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| **Second virtual consultation of councillors  starting 16 November 2020** |  |
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|  | **Document VC-2\2-E**  **30 October 2020**  **Original: English** |

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| **Name of the submitting Member State(s):** | REPUBLIC OF INDIA |
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| **Document title:** | **Hosting of ITU-World Telecommunication Standardisation Assembly (WTSA) in India** |
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| **Ref. to draft agenda of the virtual consultation:** | [**Document C20/24(Rev.1)**](https://www.itu.int/md/S20-CL-C-0024/en) |
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| 1 Background 1.1 The Telecommunication Standardization Bureau (TSB) of International Telecommunication Union (ITU) conducts the World Telecommunication Standardization Assembly (WTSA) once in four (4) years to plan its standardization program for the next 4 years. WTSA is held for ITU members to refine the strategic direction of the ITU Telecommunication Standardization Sector (ITU-T). The event is attended by delegates from 193 Member States, World / Regional / National Standardization Bodies and the Telecom / ICT Industry from across the globe.  1.2 A proposal for hosting WTSA 2020 in India was submitted to ITU Council by Republic of India vide [Document C19/24](https://www.itu.int/md/S19-CL-C-0024/en) dated 4 June 2019 (Annex 1) prior to June 2019 meeting of ITU Council. ITU Council during its meeting during 10-20 June 2019, conveyed its decision (Decision 608) vide [Document C19/125](https://www.itu.int/md/S19-CL-C-0125/en) dated 20 June 2019 (Annex 2) that, “subject to the concurrence of the majority of the Member States of the Union, the next World Telecommunication Standardization Assembly (WTSA-20) will take place in Hyderabad India, from 16 to 27 November 2020” and instructed the Secretary-General “to carry out a consultation with all Member States on the exact dates and precise place of WTSA-20”.  1.3 Accordingly, Secretary-General, ITU initiated the consultation vide [Circular letter No. 19/33](https://www.itu.int/md/S19-SG-CIR-0033/en) dated 22nd July 2019 (Annex 3) inviting to inform the Secretary-General of their concurrence for holding of WTSA-20 at Hyderabad, India from 17 to 27 November 2020 preceded by the Global Standards Symposium (GSS-20) on 16 November 2020. |
| 1.4 Secretary-General, ITU vide [Circular Letter No. 19/45](https://www.itu.int/md/S19-SG-CIR-0045/en) dated 3 October 2019 (Annex 4) informed about receiving the agreement of required majority of the Member States of ITU for holding of WTSA-20 at Hyderabad, India from 17 to 27 November 2020 preceded by the Global Standards Symposium (GSS-20) on 16 November 2020.  1.5 Due to outbreak of COVID-19 in several countries, several meetings have been postponed or converted into virtual mode due to international travel restrictions. Considering the difficulty in attending the meeting by the participants from all the Member States dur to pandemic conditions, a proposal ([Document VC\5](https://www.itu.int/md/S20-CLVC-C-0005/en)) was submitted to ITU Council Meeting in June 2020 to postpone the event scheduled in November 2020 to the proposed dates 23 February to 5 March 2021 (Annex 5).  1.6 Due to outbreak of COVID-19, during its meeting in June 2020, the ITU Council considered the proposal to postpone WTSA 20 from November 2020 to 23 February to 5 March 2021 and initiated consultation with Member States vide letter DM-20/1009 dated 26 June 2020 (Annex 6).  1.7 The ITU General Secretariat vide [Letter No. DM-20/1011](https://www.itu.int/md/S20-DM-CIR-01011/en) dated 3 August 2020 (Annex 7) conveyed the result of consultation with Member States of ITU Council.  1.8 The result of consultations on change of dates of WTSA 20 was conveyed vide [Circular Letter No 20/40](https://www.itu.int/md/S20-SG-CIR-0040/en) dated 2 September 2020 (Annex 8). Majority of the Member States of ITU agreed with rescheduling of WTSA-20 at Hyderabad, India starting from 23 February to 5 March 2021 preceded by the Global Standards Symposium (GSS-20) on 22 February 2021.  **2 Current situation due to COVID-19**  2.1 Due to uncertainty created because of pandemic, several meetings continued to be postponed or converted into virtual mode due to international travel restrictions. Due to outbreak of COVID-19 in several countries, it may take many more months before the situation stabilizes and life becomes normal. Several countries have banned international travels and the movement of persons across different countries is still restricted and limited travel only is allowed.  2.3 In view of the uncertainty created by outbreak of COVID-19, delegates from different Member States may find it difficult to travel to India and participate in WTSA-20 scheduled from 23 February- 5 March 2021. Restrictions on travel, lockdowns and health related concerns may prevent desired level of participation of delegates from several countries.  **3 Proposal**  3.1 Considering the aspects mentioned in above paras, and to ensure a successful event with a good participation from all the Member States, it becomes necessary to further postpone the event scheduled in February-March 2021 to the year 2022.  3.2 Since WTDC-21 is scheduled in November 2021, the Indian Administration therefore proposes that as per the current circumstances, hosting of WTSA in the first quarter of 2022 would be suitable.  3.3 In view of above it is proposed to reschedule the hosting of WTSA-20 at Hyderabad, India from 1 March to 11 March 2022 preceded by GSS-20 on 28 February 2022. It is proposed for consideration of the Council that the postponement of WTSA to above dates may be subject to the restoration of normalcy and ease of travel restrictions in India as well as in other member states.  3.4 India will continue to work collaboratively with ITU (through Council, TSAG and other forums of ITU) in this regard to find solutions for continuance of the activities of various study groups, focus groups etc. under T Sector till WTSA 2022 as per provisions in relevant resolutions.  3.5 The above proposal of Republic of India is placed before the ITU Council for its consultation and concurrence ([Annex 9](#annex9)).  **4 Annexures (9 in total)**  [Annex 1](https://www.itu.int/md/S19-CL-C-0024/en) - Document C19/24 dated 4 June 2019: Report by the Secretary-General on Preparations for The World Telecommunications Standardization Assembly 2020  [Annex 2](https://www.itu.int/md/S19-CL-C-0125/en) - Document C19/125 dated 20 June 2019: Decision 608 (adopted at the first Plenary Meeting) on Convening of the next World Telecommunications Standardization Assembly (WTSA-20)  [Annex 3](https://www.itu.int/md/S19-SG-CIR-0033/en) - Circular letter No. 19/33 dated 22 July 2019: Seeking concurrence from Member States on Places and dates of WTSA-20, WTDC-21, and PP-22  [Annex 4](https://www.itu.int/md/S19-SG-CIR-0045/en) - Circular Letter No. 19/45 dated 3 October 2019: Confirmation on Places and dates of WTSA-20, WTDC-21, and PP-22  [Annex 5](https://www.itu.int/md/S20-CL-C-0024/en) – Document C20/24 dated 29 May 2020 proposal for change of dates of WTSA-20 from November 2020 to February-March 2021  [Annex 6](https://www.itu.int/md/S20-DM-CIR-01009/en) – Letter No DM-20/1009 dated 26 June 2020: Initiation of the consultation relating to the outcomes of discussions of the first virtual consultation of councillors (VCC)  [Annex 7](https://www.itu.int/md/S20-DM-CIR-01011/en) - Letter No. DM-20/1011 dated 3 August 2020: Result of the consultation on outcomes of discussions of the virtual consultation of councillors  [Annex 8](https://www.itu.int/md/S20-SG-CIR-0040/en) – Circular Letter No 20/40 dated 2 September 2020: Result of the consultation on change of dates of WTSA 20 and agreement of the Member States  [Annex 9](#annex9) – Proposed modifications to Council Decision 608 |

[Annex 1](https://www.itu.int/md/S19-CL-C-0024/en)

Document C19/24 dated 4 June 2019: Report by the Secretary-General on Preparations for The World Telecommunications Standardization Assembly 2020

[Annex 2](https://www.itu.int/md/S19-CL-C-0125/en)

Document C19/125 dated 20 June 2019: Decision 608 (adopted at the first Plenary Meeting) on Convening of the next World Telecommunications Standardization Assembly (WTSA-20)

[Annex 3](https://www.itu.int/md/S19-SG-CIR-0033/en)

Circular letter No. 19/33 dated 22 July 2019: Seeking concurrence from Member States on Places and dates of WTSA-20, WTDC-21, and PP-22

[Annex 4](https://www.itu.int/md/S19-SG-CIR-0045/en)

Circular Letter No. 19/45 dated 3 October 2019: Confirmation on Places and dates of WTSA-20, WTDC-21, and PP-22

[Annex 5](https://www.itu.int/md/S20-CL-C-0024/en)

Document C20/24 dated 29 May 2020 proposal for change of dates of WTSA-20 from November 2020 to February-March 2021

[Annex 6](https://www.itu.int/md/S20-DM-CIR-01009/en)

Letter No DM-20/1009 dated 26 June 2020: Initiation of the consultation relating to the outcomes of discussions of the first virtual consultation of councillors (VCC)

[Annex 7](https://www.itu.int/md/S20-DM-CIR-01011/en)

Letter No. DM-20/1011 dated 3 August 2020: Result of the consultation on outcomes of discussions of the virtual consultation of councillors

[Annex 8](https://www.itu.int/md/S20-SG-CIR-0040/en)

Circular Letter No 20/40 dated 2 September 2020: Result of the consultation on change of dates of WTSA 20 and agreement of the Member States

Annex 9

proposed modifications to DECISION 608 (modified 2020)

Convening of the next World Telecommunication Standardization Assembly (WTSA-22)

The ITU Council,

noting

*a)* that WTSA-20 was scheduled to be held in the last quarter of 2020 in accordance with Resolution 77 (Rev. Dubai, 2018) (Scheduling and Duration of future conferences, forums, assemblies and Council sessions of the Union (2019-2023));

*b)* Council [Decision 608](https://www.itu.int/md/S19-CL-C-0125/en) adopted at the 2019 Session of Council which first decided on the convening of the next WTSA in Hyderabad, India, from 16 to 27 November 2020;

*c)* that, further to the first virtual consultation of councillors, Council [Decision 608](https://www.itu.int/md/S19-CL-C-0125/en) was modified and approved by correspondence to reschedule the next WTSA in Hyderabad, India, from 23 February to 5 March 2021, subject to the restoration of normal work and travel conditions in India and in other Member States,

noting further

*a)* that due to uncertainty created by COVID pandemic, several meetings continued to be postponed or converted into virtual mode due to international travel restrictions;

*b)* due to outbreak of COVID-19 in several countries, it may take many more months before the situation stabilizes and life becomes normal;

*c)* that several countries have banned international travels and the movement of persons across different countries is still restricted and limited travel only is allowed; and

*d)* that in view of the COVID-19 pandemic resulting on restrictions on work and travel, the administration of India proposed to reschedule the next WTSA from 1 March to 11 March 2022 subject to the restoration of normal work and travel conditions in India and in other Member States,

decides

that, subject to the concurrence of the majority of the Member States of the Union, the next World Telecommunication Standardization Assembly (WTSA-22) will take place in Hyderabad, India, from 1 March to 11 March 2022 after the Global Standards Symposium on 28 February 2022 and subject to the restoration of normal work and travel conditions in India and in other Member States,

instructs the Secretary-General

to carry out a consultation with all Member States on the exact dates of WTSA-22.

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