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| **Council 2019Geneva, 10-20 June 2019** |  |
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|  | **Document C19/111-E** |
| **11 June 2019** |
| **Original: English** |
| SUMMARY RECORDOF THEINAUGURAL PLENARY MEETING |
| Monday, 10 June 2019, from 0935 to 1230 hours |
| **Acting Chairman:**  Mr F. BIGI (Italy) |

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|  | Subjects discussed | Documents |
| 1 | Opening of the 2019 session of the Council | - |
| 2 | Chairmanship of the current session of the Council | - |
| 3 | Address by the Acting Chairman  | - |
| 4 | Chairmanship and vice-chairmanship of the Standing Committee on Administration and Management | - |
| 5 | Address by the Secretary-General on the state of the Union | - |
| 6 | Statements by ministers | - |
| 7 | Adoption of the draft agenda of the 2019 session of the Council | [C19/1](https://www.itu.int/md/S19-CL-C-0001/en) |
| 8 | Allocation of documents | [C19/DT/1](https://www.itu.int/md/S19-CL-190610-TD-GEN-0001/en) |
| 9 | Draft time management plan | [C19/DT/2(Rev.1)](https://www.itu.int/md/S19-CL-190610-TD-GEN-0002/en) |
| 10 | Organizational matters | - |
| 11 | Report on the implementation of the strategic plan and the activities of the Union for 2018–2019 | [C19/35 + Add.1](https://www.itu.int/md/S19-CL-C-0035/en) |
| 12 | ITU operational plans for 2020–2023 | [C19/28](https://www.itu.int/md/S19-CL-C-0028/en) |

**1 Opening of the 2019 session of the Council**

1.1 The Secretary-General declared the 2019 session of the Council open and welcomed all delegates.

# 2 Chairmanship of the current session of the Council

2.1 The Secretary-General announced that the Chairman of the Council, Dr Elsayed Elsayed Azzouz (Egypt), was unable to attend the session owing to an urgent matter at home and that the Vice-Chairman, Mr Saif Bin Ghelaita (United Arab Emirates) was not sufficiently prepared to replace Dr Azzouz at such a short notice. In keeping with the Rules of Procedure of the Council, he therefore proposed that the current session be chaired by the dean of the Council, Mr F. Bigi (Italy).

2.2 It was so **agreed**.

2.3 The councillor from Egypt thanked Mr Bigi for having agreed to preside over the session in the absence of Dr Azzouz.

# 3 Address by the Acting Chairman

3.1 The Acting Chairman said that he had readily agreed to chair the session because he was a firm believer in international cooperation and in the Union's aim constantly to improve communications worldwide. Council-19 had a number of important issues to deliberate in the wake of the 2018 Plenipotentiary Conference (PP-18) and several major events to prepare. Given the differences of opinion on some points, he called on councillors to work together in a spirit of collaboration and to start informal consultations immediately, with a view to resolving those differences.

# 4 Chairmanship and vice-chairmanship of the Standing Committee on Administration and Management

4.1 The Secretary-General recalled that, at its extraordinary session held at the end of PP-18, the Council had elected Ms Stella Erebor (Nigeria) as Chairman of the Standing Committee on Administration and Management for its 2019 session, and had decided that Mr Dirk-Olivier von der Emden (Switzerland) would continue to serve as Vice-Chairman. He proposed that Ms Lindl Rowe (Australia) be elected as the second Vice-Chairman.

4.2 Ms Lindl Rowe was **elected** by acclamation.

# 5 Address by the Secretary-General on the state of the Union

5.1 The Secretary-General delivered the address on the state of the Union available at: <https://www.itu.int/en/osg/speeches/Pages/2019-06-10.aspx>.

5.2 The Council observeda minute of silence in memory of the two ITU staff members – Ms Maygenet Abebe and Mr Marcelino Tayob – who had perished in the Ethiopian Airlines crash on 10 March 2019.

5.3 The councillor from Saudi Arabia said that his Government strongly supported the pivotal role played by ITU in promoting partnerships and cooperation, as attested by the project document on training and human resources for ITU that would be signed after the inaugural meeting.

5.4 The councillor from Burkina Fasoexpressed support for the Secretary-General's current efforts to establish a dialogue between African ministers of information and communication technology, on the one hand, and the Russian Federation, China and others, on the other.

# 6 Statements by ministers

6.1 Statements were delivered by Mr Claude Isaac Dé (Minister of Digital Economy and Post, Côte d'Ivoire), Mr Karol Okonski (Secretary of State, Ministry of Digital Affairs, Poland) and Ms Ursula Owusu-Ekuful (Minister for Communications, Ghana).

6.2 Mr Claude Isaac Dé (Minister of Digital Economy and Post, Côte d'Ivoire) confirmed, as announced at PP-18, that his Government was increasing its financial contribution to ITU eightfold, to two contributory units.

6.3 Mr Karol Okoński (Secretary of State, Ministry of Digital Affairs, Poland) announced that Poland would host the 15th Internet Governance Forum in 2020.

6.4 Ms Ursula Owusu-Ekuful (Minister for Communications, Ghana) said that, in accordance with Resolution 212 (Dubai, 2018) and in the interests of business continuity, her country had made a donation with a view to optimizing the design and structure of the future ITU headquarters premises.

# 7 Adoption of the draft agenda of the 2019 session of the Council (Document [C19/1](https://www.itu.int/md/S19-CL-C-0001/en))

7.1 The Secretary of the Plenary, introducing Document C19/1, said that the agenda was structured as in the past. In all, 44 contributions had been received from Member States thus far.

7.2 The draft agenda of the 2019 session of the Council (Document C19/1) was **adopted.**

# 8 Allocation of documents (Document [C19/DT/1](https://www.itu.int/md/S19-CL-190610-TD-GEN-0001/en))

8.1 The Secretary of the Plenary introduced Document C19/DT/1.

8.2 One councillor proposed that Document C19/INF/13 (Rev.1) be transformed into a Council document without translation for consideration under agenda item 1.1, as it would require Council approval before being submitted to the High-level Political Forum in September 2019.

8.3 Another councillor proposed that Document C19/INF/14, on a case of fraud in a regional office, be allocated to the Standing Committee on Administration and Management and translated into all languages.

8.4 The Council **approved** Document C19/DT/1 with those two modifications.

# 9 Draft time-management plan (Document [C19/DT/2(Rev.1))](https://www.itu.int/md/S19-CL-190610-TD-GEN-0002/en)

9.1 The Secretary of the Plenary introduced Document C19/DT/2(Rev.1).

9.2 In response to a query from one councillor, the Acting Chairman said that formal groups on key issues would be established later during the session, but that informal consultations should start as soon as possible in order to reconcile differences in point of view.

9.3 The Council **approved** Document C19/DT/2(Rev.1).

# 10 Organizational matters

10.1 The Secretary of the Plenary announced that the meeting hours of the Council would, as usual, be from 0930 to 1230 hours and from 1430 to 1730 hours every day, except for the Friday morning meeting, which would be held from 0900 to 1200 hours. As was customary, interpretation and documentation would be provided in the Union's six official languages. Captioning in English of the plenary and standing committee discussions would be provided in the meeting room and on the web. All documents would be made available on the Council webpage and via the C19 Sync application.

10.2 The information on the organization of work for the 2019 session was **noted**.

**11 Report on the implementation of the strategic plan and the activities of the Union for 2018–2019 (Document** [**C19/35 and Addendum 1**](https://www.itu.int/md/S19-CL-C-0035/en)**)**

11.1 The Deputy Secretary-General introduced Document C19/35 and Addendum 1, which covered the period since the last Council and outlined progress towards the achievement of ITU-wide goals and targets and the Sector and inter-sectoral objectives. The information was presented in a results-oriented, evidence-based manner, and analytical figures were used to show overall progress towards the Connect 2020 Agenda and key performance indicators endorsed by the membership in the operational plans of the three Sectors and the General Secretariat. Key highlights from the annual report were set out on newly developed webpages on the ITU website.

11.2 A representative of the secretariat gave a presentation of the modern and mobile-friendly webpages (“ITU Highlights 2018” available at [www.itu.int/highlights-2018](http://www.itu.int/highlights-2018)) setting out the major progress and results achieved by ITU and its membership in 2018.

11.3 One councillor welcomed the new intuitive webpages, which might be used as a model for the future development of the ITU website.

11.4 Document C19/35 and Addendum 1 were **approved**.

**12 ITU operational plans for 2020–2023 (**[**Document C19/28**](https://www.itu.int/md/S19-CL-C-0028/en)**)**

12.1 The Deputy Secretary-General introduced Document C19/28, which presented a consolidated version of the draft four-year rolling operational plans for the three Sectors and the General Secretariat for the period 2020–2023. The goal was to provide a comprehensive view of operational planning across the Union in a single document, following a streamlined approach among the Sectors and General Secretariat and a format in line the ITU strategic plan for 2020–2023. Each draft sectoral plan had been reviewed by the corresponding Sector advisory group, and the plan for the General Secretariat had been reviewed by all three Sector advisory groups. A draft resolution approving the annual four-year rolling operational plans for the Union was set out in Annex 3 to the document.

12.2 The Deputy Director of BR introduced the draft four-year rolling operational plan for 2020–2023 for ITU-R, indicating that some outcome indicators will be reviewed following a request from RAG; the Deputy Director of TSB introduced that for ITU-T, drawing particular attention to the increase in the number of new Sector Members and Associates; the Deputy Director of BDT introduced that for ITU-D; and the Deputy Secretary-General introduced that for the General Secretariat.

12.3 Councillors welcomed the new, consolidated format, which would facilitate reference and help to reinforce the notion of one ITU.

12.4 One councillor suggested that the operational plan of the General Secretariat should be reviewed by CWG-FHR, and said he would welcome further information on context and key priorities pertaining to ITU-T. He highlighted the importance of inter-sectoral objective I.6 on reducing overlap and duplication, and considered that inter-sectoral objective I.5 on environmental sustainability should also be applied within ITU. Further coordination with respect to levels of risk impact was required. For consistency, a 2023 target should also be included for ITU-T and ITU-D outcomes. Moreover, it would be useful to see trends over cycles with respect to key performance indicators.

12.5 One councillor sought clarification on how the workload of BDT could be rationalized, in particular to avoid risks of duplication, and on the process of identifying possible new areas of collaboration.

12.6 The Deputy Secretary-General welcomed the support expressed for the new format, noting that coherence would be further improved in future revisions. Inter-sectoral coordination was an important area requiring further effort. ITU was striving to make its meetings paperless and had also established a task force to digitize its internal processes. Considerable efforts were being made in the area of risk management, and the secretariat would be pleased to provide further information in that regard either later in the present session or in the next version of the report.

12.7 The Director of BDT, responding to comments and questions, said that the costs associated with regional preparatory meetings and WTDC in 2022 and 2023 related to documentation. BDT was examining how to improve its risk management framework and hoped to share further information at Council-20. It had adopted a cluster-based approach in linking its activities to relevant resolutions and recommendations and was striving to ensure that its work was connected to that of BR and TSB to deliver the greatest impact in the most efficient manner.

12.8 The Director of BR, replying to a question, said that the relatively high amount of financial resources allocated under output R.1-1 for the year 2023 was associated with the costs related to the organization of WRC-23, which will take place in that particular year.

12.9 The Chief of the Financial Resources Management Department, responding to a question, said that Council Decision 535 on cost-allocation methodology had been followed in the allocation of resources to objectives and goals set out in Annexes 1 and 2 to Document C19/28.

12.10 On the understanding that the operational plan of the General Secretariat would be reviewed by CWG-FHR, theCouncil **approved** the draft four-year rolling operational plans for the Union and **adopted** the resolution contained in Annex 3 to Document C19/28.

The Secretary-General: The Acting Chairman:

H. ZHAO F. BIGI

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