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| **Plenipotentiary Conference (PP-18) Dubai, 29 October – 16 November 2018** |  |
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| PLENARY MEETING | **Addendum 4 to Document 55-E** |
|  | **26 September 2018** |
|  | **Original: English** |
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| African Telecommunication Union Administrations | |
| African Common Proposals for the work of the conference | |
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| **AFCP/55A4/1** | No change to the Constitution of the International Telecommunication Union |
| **AFCP/55A4/2** | No change to the Convention of the International Telecommunication Union |
| **AFCP/55A4/3** | Revision of the Resolution 21: Measures concerning alternative calling procedures on international telecommunication networks |
| **AFCP/55A4/4** | Revision of the Resolution 25 : Strengthening the regional presence |
| **AFCP/55A4/5** | Suppression of the Resolution 36: Telecommunications/information and communication technology in the service of humanitarian assistance |
| **AFCP/55A4/6** | Revision of the Resolution 136: The use of telecommunications/information and communication technologies for monitoring and management in emergency and disaster situations for early warning, prevention, mitigation and relief |
| **AFCP/55A4/7** | Suppression of the Resolution 137: Next-generation network deployment in developing countries |
| **AFCP/55A4/8** | Revision of the Resolution 160: Assistance to Somalia |
| **AFCP/55A4/9** | Revision of the Resolution 177: Conformance and interoperability |
| **AFCP/55A4/10** | Revision of the Resolution 192: ITU participation in memoranda of understanding with financial and/or strategic implications |
| **AFCP/55A4/11** | Suppression of the Resolution 202: Using information and communication technologies to break the chain of health-related emergencies such as Ebola virus transmission |
| **AFCP/55A4/12** | Revision of the Resolution 203: Connectivity to broadband networks. |

NOC AFCP/55A4/1

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|  | CONSTITUTION OF THE INTERNATIONAL TELECOMMUNICATION UNION |

**Reasons:** No change to any provisions in the Constitution should be made unless the proposed modifications are absolutely critical and could not be achieved through other possible means.

NOC AFCP/55A4/2

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|  | CONVENTION OF THE INTERNATIONAL TELECOMMUNICATION UNION |

**Reasons:** No change to any provisions in the Convention should be made unless the proposed modifications are absolutely critical and could not be achieved through other possible means.

MOD AFCP/55A4/3

RESOLUTION 21 (Rev.  dubai, 2018)

Measures concerning alternative calling procedures on international telecommunication networks

The Plenipotentiary Conference of the International Telecommunication Union ( Dubai, 2018),

recognizing

*a)* Resolution 20 (Rev. Hammamet, 2016) of the World Telecommunication Standardization Assembly (WTSA), on procedures for allocation and management of international telecommunication numbering, naming, addressing and identification (NNAI) resources;

*b)* Resolution 29 (Rev. Hammamet, 2016) of WTSA, on alternative calling procedures on international telecommunication networks;

*c)* Resolution 22 (Rev. Dubai, 2014) of the World Telecommunication Development Conference, on alternative calling procedures on international telecommunication networks, identification of origin and apportionment of revenues in providing international telecommunication services;

*d)* that each Member State has the sovereign right to allow or prohibit certain forms of alternative calling procedures in order to address their impact on its national telecommunication networks;

*e)* the interests of developing countries[[1]](#footnote-1)1;

*f)* the interests of consumers and users of telecommunication services;

*g)* the need of some Member States to identify the origin of calls, taking into account the relevant ITU recommendations;

*h)* that some forms of alternative calling procedures may have an impact on quality of service (QoS), quality of experience (QoE) and the performance of telecommunication networks;

*i)* the benefits of competition in delivering lower costs and choice to consumers;

*j)* that there are a myriad of different stakeholders impacted by alternative calling procedures;

*k)* that the understanding of what is an alternative calling procedure has evolved over time,

considering

*a)* that the use of some alternative calling procedures may adversely affect the economies of developing countries and may seriously hamper the efforts made by those countries to ensure the sound development of their telecommunication/information and communication technology networks and services;

*b)* that some forms of alternative calling procedures may have an impact on traffic management, network planning and the quality and performance of telecommunication networks;

*c)* that the use of certain alternative calling procedures that are not harmful to networks may contribute to competition in the interests of consumers;

*d)* that consumers stand to be prejudiced through the possibility of by having their data airtime consumed for receiving bypassed calls which they are not supposed to pay for;

*e)* that a number of relevant Telecommunication Standardization Sector (ITU‑T) recommendations, particularly those of ITU‑T Study Groups 2 and 3, that address, from several points of view, including technical and financial, the effects of alternative calling procedures on the performance and development of telecommunication networks,

recalling

the ITU workshop on "caller ID spoofing" held by ITU‑T Study Group 2 in Geneva on 2 June 2014,

aware

*a)* that ITU‑T has concluded that certain alternative calling procedures such as constant calling (or bombardment or polling) and answer suppression seriously degrade the quality and the performance of the telecommunication networks;

*b)* that appropriate ITU‑T study groups and ITU Telecommunication Development Sector (ITU‑D) study groups are cooperating on issues related to alternative calling procedures and telecommunication origin identification,

resolves

1 to identify and describe all forms of alternative calling procedures and assess their impact on all parties, and to review or develop relevant ITU‑T recommendations in order to address any negative effects that alternative calling procedures have on all parties;

2 to encourage administrations and operating agencies authorized by Member States to take the appropriate measures to provide an acceptable level of QoS and QoE, to ensure the delivery of International calling line identification (CLI) and origin identification (OI) information, wherever possible, and consistent with national law, and to ensure the appropriate charging taking into account the relevant ITU recommendations;

3 to develop guidelines for administrations and operating agencies authorized by Member States on the measures that can be considered, within the constraints of their national laws, to address the impact of alternative calling procedures;

4 to request the appropriate ITU‑T study groups, particularly Study Groups 2 and 3, and ITU‑D study groups, through contributions of Member States and Sector Members, to continue to study:

i) alternative calling procedures, based on *resolves* 1, in order to update or develop relevant ITU‑T recommendations;

ii) issues related to OI and CLI, in order to take into account the importance of these studies as they relate to next-generation networks and network degradation,

instructs the Director of the Telecommunication Standardization Bureau and the Director of the Telecommunication Development Bureau

1 to collaborate on further studies, based on contributions from Member States, Sector Members and other members, in order to evaluate the effects of alternative calling procedures on consumers, the effect on countries with economies in transition, developing countries and especially least developed countries, for sound development of their local telecommunication networks and services in respect of originating and terminating calls using alternative calling procedures;

2 to develop guidelines for Member States and Sector Members with regard to all aspects of alternative calling procedures, based on *resolves* 1 and 4 above;

3 to evaluate the effectiveness of the suggested guidelines for consultation on alternative calling procedures;

4 to collaborate so as to avoid overlap and duplication of effort in studying issues related to different forms of alternative calling procedures,

invites Member States

1 to encourage their administrations and operating agencies authorized by Member States to implement the ITU‑T recommendations referred to in *considering d)* in order to limit the negative effects that, in some cases, some alternative calling procedures have on developing countries as well as the monetary prejudice that may be suffered by consumers;

2 which permit the use of alternative calling procedures on their territory in accordance with their national regulations to pay due regard to the decisions of other administrations and operating agencies authorized by Member States whose regulations do not permit such alternative calling procedures;

3 to cooperate to resolve difficulties in order to ensure that national laws and regulations of ITU Member States are respected;

4 to contribute to this work,

invites Sector Members

1 in their international operations, to pay due regard to the decisions of other administrations whose regulations do not permit such alternative calling procedures;

2 to contribute to this work.

**Reasons:** to highlight the impact that could undermine the rights of consumers.

MOD AFCP/55A4/4

RESOLUTION 25 (Rev.  Dubai, 2018)

Strengthening the regional presence

The Plenipotentiary Conference of the International Telecommunication Union (Dubai, 2018),

considering

*a)* the benefits to the population of telecommunications/information and communication technologies (ICTs) and the need to promote their greater availability in developing countries[[2]](#footnote-2)1;

*b)* that the development of national and regional telecommunication/ICT infrastructures assists in narrowing the national and global digital divides;

*c)* the commitment of the ITU Member States to promoting access to telecommunications/ICTs at affordable prices, with special attention to the most disadvantaged,

bearing in mind

*a)* Resolution 123 (Rev. Busan, 2014) of this conference, on bridging the standardization gap between developing and developed countries;

*b)* Resolution 5 (Rev. Buenos Aires, 2017) of the World Telecommunication Development Conference (WTDC), on enhanced participation by developing countries in the activities of the Union;

*c)* Resolution 44 (Rev. Hammamet, 2016) of the World Telecommunication Standardization Assembly (WTSA), on bridging the standardization gap between developing and developed countries;

*d)* Resolution 57 (Rev. Dubai, 2012) of WTSA, on strengthening coordination and cooperation among the ITU Radiocommunication Sector (ITU‑R), the ITU Telecommunication Standardization Sector (ITU-T) and the ITU Telecommunication Development Sector (ITU-D) on matters of mutual interest;

*e)* the 2009 United Nations Joint Inspection Unit report, which made a number of recommendations on ways to improve the ITU regional presence,

recognizing

*a)* the difficulty faced by many countries, particularly developing countries with stringent budgetary constraints, in participating in the activities of ITU;

*b)* the outcome indicators for the objectives and the revised key performance indicators (KPIs) for the outputs as elaborated by the Telecommunication Development Advisory Group (TDAG) following instructions by WTDC-14;

*c)* that regional offices are an extension of ITU as a whole, and that, therefore, ITU’s capacity to hold electronic meetings as provided for by Resolution 167 (Rev. Busan, 2014) of this conference will serve to build up the effectiveness of the Union's activities, including project implementation as set forth in Resolution 157 (Rev. Busan, 2014) of this conference,

convinced

*a)* that the regional presence is a tool of ITU for working as closely as possible with its membership, serving as a channel for disseminating information on its activities, developing closer ties with regional and subregional organizations and providing technical assistance to countries in special need;

*b)* of the importance of continuing to strengthen coordination between the Radiocommunication Bureau (BR), the Telecommunication Standardization Bureau (TSB), the Telecommunication Development Bureau (BDT) and the General Secretariat;

*c)* that the regional and area offices enable ITU to be more aware of and more responsive to the specific needs of the regions;

*d)* that resources are limited, and that efficiency and effectiveness are therefore key considerations for activities to be undertaken by ITU, as well as of the need to consolidate the technical expertise and knowledge of the human resources assigned to regional and area offices;

*e)* that, to be effective, the regional presence must have the necessary level of authority to meet the diverse requirements of the membership;

*f)* that adequate online access between headquarters and the field offices significantly enhances technical cooperation activities;

*g)* that all relevant electronic information available at headquarters should also be available to regional offices;

*h)* that full engagement and commitment from the regional and area offices is fundamental for the successful implementation of the strategic plan for the Union and the Buenos Aires Action Plan,

noting

*a)* the role that should be assumed by the ITU regional offices in executing projects related to the regional initiatives, and the need to promote greater collaboration with the regional telecommunication organizations;

*b)* that both the Plenipotentiary Conference and the ITU Council have endorsed the principle that regional and area offices should be entrusted with clear and specific functions;

*c)* that there should be greater cooperation among BDT, the other Bureaux and the General Secretariat in order to encourage participation by the regional offices in their respective spheres;

*d)* that there is a need for ongoing evaluation of the staffing requirement for regional and area offices,

noting also

that regional and area offices represent the presence of the entire Union, that their activities should be linked to ITU headquarters and should reflect the coordinated objectives of all three Sectors, and that regional activities should enhance the effective participation of all members in ITU work,

resolves

1 to continue the review of the strengthening of ITU regional presence in the interval between two consecutive plenipotentiary conferences;

2 to strengthen the functions of the regional offices so that they can play a part in the implementation of programmes and projects in the framework of the regional initiatives, within the resources allocated by the financial plan;

3 that regional offices play a key role in facilitating discussions on regional matters and the dissemination of information and results of activities of all three Sectors of the Union, while avoiding the duplication of such functions with headquarters;

4 that the regional and area offices shall be empowered to make decisions within their mandate, while the coordination functions and the balance between ITU headquarters and the regional and area offices should be facilitated and improved;

5 that the regional and area offices should contribute, to the extent practicable, *inter alia*, to the annual four-year rolling operational plans of the General Secretariat and of the three Sectors, with content specific to each regional and area office, linked to the strategic plan for the Union for 2016‑2019 and the Buenos Aires Action Plan, then set up and continue to publish the annual plan/events on the ITU website for implementation;

6 that regional and area offices shall actively engage in the implementation of the strategic plan for the Union for 2016-2019, in particular with respect to the four strategic goals, all sectoral and intersectoral objectives and following up on the accomplishment of the strategic targets;

7 that regional and area offices shall actively engage in the implementation of the Buenos Aires Action Plan, in particular with respect to the five objectives and their respective outcomes, the 15 outputs and the 30 regional initiatives;

8 that the regional and area offices shall actively engage in the realization of the outcomes, indicators and KPIs as identified by the Buenos Aires Action Plan and by TDAG;

9 that cooperation between the ITU regional and area offices, relevant regional organizations and other international organizations dealing with development and financial matters should continue to be improved, in the interests of optimizing the use of resources and avoiding duplication, and that Member States should be kept updated through BDT, where necessary, in order to ensure that their needs are being met in a coordinated and consultative fashion;

10 that the regional offices shall be fully involved in the organization of regional events/meetings/conferences, in close collaboration with the General Secretariat, the relevant Bureau(x) and the regional organizations, in order to increase efficiency in the coordination of such events, avoid duplication of events/topics and derive benefit from synergy between the Bureaux and regional offices;

11 that, for the effective performance of their duties, regional offices must have sufficient resources, within the resources allocated by the financial plan, including the technological platforms to hold electronic meetings and utilize electronic working methods (EWM) with their respective Member States;

12 that sufficient resources have to be made available in order for BDT to be able to operate effectively in the interests of narrowing the telecommunication gap between the developing and developed countries, thereby supporting endeavours towards bridging the digital divide, and that, accordingly, the regional offices should, in coordination with ITU headquarters, take measures with a view to implementing the objectives as set out in the Buenos Aires Action Plan;

13 that the objectives and outcomes identified in the strategic plan for the Union for 2016-2019, along with the four-year rolling operational plans of the General Secretariat and the three Sectors and the evaluation criteria identified in annex to this resolution, shall be used to evaluate the regional presence, and, where regional and area offices do not meet the agreed evaluation criteria, the Council should assess the reasons and take the necessary corrective actions that it considers appropriate, in consultation with the countries concerned,

instructs the Council

1 to continue to include the regional presence as an item on the agenda of each session of the Council in order to examine its evolution and adopt decisions for its continuing structural adaptation and operation, with the aim of fully meeting the requirements of the Union's membership and giving effect to the decisions adopted at meetings of the Union, and of consolidating the coordination and complementary aspects of activities between ITU and regional and subregional telecommunication organizations;

2 to allocate the appropriate financial resources within the financial limits established by the Plenipotentiary Conference;

3 to report to the next plenipotentiary conference on the progress made in implementing this resolution;

4 to analyse the performance of regional and area offices based on the report of the Secretary-General, the strategic plan for the Union for 2016‑2019, the four-year rolling operational plans of the General Secretariat and the three Sectors and the evaluation criteria identified in annex to this resolution, and to take appropriate measures for improving the ITU regional presence;

5 to analyse the report on the results of the satisfaction survey to be conducted by the Secretary-General;

6 to continue to consider further implementation of the recommendations from the 2009 JIU report (Council Document C09/55),

instructs the Secretary-General

1 to facilitate the task of the Council by providing all necessary support for strengthening the regional presence as described in this resolution;

2 to adapt, where necessary, the prevailing terms and conditions of host-country agreement(s) to the changing environment in the respective host country, after prior consultations with countries concerned and the representatives of the regional intergovernmental organizations of the affected countries;

3 to take into consideration the elements for evaluation contained in annex to this resolution;

4 to submit each year to the Council a report on the regional presence containing, for each specific regional office, detailed information on how the goals and objectives identified in the strategic plan for 2016-2019 and the four-year rolling operational plans of the General Secretariat and the three Sectors are being delivered in the context of the results-based management framework; the report should include detailed information on:

i) staffing, including number of staff members and category of employment;

ii) finances, including budget allocated to the offices and expenditure per objective and output, in accordance with the Buenos Aires Action Plan;

iii) new developments, such as any extension of activities of the three Sectors, outcomes of projects, including regional initiatives, events/meetings/conferences and regional preparatory meetings, and attraction of new Sector Members, in coordination with regional intergovernmental organizations;

5 to suggest appropriate measures to ensure the effectiveness of ITU's regional presence, including evaluation by JIU or by referring it to any other independent entity, taking into account the elements set out in annex to this [resolution];

6 to conduct, once every four years, within the existing financial resources, a survey of the level of satisfaction of Member States, Sector Members and regional telecommunication organizations with ITU's regional presence, and to present the results in a report to the session of Council prior to each plenipotentiary conference,

instructs the Director of the Telecommunication Development Bureau

1 to implement the following measures for further strengthening the regional presence:

i) to expand and strengthen the regional and area offices by identifying functions which could be decentralized and implementing them as soon as possible;

ii) to review the internal administrative procedures pertaining to the work of the regional offices, with a view to their simplification and transparency and enhancing work efficiency;

iii) to assist countries in implementing the regional initiatives defined in the Buenos Aires Action Plan, in accordance with Resolution 17 (Rev. Dubai, 2014) of WTDC;

iv) to establish clear procedures for consulting Member States, in order to prioritize the consolidated regional initiatives and keep Member States informed on project selection and funding;

v) to solicit specialized input from the regional and area offices to better inform decision-making and address the crucial needs of the ITU membership in the region;

vi) to provide the regional and area offices with greater flexibility, including, but not limited to:

• functions relating to the dissemination of information, provision of expert advice and hosting of meetings, courses and seminars;

• any functions and tasks that may be delegated to them relating to the preparation and implementation of their allocated budgets;

• ensuring their effective participation in discussions on the future of the Union and on strategic issues concerning the telecommunication/ICT sector,

instructs the Director of the Telecommunication Development Bureau, in close consultation with the Secretary-General and the Directors of the Radiocommunication Bureau and the Telecommunication Standardization Bureau

1 to take the necessary measures for further strengthening of the regional presence, as described in this resolution, and measures to ensure that BR and TSB activities are effectively covered in the regional and area offices;

2 to support the evaluation of the effectiveness of the ITU's regional presence, taking into account the elements set out in annex to this resolution;

3 to review and determine the appropriate posts, including permanent posts, in regional and area offices, and provide specialized staff on an as-needed basis to meet particular needs;

4 to fill in a timely manner vacant posts in the regional and area offices, where appropriate, planning staff availability and giving due consideration to the regional distribution of staff positions;

5 to ensure that the regional and area offices are given sufficient priority among the activities and programmes of the Union as a whole, and that, to supervise the implementation of funds-in-trust projects and projects financed from the ICT Development Fund, they have the required autonomy, the decision-making authority and the appropriate means;

6 to take the necessary measures to improve the exchange of information between headquarters and field offices;

7 to strengthen the human resource capabilities and provide the regional and area offices with a measure of flexibility in terms of the recruitment of professional staff as well as support staff;

instructs the Directors of the Radiocommunication Bureau and the Telecommunication Standardization Bureau

to continue cooperating with the Director of BDT in enhancing the ability of the regional and area offices to provide information on their Sectors' activities, as well as the necessary expertise, to strengthen cooperation and coordination with the relevant regional organizations and to facilitate the participation of all Member States and Sector Members in the activities of the three Sectors of the Union.

ANNEX TO RESOLUTION 25 (Rev. dubai, 2018)

Elements for evaluation of the ITU regional presence

The evaluation of ITU's regional presence should be based on the functions assigned to its regional offices under Annex A: "Generic activities expected of the regional presence" of Resolution 1143 adopted by the ITU Council at its 1999 session, in *resolves* 2 to 13 of Resolution 25 (Rev. Busan, 2014) of the Plenipotentiary Conference and in other pertinent decisions.

The evaluation of the regional presence should take into account, but not be limited to, the following elements:

a) the extent of fulfilment of the provisions of Resolution 25 (Rev. Busan, 2014) by the Telecommunication Development Bureau, the General Secretariat and the other two Bureaux, as appropriate;

b) how further decentralization could ensure greater efficiency at lower cost, taking into consideration accountability and transparency;

c) a survey, once every four years, of the level of satisfaction of Member States, Sector Members and regional telecommunication organizations with ITU's regional presence;

d) the extent of possible duplication between the functions of ITU headquarters and the regional offices;

e) the degree of autonomy in decision-making currently accorded to regional offices, and whether greater autonomy could enhance their efficiency and effectiveness;

f) the extent of fulfilment of the provisions of WTDC Resolution 17 (Rev. Buenos Aires, 2017);

g) the effectiveness of collaboration between the ITU regional offices, regional telecommunication organizations and other regional and international development and financial organizations;

h) how regional presence and the organization of activities in the regions can enhance the effective participation of all countries in ITU work;

i) the resources currently made available to the regional offices for reducing the digital divide;

j) the identification of functions and powers that might be assigned to the regional presence in implementing the Plan of Action adopted by the World Summit on the Information Society;

k) the optimal structure of the ITU regional presence, including the location and number of regional and area offices.

In preparing this evaluation, input should be sought from Member States and Sector Members which benefit from ITU's regional presence, as well as from the regional offices, from regional and international organizations and from any other relevant entities.

A report on the process and methodology of carrying out this survey should be submitted by the Secretary-General to the Council at its 2015 session. The Council should then consider the appropriate course of action to be taken, with a view to reporting to the 2018 plenipotentiary conference on the matter.

**Reasons:** Editorial changes to Resolution 25 in line with WTDC Buenos Aires.

SUP AFCP/55A4/5

RESOLUTION 36 (Rev. Guadalajara, 2010)

Telecommunications/information and communication technology in the service of humanitarian assistance

The Plenipotentiary Conference of the International Telecommunication Union (Guadalajara, 2010)

**Reasons:** Merged with Resolution 136.

MOD AFCP/55A4/6

RESOLUTION 136 (Rev. dubai, 2018)

The use of telecommunications/information and communication technologies in the service of humanitarian assistance and for monitoring and management in emergency and disaster situations for early warning, prevention, mitigation and relief and break the chain of health-related emergencies

The Plenipotentiary Conference of the International Telecommunication Union (Dubai, 2018),

recalling

*a)* Resolution 182 (Rev. Busan, 2014) of plenipotentiary conference, on the role of telecommunications/ICTs in regard to climate change and the protection of the environment;

*b)* Resolution 34 (Rev. Buenos Aires, 2017 ) of the World Telecommunication Development Conference (WTDC), on the role of telecommunications/ICT in disaster preparedness, early warning, rescue, mitigation, relief and response;

*c)* Resolution 66 (Rev. Buenos Aires, 2017 ) of WTDC, on ICT and climate change;

*d)* Resolution 48 (Rev. Buenos Aires, 2017 ) of WTDC, on strengthening cooperation among telecommunication regulators;

*e)* Resolution 646 (WRC-15) of WRC, on public protection and disaster relief;

*f)* Resolution 647 (Rev. WRC-15) on Radiocommunication aspects, including spectrum management guidelines, for early warning, disaster prediction, detection, mitigation and relief operations relating to emergencies and disasters;

*g)* Resolution 673 (WRC-12) of WRC, on radiocommunication use for Earth observation applications;

*h)* Article 5 of the International Telecommunication Regulations, on safety of life and priority of telecommunications;

*i)* the emergency telecommunication/ICT coordination mechanisms established by the United Nations Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs,

recognizing

*a)* the recent tragic events in the world that clearly demonstrate the need for high-quality communications infrastructure and for the availability and dissemination of information to assist public safety, health and disaster-relief agencies;

*b)* the need to minimize risk to human life and to cover the necessary general public information and communication needs in such situations, and the conviction that the unhindered use of telecommunication/ICT equipment and services is indispensable for the provision of effective and appropriate humanitarian assistance;

*c)* that there will be a continuing need to assist developing countries in the use of ICTs to preserve life by ensuring a timely flow of information to government agencies, consumers, humanitarian-oriented organizations and industry involved in rescue and recovery operations and in the provision of medical assistance to those affected by health-related emergencies such as Ebola virus transmission;

*d)* that information needs to be accessible and available in local languages so as to ensure maximum impact;

*e)* that policy-makers need to create an enabling environment to leverage the use of ICTs to address infrastructure and information needs in emergency situations and to break the chain of health-related emergencies;

*f)* that the contribution of the private sector is necessary in the prevention, mitigation and relief of health-related emergencies;

*g)* that a common understanding of the network infrastructure components is required in order to provide rapidly-installed, interoperable, robust telecommunication capabilities in humanitarian-assistance and disaster-relief operations for health-related emergencies,

taking into account

Resolution 60/125, on international cooperation on humanitarian assistance in the field of natural disasters, from relief to development, adopted by the United Nations General Assembly in March 2006,

noting

*a)* § 51 of the Geneva Declaration of Principles adopted by the World Summit on the Information Society (WSIS), on the use of ICT applications for disaster prevention;

*b)* § 20(c) of the Geneva Plan of Action adopted by WSIS, on e‑environment, which calls for the establishment of monitoring systems, using ICTs, to forecast and monitor the impact of natural and man-made disasters, particularly in developing countries[[3]](#footnote-3)1, least developed countries and small economies;

*c)* § 30 of the Tunis Commitment adopted by WSIS, on disaster mitigation;

*d)* § 91 of the Tunis Agenda for the Information Society adopted by WSIS, on disaster reduction;

*e)* the effective coordination work of the Partnership Coordination Panel for Telecommunication for Disaster Relief and Mitigation, led by the ITU Telecommunication Standardization Sector (ITU-T);

*f)* the work of the study groups of the ITU Radiocommunication Sector (ITU‑R) and ITU-T in adopting recommendations that provide technical information on satellite and terrestrial radiocommunication systems and wired networks and their role in disaster management, including important recommendations pertaining to the use of satellite networks in times of disasters;

*g)* the work of the ITU‑T study groups in developing and adopting recommendations for priority/preferential emergency telecommunications and emergency telecommunication services, including consideration of use of both terrestrial and wireless telecommunication systems during emergencies,

considering

*a)* the devastation suffered from disasters, including, but not limited to, tsunamis, earthquakes and storms, around the world, particularly in developing countries, which may suffer disproportionately due to a lack of infrastructure and, therefore, have the most to gain from information on the subject of disaster prevention, mitigation and relief efforts;

*b)* that ICTs are critical for addressing all phases of health-related emergencies such as Ebola virus transmission;

*c)* that aspects of emergency communications associated with health-related emergencies such as Ebola virus transmission include, *inter alia*, disaster prediction, detection, alerting and enabling the flow of information to keep individuals informed as to actions they can take to preserve life;

*d)* that the ITU Telecommunication Development Sector (ITU‑D) m‑powering initiative is designed to focus on the use of ICTs to empower communities and people,

e) that modern telecommunications/ICTs play an important role in early warning of disasters and facilitate disaster prevention, mitigation, relief and recovery efforts;

*f)* the ongoing cooperation between ITU study groups and other standards development organizations dealing with emergency telecommunications, alert and warning systems;

*g)* Resolution 59 (Rev. Buenos Aires, 2017) of WTDC, on strengthening coordination and cooperation between ITU-R, ITU-T and the ITU Telecommunication Development Sector (ITU-D) in matters of mutual interest;

*h)* that Article 5 of the International Telecommunication Regulations establishes that safety-of-life telecommunications, such as distress telecommunications, shall be entitled to transmission as of right and, where technically practicable, have absolute priority over all other telecommunications, in accordance with the relevant articles of the ITU Constitution and Convention and taking due account of the relevant ITU-T recommendations;

*i)* the need to plan for immediate availability of telecommunication services in emergency or disaster situations in affected areas or regions, through primary or back-up telecommunication systems, including those which may be movable or portable, in order to minimize impacts and facilitate relief operations;

*j)* that satellite services, among other radiocommunication services, may constitute a reliable platform for public safety, especially in natural disasters when existing terrestrial networks are often disrupted, and are highly useful for the coordination of humanitarian assistance by government agencies and other humanitarian entities,

*k)* that the Intergovernmental Conference on Emergency Telecommunications (Tampere, 1998) adopted the Tampere Convention on the provision of telecommunication resources for disaster mitigation and relief operations, which entered into force on 8 January 2005;

*l*) that the second Tampere Conference on Disaster Communications (Tampere, 2001) invited ITU to study the use of public mobile networks for early warning and the dissemination of emergency information, and the operational aspects of emergency telecommunications such as call prioritization;

*m*) that the third Tampere Conference on Disaster Communications(Tampere, 2006) encouraged wider understanding and cooperation between governments on implementation of the Tampere Convention;

*n*) that the United Nations World Conference on Disaster Reduction (Kobe, Hyogo, 2005) encouraged all States, taking into account their domestic legal requirements, to consider, as appropriate, acceding to, approving or ratifying relevant international legal instruments relating to disaster reduction, such as the Tampere Convention,

recognizing

*a)* the activities being undertaken at the international and regional levels within ITU and other relevant organizations to establish internationally agreed means for the operation of systems for public protection and disaster relief on a harmonized and coordinated basis;

*b)* the ongoing development by ITU, in coordination with the United Nations and other United Nations specialized agencies, of guidelines for applying the international content standard for all-media public warning in all disaster and emergency situations;

*c)* the contribution of the private sector in the prevention, mitigation and relief of emergency and disaster situations, which is proving to be effective;

*d)* the need for a common understanding of the network infrastructure components required to provide rapidly installed, interoperable, interworking, robust telecommunication capabilities in humanitarian assistance and disaster relief operations;

*e)* the importance of working towards the establishment of standards-based monitoring and worldwide early-warning systems, based on telecommunications/ICTs, that are linked to national and regional networks and that facilitate emergency disaster response all over the world, particularly in high-risk regions;

*f)* the importance of redundancy, infrastructure resilience and the availability of energy supply when planning for disaster situations;

*g)* the role that ITU-D can play, through such means as the Global Symposium for Regulators and the ITU-D study groups, in collecting and disseminating national regulatory best practices for telecommunication/ICT facilities for disaster prevention, mitigation and relief;

*h)* that private and public networks include various public safety and group communications features which can play a key role in emergency and disaster preparedness, prevention, mitigation and relief situations,

convinced

*a)* that an international standard for communication of alert and warning information can assist in the provision of effective and appropriate humanitarian assistance and in mitigating the consequences of disasters, in particular in developing countries;

*b)* that there is a need to train rescue and relief agencies, as well as the general public, in the use of modern communication technologies to strengthen both disaster preparedness and response;

c*)* that the unhindered use of telecommunication/ICT equipment and services is indispensable for the provision of effective and appropriate humanitarian assistance;

*d)* that the Tampere Convention provides the necessary framework for such use of telecommunication/ICT resources,resolves to instruct the Directors of the Bureaux

1 to continue their technical studies and to develop recommendations, guidelines and standards, through the relevant ITU study groups, with advice from the advisory groups, concerning technical and operational implementation, as necessary, of advanced solutions to meet the needs of public-protection and disaster-relief telecommunications/ICTs, taking into account the capabilities, evolution and any resulting transition requirements of existing systems, particularly those of many developing countries, for national and international operations;

2 to conduct training programmes, workshops and capacity building for trainers of relevant organizations and entities, especially in developing countries, on technical and operational aspects of networks and their use for monitoring and management in emergency and disaster situations;

3 to continue their technical studies and to develop recommendations, guidelines and standards, through the relevant ITU study groups, with advice from the advisory groups, concerning technical and operational implementation, as necessary, of advanced solutions to enhance the exchange of information in timely manner on the health-related emergencies such as virus transmission;

4 to support the development of robust, comprehensive, all-hazards emergency and disaster prediction, detection, early-warning, mitigation and relief systems, at national, regional and international levels, including monitoring and management systems involving the use of telecommunications/ICTs (e.g. remote sensing), in collaboration with other international agencies, in order to support coordination at the global and regional level;

5 to promote implementation by appropriate alerting authorities of the international standard for all-media public warning, in concert with ITU guidelines developed through the relevant ITU study groups for application to all disaster and emergency situations;

6 to continue to collaborate with organizations that are working in the area of standards for emergency telecommunications/ICTs and for communication of alert and warning information, in order to study the appropriate inclusion of such standards in ITU's work and their dissemination, in particular in developing countries;

7 to analyse ongoing work in all Sectors of ITU, regional entities and other expert organizations, and promote joint activities to avoid duplication of efforts and resources in the development, use and interworking of public and private telecommunications/ICTs, including radiocommunication and satellite systems, in times of emergencies and disaster relief operations in response to natural disasters;

8 to assist Member States in enhancing and strengthening the use of all available communication systems, including satellite, amateur radio and broadcasting services, in the event of the disruption of conventional power supply or telecommunication networks;

9 to support the work of the relevant study groups in the development of reports and recommendations regarding radio-frequency spectrum requirements for disaster management,

resolves to instruct the Secretary-General

1 to collaborate with all relevant parties, including United Nations agencies and in particular the World Health Organization, in order to define and engage in programmes to respond to and address health-related emergencies such as Ebola virus transmission in areas within the scope and mandate of ITU;

2 to implement measures aimed at mobilizing support from governments, industry and other partners to break the chain of health-related emergencies such as Ebola virus transmission;

3 to inform the United Nations and, in particular the United Nations Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs, of this resolution;

4 to coordinate the activities conducted by the ITU Sectors in line with resolves 5, in order to ensure the most effective action possible by ITU in this matter;

5 to work closely with the United Nations Emergency Relief Coordinator to support Member States which so request in their work towards their national accession to the Tampere Convention;

6 to assist Member States which so request with the development of their practical arrangements for implementation of the Tampere Convention, in close collaboration with the United Nations Emergency Relief Coordinator;

7 to support establishment of an early warning centres for emergency situation in developing countries,

resolves to instruct Director of the Telecommunication Development Bureau

1 to develop guidelines and best practices on how ICTs can be used to identify the communications infrastructure needed to support the exchange of timely information on health-related emergencies such as Ebola virus transmission;

2 to develop feasibility studies, project management tools and support to respond to and address health-related emergencies such as Ebola virus transmission,

encourages Member States

1 in emergency and disaster relief situations, to satisfy temporary needs for spectrum in addition to what may be normally provided for in agreements with the administrations concerned, while seeking international assistance for spectrum coordination and management, in accordance with the legal framework in force in each country;

2 to work in close collaboration with the Secretary-General, the Directors of the Bureaux and other Member States, while taking into account emergency telecommunication/ICT coordination mechanisms of the United Nations, in the development and dissemination of tools, procedures and best practices for the effective coordination and operation of telecommunications/ICTs in disaster situations;

3 to facilitate the use by emergency organizations of both existing and new technologies, systems and applications (satellite and terrestrial), to the extent practicable, in order to satisfy interoperability requirements and to further the goals of public protection and disaster relief;

4 to develop and support national and regional centres of excellence for research, pre-planning, equipment pre-positioning and deployment of telecommunication/ICT resources for humanitarian assistance and disaster relief coordination;

5 to adopt and promote policies that encourage public and private operators to invest in the development and building of telecommunications/ICTs, including radiocommunication and satellite systems, for early warning systems and the management of emergencies;

6 to take appropriate measures to ensure that all operators inform local and roaming users, in a timely manner and at no cost, of the numbers in use to contact emergency services;

7 to explore the possibility of introducing a globally harmonized emergency number to supplement existing domestic emergency numbers, taking into account the relevant ITU-T recommendations,

8 to work towards their accession to the Tampere Convention as a matter of priority;

9 to cooperate and offer all possible assistance and support to consumers, humanitarian-oriented organizations and industry involved in ICTS, including for disease tracking and natural and man-made disaster and emergency response, rescue and recovery operations;

10 to promote regional, subregional, multilateral and bilateral projects and programmes to address the need to use ICTs as a tool to support responses to different types of disasters such as virus transmission, so that life-saving infrastructure and information can be provided to local communities, especially in local languages;

11 to participate in ITU Network of Volunteers for Emergency Telecommunications;

12 to contribute to the Global Emergency Fund for Rapid Response,

urges Member States Parties to the Tampere Convention

to take all practical steps for the application of the Tampere Convention and to work closely with the operational coordinator as provided for therein.

**Reasons:** Streamlining Resolutions by merging Resolution 136 with Resolutions 36 and 202 and to use Resolution 136 as the main body of the text.

SUP AFCP/55A4/7

RESOLUTION 137 (Rev. Busan, 2014)

Next-generation network deployment in developing countries[[4]](#footnote-4)1

The Plenipotentiary Conference of the International Telecommunication Union (Busan, 2014),

**Reasons:** Merged with Resolution 203.

MOD AFCP/55A4/8

RESOLUTION 160 (Rev. dubai, 2018)

Assistance to Somalia

The Plenipotentiary Conference of the International Telecommunication Union (Dubai, 2018)

recalling

Resolution 34 (Rev. Minneapolis, 1998) of the Plenipotentiary Conference,

recalling further

*a)* the purposes of the Union as enshrined in Article 1 of the ITU Constitution;

*b)* Resolution 57 (Doha, 2006) of the World Telecommunication Development Conference, on assistance to Somalia,

recognizing

*a)* that no budget was allocated by the Plenipotentiary Conference to accompany Resolution 34 (Rev. Minneapolis, 1998) for the benefit of countries in special need;

*b)* that telecommunication infrastructure in Somalia has been completely destroyed by two decades and half of war and that the regulatory framework in the country needs to be re-established;

*c)* that Somalia at present has inadequate formal national telecommunication infrastructure, limited access to international telecommunication networks or the Internet;

*d)* that a telecommunication system is an essential input for reconstruction, rehabilitation and relief operations in the country;

*e)* that, under the present conditions and in the foreseeable future, Somalia will need assistance from international community, provided bilaterally or through international organizations to reestablish its telecommunications regulatory framework and national infrastructure,

noting

that Somalia has not benefited fully from the Union’s assistance over a long period due to prolonged war in the country,

resolves

that special action be initiated by the Secretary-General and Director of the Telecommunication Development Bureau, with specialized assistance from the ITU Radiocommunication Sector and the ITU Telecommunication Standardization Sector, resulting in the launch of a special initiative with allocated funds, aimed at providing assistance and support to Somalia for rebuilding and modernizing its telecommunication infrastructure, re-establishing a well-equipped ministry of telecommunications and establishing institutions, developing telecommunication/information and communication technology policy, legislation and regulation, including a numbering plan, spectrum management, tariff and human resource capacity building, and all other necessary forms of assistance,

calls upon Member States

to offer all possible assistance and support to the Government of Somalia, either bilaterally or through the special action of the Union referred to above,

invites the Plenipotentiary Conference

to allocate the necessary funds within available resources for the implementation of this resolution,

instructs the Director of the Telecommunication Development Bureau

to implement fully a programme of assistance for the least developed countries, in which reconstruction and rehabilitation of telecommunication infrastructure is an integral part of the programme, in order that Somalia can receive focused assistance in various areas determined to be of high priority by the country,

instructs the Secretary-General

to coordinate the activities carried out by the three ITU Sectors in accordance with *resolves* above, to ensure that the Union’s action in favour of Somalia is as effective as possible, and to report annually on the matter to the Council.

**Reasons:** Updating of the resolution in line with the actual situation of Somalia.

MOD AFCP/55A4/9

RESOLUTION 177 (Rev.  dubai, 2018)

Conformance and interoperability

The Plenipotentiary Conference of the International Telecommunication Union (Dubai, 2018),

recognizing

*a)* Resolution 76 (Rev. Dubai, 2012) of the World Telecommunication Standardization Assembly;

*b)* Resolution 47 (Rev. Dubai, 2014) of the World Telecommunication Development Conference;

*c)* Resolution 62 (Geneva, 2012) of the Radiocommunication Assembly;

*d)* that, at its 2013 session, the ITU Council updated the Action Plan for the Conformance and Interoperability (C&I) Programme initially established in 2012, the pillars of which are: 1) conformity assessment, 2) interoperability events, 3) human resource capacity building, and 4) assistance in the establishment of test centres and C&I programmes in developing countries[[5]](#footnote-5)1;

*e)* the progress reports made by the Director of the Telecommunication Standardization Bureau (TSB) to the Council at its 2011, 2012, 2013 and 2014 sessions and to this conference,

noting

that several ITU Telecommunication Standardization Sector (ITU‑T) study groups have already started pilot projects for conformity to ITU‑T recommendations,

recognizing further

*a)* that widespread conformance and interoperability of telecommunication/information and communication technology (ICT) equipment and systems through the implementation of relevant programmes, policies and decisions can increase market opportunities and reliability and encourage global integration and trade;

*b)* that technical training and institutional capacity building for testing and conformity are one of the essential tools for countries to promote global connectivity;

*c)* that ITU members may benefit from using the conformity assessment that many regional and national standards bodies already provide for conformity assessment, through mechanisms of collaboration with such organizations;

*d)* that a decision concerning the implementation of an ITU Mark would be postponed until pillar 1 (conformity assessment) of the Action Plan has reached a more mature stage of development (Council-12),

considering

*a)* that some countries, especially developing countries, have not yet acquired the capacity to test equipment and provide assurance to consumers in their countries;

*b)* that increased confidence in the conformity of telecommunication/ICT equipment to rules and standards in place promotes interoperability of equipment from different manufacturers, reduces interference among communication systems, and assists developing countries in choosing high-quality products,

resolves

1 to endorse the objectives of Resolution 76 (Rev. Dubai, 2012), Resolution 62 (Geneva, 2012) and Resolution 47 (Rev. Dubai, 2014), and the Action Plan for the C&I Programme reviewed by the Council at its 2014 session (Document C14/24(Rev.1));

2 that this programme of work continue to be implemented, including the informative pilot conformity database and its development into a fully functioning database, in consultation with each region, taking into consideration a) the outcome and effect that the pilot conformity database may have on Member States, Sector Members and stakeholders (e.g. other standards-development organizations (SDOs)), b) the impact the database will have on bridging the standardization gap as relevant to each region, c) the potential liability issues for ITU and for Member States, Sector Members and stakeholders, and taking into account the results of regional ITU conformity and interoperability consultations;

3 to assist developing countries in establishing regional or subregional conformity and interoperability centres suitable to perform conformity and interoperability testing as appropriate and according to their needs,

instructs the Director of the Telecommunication Standardization Bureau

1 to continue consultations and assessment studies in all regions, taking into consideration the needs of each region, on implementation of the Action Plan endorsed by the Council, including, in collaboration with the Director of the Telecommunication Development Bureau (BDT), the recommendations on human capacity building and assistance in the establishment of test facilities in developing countries;

2 to continue to carry out pilot projects for conformity to ITU‑T recommendations to increase the probability of interoperability in accordance with the Action Plan;

3 to enhance and improve standards-setting processes in order to improve interoperability through conformity;

4 to continuously update the Action Plan for the long-term implementation of this resolution;

5 to provide the Council with progress reports, including the results of studies, relating to the implementation of this resolution;

6 in cooperation with the Director of BDT, and based on the consultations in *instructs the Director of the Telecommunication Standardization Bureau* 1 above, to implement the Action Plan agreed by the Council at its 2012 session and revised by the Council at its 2013 session,

instructs the Director of the Telecommunication Development Bureau, in close collaboration with the Director of the Radiocommunication Bureau and the Director of the Telecommunication Standardization Bureau

1 to advance the implementation of Resolution 47 (Rev. Dubai, 2014) and the relevant parts of the Action Plan, and to report to the Council;

2 to assist Member States in addressing their concerns with respect to non-compliant equipment;

3 to continue providing on-the-job capacity-building activities, in collaboration with recognized institutions and benefiting from the ITU Academy ecosystem, including activities related to preventing radiocommunication interference caused or received by ICT equipment,

invites the Council

1 to consider the reports of the Directors of the three Bureaux and to take all necessary measures so as to contribute to the achievement of the objectives of this resolution;

2 to report to the next plenipotentiary conference on the progress made with respect to this resolution;

3 to consider, after pillar 1 of the Action Plan has reached a more mature stage of development, the possible introduction of an ITU Mark, taking into account the technical, financial and legal implications;

4 to assist developing countries in building their capacity, in collaboration with the other Bureaux, so as to be able to perform conformance testing and interoperability testing of equipment and systems, relevant to their needs, in accordance with the relevant Recommendations, including the development or recognition of, as appropriate, conformity assessment bodies;

5 to assist Member states in enhancing their capabilities for conformance assessment and testing in order to combat counterfeit devices and to provide experts for developing countries;

6 to promote, with the collaboration of regional conformance and interoperability bodies, the establishment of technical collaboration with respect to conformance assessment,

invites the membership

1 to populate the pilot conformity database with details of products tested to applicable ITU‑T recommendations in accredited test laboratories (first, second or third party), or by accredited certification bodies, or according to procedures adopted by an SDO or forum qualified in accordance with Recommendation ITU‑T A.5;

2 to participate in ITU-facilitated interoperability events and in the work of the ITU study groups related to conformity and interoperability issues;

3 to take an active role in building developing countries' capacity in conformity and interoperability testing, including through on-the-job training, particularly as part of any supply contract for telecommunication equipment, services and systems to these countries;

4 to support the establishment of regional conformity testing facilities, particularly in developing countries;

5 to participate in ITU assessment studies to promote the establishment of harmonized conformity and interoperability frameworks in the regions,

invites organizations qualified in accordance with Recommendation ITU‑T A.5

1 to participate in the ITU pilot conformity database activities and, sharing links on a mutual basis, to enrich its extent by referring to more recommendations and standards within a product, and to allow for more exposure of vendors' products and widen the portfolio of selection to the users;

2 to participate in developing countries' capacity-building programmes and activities facilitated by TSB and BDT, in particular offering opportunities for developing-country experts – particularly from operators – to gain on-the-job experience,

invites Member States

1 to contribute to the implementation of this resolution;

2 to encourage national and regional testing entities to assist ITU in implementing this resolution;

3 to adopt conformity-assessment regimes and procedures based on applicable ITU‑T recommendations, leading to better quality of service/quality of experience, and to higher probability of interoperability of equipment, services and systems,

further invites Member States

to contribute to the next radiocommunication assembly in 2015 in order for it to consider and take appropriate actions as deemed necessary with respect to C&I.

**Reasons:** The proposed amendments seeks to modify Resolution 177 to capacitate developing countries to deal with technical issues pertaining to conformance and interoperability as well as issues related to combating counterfeit devices.

MOD AFCP/55A4/10

RESOLUTION 192 (Rev. Dubai, 2018)

ITU participation in memoranda of understanding with financial and/or strategic implications

The Plenipotentiary Conference of the International Telecommunication Union (Dubai, 2018),

considering

*a)* that one of the purposes of the Union as set out in Article 1 of the ITU Constitution is to maintain and extend international cooperation between all its Member States for the improvement and rational use of international telecommunications;

*b)* that another purpose of the Union is to promote, at the international level, the adoption of a broader approach to the issues of telecommunications in the global information economy and society, by cooperating with other world and regional intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations concerned with telecommunications,

noting

*a)* that memoranda of understanding (MoU) as well as memoranda of cooperation and agreement[[6]](#footnote-6)1 or other instruments, in which ITU, Member States and Sector Members may participate, are often used to facilitate cooperative action;

*b)* that Resolution 52 (Rev.Dubai, 2014) of the World Telecommunication Development Conference, on strengthening the executing agency role of the ITU Telecommunication Development Sector, emphasizes the importance of establishing partnerships between the public and private sectors as an efficient means of implementing sustainable ITU projects,

*c)* that Resolution 130 (Rev. Busan, 2014) instructs the Secretary-General, in the context of building confidence and security in the use of information and communication technologies, "to cooperate with relevant international organizations, including through the adoption of MoUs, subject to the approval of the Council in this regard, in accordance with Resolution 100 (Minneapolis, 1998) of the Plenipotentiary Conference";

*d)* that Resolution 100 (Minneapolis, 1998) instructs the ITU Council, in the context of the ITU Secretary-General serving as depository for MoUs, "to formulate criteria and guidelines for the Secretary-General to respond to requests to serve as depository for MoUs" and resolves that, using those criteria and guidelines, "the Secretary-General may, with the approval of the Council, serve as depository for MoUs";

*e)* that Council-2013 amended Decision 563, on the Council Working Group on Financial and Human Resources, adding to its terms of reference "to consider criteria to determine the financial and strategic implications of the establishment of memoranda of understanding (as well as memoranda of cooperation and agreement) to which ITU is or will be a party",

observing

that the Union has entered into MoUs in which ITU is a participant that have financial and/or strategic implications, and these were discussed during Council‑14 as described in the Report by the Chairman of the Standing Committee on Administration and Management,

believing

that MoUs in which ITU is a participant that have financial and/or strategic implications should only be entered into pursuant to criteria adopted by the Council,

resolves to instruct the Secretary-General

1 to follow the criteria and guidelines to be established by the Council when entering into MoUs in which ITU will be a participant that have financial and/or strategic implications;

2 to submit a report to the annual session of the Council on the implementation of this resolution, detailing the relevant MoUs and ITU activities,

instructs the Council

to formulate criteria and guidelines for ITU participation in MoUs that have financial and/or strategic implications, based on the following principles:

i) that any involvement of the Secretary-General in this capacity should contribute to and be within the purposes of the Union as set forth in Article 1 of the Constitution, and within the strategic and financial plans of the Union;

ii) that interested Member States and Sector Members will be kept informed of the activities of ITU when it participates in MoUs that have financial and/or strategic implications;

iii) that the sovereignty and rights of ITU Member States are fully respected and preserved.

**Reasons:** The Council has approved the Guidelines for ITU to negotiate and enter into MoUs or Memorandum of Cooperation with Strategic Importance and Financial Implications. It is not necessary that before such MoUs are entered into, approval of Council must be sought and obtained. This inflexibility shackles the Secretary-General unnecessarily in fast-changing ICT industry where cooperation is not just necessary but indeed a requirement of this and many other PP Resolutions. It should be enough for the Secretary-General to report to the Council every year on such MoUs entered into within the Guidelines already approved by the Council.

SUP AFCP/55A4/11

RESOLUTION 202 (Busan, 2014)

Using information and communication technologies to break the chain of health-related emergencies such as Ebola virus transmission

The Plenipotentiary Conference of the International Telecommunication Union (Busan, 2014),

**Reasons:** Merged with Resolution 136.

MOD AFCP/55A4/12

RESOLUTION 203 (rev. dubai, 2018)

Connectivity to broadband networks and Next-generation and future networks in in developing countries[[7]](#footnote-7)1

The Plenipotentiary Conference of the International Telecommunication Union (Dubai, 2018),

considering

*a)* the results of the extensive work of the United Nations Broadband Commission for Digital Development, the reports of which recognize, *inter alia*, that affordable and accessible broadband infrastructure, with appropriate policy and strategy, is a fundamental enabling platform that fosters innovation and drives the development of national and global economies and the information society;

*b)* Opinion 2 (Geneva, 2013) of the fifth World Telecommunication/Information and Communication Technology Forum, on fostering an enabling environment for the greater growth and development of broadband connectivity;

*c)* that, as stated in § 22 of the Geneva Declaration of Principles adopted by the World Summit on the Information Society (WSIS), a well-developed information and communication network infrastructure and applications, adapted to regional, national and local conditions, easily accessible and affordable, and making greater use of broadband and other innovative technologies, where possible, can accelerate the social and economic progress of countries, and the well-being of all individuals, communities and peoples, and that this is covered by Action Line C2, expanded to include Action Line C6;

*d)* that the existence, at the national, regional, interregional and global levels, of coherent telecommunication networks and services for the development of national, regional and international economies is a very important element in the improvement of the social, economic and financial situation of Member States;

*e)* the overall theme of the World Telecommunication Development Conference (Dubai, 2014) (WTDC‑14), namely "Broadband for Sustainable Development";

*f)* the adoption, by WTDC‑14, of new Resolution 77 (Dubai, 2014), on broadband technology and applications for greater growth and development of telecommunications/information and communication services and broadband connectivity, as well as revised Question 2/1, on broadband access technologies, including International Mobile Telecommunications (IMT), for developing countries, and new Question 1/2, on creating the smart society: social and economic development through ICT applications;

*g)* Resolution 9 (Rev. Buenos Aires, 2017) of WTDC, on participation of countries, particularly developing countries, in spectrum management, Resolution 10 (Rev. Hyderabad, 2010) of WTDC, on financial support for national spectrum-management programmes and Resolution 43 (Rev. Dubai, 2014) of WTDC, on assistance for implementing IMT,

welcoming

Resolution 44 (Rev. Dubai, 2012) of the World Telecommunication Standardization Assembly (WTSA), and the annexes to Resolution 17 (Rev.  Buenos Aires, 2017) of the World Telecommunication Development Conference (WTDC),

noting

*a)* that broadband connectivity empowers families, people, societies and businesses;

*b)* that broadband connectivity has the potential to bridge the digital divide;

*c)* that broadband connectivity can play a major role in providing vital information during emergency events and disaster relief efforts;

*d)* that many administrations have developed national broadband plans to enable broadband connectivity,

*e)* that developing countries are still being challenged by rapid change of technologies and service convergence trends;

*f)* ongoing shortages of resources, experience and capacity building within developing countries in planning, deploying and operating networks, especially of next-generation networks (NGN)and future networks;

*f*) new report released by the UN Broadband Commission for Sustainable Development 2017 says, Broadband technologies are today driving substantial transformation in many development-related sectors including health, education, financial inclusion and food security, making them a key accelerator towards achievement of the United Nations' Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs);

*g)* promoting investment in broadband connectivity from a broad range of sectors, can help achieve the full potential of these technologies and bring the world closer to the goal of an inclusive digital society accessible by all;

*h)* fixed and mobile broadband services are becoming progressively more affordable in a large number of countries. However, there are many challenges to making Internet access affordable for developing countries, in part due to the high costs of satellite access and fibre-optic cables. The consumers most affected by high costs of Internet access are those in landlocked countries,

recalling

*a)* the efforts and collaboration of the three Bureaux to continue enhancing work aimed at providing information and advice on subjects of importance to developing countries for the planning, organization, development and operation of their telecommunication systems;

*b)* that technical knowledge and experience of great value to the developing countries is also obtainable from the work of the ITU Radiocommunication (ITU-R), Telecommunication Standardization (ITU-T) and Telecommunication Development (ITU-D) Sectors;

*c)* that, in accordance with Resolution 143 (Rev. Guadalajara, 2010) of the Plenipotentiary Conference, the provisions in all ITU documents relating to developing countries shall be extended to apply adequately to the least developed countries, small island developing states, landlocked developing countries and countries with economies in transition,recognizing

*a)* that connectivity to broadband networks is directly and indirectly enabled and supported by many diverse technologies, including fixed and mobile terrestrial technologies and fixed and mobile satellite technologies;

*b)* that spectrum is essential both for the direct provision of wireless broadband connectivity to users by satellite or terrestrial means and for the underlying enabling technologies;

*c)* that broadband plays a vital role in transforming economies and societies, as stated in the open letter from the Broadband Commission to the ITU Plenipotentiary Conference (Busan, 2014),

*d)* that the developing countries have limited human and financial resources to cope with the ever-increasing technology gap;

*e)* that the existing digital divide is liable to be aggravated further with the emergence of new technologies, including future networks, and if developing countries are not able to introduce NGNs or future networks fully and in a timely manner;

*f)* that one of the most important expected outcomes of the introduction of NGNs or future networks for developing countries is the reduction of operating costs relating to the operation and technical maintenance of network infrastructure;

*g)* that the implementation of NGN or future networks has a positive impact on the environment , in particular by helping to reduce the effects of other sectors on the environment,

taking into account

*a)* that, for countries, especially developing countries and many developed countries, that have already invested heavily in the traditional public switched telephone network, it is a pressing task for them to conduct a smooth migration from existing networks to NGNs;

*b)* that many developing countries have invested significantly in the deployment of NGN networks to provide advanced services, but are still unable to exploit and operate them effectively;

*c)* that the migration of legacy networks to NGN will affect point of interconnection, quality of service and other operational aspects, which will also have an effect on costs to the end user;

*d)* that countries can benefit from NGNs, which can facilitate the delivery of a wide range of advanced information and communication technology (ICT)-based services and applications for building the information society, resolving difficult issues such as the development and implementation of systems for public protection and disaster relief, especially telecommunications for early warning and the dissemination of emergency information;

*e)* that the challenge, as perceived by WSIS, is to harness the potential of ICTs and ICT applications for promoting the development goals of the Millennium Declaration, namely the eradication of extreme poverty and hunger, achieving universal primary education, promoting gender equality and empowerment of women, reducing child mortality, improving maternal health and combating HIV/AIDS, malaria and other diseases, and so forth,

resolves to instruct the Director of the Telecommunication Development Bureau

to continue to work closely with the Director of the Radiocommunication Bureau and the Director of the Telecommunication Standardization Bureau on capacity-building activities related to the development of national strategies to facilitate the deployment of broadband networks, including wireless broadband networks, taking into account existing budgetary constraints of the Union,

resolves to instruct the Directors of the three Bureaux

1 to continue and consolidate their efforts on NGN and future networks[[8]](#footnote-8)2 deployment studies, standards development, training activities and the sharing of best practices on business model evolution and operational aspects, especially for those networks designed for rural areas and for bridging the digital divide and the development divide;

2 to coordinate studies and programmes under ITU-T Study Group 13 on future networks and the Global Network Planning initiatives (GNPi) of ITU-D; coordinate ongoing work being carried out by study groups and the relevant programmes as defined in Buenos Aires Action Plan of WTDC-17, in order to assist the membership in deploying NGN effectively, especially in conducting a smooth migration from existing telecommunication infrastructures to NGNs and future networks; and seek appropriate solutions to expedite affordable deployment in rural areas, taking into consideration the successes of several developing countries in migrating to and operating these networks, and benefiting from the experience of these countries,

instructs the Director of the Radiocommunication Bureau and the Director of the Telecommunication Standardization Bureau

to work in cooperation with Sector Members involved in the provision of services and applications to people, families, businesses and societal functions in order to address the need for further improved broadband networks, including wireless broadband networks, and to share relevant information, experience and expertise with the Telecommunication Development Bureau,

instructs the Secretary‑General and the Director of the Telecommunication Development Bureau

1 to take appropriate action in order to seek support and financial provision sufficient for the implementation of this resolution, within available financial resources, including financial support through partnership agreements;

2 to highlight the importance and benefits of NGN and future networks development and deployment to other United Nations specialized agencies and financial institutions,

instructs the ITU Council

to consider the reports and proposals made by the Secretary-General and the three Bureaux relating to the implementation of this resolution, making the appropriate linkage with the operative paragraphs of Resolution 44 (Rev. Hammamet, 2016) of WTSA, and to take appropriate action so that the Union continues to pay attention to addressing the needs of developing countries,

invites Member States and Sector Members

1 to further reinforce and recognize the overall socio-economic benefits of connectivity to broadband networks and services;

2 to support the development and cost-effective deployment of wireless broadband networks as part of their national broadband strategies and policies;

3 to facilitate connectivity to wireless broadband networks as one important component of enabling access to broadband services and applications;

4 to undertake concrete actions, to support ITU's actions and to develop their own initiatives in order to implement this resolution;

5 to strengthen cooperation between developed and developing countries, and among developing countries themselves, in improving national, regional and international capabilities in the implementation of NGNs and future networks, especially in regard to NGN and future networks planning, deployment, operation and maintenance, and the development of NGN-based and future networks-based applications, especially for rural areas, taking into consideration also development in the near future, in order to handle future networks.

**Reasons:** Streamlining Resolutions by merging Resolution 203 with the Resolution 137 and to use Resolution 203 as the main body of the text.

1. 1 These include the least developed countries, small island developing states, landlocked developing countries and countries with economies in transition. [↑](#footnote-ref-1)
2. 1 These include the least developed countries, small island developing states, landlocked developing countries and countries with economies in transition. [↑](#footnote-ref-2)
3. 1 These include the least developed countries, small island developing states, landlocked developing countries and countries with economies in transition. [↑](#footnote-ref-3)
4. 1 These include the least developed countries, small island developing states, landlocked developing countries and countries with economies in transition. [↑](#footnote-ref-4)
5. 1 These include the least developed countries, small island developing states, landlocked developing countries and countries with economies in transition. [↑](#footnote-ref-5)
6. 1 Wherever the term "MoU"" is used in this resolution, it includes memoranda of cooperation and memoranda of agreement. [↑](#footnote-ref-6)
7. 1 These include the least developed countries, small island developing states, landlocked developing countries and countries with economies in transition. [↑](#footnote-ref-7)
8. 2 See the work of the ITU-T Study Group 13Focus Group on future networks. [↑](#footnote-ref-8)