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| **Council 2018Geneva, 17-27 April 2018** |  |
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|  | **Document C18/107-E** |
| **17 May 2018** |
| **Original: English** |
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| Summary record of the fourth Plenary meeting |
| Friday, 20 April 2018, from 0905 to 1215 hoursand from 1430 to 1445 hours |
| **Chairman**: Mr R. ISMAILOV (Russian Federation) |

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|  | Subjects discussed | Documents |
| 1 | Report on preparations for WRC-19 | [C18/27](https://www.itu.int/md/S18-CL-C-0027/en) |
| 2 | ITU activities on strengthening the role of ITU in building confidence and security in the use of ICTs (continued) | [C18/76](https://www.itu.int/md/S18-CL-C-0076/en) |
| 3 | Strengthening the regional presence | [C18/25](https://www.itu.int/md/S18-CL-C-0025/en), [C18/85](https://www.itu.int/md/S18-CL-C-0085/en),[C18/86](https://www.itu.int/md/S18-CL-C-0086/en), [C18/99](https://www.itu.int/md/S18-CL-C-0099/en) |
| 4 | Announcement by the Minister for Development of the Digital Economy and Posts, Burkina Faso | - |
| 5 | Report of the Council Working Group for Strategic and Financial Plans 2020-2023 (CWG-SFP) | [C18/64](https://www.itu.int/md/S18-CL-C-0064/en) |

# 1 Report on preparations for WRC-19 (Document [C18/27](https://www.itu.int/md/S18-CL-C-0027/en))

1.1 The Deputy Director of BR, introducing Document C18/27, briefed the Council on the status of the preparatory work for RA-19 and WRC-19 to be held in Sharm el-Sheikh, Egypt, from 21 to 25 October and 28 October to 22 November 2019, respectively.

1.2 Mr Yasser ElKady, Minister of Communications and Information Technology, Egypt, thanked the Member States for having accepted his Government's offer to host RA-19 and WRC-19 and assured them that everything would be done to make both events a success. He announced that his country would be standing for re-election to the Council and submitting the candidature of Dr Elsayed Azzouz for membership of the Radio Regulations Board at PP-18.

1.3 The Council viewed a short video showcasing the attractions of Sharm el-Sheikh and the work being done to extend the conference venue.

1.4 Councillors thanked the Government of Egypt for hosting RA-19 and WRC-19 and expressed appreciation for the efforts being made to ensure their success. They underscored the importance of the preparatory work outlined in §2.4 of Document C18/27, pledged to provide support as required, and urged the secretariat and the Government of Egypt to work together to ensure the facilities were ready on time. Attention was drawn to the necessity to provide the logistics during arrival and departure and in the course of the conference itself as well as security and safety for delegates both upon arrival and departure and throughout the conference.

1.5 In response to concerns expressed by two councillors, Mr ElKady said that no effort was being spared to make all necessary logistical arrangements for the arrival, stay and departure of conference participants, to guarantee their safety and security, and to ensure that the requisite IT facilities were in place.

1.6 The Deputy Director of BR said that the Bureau had engaged in constructive dialogue with the host country on all organizational aspects and that the host country had been receptive to the requests made.

1.7 The Vice-Chairman of the Council (Dr Elsayed Azzouz) said that an intergovernmental committee was working under the supervision of Mr ElKady to ensure that all requests regarding ICTs and logistics were met. That being said, the success of WRC-19 was contingent on the participation of Member States. The regional groups should seek consensus solutions on WRC-19 agenda items wherever possible.

1.8 The Secretary-General said that he had taken the opportunity of several recent trips to Egypt and Sharm el-Sheikh to discuss security and logistical concerns with Mr ElKady and the President of Egypt. He had been struck by the President's strong support for ICTs and ITU, and had received assurances that everything was being done to ensure the success of the events.

1.9 Document C18/27 was **noted**.

**2 ITU activities on strengthening the role of ITU in building confidence and security in the use of ICTs (continued) (Document** [**C18/76**](https://www.itu.int/md/S18-CL-C-0076/en)**)**

2.1 The Chairman reminded councillors that Document C18/76 had been considered briefly during the third plenary meeting.

2.2 One councillor, referring to the statement in Document C18/76 that "ITU members are invited to address any further concerns on IMEI security directly to GSMA and 3GPP, respectively", said that surely ITU, in particular TSB, should be studying the questions raised by members in that respect in one of the ITU-T study groups.

2.3 Another councillor welcomed the measures taken by GSMA to collect data and take targeted action, but noted that GSMA was also aware that implementation was patchy. ITU had adopted various resolutions dealing with the impact of counterfeit devices, and ITU-T should therefore ask GSMA for more information and for timelines. Noting that Resolution 97 (Hammamet, 2016) gave ITU-T a mandate to address tampering and non-reliability of unique identifiers, he requested that TSB take action in that regard and report back to Council-19. TSB could draw on the summary record of the present meeting for guidance in that respect.

2.4 Several councillors agreed with the previous speakers. Tampering with unique telecommunication device identifiers was a challenge faced by all members and an especially critical issue for developing countries. Rather than develop new unique identifiers, steps should be taken to guarantee that existing identifiers could be securely stored on devices and rendered tamper-proof, and to implement means of detecting clones and differentiating them from genuine devices. Moreover, projects to build databases to store the IMEIs of mobile handsets and thereby prevent counterfeiting – as described by one councillor – would fail if the IMEI numbers changed or were duplicated. ITU-T study groups, in particular Study Group 11, should therefore continue to develop Recommendations, technical reports and guidelines to address the problems posed by counterfeits, in accordance with Resolutions 96 (Hammamet, 2016) and 97 (Hammamet, 2016).

2.5 Following on proposed ways forward set out by the Deputy Director of TSB and two councillors, the Chairman reminded the Council that Resolution 97 resolved that "ITU-T should, in collaboration with the relevant standards organizations, develop solutions to address the problem of duplication of unique identifiers". He suggested that, while noting Document C18/76, the Council should agree to invite the Director of TSB to continue working on the issue with GSMA and request TSAG to direct the relevant study groups to address the problem of unique identifiers, with the results being reported to Council-19.

2.6 It was so **agreed**.

2.7 One councillor, while agreeing with the Chairman's conclusion, pointed out that ITU standardization work was contribution-driven and that it would therefore be more appropriate to ask the Member States to contribute to the study groups.

2.8 The Director of TSB said that ITU-T would pursue its dialogue with GSMA and identify what TSB could do to resolve the problems. It would also pursue its dialogue with the study groups, in respect of which he agreed that Member State contributions were essential. The results would be reported to Council-19.

**3 Strengthening the regional presence (Documents** [**C18/25**](https://www.itu.int/md/S18-CL-C-0025/en)**,** [**C18/85**](https://www.itu.int/md/S18-CL-C-0085/en)**,** [**C18/86**](https://www.itu.int/md/S18-CL-C-0086/en) **and** [**C18/99**](https://www.itu.int/md/S18-CL-C-0099/en)**)**

3.1 The Deputy Director of BDT introduced Document C18/25, which reported on the implementation of Resolution 25 (Rev. Busan, 2014) and was supplemented by Document [C18/INF/6](https://www.itu.int/md/S18-CL-INF-0006/en).

3.2 Councillors welcomed the report and praised the valuable work of the regional and area offices and project activities implemented by BDT, particularly in the area of capacity building. Some councillors drew attention to specific initiatives in their regions, and the importance of multi-stakeholder participation was emphasized. The importance of strengthening cooperation between ITU and organizations in the Americas for the implementation of regional initiatives was highlighted.

3.3 One councillor said that the ITU regional office for the Americas should have a mechanism to ensure the full and equal participation of all the region’s members in the preparatory processes for major ITU conferences; preparatory meetings in advance of such conferences would help to foster common regional positions. Another councillor noted the close contact that existed between regional organizations and the ITU office for CIS countries. A further councillor welcomed the significant improvement in cooperation with the European Commission and trusted that the initiative of holding seminars for two regional offices would continue.

3.4 One councillor noted that around 95 per cent of projects implemented in 2017 had been funded from extrabudgetary resources.

3.5 Two councillors underscored the importance of ensuring that regional and area offices had the necessary financial and human resources, including special assistance from other ITU Sectors, to implement activities across all three Sectors of the Union. Closer cooperation between the Sectors was encouraged to avoid duplication of work, and further efforts should be made by ITU to mobilize extrabudgetary resources. More detailed information should be provided in the report on implementation of the ITU-D operational plan.

3.6 The observer from Belarus welcomed the establishment of the second Internet access and training centre for persons with hearing disabilities in her country and commended the approval in principle by Council-17 of the proposal to raise the status of the ITU area office for CIS countries to that of regional office.

3.7 The Deputy Director of BDT, responding to comments, said that BDT was promoting the secondment of junior professional officers, and had established guidelines in that regard. The breakdown of staffing level by regional and area offices contained in Annex 6 to Document C18/INF/6 provided information on established posts. Efforts were being made to promote inclusiveness and involve all countries of a particular region in events hosted by regional offices. ITU recognized the importance of partnerships and attached priority to attracting external financial resources. Reports on the implementation of the operational plan were published regularly.

3.8 Document C18/25 was **noted**.

3.9 The councillor from India introduced Document C18/85 containing a contribution submitted by his country, Bangladesh, Burkina Faso and Nigeria and actively supported by the observers from Afghanistan and the Islamic Republic of Iran and others on the establishment of an ITU South Asian area office and technology innovation centre in India. As the Indian Administration would cover all the logistical and human resources costs, there would be no financial implications for ITU. He took the opportunity to announce that his country would be standing for re-election to the Council.

3.10 A number of councillors supported India’s proposal, which would further the development of ICTs and increase ITU regional presence in a heavily populated region, noting with satisfaction that the proposal entailed no financial implications for the Union. Some supporters of the proposal noted that any decision on it would have to be taken by the plenipotentiary conference.

3.11 One councillor, while noting the need for ITU to increase its focus on South Asian countries, asked whether any specific criteria existed for shortlisting potential candidate countries, and whether there was a process of consultation with concerned States, including to evaluate the benefit to the subregion as a whole. Further discussions should be held by countries of the subregion to ensure the feasibility of such an initiative. Another councillor endorsed that view, noting that further guidance on the establishment of area offices was required.

3.12 One observer outlined steps being taken in her country to promote ICT development, and expressed support for the Indian proposal.

3.13 The Director of BDT, noting the need for ITU to become closer to its membership, said that no specific criteria currently existed at the secretariat level on the establishment of field offices. The development of such criteria would be a matter for the Council.

3.14 The Chairman, noting the views expressed, suggested that a decision be deferred pending further discussion by the Standing Committee on Administration and Management.

3.15 It was so **agreed**.

3.16 The councillor from India, supported by two other councillors, said that the Council was perfectly competent to take a decision on the proposal in Document C18/85. He would have preferred a decision to be taken at the current meeting given the support expressed for the proposal and the fact that it did not entail any financial implications for ITU.

3.17 The councillor from Saudi Arabia introduced Document C18/86 containing a number of proposals to promote the participation of experts from the developing and least developed countries in the events of ITU, particularly major events. The document should indicate that Union staff should be utilized to strengthen the capacities of regional and area offices.

3.18 The councillor from Cuba supported the measures outlined in Document C18/86, noting with concern the decrease in the number of fellowships awarded in 2017. A comprehensive report should be presented to PP-18 on the fellowships awarded in the period 2015–2018. In order to promote the balanced participation of developing countries in the meetings of the Union, including LDCs, but also other categories such as small island developing States, PP-18 should adopt specific criteria and indicators for awarding fellowships.

3.19 Numerous councillors expressed support for the proposals by Saudi Arabia, noting the importance of making efficient use of ITU resources, including staff.

3.20 Councillors also supported the suggestions made by Cuba, with one councillor and one observer adding that criteria should also address use of the official languages.

3.21 The Director of BDT said that BDT was already implementing some of the elements of the Saudi Arabian contribution, including using country experts and organizing joint initiatives between regions.

3.22 The Chairman said that Document C18/86 should be transmitted to the Standing Committee on Administration and Management for consideration of any financial implications.

3.23 It was so **agreed**.

3.24 The councillor from Mexico introduced Document C18/99, which set out a number of steps relating to the implementation of Resolution 25 (Rev. Busan, 2014) on strengthening the regional presence and contained a number of recommendations.

3.25 Councillors welcomed Document C18/99. A suggestion was made that the Secretary- General should include in his report on strengthening the regional presence an analysis of the JIU recommendations, together with an assessment of the applicability of each recommendation and implementation status. Support for the continued review of strengthening the regional offices was expressed. It was pointed out that the proposed transfer of functions, including possible transfer of the supervision and mandate of the regional offices to the General Secretariat from BDT, would require amendments to Article 21 of the Constitution. Support was also expressed for the establishment at PP-18 of a working group on strengthening and improving the regional presence.

3.26 The Chairman said that countries should be requested to take into account Document C18/99 in their review of Resolution 25 (Rev. Busan, 2014).

3.27 Document C18/99 was **noted**.

**4 Announcement by the Minister for Development of the Digital Economy and Posts, Burkina Faso**

4.1 Ms Hadja Fatimata Ouattara, Minister for Development of the Digital Economy and Posts, Burkina Faso, announced that her country would be standing for re-election to the Council and submitting the candidature of Mr Brahima Sanou for the post of Deputy Secretary-General at PP-18.

**5 Report of the Council Working Group for Strategic and Financial Plans 2020-2023
(CWG-SFP) (Document** [**C18/64**](https://www.itu.int/md/S18-CL-C-0064/en)**)**

5.1 The Chairman of CWG-SFP introduced Document C18/64, outlining the discussions of the working group, and the five addenda thereto, containing the proposed draft strategic and financial plans for 2020-2023.

5.2 Councillors expressed their appreciation to CWG-SFP and its chairman for their work. While not always straightforward, the working group’s deliberations had been conducted in a spirit of cooperation and had ultimately borne fruit.

5.3 The Chairman took it that the Council wished to note the report, to consider the addenda 1 to 4 thereto as reviewed by Council, and to submit these addenda to the Plenipotentiary Conference for adoption. Addendum 5 (the draft financial plan for 2020-2023) would be further reviewed by the Standing Committee on Administration and Management.

5.4 It was so **agreed**.

The Secretary-General: The Chairman:

H. ZHAO R. ISMAILOV

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