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| **Council 2018 Geneva, 17-27 April 2018** |  |
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|  | **Document C18/104-E** |
| **8 May 2018** |
| **Original: English** |
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| Summary record  of the  first Plenary meeting | |
| Tuesday, 17 April 2018, from 1430 to 1630 hours | |
| **Chairman**: Mr R. ISMAILOV (Russian Federation) | |

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|  | Subjects discussed | Documents |
| 1 | Report on ITU TELECOM World events | [C18/19(Rev.1)](https://www.itu.int/md/S18-CL-C-0019/en) |
| 2 | Reports by the Chairman of the Council Working Group on the use of the six official languages of the Union (CWG-LANG): Report by the Council Working Group (Document C18/12) and report on implementation of Resolution 154 (Rev. Busan, 2014) on use of the six official languages of the Union on an equal footing | [C18/12](https://www.itu.int/md/S18-CL-C-0012/en), [C18/14](https://www.itu.int/md/S18-CL-C-0014/en) |
| 3 | Draft four-year operational plans for 2019–2022 | [C18/28(Rev.1)](https://www.itu.int/md/S18-CL-C-0028/en), [C18/29](https://www.itu.int/md/S18-CL-C-0029/en), [C18/30](https://www.itu.int/md/S18-CL-C-0030/en), [C18/31](https://www.itu.int/md/S18-CL-C-0031/en), [C18/32](https://www.itu.int/md/S18-CL-C-0032/en) |
| 4 | World Telecommunication and Information Society Day | [C18/17](https://www.itu.int/md/S18-CL-C-0017/en) |
| 5 | Sales of, and free online access to, ITU publications | [C18/21](https://www.itu.int/md/S18-CL-C-0021/en) |

**1 Report on ITU TELECOM World events (Document** [**C18/19 (Rev.1)**](https://www.itu.int/md/S18-CL-C-0019/en)**)**

1.1 The Executive Manager of ITU TELECOM introduced Document C18/19(Rev.1), drawing particular attention to the proposals contained in §7 thereof, and thanked the various entities and individuals who had contributed to the success of ITU TELECOM World 2017.

1.2 With regard to the proposals contained in §7 of the document, which were intended to lead to an eventual revision of Resolution 11 (Rev. Busan, 2014), several councillors emphasized that such a revision could only be undertaken by the plenipotentiary conference. Broad support was expressed for the secretariat’s efforts to increase participation in ITU TELECOM World events by SMEs. It was suggested that Member States should support SMEs in attending such events. Several councillors felt that the issue of how to attract larger companies should be explored. To boost the event’s popularity, its format should be reformed to make it more attractive to the private and industry sectors. Changing the name of the event, while largely welcomed as a suggestion, would need careful thought. Support was expressed for identifying opportunities to hold other ITU activities, meetings and events under the ITU TELECOM umbrella. Concerning the proposal to discontinue the advisory role of the ITU TELECOM Board, further information was sought on the reasons for the Board’s inactivity since 2015. The financial and operational disadvantages to the Union of organizing ITU TELECOM World events in a different country and venue every year were acknowledged, and several councillors agreed that the Union should be given the flexibility to consider offers from Member States to host the event for a number of years consecutively. Under Resolution 11 (Rev. Busan, 2014), it already appeared possible for the event to be held annually. One councillor suggested that it be held at the same time each year, rotating among the regions. Other councillors, however, expressed reluctance to alter the frequency or rotation of the event, emphasizing the sensitivity of the issue. It was vital for the bidding process to be open and transparent and for proposals to be examined on the basis of specific indicators, taking into account the best interests of the Union. A balanced budget was also a priority for the continuation of the event.

1.3 The Executive Manager of ITU TELECOM, confirming that any revision of Resolution 11 would be discussed further at PP-18, outlined the measures already in place to ensure that the bidding process for hosting ITU TELECOM World events remained fair and transparent. Despite the inactivity of the ITU TELECOM Board, regular consultation meetings had been held between the Secretary-General and Member States since 2016 prior to the start of each ITU TELECOM event. Since 2015, efforts had been made to provide SMEs with cheaper sponsorship products and other means of reducing the financial burden of participation and to attract larger companies, many of which had already committed to attend the event in 2018.

1.4 The Secretary-General explained that, since the high point of the ITU TELECOM World event in 1999, it had become increasingly difficult to encourage industry participation. In addition to facing economic challenges, the industry had organized competing events, notably the Mobile World Congress. The mobile phone operators and manufacturers who made up the bulk of the ITU TELECOM Board members had shown little interest in the event since 2009 and had usually failed to reply to invitations to Board meetings, although the Chairman of the Board had remained very cooperative. Upon taking up his duties as Secretary-General in 2015, he had therefore decided to discontinue the practice of consulting the Board. Shifting the focus of ITU TELECOM World events from operator-oriented technical exhibitions to supporting ICT SMEs would in turn attract larger companies seeking to establish partnerships with smaller firms. The platform must be made attractive to SMEs, administrations and large companies alike.

1.5 Document C18/19(Rev.1) was **noted**.

**2 Reports by the Chairman of the Council Working Group on the use of the six official languages of the Union (CWG-LANG):   
Report by the Council Working Group (Document** [**C18/12**](https://www.itu.int/md/S18-CL-C-0012/en)**) and report on implementation of Resolution 154 (Rev. Busan, 2014) on use of the six official languages of the Union on an equal footing (Document** [**C18/14**](https://www.itu.int/md/S18-CL-C-0014/en)**)**

2.1 The Chairman of CWG-LANG introduced Documents C18/12 and C18/14. The working group had reviewed the costs of the translation of documents and an evaluation of translation procedures, and had proposed a system of categorization of documents for quality assessment. Experiments in remote interpreting, automatic translation and automatic captioning, and a pilot project for the translation of webpages with the help of some administrations, were under way. A pilot project was also being implemented on the use of artificial intelligence and technology to modernize translation and interpretation services as a cost-saving measure, suggested by China. The Russian Federation had prepared a proposed revision of Resolution 154, which the working group recommended that the Council transmit to PP-18.

2.2 Councillors welcomed the pilot project on the use of artificial intelligence and plans to promote language technology to streamline translation and interpretation processes and reduce costs. While support from Member States in the provision of translations for the ITU website was welcome, care must be taken to ensure sufficient quality control. As an organization that focused on the study of new technologies, ITU should take the lead in their implementation. One councillor pointed out that consideration could be given to reducing the length of texts for publication on the website, as a cost-saving measure.

2.3 One councillor requested clarification regarding the role of the General Secretariat in the event that the translation of webpages was provided by administrations; ITU language staff should maintain the responsibility to oversee, with due diligence, the translation and posting of texts to the ITU website, not simply provide "oversight and assistance" as suggested in the footnotes in Documents C18/12 and C18/14. The ITU General Secretariat should remain responsible and accountable for the quality of translations.

2.4 The Deputy Secretary-General confirmed that due diligence would be applied. While translations would not be checked word-for-word, the secretariat would remain responsible for the quality of web content. The new approach would, however, enable a three- to four-fold increase in the amount of text translated and published online, with no budgetary significance for the organization. The results of the pilot project would be presented to the plenipotentiary conference.

2.5 The Council **endorsed** Document C18/12. It **noted** Document C18/14, **endorsed** the recommendations therein and **agreed** to transmit the document to PP-18.

**3** **Draft four-year operational plans for 2019–2022 (Documents** [**C18/28(Rev.1)**](https://www.itu.int/md/S18-CL-C-0028/en)**,** [**C18/29**](https://www.itu.int/md/S18-CL-C-0029/en)**,** [**C18/30**](https://www.itu.int/md/S18-CL-C-0030/en)**,** [**C18/31**](https://www.itu.int/md/S18-CL-C-0031/en) **and** [**C18/32**](https://www.itu.int/md/S18-CL-C-0032/en)**)**

3.1 The Deputy Secretary-General introduced Document C18/32, which contained the draft resolution approving the four-year rolling operation plans of the Sectors and the General Secretariat for 2019-2022. All of the operational plans followed a streamlined approach and format in line with the 2016-2019 strategic plan. Each sectoral plan had been reviewed by the corresponding Sector advisory group, while the plan for the General Secretariat had been reviewed by all three Sector advisory groups.

3.2 The Deputy Director of BR introduced the draft four-year rolling operational plan for 2019-2022 for ITU-R (Document C18/28(Rev.1)), the Deputy Director of TSB introduced that of ITU-T (Document C18/29), the Deputy Director of BDT that of ITU-D (Document C18/30) and the Chief of the Strategic Planning and Membership Department that of the General Secretariat (Document C18/31).

3.3 One councillor expressed support for the draft operational plan for ITU-D, in particular measures to strengthen the capacity for digital inclusion, emergency telecommunications, public partnerships and cybersecurity to benefit Member States, in particular developing countries. Another councillor expressed concern regarding the draft operational plan of the Radiocommunication Sector (Document C18/28(Rev.1)) and specifically to increases in processing times for satellite network filings and the lack of compliance with the established mandatory deadlines during long period of time; in that regard: urgent organizational and technical measures are needed by the BR to resolve the problem.

3.4 The Council **approved** the draft four-year rolling operational plans for ITU-R, ITU-T, ITU-D and the General Secretariat, and **adopted** the resolution contained in Document C18/32.

**4 World Telecommunication and Information Society Day (Document C18/17)**

4.1 The representative of the secretariat introduced the report by the Secretary-General on World Telecommunication and Information Society Day (WTISD), contained in Document C18/17.

4.2 The Council **noted** the celebration of WTISD-18 on the theme "Artificial Intelligence for Good", and **approved** the choice of the theme "Bridging the standardization gap" for WTISD-19.

**5 Sales of, and free online access to, ITU publications**

5.1 The Chief of the Financial Resources Management Department introduced the report by the Secretary-General on sales of, and free online access to, ITU publications, contained in Document C18/21. Free online access to ITU publications had been broadened considerably, to include databases of statistics and indicators, which were available free of charge; the release of new editions of major maritime documents in 2017 had driven sales revenues to CHF 19.5 million. In the future, it was proposed to include this information in the Annual Activities Report (Document 35), thereby eliminating the need for a separate report.

5.2 Councillors welcomed the increase in free online access to publications and the lack of financial impact thereof, and one raised the possibility of watermarking new maritime publications to prevent illicit copying; such measures could contribute to increased sales revenues.

5.3 The Council **noted** Document C18/21.

The Secretary-General: The Chairman:

H. ZHAO R. ISMAILOV

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