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>> SECRETARIAT: I will check the interpretation. English booth, please. Good afternoon. French booth? Thank you. Spanish? Thank you very much. Russian channel? Good afternoon to you. Chinese channel in good afternoon. And Arabic channel? Good afternoon.

>> CHAIR: Good afternoon to you all. Welcome to the 4th Meeting of the Working Group of the Plenary. Apologies that on Friday we could not meet in assembly due to the elections. In the elections, I want to congratulate all the candidates for your ambitions and for those who were successful. Congratulations to you. For those who were not successful, continue to give your best to the ITU. There will be another time for you. We have gained an hour and a half this week to be able to cover what we lost last week.

So, what will happen on Friday is that we will have concurrent, an hour and a half in the morning and in the afternoon together with COM 6. So, for delegations, please be very advised that on Friday, you have to have one person in COM 6 and the Working Group of the Plenary at the same time because we'll be running concurrent meetings on Friday, both in the morning and in the afternoon.

What we've also done that we will share with you later in our meeting is that we have a Time Management Plan for the Working Group of the plenary, the ad-hoc groups and informal groups so that you get a better view of our work for this week.

With this, I draw your attention to ADM/21, our agenda for today. We will take the Report from the Coin council Working Group on international Internet-related issues and consideration of the proposals which were sent to this Working Group of the Plenary.

Hopefully we can have some time to have some updates from the ad-hoc groups and informal groups. I thank you again because some of you have been very pragmatic during the time that we could not have meetings and over the weekends, and we know that you are ahead of what you're supposed to be presenting. Very much appreciated.

I open the floor now if there are any comments on our agenda for this afternoon. I see no one asking for the floor. Is there any objection in our agenda as ADM/21. Thank you very much. Our agenda is approved, so we can proceed. We invite the Chair of the Council Working Group on Internet Policy, Governor, Majed Al-Mazyed of Saudi Arabia, you have the floor. He is remote. Governor, you have the floor.

Kindly unmute Governor. Yes. I see him on now. Governor, Your Excellency, you have the floor. We don't seem to have Governor Majed Al-Mazyed, so because of time we want to move to the next agenda item which is proposal revised resolution 131 measuring communication information technology to build an integrated and inclusive information society. We have received five proposals on this resolution 131. We have Saudi Arabia asking for the floor. You have the floor.

>> SAUDI ARABIA: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I believe His Excellency is on the link but he's having difficulties. He can listen to us and hear us, but we cannot hear him. So, if the technical team can check this. He's online and connected as well. (Governor Majed).

>> CHAIR: Thank you very much. We seem to hear His Excellency now. Forgive us we have to go back to the four-year Council Working Group on international Internet-related public policy issues. Your excellency, you have the floor.

Yes, we see your excellency. Your excellency, if you hear us, then you can start presenting your report.

>> SAUDI ARABIA: Can you hear me, Mr. Kwame, I just want to ensure that you can hear me.

>> CHAIR: Yes, can I hear you.

>> SAUDI ARABIA: Thank you very much. Good afternoon, everyone. It is my pleasure to present a brief report in Document 34 concerning the work of the Council. The Council Working Group on international Internet-related public policy issues. Since February to January 2022, since our team has conducted its activities in line with its mandate and took note of the activities of various directors and the Secretary-General. We also held consultations with all stakeholders in an open and transparent manner. We informed the members of the results of our consultations, and we held consultations on OTTs inter alia, as well as the international Internet-related public policy issues that allow citizens to take advantage of the services in order to ensure sustainable development.

>> Interpreter: The sound has been cut.

>> SAUDI ARABIA: I would like to thank you for all the trust you have given us in the last years. I would like to point out that we have tried to put an important role to activate the dialogue on international public policies linked to the Internet.

>> Interpreter: The interpreter apologizes that the sound has been cut.

>> SAUDI ARABIA: We held consultations open to all stakeholders.

>> Interpreter: Sound has been cut, says the interpreter.

>> CHAIR: Very sorry about that. I hope we are able to get the presentation from Governor Majed the Chair of the Council Working Group on the Internet. You may refer to Document 34 which has the full report, so I will thank the Governor as he stands by for any questions or to hear us. I open the floor for any comments. Okay. Thank you. I see Russian Federation asking for the floor. Russian Federation, you have the floor.

>> RUSSIAN FEDERATION: Thank you, Mr. Chair and distinguished colleagues. On behalf of the Russian Federation, I would like to say that the CWG on Internet is an important platform for the exchange of views between Member States. We want to support continuation of the work of the group and mandate of CWG Internet. I would also like to thank the CWG Internet Chairman, Majed-Al-Mazyed for the work and coordinating issues and for his tireless work of the group. He would like to say his well-deserved word from the ITU. We would like to thank all Member States to took part in the active group, Deputy Chairs as well as the General-Secretariat, including Mr. Sarin and others for their active participation in the work of CWG Internet group as well as to all of those who took part in open consultations. I thank you.

>> CHAIR: Thank you, Russian Federation. I see no one asking for the floor. Let me wish to thank the Chair of CWG Internet, Governor Majed Al-Mazyed for your work over the years, highly appreciated, and for your particular support for this particular issue. We wish you well in your new role, and we know that you will always be a grand supporter to the ITU.

In this report, as already been noted and some of it already been discussed in the ad-hoc group on Internet resolutions, so Document 34, if you need any references when it gets to your debate as to what has been done, please refer to Document 34. We also acknowledge from Russia that they want continuity of the work of the Council Working Group on the Internet. Thank you.

We now move to the next agenda item Resolution 131 and as I introduced earlier on, we have five proposals. Quickly, we invite the African Region to present their proposal. I see South Africa. 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 proposal amendments to Resolution 131. In the main the African proposal seems to reflect the importance of telecommunications through ICT indicators and the key role that ITU plays in producing statistics.

Chairperson, the proposed amendments also seek to address the challenges that led to the non-publication of the ICT Development Index, the IDI, and the failure to implement part of Resolution 131 since 2018. Despite the efforts made at various ITU meetings. The Plenipotentiary Conference is the appropriate platform to deal with these challenges, Chair, to ensure the publication of the IDI, so as to assist Member States in policies and decision-making processes.

We further propose to strengthen the role of the ITU as a first reference for measuring the development of ICT and ranking countries based on the official statistics of Member States. We look forward, Chair, to work with other regions to find effective solutions to address this important topic of measuring ICT development in order to build an inclusive information society. We submit.

>> CHAIR: Thank you, South Africa. May I invite for the presentation of the Arab Common Proposal on 131. Saudi Arabia, you have the floor.

>> SAUDI ARABIA: Thank you, Mr. Chair. You no doubt know that the production of statistics which is efficient and comparable is important. It's also important to analyze the main ICT and telecommunication trends. This is important for the private sector and Member States as well. This allows Member States to identify the gaps that need to build up in terms with public policies. And in order for the private sector to determine the opportunities for investment. These indicators also help to monitor the application of the implementation of Sustainable Development Goals and the 2030 Agenda.

The proposals we have made seek to resolve the main issues linked to ICT and telecommunication indicators, IDI, by proposing certain changes. We hope to discuss all of these issues together with Member States in order to achieve consensus on this important issue. I thank you, Mr. Chair.

>> CHAIR: Thank you, Saudi Arabia. ACP? Indonesia, you have the floor.

>> INDONESIA: Thank you, Chair, for giving Indonesia the floor. Having taken the floor for the first time, let me congratulate you as Chair of the Working Group of Plenary. Chair on behalf of the APT members I present Document 131 modifications to Resolution 131. Based on comment 21/62, the consultation of counselors in June 2021 agreed that any further discussion on decisions regarding the future of the ICT Development Index or IDI should be deferred to the next Plenipotentiary Conference, PP-22 in the context of Resolution 131. Hence, APT Member States view of work on communication and ICT develop am and future of IDI, Member States propose to modify Resolution 131 with the objective to achieve the following.

First, that the IDI to the furthest extent possible, reflect the current developments of the telecommunication sector, digital economy, and society.

To two, to discontinue ranking of ITU development index between Member States, building in mind that the main purpose of the IDI is to measure and monitor Member States telecommunication or ICT developments over time instead of placing ITU Member States telecommunication or ICT development in competition with its members.

Three, the ITU work to review, revise, and further develop benchmarking of ICT indicators to be conducted through consultation and inviting contributions from Member States and expert, particularly by means of the regular meeting of expert group on household ICT indicators or EGH or expert group of telecommunications on ICT indicator or EGHI as well as the communication of ICT indicators and we look forward to cooperating with regions to refine these resolutions. Thank you, Chair.

>> CHAIR: Thank you, Indonesia. May I invite a member of CETEL to present the inter-American proposal? Brazil, you have the floor.

>> BRAZIL: Thank you, Chair. On behalf of CITEL we present the proposal of amendments of Resolution 1 31. The proposal aims to update references related to WTDC Resolution 8 and instruct the ITU to encourage and support Member States to produce to the extent possible disaggregated data by gender, age, level of education, socioeconomic status, a person with disabilities, and any other relevant sociodemographic variable to the development of national public policies in the field of telecommunications and ICTs.

Furthermore and most importantly, it aims to ensure the development of benchmarking tools covering four key dimensions of an integration and inclusive information society; namely, ICT infrastructure, access and connectivity, ICT usage, digital skills, and affordability.

We also look forward to work with other regions to reach a consensus. Thank you very much, Chairman.

>> CHAIR: Thank you, Brazil. May I invite a member of RCC to present. I see the Russian Federation; you have the floor.

>> RUSSIAN FEDERATION: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Good afternoon. Our proposal seeks, just like those of the proposals of other regions, it seeks to reestablish the IDI and to strengthen the work on this and other indices, such as the ICT Price basket and the Global Cybersecurity Index, the GCI.

At WTDC in Kigali, Rwanda, informal proposals were made in order to share their obligations under Resolution 131 and Resolution 8 of WTDC between their terms of references, thereby making WTDC Resolution to be aimed at disseminating and collecting information only statistical information, namely, and such mechanisms must be applied, and Resolution 131 must be more designed at working with indices and management.

In our proposed amendments, we're also suggesting to eliminate a number of provisions linked to tasks of the Director of BDT, which duplicate Resolution 8 provisions having included the relevant notes. We're also proposing for discussions on methodology, structure, and the content of the indices to continue to be held within the framework of expert groups and study groups. At the same time, decision-making must be done at a higher level so that all Member States can report fully on what is done and so that we do not find ourselves in the same situation as we did with the IDI in 2017. More detailed explanation of proposals we can provide within the framework of the relevant group. Thank you.

>> CHAIR: Thank you, Russian Federation. So, we have presented the five proposals received, and naturally in my working method, we agreed that such proposals would have gone to an ad-hoc group, but this was a special situation because of this topic being one which has been more offline taken from various escalations. And considering the understanding that we require on this matter, I thought we could afford you the opportunity of listening to these presentations in your preferred languages. And at this moment when I'm opening the floor, it's for you to seek specific clarifications because all discussions will happen in an ad-hoc group.

I want the grant the opportunity that you be able to seek clarifications in languages as you prefer and you get your responses from there before we take it to the ad hoc. So, is there anyone who wants the floor? I see United Kingdom. You have the floor.

>> UNITED KINGDOM: Thank you, Chair. I wanted to take this opportunity to present the high-level views of the CEPT region on the resolutions presented today, and of course we look forward to detailed involvement in the ad hoc discussions.

>> CHAIR: Thank you, United Kingdom. Because the ad hoc group will be working on this, I want us to have the Chair of the ad-hoc group to appropriately take his notes at this moment so that we can continue to work. But at this moment I want those who need particular clarifications on the proposals presented in their preferred languages, and then we can move everything with comments and views at the ad hoc. If that's accepted by you, United Kingdom?

>> UNITED KINGDOM: That's understood. Thank you, Chair.

>> CHAIR: Thank you very much. Anyone seeking clarifications on the proposals? I see no one asking for the floor. Thank you very much. At this moment, let me invite Mr. William Lee of Malaysia, I would ask that we create this ad-hoc group to deal with Resolution 131. Will you accept to work with all interested parties as you realize from all regions in 9 hours, in 9 hours we expect some results for you. Would you be ready to Chair this ad hoc for us? I don't see Malaysia asking for the floor. He doesn't seem to be here. Maybe celebrating somewhere. (Laughing).

Will we accept to text Mr. William Lee, I have engaged him over the past two weeks and he was willing to do this for us. Is there any objection to Mr. are William Lee of Malaysia leading this work? I see no one asking for the floor, so thank you very much. We have the ad-hoc group on Resolution 131 working for 9 hours. Secretariat, you may give the details on when their meeting starts and where they meet.

>> SECRETARIAT: Thank you very much, Chair. The first meeting of the ad hoc on Resolution 131 will take place on Wednesday morning at 8:00. There will be 5 meetings this week from the Secretariat and Head of Statistics Thierry Geiger will support the work of this group. All the five meetings will take place in the Chambers of Deputies.

>> CHAIR: Thank you, Secretariat. Now, let's move to the next agenda item. Again, this is also a report from WTSA 2020, indeed it happened in March 2022. It is on the role of telecom and ICTs in mitigating global pandemic. I invite the Secretariat to present this report.

>> SECRETARIAT: Thank you very much, Chair. WTSA Geneva 2022 discussed contributions addressing the role of telecommunications and ICTs in mitigating the pandemic and developed a relevant draft in recognizing the benefit of having such a resolution for the entire Union, WTSA agreed not to create WTSA-20 resolution but to bring it to the attention of PP.

As requested, we are pleased to present the Report SG/43/1 on this subject for your consideration.

>> CHAIR: Thank you. That was brief. Are there any comments on this report as it was presented in the document? I see no one asking for the floor. Because we have -- we have four proposals after this report, may I invite Greece to present their proposal. Greece, you have the floor.

>> GREECE: Yes. Thank you, Chair. Since Greece has the first time talking in this Working Group of the Plenary, I would like first to congratulate you for your election in this position. And also on back of the Greek delegation to congratulate all new elected Members of the Council and RRB and unfortunately Greece was not elected this time for the Council.

Regarding the contribution, Document 82 that has the role information and communication technologies in mitigating global pandemics, with this proposal we seek to establish stronger cooperation with the initiative united for SSC, smart sustainable cities, based on Resolution Document 43 of July 3 that was originally prepared at WTSA but forwarded to PP-22 due to its potential to benefit all three ITU sectors. And this resolution addresses the role of telecommunication information and communication technologies in mitigating global pandemics. Greece proposes to add a new paragraph, a provision as denoted by number 3 under Instructs the Director of Telecommunication Standardization Bureau which I may read for your consideration, to continue encouraging cooperation and deliberation on concept of Smart Cities to mitigate pandemics and health-related hazards through the United Nations-led initiative United for Smart Sustainable Cities. The reasoning for submitting this contribution is indicated on the last page of the document. It is because United for SSC, has developed deliverable titled Smart Public Health Management in ICT Implementations that it's a work that concludes to generate public health framework which specifies the pandemic's lifestyle in order to predict when massive surveillance measures take place and integrates the public health management process with the Smart City infrastructure. The mitigation phase of this lifecycle consists of initiatives that try to strengthen social coherence and economic support of the communities.

This is for your consideration, Mr. Chair. Thank you very much.

>> CHAIR: Thank you very much for your presentation and also for your work as the Council Member, being a Founding Member of the Union, we appreciate Greece. Personally, I will miss sitting by your side as a neighbor to you in Council. We hope that there will be a future for us to be on Council together.

Let me invite a member of Asia Pacific to present ACP proposal. Korea, you have the floor.

>> REPUBLIC OF KOREA: Thank you, Mr. Chair. Good afternoon, colleagues. First, on behalf of the Republic of Korea, I congratulate you on your leadership of WGPL. 18 Member States proposed to update the result of the WTSA-20 by merging and removing clauses to streamline the document, by reflecting the results of the WTDC-21 and by adding text to address specific actions for the development and radiocommunication sector to ensure collaboration and implementation across the Union.

We look forward to the discussion. Thank you.

>> CHAIR: Thank you, Korea. That was brief. Next is the Inter-American proposal. May we have a member of CITEL to present this proposal? United States, you have the floor.

>> UNITED STATES OF AMERICA: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Our proposal recognizes the importance that was placed on the subject throughout all the conferences across this year in attempts to draw together the key proposals from each region's proposals at those conferences in order to endorse them at the highest level, the serious and depth to which the Plenipotentiary council and members takes the pandemic and obligation to use it through the use of ICTs. Thank you.

>> CHAIR: All right. Thank you, United States, as well. Let me invite Cuba. Cuba, you can present your proposal.

>> CUBA: Good afternoon, Chair. On behalf of the Delegation of Cuba, we would like to congratulate you for having been chosen to serve as the Chair of this Working Group. Cuba in this new resolution, which we are proposing on the role of telecommunication and Information Communication Technologies in mitigating global pandemics, taking into account Resolution 64 calling on all countries to work with all relevant actors for a coordinated mobile response to the pandemic, and Resolution 175 on the accessibility of telecommunications for persons with disabilities and with specific needs. We have considered that in this resolution, we can also incorporate aspects on access and the need for nondiscriminatory access to medias and telecommunications in application of Resolution 74 where -- 64 rather, where all states can go into nondiscriminatory access to ICTs, telecommunications and their applications to fight against pandemics, including applied research and technology transfer in mutually agreeable conditions. Which is subject to the reconciliation we put forward for reconciliation process with the other proposals from Members. Thank you.

>> CHAIR: Thank you, Cuba. We have the four presentations. I open the floor for comments. Please take note if there are any questions for you. I see no one asking for the floor.

Very good. Means you're ready for the full discussion on this issue. For those who are celebrating too much, they will be the chairs of these informal consultations. So, by nomination as Mr. William Lee of Czech Republic will lead the informal consultation on the four proposals, and again with the report coming from WTSA. I will ask -- let me ask for your endorsement of this proposal that we take this in an informal group? I see no objections, so the Secretariat, kindly give us the details on the meetings.

>> SECRETARIAT: The first meeting of this informal group will take place immediately after we finish this Plenary in Room M and the Joint team from the Secretariat will support the work of this group.

>> CHAIR: Thank you very much, Secretariat. And now this was about pandemics, and as you are aware our host Romania has no particular restrictions on the COVID pandemic. WTSA and WTDC as we met, we had a number of cases and at this conference, we've already had some reported cases, so please we urge you to take personal responsibility on your health when it comes to COVID infections.

We move on to the next agenda item, which is on Resolution 200. We have two proposals from APT and CITEL. May I invite Korea to present the ACP proposal. Korea, you have the floor.

>> REPUBLIC OF KOREA: Thank you, Chair. On behalf of APT Member Countries, Republic of Korea pleased to present the Common proposal document 80 addendum 19 resolution 200 Connect to 2030 for global telecommunication and communication technology including broadband for sustainable development. This document updates the Resolution 200 reflecting the major challenges and changes caused by the pandemic that would affect the implementation and achievement of the Global Connect 2030 agenda and SDGs. In addition, we would like to make sure that new challenges and difficulties need to be dually addressed with appropriate measures and in a timely manner to implement the goals of Connect to 2030 agenda and SDGs.

>> CHAIR: Thank you, Korea, for your presentation. Very well noted. Brazil, we invite you to present for CITEL on the AIP.

>> BRAZIL: Thank you, Chair. Brazil is happy to present the Inter-American proposal on Resolution 200 on the Connect 2030 Agenda. The proposal modifies the resolution to streamline with the Preamble part that is mainly to include the notion of connectivity in unserved and underserved areas and their importance in the context of achieving the 2030 agenda, the SDGs, and the WSIS Action Lines.

We recognize the challenges of accelerating broadband development, necessity of investments in all stages of deployment and development and impacts of offerability for vulnerable groups in the context of the 2030 Agenda.

The proposal is put forward and I inform you that we already had some conversations with APT and we could reach a common text that is reflected on the DL for your meeting. Thank you.

>> CHAIR: Thank you, Brazil for your pragmatism and also to ACP for the indulgent. This is what we encourage because of the time, and to inform you that you may refer to DL1, and that is the update of the text as we have it. So, we open the floor for comments on the progress which has been made on the revision of Resolution 200.

Okay. We can see the text on the screen now. So, let me ask Brazil to take us through this DL, and then if anyone wants the floor, you may request for the floor. I'll ask Brazil to pause and for you to ask your questions. Brazil, you have the floor.

>> BRAZIL: Thank you, Chair. Probably this is best for just briefly going over the Preamble with some additions of the WSIS Action Lines and then we can be more attentive to the operative part maybe. We have two notions here. One that comes from the APT which involves text related to the pandemic. And the part that's on the screen now is related to reaffirming the role of ITU in that regard for the pandemic, and also further down related to work on unserved and underserved areas in the context of the 2030 Agenda. That's the summary, Chair. I am happy to answer any questions if they arise.

>> CHAIR: All right. Thank you. Any comments? I see no one asking for the floor, so I suppose we can make this a DT. Okay. We can step this forward. Do we agree on these revisions with no objections to the plenary? I see United States asking for the floor. United States, you have the floor.

>> UNITED STATES OF AMERICA: Thank you very much, Mr. Chairman. No objections. Just a question about the reference to the WSIS + 20 statement that they're working on during the WSIS small group. Is that something that the editorial committee will fix or do we need to hold off on that until they are comfortable with it and have approved that statement? Just a question. Thank you.

>> CHAIR: Right. Thank you, United States. Secretariat, I'll want you to clarify on that.

>> SECRETARIAT: The references will be checked in the Editorial Committee will the representative from all regions and for all languages are. They will be updated there. They will be updated there if necessary. If not necessary, we can update here. But if necessary, they will be updated in the Editorial Committee.

>> CHAIR: United Kingdom, you have the floor.

>> UNITED KINGDOM: Thank you, Chair. Good afternoon to everybody. Two questions. First of all, there is a misspelling. It should be barriers and not Bareas, I hope that you can see that in in Recognizing (d). Just to make sure that's corrected. Thank you.

The other question that I have is in regards to the WSIS + 20 statement. Could you kindly clarify where that statement is located and what the text is that will be referenced? Then I might come back with another question following that. Thank you very much.

>> CHAIR: Thank you, United Kingdom. We have been able to fix the barriers immediately. Secretariat, if you could clarify on the WSIS statement?

>> SECRETARIAT: If you remember in the second plenary of the Working Group of the plenary the Deputy Secretary-General introduced this document and I think the reference is to this document and I will check and come back immediately to tell you what is exactly the number of the document if you leave me 10 seconds.

It is about Document 48. Document 48 presented in the second plenary reported by the Secretary-General all WSIS20 beyond WSIS25 Document 47.

>> CHAIR: United Kingdom, you have the floor.

>> UNITED KINGDOM: Thank you very much. Thank you for the notation. We're just wondering if that statement was endorsed by the plenary or if it is just a statement made as a result of the WSIS Forum? Thank you.

>> CHAIR: Well, what happened was it was these reports were presented and then they were sent to ad hoc, but as you realize this is also a different informal group who were discussing Resolution 200, and then it had to feature in there so for one it was not objected to, but we cannot see that it needed to be approved. I hope this clarifies that.

But my proposal on this is that as not many of you may have been able to review this DL, I want you to again note it, sleep over it, it will become a DT. And then in tomorrow's meeting we will bring it up for approval so that we can deal again with it comprehensively without bringing it back. I hope this is acceptable by everyone? I see United Kingdom asking the floor. United Kingdom, you have the floor.

>> UNITED KINGDOM: Thank you, Chair. I just wanted to thank you for taking the time and the consideration and we will absolutely review it and come back. Thank you very much.

>> CHAIR: Thank you for your understanding as well. So, this will be a DT. Please look out for it. We will consider it at the next meeting.

We move to the next agenda item. A proposal for a new resolution connecting refugee shelters to the Internet, and I know that progress has been made on this matter. So, Greece, as you present this proposal, you also give us the updates on it. Kindly remember to present in 3 minutes. Thank you.

>> GREECE: Thank you, Chair. This document is a Draft New Resolution proposed by Greece as guidance to Plenipotentiary to work on connecting refugee shelters to the Internet as a contribution to bridging the digital divide ensuring that the vulnerable group of people is equally treated in harnessing the benefits of ICT technologies.

Streamlining the text after the Recalls and recognizing that the Internet connectivity to refugee shelters provides inclusiveness and provides the digital divide to a vulnerable group of people, but as that the refugee experience, multiple forms of discrimination, and in this context, there is a need to bridge the refugee digital divide that requires fostering digital skills, literacy that is essential to them so as to advance their participation in the digital society. I will go through just the part that says, Instructs the Director of the BDT in collaboration with the BR and TSB, but first to create a platform as a way to collect information and case studies in response to the special needs of the refugees relates to ICTs, (b), to develop a roadmap in order to facilitate the development of telecommunications and ICT infrastructures in refugee shelters; (c), to facilitate exchange of best practices in order to create opportunities for cooperative efforts towards the development and use of telecommunications and ICTs in refugee shelters; (d), to provide all means and support to the refugee host countries on implementing this resolution; (e), to update Member States on how ITU assists in the assessment of the unconnected refugee shelters; (f), to review and facilitate consultations in response to the Resolves above; (g), to carry out an assessment of the particular needs of the refugee host countries; (h), to constitute the framework to ensure the implementation of this resolution; (i), to submit a report on the progress of the implementation of this resolution to the upcoming WTDC. There is a (j). I'm sorry. I missed (j), to implement this project within the available budget and embark on resource mobilization to augment the resolution. Invites Member States to share best practices regarding Internet connectivity to refugee shelters, to explore options for delivering and mentoring programs for digital literacy to refugees living in the country -- to the refugees, I'm sorry, living in the country. To proactively implementation in this resolution within the available budget. And last reasoning at the end of the proposal is described, I will just read this to be -- to shorten my time available. Considering the continuous increase of refugees leaving their home country for various reasons that include war, natural disaster, and climate change. This resolution will help the hosting countries to provide connectivity to refugee shelters that will promote digital inclusion, fostering digital skills and literacy so as to advance their participation in the digital society. Mr. chair.

>> CHAIR: Greece, also we have the proposal. You are over a minute and a half. If you could go further on the next minute and a half on the progress that you have made, the consultations on this proposal.

>> GREECE: Yes, of course. We had some consultations with USA and the UK and also Bulgaria regarding the timing that we have available to prepare this resolution to be finalized before the end of this Plenipotentiary. There are various proposals that are still in discussion. We are not -- we have not finalized yet. We are waiting for U.S. to search some legal matters on the proposal they presented to us. However, there are countries and also regions that are interested in this proposal because as Greece is hosting countries to refugees entering the European borders from Africa or Asia, we believe that this resolution is very central, essential, and it will benefit among others the prosperity of the refugees. So, more discussions will be made I suppose at the next meeting, the informal meeting at 4:00. Am I correct?

>> CHAIR: Right. Thank you, Greece. So as a matter of procedure on a proposed new resolution from a single country, I want to open the floor if there is any support for this new resolution. I see Bulgaria asking for the floor. Bulgaria, you have the floor.

>> BULGARIA: Thank you, Chairman. Bulgaria fully supports the new resolution proposed by Greece.

>> CHAIR: Thank you, Bulgaria. Israel?

>> ISREAL: Thank you, Chair. Israel wishes to thank the Greek Delegation for the proposal. We see great importance in advancing digital inclusion of persons in vulnerable situations, including in refugee camps and in particular persons with disabilities and older persons and to advance their digital skills, digital literacy and participation in digital society. Thank you.

>> CHAIR: Thank you, Israel. Indonesia?

>> INDONESIA: Thank you, Chair. Regarding the proposal proposed by Greece. We would like to bring all attention to the Union commitment to connecting the world. It is very important for us to serve a common understanding that the world means all people including refugees. I take into account the idea to connect the world including for communities is coherent to Indonesia's commitment as ITU Council Member to connect the unconnected and therefore support the proposed new resolution for further discussion and ensure refugees are not left behind. Thank you, Chair.

>> CHAIR: Thank you, Indonesia. Sudan?

>> SUDAN: Thank you, Chair. We would like to thank Greece for this new proposed resolution which is extremely important. We have no objections to the text. Nevertheless, we would like it to be put forward for approval during the next meeting so we can have more time to study it in depth. Thank you.

>> CHAIR: Thank you, Sudan. So, Greece, you have support from, should I say across, Europe, Asia, and Africa wants to have a better view of it. Yes, as Greece presented, consultations are ongoing and there is supposed to be a meeting, so I'll give the Secretariat an opportunity to give us further information. I see Russian Federation asking for the floor. I'll come to you further, Secretariat. Russian Federation, you have the floor.

>> RUSSIAN FEDERATION: Thank you very much, Mr. Chairman. We understand the need of the authors for this resolution, and that we need to resolve this problem. However, we have a number of questions related mostly to the financial implications if this resolution is approved. If the contributors -- do the contributors have some sort of estimations, financial estimations? And also, one of the paragraphs addresses this aspect but the sentence is not quite clear for us. Therefore, we would like to ask the contributors to explain this aspect. Thank you.

>> CHAIR: Thank you, Russia, for your question. I immediately ask Greece if you can clarify on the financial implications of this proposal as Russian Federation is seeking clarity of a clause in it? You can clarify.

>> GREECE: In the financial situation in this case, it is still in consultation with Member States. It's not finalized. Either way, the proposal is not specifically addressing the financing from some -- excuse me. Let me see. Give me one minute, Mr. Chair.

Actually, this is it. It's still in consultation with Member States that are supporting this contribution. We're open to proposals from other Member States to endorse in our proposal.

>> CHAIR: Okay. Thank you very much. In the stage we are, if this is satisfactory to the meeting, we have Bulgaria, Indonesia, Sudan supported this proposal. As Sudan indicated and Russia as well saying that there is a need for clarity on the proposal and for Russia Federation on the financial implications.

Now, what we want to proceed on to with that is the informal group continue to consider this proposal and know which particular text that will come as a DL and that could indicate whether it has financial implications or not. I see United States and Iran asking for the floor. United States, you have the floor.

>> UNITED STATES OF AMERICA: Thank you, Mr. Chair. First, we would like to thank Greece for this proposal and we note that the United States supports this very important objective of connecting refugees, but our concern is as the resolution is currently written is with potential duplication of resources because something I would like to support that may help our consideration, and this is not widely known among Member States to the ITU, is that there are a number of UN coordination mechanisms, partnerships, and initiatives for the important purpose of connecting refugees. This is done by Lead UN Coordinator, the UNHCR, the Coordinator for refugee. They have two mechanisms to connect refugees and facilities.

I'm also very pleased to share that we've discovered that the ITU Secretary-General signed a letter on digital cooperation in support of forcibly displaced, stateless people and they're hosting communities with the Head of UNHCR in October 2021 that lays out a path of coordination between UNHCR and the ITU to accelerate digital inclusion of refugees. The ITU UNHCR letter outlines a number of initiatives that provide direct support to refugees and their hosting communities based on the needs and priorities those communities identify, these include access to connectivity, digital inclusion, and accessibility, and digital capacity-building.

So, we have raised these resources with our colleagues prior to this meeting and making the proposal so that they would be aware, and you know, we've had some initial discussions. But we've realized that there are many in the room who are unaware of existing efforts who support this who would like to be engaged, so we endorse the creation of an informal group so that we may consider how to highlight these important priorities in light of the substantial work and coordination being done in a way that will not duplicate resources. Thank you.

>> CHAIR: Thank you, United States. Iran?

>> ISLAMIC REPUBLIC OF IRAN: Thank you, Chairman. First of all, I congratulate you for your election as Chair of this important group. Chairman, the concept is positive. Really positive. However, we have to work out first to understand what they mean by refugee shelter. Is it refugee camp or different from refugee camp? Refugee shelter or refugee camp, there are different natures created under different circumstances, sometimes long term and they exist sometimes for a very temporary reasons like earthquake or some other things that happened. And a requirement to look at the infrastructure required for some connections and the relation between the country or area in which this connection is to be made. At this stage we have to separate the financial implication because that is Committee 3. We should not put any upcycle of that at this moment the matter should start with how to proceed.

And then the resolution perhaps whether you would have a roadmap or to study to have a roadmap and so on and so forth, so there are some details, Chairman, to be worked out to put it in proper context.

And then I understand from the resolution that the BDT requested to do such things or some actions and report to WTDC, it's at the end of the destination or WTDC report back to the Plenipotentiary and there would be a circulation of resolutions between Plenipotentiary and WTDC and so forth. These are the changes, Chairman, that we need to have careful consideration of that. In summary, we are in favor of the proposal. It is a good concept, and it is positive. It helps in the area of the Beijing Digital Divide in any sense whether temporary or not temporary, but a lot of detail, Chairman, should be worked out.

With respect to the circulation of resolution between sectors and Plenipotentiary, I come to yourself after the meeting and would like to talk to you on some course of actions of how we could do this matter because, unfortunately, since many years this circulation among sector and the Plenipotentiary conference, sometimes exactly on the same subject and we have to work out how we do perhaps yourself with other committees, Committee 4, 5, and 6 maybe to have a general report to the plenary of how to settle this issue which has been to some extent, has been discussed in BDT, has been discussed in the TDAG Working Group or TDAG group and also in the intersectoral focus group that was in the position of a resolution of Plenipotentiary and resolution of other sectors. Plenipotentiary resolution although they are not treaty but they have obligations depending how to draft that. Whatever goes to the Secretariat has obligation depending on the language used in that. Whether it shall or should and so on and so forth. Also, the what Member States depend on the language and possibility. There are lots of things and have to avoid the circulation since 1995 that each conference we have the issues with circulating from one sector to the other sector and sector back to Plenipotentiary and back to sector and back to Plenipotentiary and we need to find something that works more efficiently. Thank you, sir.

>> CHAIR: Thank you, Iran. I want to close the discussions on this because we have an informal group as you are agreeing that indeed it started work before our meeting. But I will invite Russian Federation, you have the floor. Please give Russian Federation the floor.

>> RUSSIAN FEDERATION: Thank you, Mr. Chair. We'll try to be brief. Yes, we support the idea of creating an informal group. We take into consideration the U.S. comments. We would like to ask the contributors to just look at the document once again because under instructs the Bureau, there is a proposal to create a platform, which is within the framework, but at the same time it could be within the sphere of the refugee agencies to which our colleagues from the USA referred.

Moreover, during the informal group, we need to involve colleagues from BDT because under 10, it says that it's important to do this within an available budget and embark on resource mobilization, so we would like to understand what sort of possibilities there are in the ITU. We know that we have a budget deficit right now, so we would like to have comments from the ITU Secretariat whether this is possible. Thank you.

>> CHAIR: Right. Thank you, Russian Federation. Let me summarize, especially for Greece, who we propose to lead these informal discussions. There is support from a number of countries. The comments are that the concept is great, but what is refugee shelter against refugee camp? So, look at the terminology. Again, consider what the UNHCR is doing with respect to this matter. Again, the ITU Secretary-General's agreement with the UNHCR related to this particular issue. And then the constructs of this particular resolution such that the coordination between this and the Plenipotentiary and WTDC as you stated will be one which may be comparison rather than conflicted.

Then there was also mention of availability of resources as to the BDT but then we know that resource mobilization is one that is also proposing a new resolution at COM 6. So, there will be a linkage being to that new resolution at COM 6 on resource mobilization, so you may also want to see how they are doing in order to address the concerns of Russian Federation. So, you have a good number of issues to engage on at this informal group. I wish you all the best.

Greece, will you accept to continue or you've given up?

>> GREECE: Continue. We'll go to the informal meeting and discuss in detail all the proposals of the colleagues from Member States. U.S. had informed us about the joint between ITU and UNHCR. Since it's a letter assigned in 2021, actually it's rather new, but either way we're talking about the resolution that gives ITU a mandate to make a decision to take a responsibility about an issue that has not been touched by ITU up until now. These are the refugees.

The only resolution that ITU had was an old one that we had included that the Recalls, regarding the digital skills of refugees, and since then nothing has been done. Just, I make note of this for your consideration. We can discuss all the rest and I will search also the proposal of the colleagues about the difference between the refugee camp and the shelter, so we can meet then in the informal meeting that is coming up. Thank you, Mr. Chair.

>> CHAIR: Thank you, Greece for your acceptance. May I invite the Secretariat to give us details on the informal group.

>> SECRETARIAT: Thank you very much, Chair. From the Secretariat, our colleague Vladimir S will support the work of this group and we will announce tomorrow the first informal meeting, probably on Wednesday, but we'll announce it tomorrow.

>> CHAIR: Thank you. We have the announcements to come up tomorrow because we share our time with you as part of our agenda and we see where we can possibly place it.

Let's move to the next agenda item. We seem to have agreed on the text of Resolution 175 on accessibility, but we were -- our attention was called to a number of areas, and I want to invite Australia to take us through that in DT11 Rev. 2. You may refer to it as you see on the screen. Australia? Please give Australia the floor.

>> AUSTRALIA: Thank you, Chair. Australia would like first to apologize to mention the wrong event in the previous session, so we had a quick discussion with the proponents of the resolution and put the right UN International Day of Persons with Disabilities and I hope that satisfies everyone. Thank you.

>> CHAIR: Thank you. So, as you see on the screen under Advise 2, the name for the event International Day of Persons with Disabilities. Okay. We see no one asking for the floor, so I suppose -- we also had the one from the assembly, the Preamble. I'll ask the Secretariat to update us on that as well.

>> SECRETARIAT: Thank you very much, Chair. On Recalling (a), we have reference to Resolution 67 Geneva 2015, and in fact this resolution was updated in 2019 but this will be corrected by the Editorial Committee and we don't need -- they will check all the references and they will correct the references.

>> CHAIR: Right. Thank you, Secretariat. Because this will be going to the Plenary and my wish is that we don't go to the plenary correcting errors. We ask you to go through the 8-page document one more time before it gets to the Plenary. I hope the Vatican is here, the last time you help us a lot. Please, for everyone else, we are doing our own editorial in two minutes, so if you can take us to the header. Please go to the header and we'll start from the very top.

Okay. So, we see in the recalling parts, recalling in (A.) and (b). No one asking for the floor. Let's proceed. Further. We are now recognizing. Okay. Considering?

Noting? There was no change there. Resolves? Go further down. No change. Instructs Secretary-General? No change. Updated to Kigali.

Instructs the Secretary-General and Directors of the Bureaus. Further down. Okay. Let's look at if 15, Paragraph 15 the sentence is correct. We had some discussions on that, to continue to support measures designed to build capacities of ITU staff to understand and champion accessibility and disability inclusion, through activities such as -- thank you.

Now we move to invites Member States, invites Member States and sector members. Further down to the end of the document. Okay.

Thank you very much. Is there any objection to the approval of this document to the sent to the plenary? I see no one asking for the floor, so thank you very much. DT/17 Rev. 2 on Resolution 175 on accessibility will be transmitted to the plenary. Iran, you're asking for the floor.

>> ISLAMIC REPUBLIC OF IRAN: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Having agreed with this important resolution, I myself in my capacity wish to sincerely thapg Madam (?) who is the power of these current activities and one day she said that all of us are potentially disabled in the future. So, we have done a good job or you have done a good job, but she contributed considerably without spreading any moment at this issue at all conferences, ITU-T, ITU-D, ITU-R, and I ask colleagues to express this congratulations to her. Thank you.

>> CHAIR: Thank you. She's been a great champion of accessibility throughout the ITU, and I mean when we mention accessibility, one of the (?) in the name so that's how much she's appreciated. And I don't know where she is that she may be watching the transcription to this conference, but if you can give a round of applause. Thank you. It is good to appreciate those alive that they leave later on and we have minute of silence. Thank you very much for your indulgence.

We move to the next agenda item which is on the time management plan, and I want the Secretariat to show that on the screen. You can have it as DL/33 Rev. 1 and it gives you a fair view of the spread of the Working Group of the Plenary, the ad-hoc groups, as well as the informal groups as well. I invite the Secretariat to take us through this document.

>> SECRETARIAT: Thank you very much. As requested by many participants, we try with this temporary document to give you, let's say, image about the next period about the informal consultations, meetings, and about the ad-hoc groups. If you could see on the screen, we try to capture everything. It is a live document. We are changing as soon as we'll have a new meeting, we'll have a confirmation for the room, and we'll keep this document updated for your help and we'll publish it every day, a revision every day until the end of the conference just to give you an indication of what will happen in the following days. If you have questions, I can answer to the questions.

>> CHAIR: Thank you, Secretariat. Any questions on the time management plan for the Working Group of the plenary? Brazil, you have the floor.

>> BRAZIL: Thank you for clarification. On the timing right after this meeting, we have two informals in the same room so I thought that is a little odd because I'm the convenor for one of them so seeking some clarification on what's happening. Thank you.

>> SECRETARIAT: If it is in the same room, it is a mistake. We'll correct immediately. It is a mistake on the document, and I would like to ask for your indulgence because we are populating with all the information, and sometimes we may have made mistakes but we'll correct based on your input.

>> CHAIR: Great. Thank you. So, we should look out because the meeting will be soon, we should look out on the screens for the correct room, I suppose. Any other comments or questions? I see no one asking for the floor, so thank you. Any other business in there seems to be in time for us to have updates from the working groups and informal groups, so as you see on the screen as times set out for later today and tomorrow before our meeting. You may take note of the times and the rooms for your meeting., so the announcement for tomorrow.

>> SECRETARIAT: Tomorrow we have a Plenary meeting at 11:00, I would like to inform that we have the feedback from the informal consultation in the ad-hoc group and we have at least two resolutions, Resolution 204 on financial inclusion and the resolution 197 on Internet of Things will be on the agenda. There will be a temporary document, DT, that will be presented tomorrow morning in the plenary. We will have another plenary in the afternoon and refer in the morning if we have an agenda what resolution we will have on the agenda. I will not read all the meetings informal and ad-hocs that will take place tomorrow, that's why we produce this document to help you because I know that there is a meeting of COM 5 immediately after our meeting here in this room.

>> CHAIR: Thank you very much, Secretariat. With no other business for us, I want to thank you all. We've been able to end this meeting of the presentation of all the proposals which were presented to in this conference and again allocated to this Working Group of the Plenary. I see Mr. William Lee, responsible for the ad-hoc group for statistics is here now and then Mr. are Wilhelm from Poland is also around. Thank you very much for that as well. You are celebrating, so we give you work. Thank you and see you tomorrow morning in the best of the day. The meeting is closed.

(Completed at 8:00 AM CST)

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