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| **Council 2019 Geneva, 10-20 June 2019** |  |
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|  | **Document C19/115-E** |
| **19 July 2019** |
| **Original: English** |
| SUMMARY RECORD  OF THE  FOURTH PLENARY MEETING | |
| Thursday, 13 June 2019, from 1435 to 1740 hours | |
| **Acting Chairman:**  Mr F. BIGI (Italy) | |

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|  | Subjects discussed | Documents |
| 1 | Statement by the Secretary-General of the National Broadcasting and Telecommunications Commission of Thailand | - |
| 2 | ITU activities on strengthening the role of ITU in building confidence and security in the use of ICTs | [C19/18](https://www.itu.int/md/S19-CL-C-0018/en), [C19/58](https://www.itu.int/md/S19-CL-C-0058/en), [C19/103](https://www.itu.int/md/S19-CL-C-0103/en) |
| 3 | Report on the outcomes of the CWG-WSIS&SDG activities since Council 2018 (continued) | [C19/DT/5](https://www.itu.int/md/S19-CL-190610-TD-GEN-0005/en) |
| 4 | Report on WSIS implementation and the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development | [C19/53](https://www.itu.int/md/S19-CL-C-0053/en), [C19/98](https://www.itu.int/md/S19-CL-C-0098/en) |
| 5 | Preparations for the 2021 World Telecommunication Development Conference (WTDC-21) | [C19/30](https://www.itu.int/md/S19-CL-C-0030/en) |

**1 Statement by the Secretary-General of the National Broadcasting and Telecommunications Commission of Thailand**

1.1 The Secretary-General of Thailand's National Broadcasting and Telecommunications Commission (NBTC), which had replaced the Ministry of Digital Economy and Society as the Thai Administration in April 2018, provided an overview of the administration's 2019 activities in the telecommunications field and assured the Council of its ongoing collaboration. Referring to a recent incident of misconduct at the ITU Regional Office for Asia and the Pacific in Bangkok involving ITU and NBTC staff members, he said that NBTC would work with ITU, the Anti-Money Laundering Office, the Office of the Attorney General, and other relevant Thai agencies to ensure that the perpetrators were found and justice served.

1.2 The Secretary-General said that he was pleased to observe that the Thai Administration shared the secretariat's zero-tolerance attitude towards fraud. He expressed appreciation for the proposal to relocate the ITU Regional Office to NBTC premises, a move that would be beneficial for all concerned.

**2 ITU activities on strengthening the role of ITU in building confidence and security in the use of ICTs (Documents** [**C19/18**](https://www.itu.int/md/S19-CL-C-0018/en)**,** [**C19/58**](https://www.itu.int/md/S19-CL-C-0058/en) **and** [**C19/103**](https://www.itu.int/md/S19-CL-C-0103/en)**)**

2.1 A representative of the secretariat introduced Document C19/18, which summarized ITU activities and initiatives in respect of Resolution 130 (Rev. Dubai, 2018), ITU's role as sole facilitator for WSIS Action Line C5 and other decisions by the membership on the role of ITU in building confidence and security in the use of ICTs.

2.2 The councillor from Indonesia announced that the Ministry of Communication and Information Technology, working in collaboration with the ITU Area Office for South-East Asia, would be organizing a regional cybersecurity workshop in Jakarta from 26 to 28 August 2019.

2.3 In reply to a query from one councillor regarding the work being done by ITU-D Study Group 2 on Question 3.2, a representative of the secretariat stated that this was mentioned in §5.2 of the document.

2.4 The Acting Chairman invited the Council to note Document C19/18.

2.5 It was so **agreed**.

2.6 The councillor from the United Arab Emirates introduced Document C19/103, which contained a proposal submitted jointly by his country and Saudi Arabia to request the Director of BDT to update the Guidelines for Children on Child Online Protection with children, parents, teachers, manufacturers and policy-makers in mind, in the six official languages of the Union.

2.7 Several councillors expressed support for the proposal.

2.8 The Director of BDT welcomed the proposal, which was in line with a number of resolutions and decisions. In reply to a query from one councillor, she confirmed that the Guidelines would be updated and produced in all six languages within the context of ITU’s Child Online Protection (COP) Initiative and in close cooperation with CWG-COP.

2.9 The Council **noted** Document C19/103 and **requested** BDT to take account of the proposal in its work related to the COP Initiative and to update the Guidelines accordingly.

2.10 A representative of the secretariat introduced Document C19/58, which contained a report by the former Chairman of the High-Level Experts Group on Cybersecurity (HLEG), at the request of the Secretary-General, following the deliberations at PP-18 on the inclusion in Resolution 130 of a provision (ultimately adopted as *resolves* 12) allowing ITU to continue to utilize the Global Cybersecurity Agenda (GCA) in its work to build confidence and security in the use of ICTs.

2.11 Two councillors expressed support for the former HLEG Chairman's recommendation in Document C19/58 that appropriate guidelines be further elaborated for the utilization of the GCA.

2.12 One councillor said that it would be useful to know how the GCA framework was currently utilized at ITU, in order to identify any gaps. That information could be reported to Council-20. She also asked whether the guidelines for utilizing the GCA would be elaborated in consultation with the membership or by the secretariat, which would then submit the updated version to the Council. Another councillor agreed that the report should be produced before the guidelines, as it would provide information on how the GCA framework was used. Other councillors considered that the two processes should be carried out in parallel.

2.13 The Secretary-General, recalling that the former HLEG Chairman remained at ITU's disposal, suggested that councillors engage in informal consultations on the way forward and report back to the Plenary before the end of the current session.

2.14 One councillor endorsed the proposal to hold informal consultations, which should take account of the deliberations at PP-18 on Resolution 130 and on the continued use of the GCA. In that respect, the councillor from Ghana, who had chaired the group working on Resolution 130 at PP-18, referred the Council to the minutes of the seventeenth plenary meeting of PP-18 (PP-18 Document 174). The possibility of updating the GCA had been deliberated at length, and the reference thereto ultimately left out of the resolution on the understanding that the Secretary-General would ask the former HLEG Chairman to draw up the report now before the Council.

2.15 The Acting Chairman invited Council members to hold informal consultations, to be coordinated by the Vice-Chairman of the Council, on how to proceed and to report back to the Plenary.

2.16 It was so **agreed**.

**3 Report on the outcomes of the CWG-WSIS&SDG activities since Council 2018 (continued) (Document** [**C19/DT/5**](https://www.itu.int/md/S19-CL-190610-TD-GEN-0005/en)**)**

3.1 The Council **approved** the revision to Resolution 1332 in Document C19/DT/5.

**4 Report on WSIS implementation and the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development (Documents** [**C19/53**](https://www.itu.int/md/S19-CL-C-0053/en) **and** [**C19/98**](https://www.itu.int/md/S19-CL-C-0098/en)**)**

4.1 A representative of the secretariat introduced Document C19/53, which provided detailed information on ITU activities in the context of WSIS implementation and the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.

4.2 One councillor said that ITU should continue to play a pivotal role in that context.

4.3 The Council **noted** Document C19/53.

4.4 The councillor from Saudi Arabia introduced Document C19/98, which contained a proposal to instruct the Director of BDT, with the help of an independent external management consultancy, to conduct a feasibility study on establishing a capacity-building institute in ITU, and to submit a detailed plan on the requirements to the Council for consideration at its next session.

4.5 Councillors emphasized the importance of ITU’s capacity-building activities, in particular for developing countries and LDCs. A number of councillors sought clarification regarding how such an institute would complement the good work already undertaken through the ITU Academy and centres of excellence, possible duplication of activity, and financial implications. One councillor suggested that, in view of the potentially significant budgetary impact, the proposal should be discussed by the plenipotentiary conference. Other councillors expressed support for the proposal, noting its potential benefits. It was suggested that the views of all Member States should be sought through the study and that ITU might wish to learn from the experience of other agencies in the United Nations system that had undertaken similar initiatives. One councillor proposed that an analysis of capacity-building activities should be undertaken within the framework of TDAG. Another councillor suggested that, should an external management consultancy be hired for the study, the matter might be included in the elements for review of the ITU regional presence set out in the annex to Resolution 25 (Rev. Dubai, 2018) so that the regions could identify their capacity-building requirements.

4.6 The councillor from Saudi Arabia emphasized that the Council was not being requested to take a decision on the establishment of a capacity-building institute at ITU at the present juncture, rather to instruct the Director of BDT to conduct a feasibility study. Related financial matters could be considered subsequently by the Council.

4.7 The Director of BDT said that there was clear consensus on the importance of capacity building. BDT was running over one hundred courses through the centres of excellence and the ITU Academy, and stood ready to explore all options to better serve the needs of the membership.

4.8 The Acting Chairman proposed that the Council note Document C19/98 and recognize the importance of capacity building. He further proposed that the Director of BDT should be instructed to undertake an in-depth analysis and review of current training and capacity-building activities undertaken by the Group on Capacity Building Initiatives, the ITU Academy and centres of excellence, and report to Council-20 on the results of the study and on the possible creation of a capacity-building institute in ITU.

4.9 It was so **agreed**.

4.10 The councillor from Saudi Arabia said that the Director of BDT should be permitted to use the necessary financial resources should an external management consultancy be required for the study.

4.11 The Acting Chairman said that the decision on whether or not to engage an external management consultancy should be left to the discretion of the Director of BDT within available financial resources.

**5 Preparations for the 2021 World Telecommunication Development Conference (WTDC-21) (Document** [**C19/30**](https://www.itu.int/md/S19-CL-C-0030/en)**)**

5.1 The Director of BDT introduced Document C19/30, which informed the Council of the invitation from Ethiopia to hold WTDC-21 in Addis Ababa from 8 to 19 November 2021, and of preparations for the conference. The Council was invited to decide on the place and dates of WTDC-21, subject to the concurrence of the majority of the Member States of the Union, and therefore to adopt the draft decision set out in Annex 3 to the document.

5.2 The Minister of Innovation and Technology of Ethiopia, noting the importance of telecommunications development for economic development and prosperity, said that his country had extensive experience in holding international conferences and would be delighted to host the first WTDC on the African continent, in November 2021.

5.3 A short video presentation showcasing the city of Addis Ababa and the rich history and culture of Ethiopia was shown.

5.4 All councillors taking the floor thanked the Government of Ethiopia for its generous invitation, and many noted that Addis Ababa was a proven and successful international conference venue. The holding of the first WTDC in Africa would send a strong signal to the international community and have a positive bearing on telecommunications development on the continent. Some councillors welcomed the suggestions made concerning preparations and roll-out, namely to run policy statements in parallel with committee meetings; organize dialogue sessions/round tables one day prior to the WTDC opening; and hold RPMs back-to-back with other regional preparatory meetings.

5.5 The Acting Chairman said that the Council expressed its gratitude to the Government of Ethiopia for its invitation to host WTDC-21.

5.6 The Council **decided** that WTDC-21 would be held in Addis Ababa from 8 to 19 November 2021, subject to the concurrence of the majority of ITU Member States in accordance with No. 42 of the ITU Convention, and **adopted** the draft decision in Annex 3 to Document C19/30.

5.7 The Secretary-General expressed his personal appreciation to the Government of Ethiopia for its invitation to host WTDC-21. He recalled that the proposal had met with immediate and unquestioning support from the outset, not only from the Ambassador and the Minister of Innovation and Technology, but also from the President of Ethiopia herself. He thanked councillors for their unanimous endorsement and looked forward to a successful WTDC-21 in Addis Ababa.

The Secretary-General: The Acting Chairman:

H. ZHAO F. BIGI

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