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| **Council 2019Geneva, 10-20 June 2019** |  |
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| **Agenda item: PL 2.4** | **Document C19/101-E** |
| **27 May 2019** |
| **Original: English** |
| Note by the Secretary-General |
| CONTRIBUTION FROM the UNITED ARAB EMIRATES AND THE KINGDOM OF SAUDI ARABIASuggested improvEments TO the work of the Plenipotentiary conference |

I have the honour to transmit to the Member States of the Council a contribution submitted by the United Arab Emirates and the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia.

 Houlin ZHAO

 Secretary-General

Contribution from the United Arab Emirates and the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia

Suggested improvEments TO the work of the Plenipotentiary conference

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| SummaryThis document proposes improvements to the work of the Plenipotentiary Conference based on the experience of the United Arab Emirates at hosting and chairing PP-18.Action requiredTo consider the proposed suggestion in this contribution in the preparation for the next Plenipotentiary Conference (PP-22).\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_References[Resolution 77 (Rev. Dubai, 2018)](https://www.itu.int/en/council/Documents/basic-texts/RES-077-E.pdf), [Document C19/4](https://www.itu.int/md/S19-CL-C-0004/en): Report on the twentieth Plenipotentiary Conference (PP-18) |

# I Introduction

The Plenipotentiary Conference of the International Telecommunication Union, Resolution 77 (Rev. Dubai, 2018)

instructs the Secretary-General

1 to take appropriate measures to facilitate the most efficient use of time and resources during such conferences;

2 to give scheduling priority to the study groups and advisory groups of the three ITU Sectors, the Council and the Council working groups when the meetings listed are held at ITU headquarters;

3 to report to the Council on the implementation of this resolution, proposing further improvements, as appropriate.

# II Discussion

United Arab Emirates was honoured to host and chair the Plenipotentiary Conference in Dubai last year (PP-18) for the first time. The Conference met its objectives and outputs paved the way for upcoming study cycle of the ITU. Most of the improvements proposed by the secretariat and supported by the Council to PP-18 were implemented as stated in the in the report of the Secretary-General on PP-18 submitted to this Council ([Document C19/4](https://www.itu.int/md/S19-CL-C-0004/en)).

Based on the experience of United Arab Emirates as hosting country of the PP-18, the United Arab Emirates and Saudi Arabia would like to suggest further means of improvements to the work of the Plenipotentiary Conference:

**Inter-Regional preparation:** Inter-regional coordination and preparation is becoming increasingly important for the Plenipotentiary Conference to develop regional co-operation in area of common interest, facilitate coordination between all regions with regard to major issues, open lines of communication between Member States’ coordinators and allow for negotiations to begin prior to the start of the Conference. Such practices had been implemented for one of the major ITU conferences, the World Radiocommunication Conference 2019 (WRC-19), where three “ITU Inter-Regional Workshops on WRC-19 Preparation” meetings were organized. Regarding PP-18 preparation, three informal inter-regional meetings were held: an “informal” informal one during the Council in May, an informal one in July in Geneva, and another informal one in Riyadh, Saudi Arabia, in September 2018.

In the future, it would be advisable to strengthen this process by encouraging the regional groups, as well as Member States who are not part of a Regional Telecommunication Organizations, to actively participate in these preparation meetings. In addition to that, the process of inter-regional meetings should be formalized, and be more than mere informal meetings, and tangible outputs be produced in order to reduce the amount of time needed to reach consensus at the Conference. By strengthening this pre-PP coordination and negotiation, it could be a possible approach to save time at the PP.

**Reduction of PP duration:** It would be desirable to reduce the total length of the Conference (by shortening the election process, starting the elections sooner, .etc.) to reduce the financial implications and allow the efficient participation of the delegates during the whole days of the conference.

**Preparation and training of delegates:** Several background documents were prepared by the secretariat and posted on the website to provide information on the conference preparatory process, the election process, and the document process. United Arab Emirates and Saudi Arabia would also support organizing briefings and trainings during regional preparatory meetings on these topics as well as on the rules of procedures. Moreover, such documents should be available well in advance, and remote participation should be accessible for these trainings, for better far reach of the delegates.

In the highlighted above, such actions will help the delegates to understanding the process of the conference and strengthening the effective participation of the delegates.

**Green Conference:** For the first time ever, in consultation with the UN Greening the Blue team, ITU strove to make PP-18 as "green" as possible. In cooperation with the Host Country, a [number of measures](https://www.itu.int/web/pp-18/en/page/154-greening-the-pp) were taken in this regard concerning travel, accommodation, paper use, energy, the construction of the venue, etc. TRA, ITU, and DWTC received an award by the certification body SGS for compliance with ISO 20121:2012 for Sustainable Events.

# III Proposal

The Council is requested to study possibilities through which these improvements, mentioned in this contribution, may be feasible, including examining any procedures which would need to be modified in order to implement such changes. The Council is also requested, through the legal team, to consider the suggestions for further improvements and submit report on the outcomes to the next Council session. Also, that the secretariat be requested by the Council to continue putting forward proposals for improving the preparation and roll-out of the Plenipotentiary Conference with the view to reduce the duration of the event.

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