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| **Council 2018 Geneva, 17 – 27 April 2018** |  |
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| **Agenda item: ADM 27** | **Document C18/69-E** |
| **8 March 2018** |
| **Original: English** |
| Report by the Secretary-General | |
| status report: implementation of an SME Pilot project | |

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| Summary  Council 2017 decided to launch an SME pilot project in interested ITU-T and ITU-D Study Groups. ITU-T SG5, SG16, and SG20 have decided to participate in this project, as well as the two ITU-D Study Groups. The Council instructed the secretariat to provide a progress report to Council 18, and a fuller report to PP18 on outcomes.  Action required  The Council is invited **to note** the status of implementation of this project.  \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_  References |

# 1 Background

1.1 Following a proposal from Argentina, Council 2017 decided to launch an SME pilot project in interested ITU-T and ITU-D Study Groups, whereby SMEs may participate fully in the meetings of the participating Study Groups but they will have no role in the decision-making, including leadership roles and the adoption of resolutions or recommendations.

1.2 In order to participate, SMEs must be approved by their relevant government Administration, according to national definitions of SMEs.

1.3 The pilot project is to be promoted with the Bureaux, regional organizations, administrations and the ITU regional and area offices through contact with SMEs and SME associations. To assist with this promotion, the Secretary-General signed an MoU with CABASE, an association that includes many SMEs in Argentina, as well as WITSA, a global association of SME associations around the world.

1.4 The Council instructed the secretariat to provide a progress report to Council-18, and a fuller report to PP-18 on outcomes.

# 2 Current situation

2.1 ITU-T SG5, SG16, and SG20 have begun to implement the pilot project. Currently five SMEs have been approved by the relevant administrations to participate in ITU-T meetings under the pilot, with a further seven currently in the admission process.

2.2 ITU-D 2018 Study Groups will also participate. A circular letter was sent to Member States. The first meetings will be held just after Council-18, SG1: 30 April-4 May 2018, SG2: 7-11 May 2018.