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| **Council 2019 Geneva, 10-20 June 2019** |  |
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| **Agenda item: ADM 9** | **Document C19/39-E** |
| **6 May 2019** |
| **Original: English** |
| Report by the Secretary-General | |
| REQUESTS FOR EXEMPTION FROM ANY FINANCIAL CONTRIBUTION TO DEFRAYING EXPENSES RELATING TO PARTICIPATION IN THE WORK OF ITU | |

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| Summary  Requests for exemption from making financial contribution (i.e. Sector Membership fees) were submitted by seven organizations. Under the guidelines, the Council shall take account of the views expressed by the Secretary-General as to the mutual advantages of their participation in the activities of the Union, and an assessment as to whether or not each entity meets the criteria established by the Council. The Secretary-General recommends that the Council approve four out of the seven applications for exemption.  Action required  The Council is invited **to consider** these requests for admission as Sector Members, exempted from financial contribution, and **to approve** the recommendations from the Secretary-General.  \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_  References  [*CV231*](https://www.itu.int/en/council/2019/Documents/basic-texts/Convention-E.pdf)*,* [*PP Resolution 187 (Busan, 2014)*](https://www.itu.int/en/council/2019/Documents/basic-texts/RES-187-E.pdf)*; Council documents* [*C2000/28 (Rev.1)*](https://www.itu.int/itudoc/gs/council/c00/docs/28rev1.html)*,* [*C2001/26*](https://www.itu.int/itudoc/gs/council/c01/docs/026.html)*,* [*C02/94 (section 2)*](https://www.itu.int/md/S02-CL-C-0094/en)*,* [*C03/40 and Add.1*](https://www.itu.int/md/S03-CL-C-0040/en)*,* [*C03-ADD/3*](http://www.itu.int/md/S03-ADCL-C-0003/en)*,* [*C05/40*](http://www.itu.int/md/S05-CL-C-0040/en) |

## Background

1. The criteria and guidelines on granting exemption, subject to “reciprocity”, were adopted by the 2000 session of the Council (Document C2000/28(Rev.1)). Exemption from fees is granted by the Council following an analysis of the relevant Sectors and a recommendation by the Secretary-General. The main criteria include that the entity must be a regional or international organization dealing with telecommunications/ICTs, non-profit-making, and must offer reciprocal benefits to ITU. If approved, they become Sector Members or Associates under the terms of No. 231 of the Convention. Currently, there are 117 exempted regional and international organizations.

2. PP-14 instructed the Council in Resolution 187 (Busan, 2014) to “review the practice and criteria for exempting entities from membership fees and, if necessary, make changes to tighten the criteria to help bring greater clarity, consistency and fairness between paying and non-paying members and to reduce the total of exempted entities.” Following a detailed review by the CWG-FHR, Council-17 revised the criteria, as in Annex. The main changes include tighter definitions of international/regional organization and “reciprocity” and no longer allowing “industry associations” with for-profit members to qualify for fee exemption.

The applications for exemption being submitted to the 2019 session of the Council have been evaluated against this revised criteria.

## Recommendations

3. The following requests were received and are submitted for the consideration of the Council:

## 3.1

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| Organization | Sector | SG Recommendation |
| **Internet Corporation for Assigned Names and Numbers** **(ICANN)** | ITU-D | YES |

**Comments**: The Internet Corporation for Assigned Names and Numbers (ICANN) is a non-profit organization responsible for coordinating the maintenance and procedures of several databases related to the namespaces and numerical spaces of the Internet, ensuring the network’s stable and secure operation. The secretariat is of the view that ICANN meets the criteria for ITU-D exemption.

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| Organization | Sector | SG Recommendation |
| **European Radio Amateurs’ Organization (EURAO)** | ITU-R | YES |

**Comments**: The European Radio Amateurs’ Organization (EURAO), established in 2005, is a meeting point for independent radio amateur associations and individuals in some 70 countries from Europe and around the world. EURAO members share activities and experiences, common services and work together on projects. EUROA also represents its members to public administrations. The secretariat is of the view that EURAO meets the criteria for ITU-R exemption.

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| Organization | Sector | SG Recommendation |
| **Commonwealth Telecommunication Organization (CTO)** | ITU-R | YES |

**Comments**: The Commonwealth Telecommunications Organisation (CTO) is an intergovernmental organization in the field of ICT. CTO has a diverse range of members including developed countries, developing countries, Least Developed Countries, Small Island Developing States and Landlocked Developing Countries. Therefore, policies, decisions, and actions must cater to the needs of this wide range of countries. CTO is an international treaty organization and as such is a not-for-profit entity. CTO already enjoys fee exemption status as a Sector Member of ITU-T and ITU-D. The secretariat is of the view that CTO meets the criteria for ITU-R exemption.

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| Organization | Sector | SG Recommendation |
| **Telecommunications User Interface e.V. (T-UI)** | ITU-T | NO |

**Comments**: Telecommunications User Interface e.V. is a non-profit individual membership-based telecommunication Association registered in Offenbach, Germany. The purpose of the Association is to support science and research, education, people, and professional education with regard to critical, scientific, technological communication on the user system relation (User Interface) including natural, latent information technology expressions (Telecommunications). Its current membership consists of 16 individuals (15 from Germany and 1 from the UK). The majority of these individuals possess expertise in telecommunications and are involved with other SDOs such as ETSI, IETF, IEC, ISO, and CEN/CENELEC. The secretariat is of the view that the Telecommunications User Interface e.V. does not meet the Council criteria for ITU-T exemption due to insufficient regional/international membership.

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| Organization | Sector | SG Recommendation |
| **Arab States Research and Education Network (ASREN)** | ITU-R  ITU-T  ITU-D | YES  YES  YES |

**Comments**: The Arab States Research and Education Network (ASREN) is an international organization responsible for establishing the pan Arab research and education network and works with various regional and international research and education networks. ASREN works with 22 Arab countries, specifically with National Research and Education Networks (NRENs) with reach to all universities and research institutes in the Arab region. ASREN is already an Academia member but it is having difficulty paying the fees. They are currently suspended for 2019, but they have paid their debts for 2018. The secretariat is of the view that ASREN meets the Council criteria for exemption for ITU-R/T/D. It is recommended that this exemption be granted effective 1 January 2019.

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| Organization | Sector | SG Recommendation |
| **OISTE Foundation** | ITU-D | NO |

**Comments**: OISTE Foundation was founded in Geneva in 1998. OISTE was created with the objectives of promoting the use and adoption of international standards to secure electronic transactions, expand the use of digital certification and ensure the interoperability of certification authorities’ e-transaction systems. The secretariat is of the view that OISTE Foundation does not meet the criteria for exemption as it does not have international/regional membership.

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| Organization | Sector | SG Recommendation |
| **Association Mondiale pour les Orphelins  (A.M.OR)** | ITU-D | NO |

The *Association Mondiale pour les Orphelins* (A.M.OR) is a non-profit, non-governmental organization with the ECOSOC consultative status, which believes in the potential of all individuals. They manage the “HiTech4Orphans” project to help orphan students acquire and master IT skills. The secretariat is of the view that the A.M.OR does not meet the criteria for exemption due to insufficient regional/international membership.

Annex

Exemption from payment of Membership fees for organizations of an  
international character

Over the years, the Council has exempted certain organizations of an international character from their financial obligations in defraying the expenses of ITU conferences and meetings.

**1 Criteria and guidelines**

1.1 In accordance with No. 476 of the Convention, the Council may exempt organizations of an international character from payment of membership fees, subject to “reciprocity”. The “reciprocity” is taken to refer to the mutual and similar benefits that could accrue to both ITU and the organization concerned as a result of the latter participating in the relevant activities of ITU.

1.2 To fulfil the conditions which lead to such a reciprocal arrangement, the organization concerned shall meet *all* of the following criteria:

– be an organization of international character dealing with telecommunications;

– be a legally-recognized non-profit organization, representing members which also have non-profit status;

– have a significant membership, presence and activities in multiple Member States whose participation in ITU activities would be beneficial to the aims of the Union;

– allow ITU to be represented at and participate in the organization’s meetings free of charge and with the rights and benefits available to their members;

– allow ITU access to relevant documentation, including information available only to their members.[[1]](#footnote-1)

1.3 In reaching a decision as to the granting of an exemption, the Council shall take account of views expressed by the Secretary-General. Such views shall identify:

– the advantages for ITU of participation of the organization in ITU’s activities;

– the benefits arising from participation of ITU in the activities of the organization.

**2 Procedure**

2.1 Each application for exemption shall be submitted, in writing, to the Secretary-General. It shall be presented to the Council for consideration, accompanied by evidence justifying the application (§ 1.2) and by comments from the Secretary-General (§ 1.3).

2.2 The Secretary-General will examine the request for exemption according to the criteria as stipulated in §§ 1.2 and 1.3 above and will report to the forthcoming session of Council, as appropriate.

2.3 If the application for exemption is approved by the Council, it will take immediate effect from the date of the plenary meeting at which the decision is taken. Unless otherwise decided by the Council in exceptional circumstances, the exemption shall not be granted retroactively. Entities exempted by the Council remain responsible for any amounts owed prior to the effective date of exemption.

2.4 The exemption shall be valid until the following plenipotentiary conference, although the Council may at any time choose to revoke the exemption status from an entity which no longer fulfils the criteria noted above. Each plenipotentiary conference will review the list of exempted entities and decide which ones will continue to benefit from exempted status.

2.5 The list of exempted entities shall be made publically available on the ITU website.

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1. This means providing reciprocal access to information/documentation similar to that provided by ITU to its members through the TIES restricted access system. [↑](#footnote-ref-1)