlining our Resolutions, and we have done this. And we have trusted our team, Blanca as well as the Secretariat to bring these matters in to the reports of the Council and the Council Working Group on FHR. And this is a much better approach for the union and for Member States. And I want to say thank you very much, everyone. We have ‑‑ this is an amazing job. So thank you. Let's give Blanca a hand. And Diego.

All right. So I will come back to the square brackets. But I really would like to see that we send this up to ‑‑ over to Com 4 today, if at all possible. And I want to make sure ‑‑ I want to also make sure we keep our running streak in Plenary, that we don't have any edits. If there are any questions of what we have done with this Resolution today, please stop me and we can talk about it. Now it is provisionally approved with the ‑‑ regarding Resolution 25 in square brackets. Okay. Thank you very much.

Now we are now moving to agenda item ‑‑ sorry ‑‑ T2.4, Resolution 157, strengthening the project execution of the union. Project execution of project monitoring functions in ITU. This is in DT/30. Let me see, hold on one second. I can't find my agenda on the screen. So can we put the agenda back on the screen? And we go all the way down.

So this ‑‑ Dominique, is Dominique in the room? All right. Let's see if we can get through DT/30. I know that proponents of this ‑‑ put it back. Have discussed this and this is the language that came forward. So let's see if we can approve this document as well. We'll go page by page. Resolution ‑‑ Page 1 of Resolution 157, any opposition to approving the text? Okay.

Page 2 starting ‑‑ yep. Okay. Any opposition to Page 2 approval? Okay. The next page, Page 3. United States, you have the floor.

>> UNITED STATES: Thank you. I already anticipated that we wanted to see if you can make the text bigger on the screen. Thank you.

>> CHAIR: Thank you. All right. Page 4. All right. We have ‑‑ if there are ‑‑ the document as a whole. All right. Thank you very much. We just approved our DT/30 revisions to Resolution 157. We will send this to the Editorial Committee. Thank you so much, all.

All right. So let's move now to our Theme 5. We're going to skip over our financial management issues for now. And we're going to start with T5.4, Resolution 77. And if I could ask the Secretariat to introduce document 37, and please remember that ‑‑ I don't have my phone today. Yes. Please. Thank you. Diego is going to do the time today.

Three minutes, document 37. And then we will move in to the following documents that support that as well. Okay. Secretariat, you have the floor.

>> SECRETARIAT: Thank you, Madam Chair. Distinguished Delegates, I have the pleasure to present document PP‑22/37 on the calendar of conferences, assemblies and meetings for the period 2022 to 2025. The calendar has been updated in collaboration with the bureaus and departments and takes due account of the various Resolutions of the PP, including Resolution 77, Rev Dubai 2018. We would like to draw your attention to the fact that as from the second trimester of 2023 until at least the end of 2024 some dates and places of the meetings may be provisional and may be confirmed at a later date since they depend on constraints related to the demolition of the building and construction of the new building. Thank you Madam Chair.

>> CHAIR: Thank you very much. Now if we can have the African common proposals introduced that are in Document 83. Who is going to introduce this document? Is there anyone ‑‑ is there a representative from Africa that can introduce? All right. We'll come back.

So maybe they're on their way. Okay. U.S., United States, would you introduce your Document 85, please?

>> UNITED STATES: Thank you, Madam Chair. And good morning, everyone. The United States is pleased to present a proposal to modify Resolution 77 on the scheduling of conferences of the union. We also have done a basic update of this taking in to account some of the plan dates and timelines for the four major conferences. So WRC, WTSA, WTDC and WSIS. We noticed a typo that it should be 2025 and not 2015 in our documents.

But one other important point that we want to raise is that we ‑‑ we added some language in to here just to note that one of the aims that we had in previous discussions on this Resolution was that we wanted to endeavor to have one major conference of the union per year just to ‑‑ because of resources and attention and human resources of Member States to be able to prepare for these conferences. As you know during COVID we all know, we have had an extraordinary year where we had three major conferences this year. And we had a lot of virtual meetings and a lot of preparatory processes kind of made online in order to be able to prepare for these conferences.

So what we're adding in to the text is also that we should to the greatest extent possible have an orderly transition in the next four years back to the one per year approach. We wanted to ‑‑ one of the events that we thought ‑‑ which I know is pertinent to one of the next documents that we thought for the next iteration that the World Telecom Policy Forum, it might not have to be held in the next four years. The WTPF was quite successful in a virtual format, but it was a very extensive preparatory process and a lot for the Member States.

Our proposal is to proceed in the next four years and at this particular point for WTPF we would not continue to have that in the next four years. With the new building construction and meeting spaces less available not having the WTPF in the next four years might be in the interest of all the Member States. So with that, we thank you.

>> CHAIR: Thank you very much, United States. So ‑‑ and then we also have the Arab States document on Res 2. Who from the Arab States ‑‑ sorry. Australia, you asked for the floor.

>> AUSTRALIA: Thank you. Thank you very much, Chair. Apologies. Can you confirm that you can hear me?

>> CHAIR: Yes.

>> AUSTRALIA: Yes. Just a brief statement regarding the U.S. proposal. Australia would like to note by its support of the U.S. proposal we believe that it is sensible given current budgetary concerns. And, of course, the heavy workload of meetings we have experienced over the past couple of years that has placed quite a number of pressures, not only on smaller Delegations but on the ITU Secretariat. Thank you, Chair.

>> CHAIR: Thank you. And Com 6 let me apologize. I knew that the U.S. had ‑‑ was only one Member State contribution. I also knew that there was support from ‑‑ of Canada and Australia. But I should have opened the floor for that. So that was process foul on my part. I apologize. Canada, you have the floor. Then I have Kuwait.

>> CANADA: Thank you. It is for clarification for the way we will continue working. We have a list of documents, some related to a particular Resolution, some to WTPF. This one on scheduling. At what time are we going to make specific comments to specific documents? Thank you.

>> CHAIR: Thank you. I was going to open the floor after we introduce the Arab States proposal on Res 2. We can't resolve the Res 2 edits until we resolve the Resolution 77. After I give Kuwait the floor then I will open it for broader discussion. And then we will come back to the other document that's in this list of documents.

Okay? Kuwait, you have the floor.

>> KUWAIT: Thank you, Madam Chair. First of all, we would like to thank the USA for having submitted amendments to Resolution 77. With regard to Decide 3, the dates of Assemblies and High‑Level Conferences of the ITU should be determined, taking in to consideration the possibility to organize events on the sidelines of the conferences.

On the sideline ‑‑ the events on the sidelines can be held virtually. But the major event should not be held virtually. And such side events should be held virtually. Thank you.

>> CHAIR: Thank you, Kuwait. We have a big contribution on side events as well. So I am parking that comment until we get to that discussion.

In the meantime, I would like to open the floor to ‑‑ who is from the Arab States who will introduce the comments on Res 2? Okay. So if I recall, we did introduce Res 2 when ‑‑ earlier. And this Resolution, there is proposed edits to WTPF in general, just the process and then the date. And the reason it was moved to under Resolution 77 was because of the date issue.

So here's what I would like to do. I would like to open and if we ‑‑ anyone here from Africa to introduce the proposal? Egypt, you have the floor.

>> EGYPT: Thank you, Madam Chair. So I'm not the focal point for this Resolution from Africa, but I'm happy to present it on Resolution 77 you mean?

>> CHAIR: Yes. Thank you.

>> EGYPT: Okay. Thank you very much. If I can have just a short moment, please.

>> CHAIR: Sure. Kuwait, is that an old hand? Do you still need the floor? Kuwait, microphone, please.

>> KUWAIT: Thank you, Madam Chair. I would like to introduce the Arab contribution on Resolution 2 with your permission.

>> CHAIR: Thank you.

>> KUWAIT: Can I do that, please?

>> CHAIR: Then we will come back to the African proposal on 77. Please go ahead.

>> KUWAIT: I would like to present the amendments related to Resolution 2 in order to highlight the results of WTPF held in 2021. We submitted a number of proposals for amendments. It is possible to review Resolution 2 where we introduced amendments linked to the restructuring of the ICT sector. We talk about ICTs in paragraph Considering D. Then we refer to significant contributions of Member States and sector members to the last WTPF and the preparatory process and the results achieved by these fora. In paragraph E of considering, we have also proposed the paragraph under conscious where we talk about partnerships between the ITU, the UN, and international regional organizations for addressing challenges across the telecommunication ICT sector in order to implement the 2030 Sustainable Development Agenda.

We also added another paragraph where we amended the paragraph or rather we amended Paragraph E. We talked about WTPF held virtually in 2021 from 16 to 18 December. So it was held virtually because of the restrictions linked to the pandemic. So this WTPF was a success.

Sector members, Member States, and representatives of State Parties and Ministers participated as well as regulatory authorities. We also introduced a number of amendments in emphasizing. We said that the ITU being the specialized UN agency for telecommunication ICTs. These are editorial changes. We also recalled that the WTPF was a Forum for the exchanges of views with an aim of achieving a common vision in terms of challenges, presented by ICTs and new emerging services.

We introduced other changes as well where we said that the WTPF should take in to consideration the needs of emerging countries and Developing Countries because we need to develop ICT infrastructure. We need to give the necessary time to the preparatory work and to allow Delegations to have enough time to present their views and to hold relevant debates and discussions.

The WTPF should be held between two Plenipotentiary Conferences. The WTPF is held under Resolution 2 of 2014. The WTPF, should they continue to be held in order to discuss regulatory issues linked to the pressing challenges linked to digital services. In particular global and intersectoral issues such as issues linked to vital Internet services in order to ensure the sustainable development of the telecommunication and ICT sector. And to have an exchange of views. We also added another point on the need to share reports and decisions with the United Nations and other specialized agencies.

I think these are all the amendments proposed by the Arab group. And I thank you.

>> CHAIR: Thank you so much, Kuwait. Now Res 2 was, we moved it from another part of our agenda to under discussion of Resolution 77. I think the issue here is does Com 6 propose that we convene a WTPF between 2022 and 2026. That is the interval between two Plenipotentiary Conferences. Do we want to have a proposal of WTPF between now and the next Plenipotentiary Conference? If we do not, we can resolve this pretty quickly, then we can move to modifying the schedule of future conferences and Assemblies in Document 77. That's the question. I have Brazil, Canada and India. Anyone else want to speak on this point? I'm closing the floor.

I have Brazil, Canada, India, United Kingdom, United States. Saudi Arabia. The floor is closed on this point.

>> BRAZIL: Thank you, Madam Chair. As Brazil was very much involved in the WTPF that was held virtually in 2021, we understand that the WTPF is a very important platform for discussions that produce opinions that are not prescriptive and it is important for constructing consensus in the merits that are put forward to that Forum.

And alongside with the importance of discussing the themes of, if possible, WTPF and the importance of dialogue for consensus, Brazil is of the view that this merit, some descriptions in the Council, in their understanding that we should discuss the themes alongside with ‑‑ if we have another WTPF. One suggestion would be to leave these discussions of having a WTPF to the Council and moving on with the calendar as you proposed.

And finally, we think it's important to keep the process for having a WTPF and having discussions and the preparations for having a WTPF in the structure of the Council, the CWG and the experts group in conjunction with these discussions that we think are important to be held in the Council.

And keeping also the opinions as a product, very important of this Forum. Thank you.

>> CHAIR: Thank you, Brazil. I have taken note of the proposal to Council deciding as well. Canada, you have the floor.

>> CANADA: Thank you, Madam Chair. We would align ourselves with the concept and proposal from Brazil. That may be the best venue for discussing this issue, is the Council for several reasons. One of which is, Madam Chair, there is no clarity. Although we have a tentative scheduling of meetings, there is no clarity as to where those meetings would take place. And in the event to host another WTPF before the next Plenipotentiary Conference which Canada would strongly recommend against, we would not even know where we could have that meeting.

So and going back to a previous intervention by the United States, I believe that we should keep the number of events between now and the next Plenipotentiary Conference at their minimum because of issues associated with location, the demolition of the building, and the availability of human and financial resources. Thank you Madam Chair.

>> CHAIR: Thank you very much. Now I have India. India, you have the floor.

>> INDIA: Thank you, Chair. We thank the USA for their comments on amendment 77. And also comments, may be decided beforehand. And also the events should be held physically. We also welcome the other document that WTPF should be held between two PP conferences. So the current challenges to digital services may be discussed and views of Member States may be exchanged between 2022 and 2026. Request to take these proposals to the Council Chair. Thank you.

>> CHAIR: Thank you very much. UK. United Kingdom, you have the floor.

>> UNITED KINGDOM: Thank you. Like Canada we believe the decision on WTPF should be made at Council. We agree with the U.S. proposal regarding having just one major conference a year. So we think we need to go back at post‑COVID now to one conference a year. Thank you.

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

>> AUSTRALIA: Thank you, Chair. Noting Australia's previous comments regarding the current budgetary concerns of the union and the pressures placed on smaller Delegations and noting other proposals currently being discussed, potential future conferences, at this meeting, at this time Australia's concerned with adding even more meetings to our already busy schedule. However we would support the comments from previous speakers on moving this discussion to Council. Thank you, Chair.

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

>> SAUDI ARABIA: Thank you very much, Madam Chairperson. Good morning to you all. Madam Chairperson, we would like to thank all those that have made comments before me. As you all know, the last holding of this Forum happened in a very positive thing. It had a lot of echos, positive echos. And the results of the conference were very useful for all, very fruitful.

Madam Chairperson, the Arabic delegation does not decide the way it is going to be organized, neither the time nor the place, whether it will be in presence or virtual.

Those discussions as have agreed with the colleagues before me will have to be taken by the Council. So we will not cover those aspects. We would like only to clarify that we prefer to have this Forum between the two PP meetings. I don't see any opposition between what was suggested earlier and the Arabic proposal.

And we are ready to discuss this with our colleagues in parallel if need be. Thank you, Madam Chairperson.

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

>> MEXICO: Thank you very much, Madam Chair. We'd like to thank the Arab group for the proposal to modify Resolution 2. Mexico is of the opinion that holding this World Telecommunication Policy Forum as well as providing us with an overview of what's happening in the regulatory environment also needs continuous monitoring of the budget available. And the resources that need to be invested by Member States at the various international events and what we can cover. And so we consider that it is not suitable to include a precise timing in Resolution 2 about when the Forum should be held.

So we support the comments made by other colleagues that Resolution 2 in itself already set out a procedure to have a discussion in Council of the dates and the subjects and items for the WTPF. Thank you.

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

>> UNITED STATES: Thank you, Madam Chair. And thank you for the comments received. And we also believe that the WTPF can be a useful Forum for exchange. And I think the spirit of our proposal was also captured that it is just ‑‑ it has been a ‑‑ it will be a challenging time for us I think to fit this in to the schedule, but I think we can be open to conversations afterwards as well to how we can refer the decision to the Council as with past practice. And not have a firm date set for WTPF at the side event.

>> CHAIR: Thank you. I'm going to date myself a little bit. I have been coming to ‑‑ this is my 7th Plenipot. And for the last seven Plenipots we have had discussion on the purpose of the WTPF. We have made major changes to when the original Resolution was adopted in 1994. I wasn't at that conference though.

And so WTPF has always been convened on the basis of when there are challenging issues within the union, and this was a really good way to provide a conversation for all stakeholders. It was never meant to be a meeting that occurred every year because of the intensive resources not just for Member States, but also for our Secretariat. And we have as we have done in previous conferences and it has been stated by every single Delegate today that took the floor that Council is the right place. So my question here and I will say back in 2014, well, in 2006 there was a proposal to have ‑‑ to limit the number of meetings that the union ‑‑ major conferences that the union had, that was adopted in 2014.

The ability of the Secretariat to participate, I mean to really prepare for these meetings, it wasn't in our best interest. It wasn't in the union's best interest to have multiple meetings in a year. I know that the last three years have been extremely difficult. And this year alone we have had three. And we have done it. We have.

But it did come at a cost. So I would ask that we go back to our Resolution from 2014 and 2018 where we agreed to one conference, one major conference a year. We leave the decision to whether we need to have a WTPF to the Council. I do think that we can make some text, some ‑‑ an edit to the Resolution 2 text so it doesn't explicitly, we can say that Council decides or something. So that we are acknowledging that a WTPF can occur. We are not just saying that it occurs between 20 ‑‑ between 2022 and 2026.

Is that an acceptable way forward? And then I do think that we can move with modifying Resolution 72. That's my proposal. Kuwait, you have the floor.

>> KUWAIT: Thank you very much, Madam Chairperson. I have a slight comment. In the Resolution which we are studying, in the resolves, in the original document, it is said that the WTPF will be organized and it is recognized that it would be interesting to organize such a meeting. At the same time at the WTDC and why are we asking a change of responsibility and move of decision to the Council? Could you tell us why are we referring to the Council for the decision? In the past, we had taken this decision in the Plenipot meetings.

>> CHAIR: Thank you. I will ‑‑ Saudi Arabia and then I will come back to that question. I have Audi Arabia, Guinea, Australia and United States. I would like to close the list on this point. Sorry. So I have Saudi Arabia, Guinea, United States, Poland. Any other Delegation wishing to take the floor, please say so now. The list is closed. The point that we are discussing is do we need to include a date specific in the Resolution to that WTPF be held between 2022 and 2026. Thank you. Saudi Arabia.

>> SAUDI ARABIA: Thank you, Madam Chairperson, and good morning to all the Delegates. We agreed with you that we should only have one major meeting a year. However, we all know that because of the crisis there was an accumulation of conferences for this year. They were organized with great success in presence and they were prepared by all.

The modification presented by the Arabic Delegation is similar to the suggestion we did in Dubai in the PP‑18. We took the decision to organize WTPF in a given year. And now we are asking that it be organized in a given year.

I don't think that in 2025 there is another major event that would forbid us for organizing the Forum. And as we said it is organized with the world in parallel with WSIS. And we all know that the Council will decide the topic that will be discussed.

I would like to confirm that there are things that need to be discussed between all the stakeholders, which gives this Forum the possibility to be discussed in all these. We believe that it is quite appropriate for all the members of the Council to meet once every four years in the WTPF. Thank you, Madam Chairperson.

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

>> AUSTRALIA: Thank you, Chair. Australia would like to note our support for the way forward. It allows us to be flexible. If there are extreme circumstances that could see it postponed such as what we saw during the recent COVID‑19 pandemic. We also note that the WTPF preparatory meetings are also very time consuming. We are not just discussing the holding of a conference here but a number of meetings in the lead up to this conference which will have substantive budgetary and administrative implications. We would ask to also consider this.

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

>> UNITED STATES: Thank you. We also want to support your proposal. And maybe I know we have punted the conversations, but for the purposes of Resolution 77 it sounds like it might make sense if we can leave WTPF for the moment off of that. The Arab group proposal has proposed to change it, not just to talk about a date for this next four years, but to change it from being an ad hoc meeting to a regularly scheduled meeting every four years. If we can retain this as a ad hoc decision that Council takes up, that would be a good way forward in light of the intervention about some of the resource challenges for preparing for these meetings. Thank you.

>> CHAIR: Thank you very much, United States. Tunisia.

>> TUNISIA: Thank you, Madam Chairperson. We support the suggestion done by the Arabic group. And we support the intervention of our colleagues from Saudi Arabia. We must confirm the importance of this conference, more specifically for Developing Countries, because there are many topics that concern the operators, the communications policies that are discussed. As the colleagues have said we do not want to give a special date for that meeting today. But we want you to take in to account and agree that such a meeting should take place every four years as is the case of all other conferences.

And I do not believe that this will represent major expenses for the union. We are presently discussing the possibility of organizing events, side events. So those side events may not be vital for the union. So why not decide now that we should organize the WTPF every four years? Thank you.

>> CHAIR: Thank you very much, Tunisia. Sorry. Canada, you have the floor.

>> CANADA: Thank you, Madam Chair. Very briefly because you have a lot of issues on the agenda. We align ourselves with the comment may by the United States and Australia. It should not be decided right here and now and take it to Council as suggested earlier. The issue of the theme and the focus of the WTPF as it appears in the proposal, it broadly expands the nature of WTPF. We would ask you to conclude this discussion so we can move to the other very important items. Thank you.

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

>> BRAZIL: Thank you, Madam Chair. We are of the opinion that once we decide to forward this discussions to the Council, there we could not only discuss the theme, but also financial implications or budgetary constraints that we would have for holding this important conference and Forum.

And we could even discuss and decide to have a WTPF within this four years from now and the next PP. This is discussions that can happen in the Council in our perspective. And to leave it flexible, flexibility on that matter can help us achieve some consensus here in my opinion. And I want to emphasize finally that some other considerations to the Resolution 2 proposals would be important to be discussed also. I think we can do this offline if you so decide. And it is important that we have the preparatory process very clear as to have a time and a place for discussing and having views before the WTPF. Thank you.

>> CHAIR: Thank you, Brazil. Poland, you have the floor.

>> POLAND: Thank you. Speaking for Poland I would like to support the way forward you proposed. We should take in to consideration the budgetary restraint, time restraints and the availability of the ITU staff. We support moving this discussion to the Council and this could give us more flexibility. Thank you, Madam Chair.

>> CHAIR: Thank you, Poland. The last speaker, Algeria.

>> ALGERIA: Thank you, Madam Chair. Good morning, all colleagues. Well, what we need to be taken to Council is the details. So the themes, the budget allocated to the WTPF and also the venue. So but the PP to decide on higher level aspect. So holding WTPF between Plenipotentiary Conference, I think this can be done here of this conference. And not in Council. So at least we should decide to hold it in the ‑‑ from this PP toward the next PP. And then let the Council discuss substantive details on the budget allocated and venue and the themes and so on. I align myself with the Arab group and Tunisia for this proposal. Thank you.

>> CHAIR: Thank you. Here is what I would like to propose. We still need to look at the text in Resolves, in Resolution 2. Resolves 1 on Resolution 2 we will place in square brackets. We will place square brackets in Resolution ‑‑ resolve ‑‑ in Resolution 2, Resolves 1 and Resolves 2 from Document 78 A2 in square brackets with the understanding that we need to come back and still address the edits proposed by the Arab group in this document.

I then want to move over to Res 77 and I would like to ask ‑‑ Blanca, can I call on you to convene a group to look at Res 77, to look at the text?

>> BLANCA GONZALEZ: Thank you very much, Madam Chair. Yes, of course, you can count on me.

>> CHAIR: And any text related to WTPF would be in square brackets. So Blanca has agreed to take the African proposal, the U.S. proposal as ‑‑ and look at merging the texts of those two Resolutions because it is dealing with schedules of the union. We will ‑‑ I would then ask the Arab group to please work with other Delegates on their texts, informally, and bring that text back to our meeting on Friday. So that we can have a discussion in Plenary on the other proposed edits to Resolution 2. That's my proposed path forward.

Any objections to that? Saudi Arabia and United States, are you objecting? Canada, are you objecting? Okay. Saudi Arabia.

>> SAUDI ARABIA: Thank you very much, Madam Chair. I do not understand why would you put brackets around the edits of the Arab proposal. We do not object to what you have suggested forward. And we do rely on Mrs. Blanca and we trust that she will guide the discussions. But my suggestion is that we remove the brackets. And that all the proposals are sent to discussion under Mrs. Blanca's leadership. Thank you very much.

>> CHAIR: Saudi Arabia, the reason why I put the square brackets around WTPF because we don't have agreement on how to move forward. There is numerous ideas. And I do think they will work. Square brackets it is to keep me straight that this needs to have discussion. I am not opposed to sending the entire Res 2 with Resolution 77 to be discussed. Blanca, can I have you look at Res 2 as well?

>> BLANCA GONZALEZ: Yes, of course, Madam Chair.

>> CHAIR: So the new Ad Hoc Group will look at Res 2, Res 77. United States, you have the floor.

>> UNITED STATES: Thank you. We had a similar question because I think we had some other just issues with ‑‑ with other parts of the text and didn't want to imply with the one bracket that the rest of the text was agreed. So we're happy to have Blanca take on the consideration in a wholistic manner, the work work. Thank you.

>> CHAIR: Nope. Thank you very much. Canada, you have the floor.

>> CANADA: Yeah. Thank you, Madam Chair. Exactly the same questions raised by the United States. So thank you very much.

>> CHAIR: Thank you. Russian Federation, is it on this point? I'm closing the floor. The floor is closed. Russian Federation, you have the floor.

>> RUSSIAN FEDERATION: Thank you very much, Madam Chair. It is difficult for me to say on which item I'm taking the floor because we are used to your way of conducting the meeting. Nonetheless, you are jumping around a little bit. So I would like to ask you a question just for clarification. In the beginning of the consideration of this item you said that we would discuss in the room the new proposal of the Arab States on the draft new Resolution and the proposal of the USA on Resolution 2.

So you said that you would give the floor to Member States at this Committee session. Now we are creating an ad hoc prepared by Madam Blanca. And we would like to ask for clarification. We would have an opportunity to take the floor now on the documents that were presented? We would like to do so.

>> CHAIR: Russia, yes. If you have a comment on the documents Res 2, a comment on Res 77. I thought I did open the floor. Apologies if I wasn't very clear. We are going to look at the new proposal from Arab States on side events. If you have any comments that are going to be chaired by Blanca, please do so. If there are other administrations that would like to take the floor on Res 77 and Res 2, the floor is open and I plan to close it. Russian Federation, you have the floor. The floor is closed.

>> RUSSIAN FEDERATION: Thank you very much, Madam Chair. I'm grateful to you for this clarification opportunity to make comments. First of all, we'd like to support the Arab proposal on the draft new Resolution on holding side events or document 78. We would like to fully support this document as well as the ideas as set out in this document.

We would be very happy to join the work of the Ad Hoc Group on this document. We are convinced that it must be approved or at least its main aspects should be approved. On the USA document we would like to say that on holding High‑Level Events and the participation of Delegates in them we are convinced that we should rely on the results of the discussions of this issue in Council and the experience of working WTPF, the Council and the PP and other conferences. Inter alia the WRC, WTSA and WTDC and the PP must be done in face‑to‑face meetings.

Those ‑‑ the Delegates who participate in the work of these Committees face to face must have the right to vote. This is a ‑‑ we must take in to account the difference in time zones, in the participation of the ‑‑ we must check the powers, et cetera. So there are many issues here. We must rely on the discussion that was already by the Council in this issue. We would not support an addition in the last part of the Resolution 3, a new addition on the remote participation. Thank you.

>> CHAIR: Thank you very much, Russia. So I have captured your points. And I'm sure that Blanca has captured your points as well. And so with that, I have now ‑‑ now I would like to move to the discussion of Resolution 70 ‑‑ sorry, the new resolution by the Arab States. Who from the Arab States will introduce this document? UAE, you have the floor.

>> UNITED ARAB EMIRATES: Thank you very much, Madam Chair. Thank you for giving me the floor. And good morning, everyone. On behalf of the Arab groups I have the pleasure to present to you Document 78, the Addendum 28 on the organization of side events during the major ITU conferences or Assemblies.

In the past four years of the PP‑2018 two events have been organized on the side of WTDC. And those two events are also ‑‑ have been organized on the side of WTDC as well as eight events of PP‑2022 and all those had events are concerned about different topics. Side events have always been very important opportunities so that we can meet in an informal manner and consider all emerging, new topics and also issues related to meetings and conferences.

And we would also hold fruitful discussions on all the aspects that define the technical policy and other administrative issues that need to be resolved so that we can ensure the vision of the ITU. Through this new Resolution the Arab administrations proposed to simplify and mainstream those side events so that all side events would be submitted to approval of the Council. All the results and outcomes of those side events shall also be designated to all Member States so we can get their feedback and approval before we publish those outcomes.

And since the outcomes of those events are being discussed and approved in an informal manner, the Arab States ask that the approval of such outcomes shall not be a part of the minutes of any of those other conferences.

And the Arab group thinks that such a Resolution will help organize side events while implementing the necessary procedures that need to be taken place in organizing those side events. And then we will have the opportunity to look in to the outcomes, to have our feedback on them and to approve them. This is why I submit your proposal to our Committee. Thank you very much.

>> CHAIR: Thank you. I now open the floor for discussion on the new Resolution by the Arab States. The floor is open. So I have Saudi Arabia, Canada, United States, Australia. I plan to close the list. So if you would like to take the floor, please get in the queue. So I have Saudi Arabia, Canada, United States, Australia, United Kingdom, Algeria. Okay. The last speaker will be Algeria. The list is closed. Saudi Arabia, you have the floor.

>> SAUDI ARABIA: Thank you very much, Madam Chair. I have asked the floor before we moved to this item in particular. And we still do not understand why the ‑‑ our Resolution will be sent with brackets on its text to Mrs. Blanca. So I would like to ask you, please, whether you can remove the brackets. Thank you.

>> CHAIR: Saudi Arabia, yes. Sorry, I did not explicitly say I was removing the brackets. I sent Res 2 and the text to be discussed as well as Resolution 77 and documents to be discussed to Blanca.

>> SAUDI ARABIA: Regarding the new proposal by the Arab States, we do support it. Thank you very much.

>> CHAIR: Thank you. Canada, you have the floor.

>> CANADA: We have several observations concerning this new proposal. First and foremost, we do not understand why there is any need to harmonize the nature of the number of side events, but what's of serious concern for Canada is the narrative which tends to be quite restrictive in terms of the whole idea of organizing side events.

Why should there be any approval process of outcome reports? It appears that there is a nonexisting process of approval process of side events because such reports may refer to text that have some concerns which we understand. But, Madam Chair, it is the nature of any open and inclusive dialogue. Some proposals related to holding side events back to back are not brought to the Council for consideration and approval.

We don't understand why Council should go and approve these side events. There is also a resolve that we need some clarification. It says that the events must be in line with the constitution and Convention of the ITU. We ask any events, if any, that are not in line with the constitution and the Convention. In the same token, Resolves 2, all outputs and publications, et cetera, require Member States' prior approval besides the (inaudible). So you have a side event, you have the private sector. You have academia and you have organizations. We could question. And my concern that Council has to approve in advance whatever the side events by discussing.

The last resolve again, Madam Chair, and apologies for taking so long, that any proposal to hold a side event back to back should be brought to the attention of the ITU Council for consideration. And approval begs the question does that imply that the Council would have to approve the theme, decide what can be the interventions and decide what the outcome be? What would happen, for example, with a side event like the chief technology officers?

In conclusion, Canada does not support the adoption of this Resolution. We believe it is unnecessary. Particularly restrictive nature and would send a very negative message to the many stakeholders which are part to the ITU family.

What we need is more dialogue. Not less. Even on matters for which may have different views. Thank you.

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

>> UNITED STATES: Thank you. Thank you to the Arab group for the proposal. I want to echo a lot of comments and concerns raised by Canada. We had some questions about reading this document, how it seems to capture a wide swath of side events. I know that the ITU facilitates a lot of positive dialogues with stakeholders on the margins of events. And it seems to add a lot more layer of process and procedure on top of how we have those exchanges and to try to bring other stakeholders as Canada was saying the ITU family. We don't support a need for this Resolution. I think we're not sure exactly the challenge that it is trying to address. And I think it raises more questions in terms of the scope and what types of events we're looking at. That would be difficult to reconcile at this meeting. Thank you.

>> CHAIR: Thank you, United States. Australia.

>> AUSTRALIA: Thank you, Chair. Australia would like to align with the comments made by the U.S. and Canada and express that we have some questions and concerns. In particular, there are some language used in this draft proposed draft new Resolution that is not clear. There is a definition of side events provided that's quite vague and could limit some of the valuable work of the ITU. And includes some technology that ‑‑ it includes some terminology that we would also need clarification such as what is meant by nonregular.

At this stage Australia does not believe there is a need for the Resolution and we do have concerns that it will increase the administrative burdens placed on Council and could impact important initiatives such as Network of Women or Partner to Connect. Thank you very much, Chair.

>> CHAIR: Thank you very much, Australia. United Kingdom, you have the floor.

>> UNITED KINGDOM: Thank you very much. We fully align with Canada, United States and Australia. We are not in favor of the creation of this proposed new Resolution. At a fundamental level we do not believe it is necessary to have a new Resolution on side events. And in fact, we also have a concern that it would raise more questions than answers as to what even constitutes a side event, what constitutes a regular side event. We also have fundamental concerns regarding the provisions being proposed here including introduction of new proposed processes for approving side events as well as their outputs and outcomes. We believe that this type of proposal would without question restrict the opportunity for open and inclusive dialogue.

Exactly what side events would provide. Thank you, Chair.

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

>> ALGERIA: Yes. Thank you. We support the draft new Resolution on side events. Madam Chair, in so many times the word restrict and restrictions. If I give an example of the draft new Resolution on MoUs which is being presented in Committee 5, for example, we are trying to be restrictive. And we are, you know, requesting Council to develop Guidelines on MoUs, on entering ‑‑ on the fact that the ITU Secretary‑General enters in to MoUs through an established, well‑established Guidelines. So we are too restrictive. So ‑‑ and the ‑‑ the same ‑‑ in the same direction, same spirit through this Resolution we are trying to bring some Guidelines.

And so I think we need to be consistent across the whole proposals that are being proposed by members where ‑‑ we are not adding restrictions. We are trying to bring some clarity because we found that there are need for clarity as we saw in MoUs, for example. The discussion of MoUs is still ongoing. But the main drivers of these discussions are lack of clarity. So we are looking for clarity. And requesting Council to improve Guidelines for side events and considering that these side event consume time from the ‑‑ time management of conferences and assemblies.

So there has to be somewhere Guidelines of rules in establishing side events. And, of course, by Council, which is not restrictive aspect. But, you know, bringing and putting in place more clarity on this particular event.

So I hope this satisfies, Madam Chair. But we look forward for the discussion. Thank you.

>> CHAIR: Thank you very much, Algeria. So I ‑‑ as I close the floor and I now have three administrations asking for the floor on this topic, there's considerable disagreement on whether we should have this Resolution. What I would like to propose I would like to take this offline and have a conversation with the proponents, everyone that has spoken in the Com 6 today to see what is the best path forward here. If you will allow me to do that, that's my proposal. Any objection to that?

All right. So that's what I will do. I will take this proposal offline and I will have informal consultations. Algeria, are you objecting to my path forward? All right. So ‑‑

>> ALGERIA: Thank you. Just wanted to suggest that the topic may be well fitted under the ad hoc of Madam Blanca. I think including with Telecom 77 and this one. So that's my suggestion, Madam Chair. Thank you.

>> CHAIR: Thank you very much. Yes. What I do think that before we can even get there we need to have a fundamental conversation first. So I would like to take this before I throw it over in to Blanca's group. Thank you for that. With that I would like to move on to the next agenda item.

Russian Federation, you have the ‑‑ is it on this ‑‑ is it on a new topic? You have the floor.

>> RUSSIAN FEDERATION: Thank you, Madam Chair. We are guided by the fact that you said you are closing the list of speakers. However we were already on the list. So we would like to use our right to take the floor on this draft Resolution. Very quickly, our position is quite a simple one. All the side events are not a part of the constitution. They are not considered as a priority in the work of the ITU. The union spends inspection and human resources to contact the ‑‑ to hold these events. And this is understandable. So we must be sure that these resources are spent efficiently. This is particularly important in view of the upcoming burden of the ITU linked to the headquarters project. We already have difficulties in holding the upcoming Study Groups meetings, placement of the staff and other issues.

If the process of side events is not yet regulated, we need to focus in the coming period on the Assemblies and conferences that are held in the constitution. And events, side events must be held outside the major events. We cannot increase the number of such side events which would be to the detriment of the high level events. This must be established very clearly. Thank you.

>> CHAIR: Thank you very much, Russian Federation. And China, is this a new ‑‑ is this an old hand? I think it is an old hand. Okay.

So I would like to try to get through the last document. We are not ‑‑ DT ‑‑ on Resolution 30 so we can send this hopefully to the editorial committee. So if everyone would please turn to ‑‑ we're going to ‑‑ to document DT/30, Resolution 30, I want to see if we can get through that. And then if you recall, we agreed to let the ‑‑ sorry. China, you have the floor.

>> CHINA: Thank you, Madam Chair. We registered ourselves before you said it was closed. We hope that you can listen to the comments of all administrations before you made a decision regarding the previous document. We wish to state our position. We believe that the proposal from the Arab region, yes, productive in nature, the number and the outcomes of side events be either clarified at the PP. At this current PP, the loss of side events, the technical envoy consultation were also held. We also noticed that many Delegates attended lots of events. And at the same time we also listened to other country's statements that they wish to clarify some expressions of the Arab proposal. We support the offline discussion for further elaboration so that we can clarify the number, the nature and outcomes of side events. Thank you.

>> CHAIR: Thank you very much, China. I will further your comments and I will make sure when I have these informal consultations that you are part of the consultation as well. When I did close the list, perhaps there is a malfunction in the equipment, and we will check that when the meeting is concluded. Thank you. So with that, can we go please to Resolution 30? And so I will turn it over to the United States to make the presentation on where we are on that. And then I would like to put it to the floor for approval. Thank you. United States.

>> UNITED STATES: Thank you, Madam Chair. So as from the last meeting, we had a couple of sections in the Resolves to instruct the Secretary‑General that were in brackets. And there was a discussion of possibly merging those and consolidating those to more simplified text. We had worked with India who is the proponent or the APT on the Resolution to provide a new Resolves to Instruct No. 2. And it should be in this document in yellow.

>> CHAIR: Okay. Thank you very much. The document is DT/20 Rev 1. So what I would like to do is let's start with Page 2. Page 2 is up for ‑‑ any objection to Page 2? Really those are only editorial changes. And I think we can leave that to the Editorial Committee. Moving to Page 3, we already agreed to the text in green. We agreed to add "and here". And I don't think there were any other objections to that text.

Moving down to recalling, if you can see that text is in green as well, Recalling B, there was no objection. And then we have asked the Editorial Committee to make sure in calling C that the text is correct, the reference is correct. So the entire Page 3 is up for approval. Any objections? All right.

Page 4, any objections to approving the text? United States, you have the floor.

>> UNITED STATES: It is clear to everyone, I had sent this as kind of a working draft. So the No. 2, the ‑‑ in brackets is deleted. And that USA note is deleted. And then the No. 3 is deleted. And the only remaining text is the text in yellow. Just I know it is not reflected in track changes.

>> CHAIR: So to confirm, new 2, to support LDCs, LLDCs, SIDs by countries with economies in transition and enhancing engagement by academia and industry in the ITU, including but disseminating information on ITU activities and considering the creation of a network for industry, academia and LDCs, LLDCs and SIDs is the correct text.

>> UNITED STATES: Then you would delete No. 2 and No. 3 from the original proposal. Thank you.

>> CHAIR: Okay. With that Page 4 is open for discussion. Iran, India. I'm closing the list after this. I have Iran, India, Algeria. I'm closing the list after this. I do not have anyone else on my list. So the list is closed. Algeria will be the last speaker.

>> ISLAMIC REPUBLIC OF IRAN: Thank you very much, Madam Chair. And thank you to United States for their efforts. One small point, I think it is a typo in line 1, I think we need to delete cluster of (inaudible) LDC. Thank you.

>> CHAIR: Yep. We will make sure that's an editorial. We will get that fixed. India, you have the floor.

>> INDIA: Thank you, Chair. Thank you for the supports of ‑‑ support of USA. I have a request, if we can retain para 3, if there is no objection. That to consider ‑‑ to create a network for industry, academy in LDCs, LLDCs and SIDs to focus efforts under one ITU engagement and disseminating information and provide necessary support. Thank you.

>> CHAIR: So I don't ‑‑ I think my No. 3 and the number ‑‑ so actually, I don't think this document is ready for us to approve. So let me pull this and I will ask India, United States to please continue to consult. Algeria, you have the floor.

>> ALGERIA: Yes. Thank you. And in my No. 1, we mean in transition in enhancing their engagement. I think something is missing after enhancing.

Enhancing engagement of whom? It means LDCs and LLDCs and SIDs. Yes. Yes. In that place. So the intent is to say support LDCs and LLDCs and so on in enhancing their engagement by. So...academia and industry are in charge of enhancing engagement. That's my views on this. Unless the meaning is something different. Thank you, Madam Chair.

>> CHAIR: Thank you. I have captured this on the ‑‑ on my text and the Secretariat has captured as well. So I'm ‑‑ my proposal is that we ask that the United States and India and please take in to the comments made by Iran and Algeria be included in your discussions.

And any other delegation that would like to participate as well, please work with India and United States. And we will bring this ‑‑ I would like to have this brought back by Friday, if that's possible. Thank you.

Now I will give the floor to the secretary of ‑‑ excuse me, the director of the BDT.

>> DOREEN BOGDAN‑MARTIN: Thank you. Good morning, Ladies and Gentlemen. I don't wish to delay your proceedings on this issue. But as you are sending it back, perhaps if I could suggest and I was not engaged in these discussions. So I apologize for that, but we do have the LDC5 conference, the outcome that was approved, the Doha plan of action was approved this year. So perhaps in the Recalling B that reference could be updated. It is filled with references on digital infrastructure. So perhaps offline I think the U.S. and India could consider that. Thank you.

>> CHAIR: Yes. Thank you very much. Doreen, yes, we can do that. And I will ask India and the United States to take a look at that. And we will bring this back on Friday. As we decided ‑‑ today is Wednesday ‑‑ on Tuesday that the remainder of the time from this Committee 6 will be allocated to the financial matters at ‑‑ financial matters Ad Hoc Group. I would like to close this session of Com 6 and ask Switzerland to come and resume the Chair for financial matters. I appreciate everyone, all your help this morning. And I will start work with the colleagues on informal consultation on the new Resolution. Thank you. Have a good day.

(Event concluded at 11:10 EEST)

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