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PLENIPOTENTIARY CONFERENCE 2022

BUCHAREST, ROMANIA

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>> MODERATOR: Good day, good morning, everyone. We'll start in a few minutes. Thank you for your patience. This meeting is about to start and not to end. Yes, that's right. Thank you very much for the understanding.

(Captioner standing by).

>> CHAIR: Good afternoon, ladies and gentlemen. We'll start in a few seconds. I hope you are all well, and I would like to thank for all the work that you are doing and the Chairs of the Committees and Vice‑chairs of the conference and committees as well. Secretariat, interpreters, Romanian team, thank you very much you're doing an amazing job and did an amazing job in almost the last two weeks.

Our agenda for this afternoon can be found in ADM/31. Can we approve it? Approved.

Our second point on our agenda is revision to the Resolution 125, assistance and support for the State of Palestine for rebuilding its telecommunication network. I would like to thank all the relevant parties for this outstanding spirit of collaboration and compromise. They demonstrated consensus on the draft amended Resolution which was submitted to the plenary in document PP‑22/78 (Add.9) Rev. 1, this compromise has been reached after a lengthy delicate discussion. Consequently, the floor will not be open for discussion on the Resolution. Therefore, I ask the meeting to approve the text contained in document PP‑22/78 (Add 9.) Rev. 1 in the first reading.

Approved. I now ask you to approve the document in the second reading.

(Applause).

Approved. Thank you again to all the parties involved in this process. I will only give the floor, I'm sorry, to the SG, the Secretary‑General, Mr. Houlin Zhao, on this point on the agenda.

>> SECRETARY-GENERAL: Thank you very much, dear colleagues, dear friends, I'm very pleased to get this wonderful result just adopted by you. I take this opportunity to add my words in addition to the words from our Chairman, that I highly appreciate those partners who engaged with this task with some hard work in the recent days, and particularly I see the good spirit of cooperation between both sides and also partners who happen to reach such an agreement. This, once again, provides us with an example with spirit of cooperation that we can solve those complicated issues with kind, rich agreement. I'm happy with the result of this agreement. I hope that Palestine will be beneficial from this agreement, and those new technology services that could be brought to their people at the shortest delay. I appreciate either sides to ensure maximum cooperation and thank those partners engaged, in particular my American friends and Tariq from Arabic friends to help mitigate this important task, for tireless effort are sometimes very late in the evening and for very effective efforts to bring both sides to come to this wonderful agreement. I noted that this might be the first time in our Plenipotentiary Conference that we reached an agreement even in the second week of conference. I still remember in 2010, we after a long-time debate, then we finally went to a vote for Resolution and then 2014 and 2018 we also worked hard, and finally we did not have a good vote to adopt the issue, the document agreed by both sides. This time we even reached the agreement in the second week.

So, my sincere congratulations to those who happened to reach this agreement, and my sincere appreciation to all of you for your efforts. Of course, I also appreciate the core members of this conference because you trusted us, you trusted the team, and you trusted, you know, the process that we managed and even give us opportunity to approve this result in first reading and second reading. I thank you all for your efforts. Thank you very much.

>> CHAIR: Thank you very much for your remarks. Moving on to the third agenda item, I would like to invite the Chair of Committee 2, Mr. Al‑Ansari from Jordan, to present the report of the Credentials Committee, Document 126.

>> JORDAN: Thank you very much, Chair. Distinguished delegates, I have the honor and pleasure to present the report of Committee 2 to you. This report is contained in Document 126. The Committee met 27th of September and 5th of October. The Committee held its work in accordance with its mandate and considered in detail each of the credentials deposited by the delegations with reference in particular to Article 31 of the ITU Convention. The Committee also noted Document 67 Rev. 8 on the loss of rights to vote.

Chair, the conclusions of the Committee are given in the Annex to this document. Annex 1 lists the country names of those countries who have deposited their credentials. We have ensured at that these credentials are in order. There were 174 such countries in terms of the delegations of the countries who have the right to vote and who can sign the final act of the conference.

Annex 2 and Annex 3 shows the countries who have deposited a transfer of power and who have the right to vote. We took into account documents 98, 99, 100, and 102 which are to do with the transfer of powers. Annex 4 has a list of delegations participating in the conference, who have the right to vote, which did not deposit credentials. As a result, the delegations of those countries are not to vote or to sign the final acts. Those delegations need to present the documents.

We also examined the credentials of Myanmar, and we took into account the clarifications provided by the Secretariat on the situation of that Member State.

Annex 5 mentions one delegation participating in the conference without the right to vote, which has ‑‑ which is in line with Document 68 Rev. 8. They will only have the right to sign the final acts but not to vote.

Annex 6 has the name of the delegation participating in the conference without the right to vote which has not deposited credentials. As a consequence, that delegation is not entitled to vote or to sign the final acts until they remedy the situation. As we do traditionally, Chair, in this report, the Committee would ask the Plenary to allow me as the Chair of this Committee in line with the Secretariat to verify all credentials which may be presented of the adoption of this report.

I have the great pleasure to inform you that yesterday, following on from the conclusion of our meeting, two new delegations submitted the original copies of their credentials which will be considered. There may perhaps be a revision, therefore, of our report which is currently under approval at this current session. I have the pleasure to thank all of the vice‑chairman of the Committee always all of those delegations who participated actively during the two meetings that we held. I'd also like to warmly thank the Secretariat for the efforts that they made so that our work could be successful. I would also like to thank the interpreters and all of the local staff who provided us with their support. Thank you.

>> CHAIR: Thank you very much, Chair, for your leadership. Thank you for your work. Thank you to your team and the Secretariat for all of the effort that you did in the last almost two weeks. I therefore propose that the Plenary adopt the report.

Adopted.

(Applause).

I would like to remind the Plenary that in principle, there will be no more meetings of Committee 2. It will be a revised report and the Chair may report to the Plenary as required.

With this let's move to agenda item number 4, which is a series of texts from Editorial Committee: Five blue documents, and I would like to invite the Chair of the Editorial Committee from France to present the third, fourth, fifth, sixth, seventh and eighth documents of the Editorial Committee to the Plenary.

CHAIR OF COMMITTEE 4: Thank you very much. We'll be submitting the fourth series of text submitted by the Editorial Committee to this session. This comes from the Working Group of the plenary and it is Resolution 175 on telecommunication and ICT accessibility for persons with disabilities and persons with specific needs. Therefore, Chair, I'm submitting this resolution to you for first reading. Thank you.

>> CHAIR: Thank you, Chair. I will read the first document, 128 which contains the Resolution 175 page by page. First reading in blue. Page 1, are there any comments, please request the floor. Page 1?

Page 2?

Page 3?

Page 4?

Page 5?

Page 6?

Page 7?

We have no comments, so we can approve this document in blue. Approved. I'm asking you to put the pluses and approve the document 128 with country resolution 175 in pink. Approved. Thank you.

(Applause).

I now invite the Chair of Committee 4 to present the next document which is Document 129.

>> CHAIR OF COMMITTEE 4: Thank you very much, Chair. This is Document 129 which is the series of texts submitted by the Editorial Committee to the Plenary. It's a number of resolutions which come from Committee 5. The first resolution, Resolution 136 is on the use of telecommunications, information and communication technologies for humanitarian assistance and for monitoring and management in emergency and disaster situations, including health‑related emergencies for early warning, prevention, mitigation, and relief.

The second resolution, Resolution 138 is on the Global Symposium for Regulators.

The third resolution, Resolution 209 is encouraging the participation of small and medium enterprises in the work of the Union.

So, Chair, I'm submitting these three resolutions to you for approval at the first reading. Thank you.

>> CHAIR: Thank you. As we proceed in the last Plenary, I read resolution by resolution. All the three resolutions contained in Document 129 and seek for approval. I start with Resolution 136, first reading, page 1?

Page 2?

Page 3?

Page 4?

Page 5?

Page 6?

Page 7?

Page 8?

No comments. The Resolution is approved in blue. And as the text has been approved in the first reading, I now proceed to the second reading of the document. I'm seeking for your approval on the Resolution 136 in pink.

Approved. Thank you.

(Applause).

The next Resolution is 138, and I read it page by page, also. Page 1? I see exactly in the document 129 so with page 9?

Page 10?

No comments?

Approved in blue. And I'm proceeding to the second reading, and I seek approval for the document in pink. I see a request for the floor from Sudan.

>> SUDAN: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Mr. Chairman, can we see the documents on the screen while you are approving? Thank you so much.

>> CHAIR: Thank you for the request. This is a request that we had in the last meeting as well. This is something not common to have requested in the plenary meetings to observe on the screens. We do not do because of the time constraints. All the documents are published online so you can have them, so I'm sorry for this but I would like to stay with the way things have been done in the past during the Plenary meetings. Thank you very much for this.

I would like now to approve it as I said in the second reading, the Resolution 138. No comments? Approved. Thank you.

(Applause).

And the last resolution for the series is Resolution 209. Page 11. First reading the document is in blue. Page 11 from Document 129.

Page 12?

Page 13?

Page 14?

No comments?

Approved in blue.

The second reading, put on your glasses for pink and I see no comments, so approved in pink as well. Thank you.

I now give the floor to Chair of Committee 4 for the next series. Chair, please.

>> CHAIR OF COMMITTEE 4: Thank you, Chair. The next document is Document 130 containing the sixth series of text submitted to the Editorial Committee by the Plenary. And this is a Resolution coming from Committee 6. It's Resolution 66 on the documents and publications of the Union, so therefore I'm submitting this Resolution to you for its approval at the first reading. Thank you.

>> CHAIR: Thank you, Chair. I would read the Document is 30 which contains Resolution 131, page by page. Page 1, I saw a request from Gambia? Oh, it's a mistake. It's a request? It's a request. Please, okay. It was a mistake.

So, the first reading we have page 1?

Page 2?

Page 3?

Seeing no comments, approved in blue.

And I'm seeking for your approval of the document in the second reading, the document in pink.

No comments.

Approved. Thank you.

Chair of Committee 4, I invite you for the next series.

>> CHAIR OF COMMITTEE 4: Thank you very much, Chairman. The following document is Document 133 the seventh series of text to the Editorial Committee to the Plenary Meeting from resolutions from the Working Group of the Plenary, Resolution 197 facilitating the Internet of Things and Smart Sustainable Cities and Communities. And Resolution 204 pertaining to the use of information and communication technologies to bridge the financial inclusion gap. I therefore submit these two resolutions to you for approval at the first reading, Chairman. Thank you.

>> CHAIR: Thank you, Chair. I proceed with the first reading of the document 133. I think there are some technical issues with the interpretation. We can hear interpretation in Chinese. That's okay. It's fine. Thank you.

So, for the first reading of Resolution 197 in page. Page 1?

Page 2?

Page 3?

Page 4?

Page 5?

Page 6?

Seeing no comments, approved in blue.

Now we proceed to the second reading, the document in pink Resolution 197. No comments. Approved in pink. Thank you.

(Applause).

I think applause is very welcome because it's your work congratulations for that.

Resolution 204, page 7 of Document 133. Page 8?

Page 9?

Page 10?

Page 11?

No comments? Approved in blue.

I'm seeking for your approval for this document's second reading in pink. No comments. Approved. Thank you.

(Applause).

And now I'm giving the floor back to the Chair of COM 4 for the last series of documents we have for this Plenary. Chair, you have the floor.

>> CHAIR of COMMITTEE 4: Thank you very much, Chairman. The last document for the Editorial Committee today is Document 134 which contains the eighth series of text submitted to the Plenary meeting and this is a Resolution stemming from Committee 6, Resolution 157 entitled, strengthening of the project execution and project monitoring functions in ITU. I therefore submit this Resolution to you for approval at the first reading. Thank you, Chairman.

>> CHAIR: Thank you very much, Chairman. We will proceed to the first reading of Document 134, which contains Resolution 132, page by page. Page 1?

Page 2?

Page 3?

Page 4?

No comments. Approved in blue. As approved in blue I proceed to the second reading. Please put on your pink glasses. Seeing no comments. Approved in pink. Thank you very much.

(Applause).

Thank you, again, to the Committee 4 for your hard work. A lot of work to come.

Now on the fifth item of our agenda, Document 136, I would like to invite Thailand to take the floor to introduce this document. Thailand, please, you have the floor.

>> THAILAND: Thank you very much, Chair. Thank you to the Secretariat for the document. Further the policy delivered by the Chairman of NBDC Head of Delegation last week when he announced Thailand is considering to host the next WTDC as is also mentioned in Document 136. My delegation is pleased to confirm our invitation to host WTDC‑25 in Bangkok, Thailand. As a developing ‑‑

(Applause).

Thank you. Thank you very much for the warm response.

As a developing country where connectivity, accessibility, digital inclusion, and Sustainable Development Goals are at the core of our policy, we would be honored to be the host of the WTDC‑25. We have been in discussions with ITU in necessary details of the hosting. Mr. Chairman, through you, we are seeking the approval of this Plenary for our invitation. It would be our great pleasure and honor to welcome all of you to Bangkok for the WTDC‑25. Thank you very much.

(Applause).

>> CHAIR: Thank you, Thailand. You kept your promise you made when I was in Bangkok, and by the way, thank you for being such a wonderful host during the meetings we had in the last year. I'll give the floor now to the countries that have requested the floor and I'll start with Romania.

>> ROMANIA: Thank you, Chairman. It's a pleasure to take the floor today in support of the proposal from Thailand. It would be with great pleasure to attend the meeting and to help with whatever is needed from our side, especially because we have now the experience of hosting the Plenipotentiary Conference. So, looking forward to WTDC in Thailand. Thank you.

>> CHAIR: Thank you, Romania. I now give the floor to Papua New Guinea.

>> PAPUA NEW GUINEA: As Chair of the PPT process for the Plenipotentiary, I would like to support Thailand's kind offer to host the WTDC. The commitment to the ICT and ITU is strong and well recognized. It hosts the ITU regional office for the Asia Pacific as well as the APT Secretariat their generosity is also legendary. They're very strong as a host and anyone who has ever attended an APT preparatory meeting or ITU meeting hosted by Thailand knows very well and will remember the strong organization, their incredible hospitality, and the care that they shower on their delegates. I can speak confidently that anyone who attend the next WTDC will remember it for a very long time. Thank you.

>> CHAIR: Thank you, Papua New Guinea.

I now give the floor to Canada.

>> CANADA: First and foremost, gratitude to the Government of Thailand and taking the opportunity to express that we are very, very happy to accept their invitation. Thank you, Chair.

>> CHAIR: Thank you, Canada. I now give the floor to Kyrgyzstan.

>> KYRGYZSTAN: We would like to say great thanks to you Chair. He would like to speak on behalf of the delegation of Kyrgyzstan and Uzbekistan and we are so glad to hear that the Delegation of Thailand has confirmed they will be hosting the next WTDC which has been made through a political statement, we are so glad to hear that. We have great pleasure in supporting Thailand in their proposal to host the next WTDC and we will take great pleasure in taking part in the next WTDC in Thailand. Thank you so much.

>> CHAIR: Thank you. I now give the floor to Timor‑Leste.

>> TIMOR‑LESTE: We support the proposal given by the Government of Thailand.

>> CHAIR: Thank you. Philippines.

>> PHILIPPINES: On behalf of the Philippine Delegation, we are very happy. And we are here to support as one and believe in the hospitality and competence of Thailand to handle or host the WTDC‑25 as one ASEAN and we look forward to this convention. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

>> CHAIR: Thank you. I now give the floor to the Republic of Korea.

>> KOREA: Thank you, Chair. I extend my sincere gratitude to the Government of Thailand for presenting to host the WTDC‑25. As member of the Asia Pacific Region, I'm very pleased that we have WTDC in our region, and I'm confident that the WTDC‑25 in Thailand will be a great success, and support Thailand's proposal. Thank you.

>> CHAIR: Thank you, Korea. I invite now Indonesia to take the floor.

>> INDONESIA: On behalf of the government and WTDC‑25, on behalf of the Government of Indonesia we support the proposal. We hope to meet again in the beautiful Thailand in 2025. Thank you, Chair.

>> CHAIR: Thank you. I invite Malaysia to take the floor.

>> MALAYSIA: Malaysia as fellow ASEAN member we kindly support the Thailand to host the next WTDC‑25 in Bangkok and we look forward to seeing everyone in the land. Thank you.

>> CHAIR: Thank you. I now invite Kuwait to take the floor.

>> KUWAIT: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. We in turn of the delegation of my country, I would like to express my thanks to Thailand to welcome this conference and I would like to thank my colleague, Mr. Al‑Ansari who has presented the concluding documents of COM 2. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

>> CHAIR: Thank you. I now give the floor to Japan.

>> JAPAN: Thank you, Mr. chair. On behalf of Japan, we are delighted to hear the announcement of the Government of Thailand to host the next WTDC. The Government of Thailand has kindly hosted several telecom events and many major APT conferences, and we have strong confidence in their capacity shows experience, and prosperity to host the conference, so we thank the Government of Thailand for your great contribution to the ITU. Thank you very much.

>> CHAIR: Thank you. I invite now USA.

>> USA: Thank you for the kind offer, we look forward to joining you for the next PP in Bangkok. Thank you.

>> CHAIR: Thank you. I invite now France to take the floor.

>> FRANCE: Thank you very much, Chairman. France would like to warmly thank Thailand for their generous proposal and strongly support it. Thank you, Chairman. Thank you to the countries requesting the floor. The last country that will be able to speak is China. The all the countries that have requested the floor will be able to take the floor. Now, UAE to take the floor.

>> UAE: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. In the name of the Arab countries, we would like to congratulate the Government of Thailand who has invited us to come to Thailand for the next WTDC. We are sure that this conference will be a great success, very well organized, and the Arabic Group will participate as much as possible for the success of this meeting. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

>> CHAIR: Thank you, UAE. I now invite Azerbaijan to take the floor.

>> AZERBAIJAN: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. On behalf of the Azerbaijan Delegation, we express thank you to the Government of Thailand for the kind offer. The Azerbaijan has no doubt that the World Telecommunication Conference 2025 will take place at good level and we will join with great pleasure. Thailand expressed active participation and contributed a lot as an active member in the ITU in various forms, including ITU Council and section conferences, and I believe that this will be very successful World Telecommunication Development Conference.

>> CHAIR: Thank you very much. Saudi Arabia?

>> SAUDI ARABIA: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I would like to solute all the participants and express our thanks and gratitude to the Government of Thailand for this invitation, and we wish them a successful WTDC in 25. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

>> CHAIR: Thank you, Saudi Arabia. The last country invited to take the floor is Brazil.

>> BRAZIL: Thank you, Chairman. On behalf of the Brazil Government, I would like to support the candidacy from Thailand to host the WTDC‑25, and we really believe that will be an amazing conference and we are very sure that this will be nice and we support this. Thank you very much.

>> CHAIR: Thank you very much. I pass now the floor to Russian Federation.

>> RUSSIAN FEDERATION: Thank you very much, Chair. On behalf of the Administration of the Russian Federation and myself as a coordinator for the preparatory process for this conference, I have to say that we are so glad to hear about this invitation, and we are really happy to be hearing about what we will be doing in the future. We know that we will really enjoy the next WTDC. We would like to wish Thailand courage as well as hoping that they really enjoy the preparatory process leading up to the WTDC. Thank you.

>> CHAIR: Thank you, Russian Federation. I now pass the floor to Sudan.

>> SUDAN: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. On behalf of the African Region, I also am so pleased and it is my pleasure and privilege to add my voice to the other voices that thank the Government of Thailand to the generous invitation to host the WTDC‑25. I have been twice to Thailand during the World Telecom and it is a very special country, and I wish the Government of Thailand a very successful meeting. Thank you.

>> CHAIR: Thank you. I now invite South Africa to take the floor.

>> SOUTH AFRICA: Thank you, Mr. Chair. Thank you, Mr. Chair. Equally, on behalf of the Administration of South Africa, we would like to add on to what Sudan has said that we would like to congratulate Thailand for offering to host this important conference. We look forward to being there and being active as we advance the development agenda. Thank you.

>> CHAIR: Thank you. I now give the floor to Gambia.

>> GAMBIA: Thank you very much. Gambia would also like to put the weight behind Thailand and congratulate them in their bid to host the next WTDC. Thank you.

>> CHAIR: Thank you. I now give the floor to Rwanda, Chair from experience from organizing WTDC.

>> RWANDA: Thank you very much, Chair. On behalf of the Government of Rwanda we thank the Government of Thailand for hosting the next WTDC and indeed we are happy to share our experience from the last June as we were hosting everyone in Kigali. Thank you very much, Chair.

>> CHAIR: Thank you very much, Rwanda. The next country invited to take the floor is China.

>> CHINA: Thank you, Mr. Chair. I would like to thank the invitation extended by the Thailand Government. We support the hosting of the WTDC‑25 in Thailand. I thank you.

>> CHAIR: Thank you, China. Congratulations to Thailand. There are some countries that requested the floor to congratulate you for this and hoping to acknowledge their support to your candidacy. I can see overwhelming support, so I propose the Plenary propose that the next WTDC is going to be in Thailand, 2027. Thank you very much, again, Thailand.

Committee 6 take this to revise Resolution 177 on scheduling of the conferences forums and assemblies and pass to the Chairman of the ITU.

>> SECRETARY-GENERAL: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. This afternoon I'm very happy and good news one after another. This invitation from Thailand to host the WTDC‑25, we got unanimous support and the decision to have the meeting in Thailand is already adopted.

I have no doubt that Thailand will be a wonderful host and some of you who participated in our ITU Telecom 2013 and 2016 in Bangkok still remember hospitality and efficiency of their organizations. With our team's cooperation with their teams for these two important events, I'm very pleased with very good teamwork, very efficient cooperation, and always very friendly from our host. Let me once again congratulate Thailand to invite the family to go there in 2025 for WTDC, and to also appreciate the unanimous support without any single observation from the family of ITU to accept this invitation. thank you very much.

The last word, the ITU will start to work with Thailand to start the preparations for this important event. Thank you.

>> CHAIR: Thank you very much, SG.

The last point on our agenda is other business and for this I invite now and give the floor to Head of Protocol Services of the ITU.

HEAD OF PROTOCOL SERVICES: Thank you, Chair. ITU would like to recognize the hard work and dedication of regional coordinators and had a key role in organizing the regional preparatory meeting, preparing the regional proposals, and liaison with the Secretariat. I invite the Secretary‑General to join me here at no time lectern to recognize each coordinator for certificate of recognition. First, I invite from African Region Mr. John Omo, Secretary‑General of the African Telecommunication Union.

(Applause).

I would like now to invite from the Americas Region Mr. Santiago Reyes Borda to come to the podium. Mr. Reyes?

Unfortunately, Mr. Oscar Leon, Executive Secretary from the Inter‑American Telecommunication Commission, CITEL is not able to be with us today and he will receive the certificate at the earliest opportunity.

I would now like to invite from the Arab States Mr. Tariq Al Awadhi from the United Arab Emirates to come to the podium. Mr. Al Awadhi is also receiving this certificate on behalf of the League of Arab States and I would like to add a special word of appreciation to Dr. Reham El Mayet, coordinator and representative to the Arab League of States present with us today in the audience.

(Applause).

I now invite from the Asia and Pacific Region Ms. Caroline Greenway of Papua New Guinea and Mr. Masanori Kondo Secretary‑General of the Asia Pacific Telecommunity to come to the podium.

I now invite from the Commonwealth of Independent States Mr. Alexey Borodin from the Russian Federation and Mr. Nurudin Mukhitdinov from the Director General of the Regional Commonwealth field of communications to come to the podium.

I now invite from the Europe region Ms. Cristiana Flutur of Romania to come to the podium.

Also, a special word of appreciation to Mr. Wojciech Berezowski of Poland and Mr. Oli Bird from the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland working closely with Cristiana to lead the CEPT preparations for the conference.

(Applause).

I now invite the Regional Coordinators to take a group photo in front of the podium, Secretary‑General, Directors of the ITU, and Chair of PP‑22, please if you could come to the podium.

>> CHAIR: Thank you to the Regional Coordinators and thank you for supporting me and Romania and my team for the preparatory process and thank you for supporting us during the conference these days also. Thank you very much.

With this, I would like to thank you again for the work you're doing in this conference. I'm confident that we'll be in the next days doing very well. We are slow in some of the issues, but it is something that is expected. I would like also to thank you for following the working methods we agreed together on in the Steering Committee and we presented in the first Plenary and I take the opportunity to reiterate them again that working hours are from 8:00 a.m. to 9:00 p.m. and that we'll have no ad-hocs or committees on Sunday. You can run marathon if you want to, to take to organize from Romania where there are some things to do on Sunday. So, ad-hocs will have to finish their work until 9:00 p.m. on Saturday. I know that it's a lot of work to do, but I'm very confident that based on your wisdom, your openness, your spirit of collaboration, you manage to reach consensus on even the most challenging topics we have to deal with. Thank you very much, again.

If there is no other request ‑‑ I see a request from Jordan. Please, Jordan, you have the floor.

>> JORDAN: Thank you very much, Mr. Chair. I listened attentively to finish your instruction within the work of the ad hoc. However, Saturday will be a day off, so would it be possible to give us an extension, especially since we could have a need based on how discussions and progress will be. Would it be possible to have an extension or is it a final decision on your part to finish on Saturday?

>> CHAIR: Thank you very much, Jordan. Thank you for your support. I know how prepared most of you are to work even during the night, but we managed not having night sessions, no night working sessions. This is great. It's our final decision to finish our job until Saturday at 9:00 p.m. If the committees will see that some of the ad-hocs are very, very close, very, very, very close to reach consensus and maybe at the need one more hour of discussion, I think, I don't know if it's going to be the case or not, we might have another meeting. Otherwise, I think that we know and knew from the beginning how many hours we have on each ad hoc, how many hours were allocated, so to discuss other issues we're dealing with, so let's try and have a common effort to close the debates in all the ad-hocs until 9:00 p.m. Saturday. Thank you very much for supporting this again. I really appreciate it.

If there is nothing else, I think we can start the Steering Committee right away, so I'm inviting the ones participating in the Steering Committee to come right away.

I declare the Plenary Meeting closed. Thank you very much.

(session completed at 9:02 a.m. CST).

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