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| **Council 2018Geneva, 17-27 April 2018** |  |
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| **Agenda item: PL 1.8** | **Document C18/92-E** |
| **3 April 2018** |
| **Original: English** |
| Note by the Secretary-General |
| CONTRIBUTION FROM THE FEDERATIVE REPUBLIC OF BRAZIL, CANADA, MEXICO, REPUBLIC OF PARAGUAY AND THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICAVIEWS ON A FUTURE WORLD CONFERENCE ON INTERNATIONAL TELECOMMUNICATIONS |

I have the honour to transmit to the Member States of the Council a contribution submitted by the **Federative Republic of Brazil, Canada, Mexico, the Republic of Paraguay and the United States of America**.

 Houlin ZHAO
 Secretary-General

CONTRIBUTION FROM THE FEDERATIVE REPUBLIC OF BRAZIL, CANADA, MEXICO, the republic of PARAGUAY AND THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

VIEWS ON A FUTURE WORLD CONFERENCE ON INTERNATIONAL TELECOMMUNICATIONS

**Introduction**

This Council is expected to examine the Expert Group report on the review of the International Telecommunication Regulations (ITRs) and submit its comments to the 2018 Plenipotentiary Conference. As the preliminary report and the first three meetings of EG-ITRs show, there are divergent views on all three key areas for ITRs review i.e., the applicability of the ITRs in today’s telecommunications environment, legal analysis of the ITRs, and potential conflicts between the 2012 and the 1988 ITRs. This lack of consensus should be reflected in Council’s comments to the 2018 Plenipotentiary. Furthermore, the Council, considering the lack of consensus, should include in its comments the risks of holding a future World Conference on International Telecommunication (WCIT) including the money and opportunity costs of holding a preparatory process and the conference itself, loss of reputation and prestige to the Union, and possibility of further fracture of the Union by the approval of a third version of the ITRs.

**Discussion**

The process of revising the ITRs is expected to be highly contentious, expensive and laborious. For example, more than 2,000 delegates participated in WCIT-12. The Conference lasted for 13 days at a cost of CHF 1.9 million (CHF 147,000 per day) significantly more than the costs of hosting the 2014 Plenipotentiary Conference (CHF 95,000 per day). The CHF 1.9 million, however, does not include the costs of the preparatory meetings, the pre-WCIT costs of the host country, and the travel costs of all delegations and all people involved. Nor do the costs include opportunity costs for the Member States and the ITU for preparing and hosting a future WCIT. For example, the money spent on preparing and hosting a WCIT potentially could be used to address the digital divide and work toward fulfilling the 2030 development goals.

Due to the current divergent views on key issues, a future WCIT is bound to repeat the outcome of the 2012 WCIT where a considerable number of Member States did not sign the final outcome. We believe the reputation of the ITU as an effective consensus builder and promoter of international cooperation was significantly damaged at 2012 WCIT. We believe a lack of consensus at a future WCIT would also lead to greater disagreement between participants and may even result in a third set of the ITRs.

 **Conclusion**

Given the distinct lack of consensus as shown by the EG ITRs meetings and preliminary report regarding a revision of the ITRs, we believe that it is premature to consider a WCIT in the near future. The Councilors are urged to review the EG ITRs report carefully and consider the potential costs associated with misallocation of resources, loss of prestige, and potential for further fragmentation of the Union as a result of a future WCIT in their comments to the 2018 Plenipotentiary Conference.