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**Contribution by the Republic of India**

# framing Policy for deputing the govt officials to itu for capacity building and sharing best practices

# 1 Background

ITU is at the very heart of the ICT sector, brokering agreement on technologies, services, and allocation of global resources like radio-frequency spectrum and satellite orbital frequencies, to create a seamless global communications system that's robust, reliable, and constantly evolving. As of now, approximately 700 people representing all the seven continents work under the aegis of ITU. They’re divided roughly equal in two categories i.e. General Services and Professional & Higher categories.

 All persons appointed by the organization as a staff member as defined by ITU’s staff Regulations and Rules for a period of one year or more. The number may be small for an organization like ITU, which has a diverse mandate. But the staff expenditures are a significant portion of ITU budget. Of the proposed 2018-2019 Budget, 98.69 Million Swiss francs is the budgeted staff cost out of 177.88 Million Swiss francs (roughly 55.5% of total). Many Member states have been and have called for rationalization of the ITU Budget.

 The world has seen emergence and spread of Communication technologies at a break-neck speed. Such evolution, while welcome from the perspective of public welfare, throws significant policy challenges. The evolution of national policies often lacks to match the speed of the evolution, thus constricting the benefits of the technology development to urban/affluent sections. One of the major lacunae responsible for sluggish policy formation is absence of expertise within the government, particularly in developing world.

ITU is at the spearhead of development of communication technology and offers a unique global perspective for those working under its different arms. For the officers of Member States working at ITU it offers opportunity to bring back the technological know-how and global perspective back to their own countries. Therefor it is greatly desirable to expand participation of the government officials in ITU working. As mentioned earlier, it may not always be possible to raise funds for such additional manpower at ITU’s end.

# 2 Proposal

Therefore, to improve the percolation of best practises and cutting edge technology and policy initiatives, India proposes following.

1. ITU should frame the policy and T&C for deputing the Govt. officials of Member States to ITU for capacity building and sharing best practices.
2. A new category of employment may be created under the aegis of ITU where nominations are invited from the governments of Member States to work for a period ranging from 6 months to 2 years.
3. The Member States will have to bear the staff costs of these employees and the ITU will only provide the office expenditure for the smooth functioning.
4. For nominees from LDCs, ITU may take up to 50% of the staff costs, if the Secretary General desires so.

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