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| **Council 2019 Geneva, 10-20 June 2019** |  |
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| **Agenda item: PL 2.4** | **Document C19/13-E** |
| **1 April 2019** |
| **Original: English** |
| Report by the Secretary-General | |
| AMENDMENTs TO THE ELECTORAL PROCESS | |

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| Summary  This document provides background information on the discussions related to the improvement of the electoral process for the elected officials in the Union held at PP-14 and the 2016, 2017, and 2018 Council sessions. It also outlines the recommendations approved at PP-18 and addressed to the Council.  Action required  The Council is invited to provide guidance to the Secretary-General on the way forward to implement the PP-18 recommendations.  \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_  References  [*PP-18/173*](https://www.itu.int/md/S18-PP-C-0173/en) |

1. At PP-14, a draft new resolution ([B/75/1](https://www.itu.int/net4/proposals/PP14/Main/GetDocument?idProposal=14954&isSub=false&codeLang=E)) on “Procedures for the election of Secretary-General, Deputy Secretary-General and Directors of the Bureaux” was submitted to Committee 5 for its consideration. During the ensuing discussions, [PP-14/DT/66](https://www.itu.int/md/S14-PP-141020-TD-0066/en) was created but not adopted. Instead, Committee 5 issued the following recommendation in document [PP-14/161](http://www.itu.int/md/S14-PP-C-0161/en), which was approved by the Plenary ([PP-14/175)](http://www.itu.int/md/S14-PP-C-0175/en):

“Recommendation 8: It is desirable to improve the electoral process of the elected officials in the Union. In this regard, Council should study the issue and recommend to Member States options for implementing new procedures to improve the electoral process of Secretary-General, Deputy Secretary-General and Directors of the Bureaux. Due consideration should be given to several options such as presentations, interactive sessions, live sessions, interviews, submission of questions, through webcasting and remote participation, as well as further enhancing the election portal in the ITU website. Council is invited to initiate these studies in its 2015 session in order to implement these possible improvements.”

2. After PP-14, a report was submitted to C15 ([C15/4](https://www.itu.int/md/S15-CL-C-0004/en)) and, upon request of Member States, a report on possible improvements to the roll-out of the PP was submitted to C16 ([C16/4](https://www.itu.int/md/S16-CL-C-0004/en)). This document focused on five areas of improvement: strengthening regional and inter-regional preparations; improving high-level involvement; improving electoral processes; utilizing IT tools; and eliminating underutilized interpretation services. After discussion, C16 then instructed the Secretary-General to continue consultations, and in [CL-16/48](https://www.itu.int/md/S16-SG-CIR-0048/en), Member States were invited to submit their proposals as well. Document [CWG-FHR 7/10](https://www.itu.int/md/S17-CLCWGFHRM7-C-0010/en) was presented to CWG-FHR in January-February 2017. Following this meeting, an extension was given for this consultation via [CL-17/7](https://www.itu.int/md/S17-SG-CIR-0007/en). The compilation of the results of these consultations and the resulting recommendations were submitted to C17 in documents [C17/INF/6](https://www.itu.int/md/S17-CL-INF-0006/en), [C17/70](https://www.itu.int/md/S17-CL-C-0070/en), and [C17/4(Rev.1)](https://www.itu.int/md/S17-CL-C-0004/en). Member States also contributed the following proposals: [C17/76(Rev.1)](https://www.itu.int/md/S17-CL-C-0076/en), [C17/78(Rev.2)](https://www.itu.int/md/S17-CL-C-0078/en), and [C17/96](https://www.itu.int/md/S17-CL-C-0096/en). Discussions during C17 led to the approval by the Plenary ([C17/130](https://www.itu.int/md/S17-CL-C-0130/en)) of the proposals contained in [C17/DL/8](https://www.itu.int/md/S17-CL-170515-DL-0008/en). A final document ([C18/5](https://www.itu.int/md/S18-CL-C-0005/en)) on candidates’ hearing and ethics guidelines was submitted to C18. The summary of the discussion of this document is contained in [C18/109](https://www.itu.int/md/S18-CL-C-0109/en); C18 agreed to forward the document to PP-18 ([PP-18/31](https://www.itu.int/md/S18-PP-C-0031/en)).

3. At PP-18, the following contributions were received on procedures for hearings/elections: [IAP/63A1/7](https://www.itu.int/net4/proposals/PP18/Detail/Index?idProposal=48659), [IAP/63A1/23](https://www.itu.int/net4/proposals/PP18/Detail/Index?idProposal=48675), [ARG/CAN/CTR/DOM/PRG/S/68R1/1](https://www.itu.int/net4/proposals/PP18/Detail/Index?idProposal=48944), [AFCP/55A5/1](https://www.itu.int/net4/proposals/PP18/Detail/Index?idProposal=48559), and [ARB/72A1/38](https://www.itu.int/net4/proposals/PP18/Detail/Index?idProposal=48905). These proposals were compiled into document [DT/18(Rev.1)](https://www.itu.int/md/S18-PP-181029-TD-0018/en), and examined by Committee 5 with [PP-18/31](https://www.itu.int/md/S18-PP-C-0031/en). The following recommendations were made by Committee 5 ([PP-18/155](https://www.itu.int/md/S18-PP-C-0155/en)) and adopted by the Plenary ([PP-18/173](https://www.itu.int/md/S18-PP-C-0173/en)):

“Recommendation 6: Committee 5 recommends that the Plenary instructs the Council to:

1. conduct a comprehensive study on possible improvements of the ITU electoral process as a whole, in particular on the need for a revision of the General Rules related to election procedures, including studies for holding hearings. It should be done taking into account the relevant documents of Council and PP-14 (for example Recommendation 8 of Committee 5 approved by the Plenary) and to take timely decisions, as appropriate;

2. amend, if necessary, the ITU Staff Regulations and Rules for appointed Staff members and the Staff Rules and Regulations for Elected Officials, to consider eliminating the need for appointed ITU staff to enter into special leave without pay when standing for election to an elected official post;

3. continue improving the PP elections online portal to allow for more interaction with, and more information about, the candidates;

4. continue using ITU News magazine as a platform to present candidate’s positions/vision;

5. adopt standard guidelines on ethical aspects of campaign activities for future elections, based on the provisions of “Ethical aspects of certain campaign activities prior to the 2018 Plenipotentiary Conference”, as adopted by the 2018 Session of the Council, with possible improvements, as appropriate.”

and

“Recommendation 7: Committee 5 recommends that the Plenary adopt the following text:

This Plenipotentiary Conference (PP) acknowledges the need to foster the participation of women in all ITU decision-making processes as a way to promote more women to become candidates for the elected positions of the Union in accordance with No. 154 of the ITU Constitution.

Accordingly, PP instructs the Council to:

1 study mechanisms towards having more women in leadership and management positions, especially in relation to the electoral process;

2 conduct the work necessary for amending the specific rules of procedure for the election of the Secretary-General, the Deputy Secretary-General and the Directors of the Bureaux for the implementation of this recommendation and to present a report to the 2022 Plenipotentiary Conference,

PP invites Member States to:

1 encourage the participation of women in all ITU activities, and especially in the decision-making processes;

2 promote and present women candidates for the posts of Secretary-General, Deputy Secretary-General, Directors of the Bureaux, and members of the Radio Regulations Board.”

4. Based on the above information, the Council is invited to provide guidance to the Secretary-General on the way forward to implement the PP-18 recommendations.

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