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>> CHAIR: Good afternoon to you. In a minute we will start. So kindly settle. Good afternoon, Distinguished Delegates. Welcome to the third meeting of the Working Group of the Plenary. To allay your fears, we are working from now until 2:45. The Plenary will start from 2:30. They have 13 speeches. As if you look at it it is going in to 40 minutes. We will have an opportunity to close earlier than them and work at least 30 minutes to the Plenary before the doors get closed. So there is no need to panic that you will be locked out. We have 45 minutes to work and see how best we can work. This is a time of not leaving anyone behind. We are trying as much as possible to not leave any Resolution behind. So may I take you to ADM/18, which is our agenda for today, the Revision 2.

And Revision 2, what we have tried to do is to bring the proposals and the new proposal of ‑‑ on Artificial Intelligence forward. We will go by our working methods of where we do presentations and where we do not do presentations. Because of our time, even though we are supposed to have updates from the Ad Hoc Groups and informal groups, we will skip that. So I present to you ADM/18. Is there any comments? Or are there any comments? The floor is open.

I see no one asking for the floor. Is there any objection to the agenda for this afternoon? I see no one asking for the floor. So thank you very much.

We have our agenda approved.

We go to agenda item 3, which is the proposed revision on Resolution 175. And I want to bring your attention to document DT/17 which is the first to be produced from this Working Group of the Plenary. We may want to have it on the screen as it is. So we may go through that. And open the floor for comments.

From the Recalling we have updated the heading, added three more Recalling of resolutions. If you can go down. And Penultimate 1, we go to recognizing. Added United Nations disability inclusion strategy. Further down, if we can. The paragraph E modify, if you like, a standard. Move to the resolve part. No modification there. Instructs Secretary‑General updated. WTDC in Kigali. We have a new paragraph 4. New paragraph 14 and 15. Then we go to invites.

And additional invite Member States. And new invite to Member State and sector members. We go further to the end. So thank you very much. The floor is open for comments. I see Mexico. Mexico, you have the floor.

>> MEXICO: On the page we have some comments and a question that we'd like to address to you in respect to the section entitled Recalling.

Yes, thank you. It is subparagraph B, Resolution 70. I think we are repeating the reference although we have already got it further down in subparagraph F, there is a reference to Resolution 70 of the WTSA in Dubai in both those paragraphs. I think we have got repetition there. I repeat in subparagraphs B and F. Thank you.

>> CHAIR: Rather we take off the B from ‑‑ the B from Geneva is the latest. So we ‑‑ the Dubai, F will be the one going away.

Is that acceptable by Mexico? I see Mexico nodding. Okay. Any other comments? I see Vatican.

>> VATICAN: Do you hear me? The same is with the Recalling C. It is repeated on the next page under the old Recalling I, I think, about the Resolution 58. Thank you.

>> CHAIR: It is also a matter of arrangement. Do we bring C to this or let them be where ‑‑ maybe for editorial purpose we could have this I. Yeah, we could take the C to I. Thank you. I see Nigeria asking for the floor. You have the floor.

>> NIGERIA: The section that says instructs SG in consultation Clause 15, I think there is something missing in the sentence. It is just editorial. From the points where it says disability inclusion, No. 15. Yes. Thank you. So continue to support measures designed to build the capacities of ITU staff to understand and champion accessibility and disability inclusion, I guess it is supposed to be through initiatives such as workshops and management trainings. Those such as there doesn't link the statement. Thank you.

>> CHAIR: Thank you. So let's make an attempt on building capacities of ITU staff to understand and champion accessibility and disability inclusion through activities such as. Would this be acceptable to Nigeria and to all of us? I see the English speakers asking for the floor. Botswana.

>> BOTSWANA: I propose that we use the words through the facilitation of workshops and management trainings.

>> CHAIR: That's another edition. Let's go to Iran.

>> ISLAMIC REPUBLIC OF IRAN: Good afternoon to all colleagues. Maybe after through activities, such as organizing workshops and management trainings, that may be a better wording. Thank you.

>> CHAIR: Yes. Thank you very much to Iran and Botswana. If what we have on the screen is not enough, would this be understood by everyone to understanding that we are building capacity through workshops and management trainings? Okay. I see no one asking for the particular. Thank you. Any other further comments on any part of the document? I see a number. So let me ask Sudan, United States and Vatican.

>> VATICAN: Sorry for asking again for the floor, but the ‑‑ in the section Recalling, Recalling the J that is the old Recalling D is a duplication of Recalling M as duplicated. Thank you.

>> CHAIR: The new J and M. So we will not need the M. But let's cut and paste and see what we have word for word. The M is a shorter version.

Okay. All right. Yes. Okay. So let's choose between J and the new M. In line is with streamlining, maybe we delete the J. Okay. So let's delete the J and then ask Sudan, United States and I see Iran coming in. Sudan, you have the floor.

>> SUDAN: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. And I thank the proponent for the useful changes to the Resolution 5. Mr. Chairman in Considering B, if you please ‑‑ no. I'm not sure we're in the same place, but I have it here in my computer, the sentence that women and girls with disabilities face exclusion. And I'm kindly asking to maintain the original text with the less strong language, which was that ICTs can provide opportunities and benefits for women and girls with disabilities.

Thank you. I have some changes in my computer. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

>> CHAIR: If you could help us, could it be at Recalling? Okay. So it is Considering B, but you want to suggest a modification to the original text? Sudan, you have the floor.

>> SUDAN: Thank you, Chairman. No, Mr. Chairman, I'm not suggesting a new change. I think the text on the screen is okay. But in my PC there was a change. Maybe it was dropped. Thank you.

>> CHAIR: All right. Thank you, Sudan, for understanding. United States, you have the floor.

>> UNITED STATES: Thank you. I would like to note two small things. First is the new Recalling A is actually duplicative of the existing Recalling K. So we may be able to streamline that slightly.

And then ‑‑ so if we could maybe delete K since the revision valued that ‑‑ having that at the front. And then one change in invites Member States ‑‑

>> CHAIR: So let's pause here and see between the new A and the K, which of them we delete.

>> UNITED STATES: Since the Ad Hoc Group felt the importance of moving that to the front, I would delete K and move things up. I'm quite open ‑‑

>> CHAIR: Is that acceptable to everyone? I see Iran on the list. Let me invite Iran before we move to the next point. Iran.

>> ISLAMIC REPUBLIC OF IRAN: Thank you very much, Mr. Chairman. I'm sorry to take you back to Recalling J and M, in J that you proposed to be deleted, I think the wording is long and maybe not proper for a Resolution such as in the third line. We see proposing the wordings of Resolution, blah blah. So maybe it would be better to use the shorter text in J, which has the same purpose but the text is more concise and better. Thank you.

>> CHAIR: Thank you, Iran. So we deleted J instead. And use the concise text. Okay. If we go back between the A and the ‑‑ so the A stays and the other one is deleted. If there is no objection, I see no one asking for the floor.

Okay. So we have the K deleted as well. No one asking for the floor, but I want us to take our time to go through it over again. And Vatican, please feel free to ask for the floor if you see any further duplications. We are starting off with the headers. Recalling. Please go to the next. Recognizing. Considering. Noting. Resolves. Instructs to Secretary‑General. Instructs Secretary‑General in consultation, directors of bureaus. Invites Member States. Invites the Member States and sector members. And the end. Australia, you want the floor. Please you have the floor.

>> AUSTRALIA: Thank you, Chair. Australia would like to seek clarification about the ACT ‑‑ ICT Accessibility Day. We know that the third Thursday of each May in Global Accessibility Awareness Day. And this day focuses on digital access and inclusion for Persons with Disabilities. Will creating an annual ICT accessibility day be duplicative in and disruptive of this existing initiative? Thank you.

>> CHAIR: Thank you. This question, Mexico asked for the floor to respond to it. Mexico ‑‑ that's not the case. Mexico, you have the floor.

>> MEXICO: Thank you, Chairman. No, actually it is a question on the same point. Member States being asked to observe and maintain the accessibility guide. But for Mexico it is not terribly clear as to how we are going to define this, what's the process for implementation of this new Resolution will be. Thank you.

>> CHAIR: Thank you. So that's a new invite to Member States. The question is whether we want to have a disability day different from ICT as disability day and the process to it. Will the proponents accept rather than establishing, rather encouraging the accessibility related to ICTs will be observed during the disability day? Will this proposal be acceptable by the proponents? So to encourage we can take off the establishing. The observation of activities, the observation of telecommunications/ICT activities related to accessibility on the day ‑‑ on disability day. There you go. The rest could go away. Related to accessibility on the annual disability day. It is up there. The third May event, it is up there. The right name is up there. The rest is gone. Yes.

So do we want to go with achievements or activities? As we have on the screen now, the second invite, is this acceptable to us all? Australia asked for the floor. Asked and then Mexico asked. And I see Brazil asking for the floor. You have the floor.

>> BRAZIL: Thank you, Chair. It is a minor editorial, about the disability, it seems to be wrong English. Thank you.

>> CHAIR: Thank you for that. Australia.

>> AUSTRALIA: Thank you, Chair. Australia supports your proposal. Thank you.

>> CHAIR: You are kind. Thank you, too. Right. Any further comments? If not ‑‑ Botswana.

>> BOTSWANA: Just encouraging the observation or do we want to encourage activities that observe? Perhaps we need to be word ‑‑

>> CHAIR: Please take us through how you want us to ‑‑ encourage ‑‑

>> BOTSWANA: I think the intention here is to encourage activities that observe accessibility to ICT on ‑‑

>> CHAIR: Slow down. Slow down. Think about it. Let me go to United States. Let's keep what we have. Think about it. And get the wording and then we can get back to you. United States.

>> UNITED STATES: Thank you, Mr. Chair. To make sure we have the correct wording here, the existing day that Australia referred to is I believe Global Accessibility Awareness Day. And I believe ‑‑ if we are going to be referring to that, let's have the same language in the text so that it's an annual global accessibility awareness day. Thank you.

>> CHAIR: Thank you, United States. Yes, that's right. Disability Awareness Day. What we are seeking here to do is in two‑fold. That on the Global Accessibility Awareness Day, there will be the observation of telecom and ICT related achievements or activities. That observation will also be an activity.

So if there is any other rendition as we have on the screen now, we could take it and consider it. Okay.

I see no one asking for the floor. Is there any objection for this to be transmitted to the Plenary? I see no one asking for the floor. So thank you very much. We have the revision to Resolution 175 to the Plenary.

May we move on to the next agenda item, which are three proposals from three regions on a new Resolution on Artificial Intelligence. Africa, Europe, and Canada, United States. Africa, can we have your presentation? I see South Africa asking for the floor. South Africa, you have the floor.

>> SOUTH AFRICA: Thank you very much, Chairperson. On behalf of the African Group, the Republic of South Africa is pleased to present the proposed new Resolution on Artificial Intelligence. In the main, Chair, the African Group proposal seeks to reintroduce the Resolution on Artificial Intelligence for consideration by this conference, addressing some of the concerns which were raised during PP‑18, taking in to account the importance of Artificial Intelligence in achieving the 2030 Sustainable Development Agenda and the need for Developing Countries not to be left behind, The telecommunication and technological development.

Chairperson, our proposal seeks to among others to ensure that ITU give priority to its work on AI in accordance with the mechanism provided for in the Strategic Plan. And ITU should within its mandate continue studies, activities, initiatives, including capacity building on AI related to telecommunication.

Furthermore, Chair, our proposal is that ITU should coordinate its activities concerning AI related to telecommunication or ICTs with other activities of other UN agencies and cooperate with relevant international regional organizations which are engaged in the work relating to AI.

We look forward, Chair, to work with other regions to discuss this important topic as we are aware that AI related to telecommunication or ICT has great potential to benefit our society to advance SDGs as well as to address the global challenges and to improve quality of life.

Thank you, Chair.

>> CHAIR: Thank you very much, South Africa, for presenting on behalf of Africa. Please stand by for any comments that will require you to respond to. Let me invite Europe to present their proposal. I see France asking for the floor. France, you have the floor.

>> FRANCE: Thank you, Chair. I have the pleasure to present on behalf of CEPT the common European Proposal No. 28, Artificial Intelligence technologies in support of telecommunications/ICTs and the 2030 Sustainable Development Agenda. This proposal seeks to enshrine the existing work and initiatives of ITU with regard to AI developed over the recent period at a sector level but also in a cross‑cutting nature, such as the AI For Good Global Summit. This contribution recalls that this work is carried out with full respect for ITU mandates to tackle current and future challenges, particularly the use of AI to provide and manage telecommunications networks.

This proposal particularly calls for cooperation and the sharing of information with other international organizations and also multi‑party initiatives. Members in particular should be in a position to provide information and opinions to fully draw on the information and support what currently exists within the Union as well as within other United Nations bodies, a role interested in the Secretary‑General of ITU as well to facilitate these activities and facilitate the sharing of information with other organizations as well as the director of the BDT to particularly facilitate information sharing with members, Member States.

Finally, Member States, sector members and academia are invited to contribute and share experience, particularly with regard to multi‑party cooperation. This draft new Resolution tries to address how new AI technologies can be placed at the service of telecommunications and ICTs to contribute to the achievement of the Sustainable Development Agenda 2030. This is the main objective that we hope to pursue through this Resolution.

Before concluding this intervention, if you would allow, I would also like to ask the Secretariat if they have the intention to prepare a temporary document compiling the different proposals to serve as a basis for our discussion. This in the framework of the ad hoc that I suppose will be set up, would it be possible to have clarification on the methodology to be adopted with regard to the proposals for draft new Resolutions? Thank you.

>> CHAIR: Thank you, France, for the presentation. And your question which will be answered after we have heard the presentation from either Canada or United States. United States, you have the floor.

>> UNITED STATES: Thank you, Chair. And good afternoon, colleagues. The United States and Canada have submitted a multi‑country proposal on Artificial Intelligence technologies and telecommunications/ICTs. Our proposal sets out a forward looking vision of how ITU should focus its work on AI according to its mandate through two angles. By examining the how the AI, how to make them more efficient and by fostering a robust telecommunications and ICT ecosystem to support the development and deployment of AI technologies.

The ITU has already begun examining how the application of AI to telecommunications and ICTs has the potential to make telecommunications more efficient with increased capabilities. We believe continuing this work as part of the ITU's core mandate can contribute to advances that will lead to connectivity for all by focusing on ICT and telecommunications infrastructure and facilitating universal access to telecommunications and ICTs as part of a broader ecosystem needed to enable the development and deployment of AI systems.

Focusing on this core mandate is the best way for the Union to leverage its expertise and harness its resources and to ensure Developing Countries can embrace the use of AI technologies through universal access and telecommunications and ICTs. We can build a common understanding among the ITU membership and ICTs and can make them more efficient and capable. And on the importance of a robust telecommunications and ICT ecosystem to support AI technologies and connect the unconnected. We look forward to the discussion. Thank you, Chair.

>> CHAIR: Thank you, United States, for your proposal and on behalf of Canada. So to summarize we have three proposals on new Resolution on AI being AI being linked to lower the priority should be as per the Strategic Plan considering multi‑part cooperation and also examining how AI applications can make ICTs efficient or that is within the core mandate of the ITU. Because of this and to answer directly to France, there will be a consolidated document. And for that, there is the proposal to create an Ad Hoc Group which will then consider the consolidated document.

So I propose to you that we have another group on the new Resolution on Artificial Intelligence. Are there any comments? I see no one asking for the floor. Is there any objection to another group on Artificial Intelligence? Thank you very much for understanding. I know elsewhere they are leaning on creation of Ad Hoc Groups and I'm far behind. Thank you for accepting this one as well.

I will therefore propose Mr. Braao Balbino E Silva of Brazil, my Vice‑Chair, to lead this group. You don't see him on the stage now. He is on his way. But as I propose him, is there any objection to his leadership of this group? I see Brazil asking for the floor.

>> BRAZIL: Thank you, Chair. Of course, not object. Just to confirm that Braao is available for that job. Thank you.

>> CHAIR: Right. Thank you very much for accepting and to you for accepting Mr. Braao as well. They keep the promise. So this group will not work today, not work tomorrow. Will meet on Saturday, which we could observe as an ad hoc day. So I will invite the Secretariat to give us further details on this meeting.

>> SECRETARIAT: Thank you, Chair. We'll ‑‑ we are in the process of resolving the rooms for Saturday to see exactly what all the ad hocs we are communicating with tomorrow in the Plenary. At the same time that the Ad Hoc Group for cyber scheduled today at 4 is canceled due to the elections. Just to inform you in the Plenary room, it is the second policy statements right now out of eight. I mean we need probably to go to an end of the ‑‑ for the meeting if we want to be in on the election.

>> CHAIR: Right. Thank you very much. We have four minutes to the end of the meeting, even though we are leading those in the Plenary. A promise is a promise. So I want to keep that. And for this reason, we will save Agenda Items 5 onwards for possibly tomorrow.

So Ladies and Gentlemen, thank you very much for your cooperation. This meeting is adjourned until tomorrow. See you.

(Event concluded at 1442 EEST)

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