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| **Council 2021 Virtual consultation of councilors, 8-18 June 2021** |  |
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| **Agenda item: ADM 11** | **Document C21/39-E** |
| **28 April 2021** |
| **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 were submitted by five organizations of a regional or international character. 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.  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*](http://www.itu.int/council/pd/convention.doc#cv231)*,* [*C2000/28(Rev.1)*](http://www.itu.int/itudoc/gs/council/c00/docs/28rev1.html) |

## 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)](http://www.itu.int/itudoc/gs/council/c00/docs/28rev1.html)). These criteria were reviewed and revised by Council in 2017. The criteria are available [here](https://www.itu.int/en/membership/Pages/exemption-criteria.aspx).
  2. Exemption from fees is granted by the Council following an analysis by the relevant Bureaux and a recommendation by the Secretary-General. The main criteria include that the entity must be a legally recognized, non-profit, regional, or international organization dealing with telecommunications/ICTs, having non-profit member and activities in multiple countries, and offering reciprocal benefits to ITU. If approved, they become Sector Members or Associates under the terms of No. 231 of the Convention.

## Requests and Recommendations

2 The following requests were received and are submitted for appropriate action:

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| Organization | Sector | SG Recommendation |
| **Southern African Development Community (SADC)** | ITU-R  ITU-T | YES  YES |

The Southern African Development Community is an inter-governmental organization headquartered in Botswana. Its goal is to further regional socio-economic cooperation and integration as well as political and security cooperation among 16 countries in southern Africa. SADC is already a member of ITU-D with exemption from fees. The secretariat is of the view that this entity meets the criteria for exemption for ITU-R and ITU-T.

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| Organization | Sector | SG Recommendation |
| **IoT Lab** | ITU-T | Deferral |

IoT Lab is an international platform of services and resources for the Internet of Things (IoT), bringing together communities of interest in IoT services, privacy and security, testing, and tech transfer. This is a relatively new entity and reciprocity is not yet clear. Further time and information are required before the secretariat can make an informed recommendation to the Council. The secretariat therefore recommends deferral of this application to the next Council.

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| Organization | Sector | SG Recommendation |
| **Konrad Adenauer Stiftung** | ITU-R  ITU-T  ITU-D | NO  NO  NO |

Konrad Adenauer Stiftung is a party-affiliated foundation in the legal form of an association, which is close to the Christian Democratic Union and is mainly financed by federal and state funds. They have offices in more than 100 countries with projects in more than 130 countries. While this organization has an international presence and activities, the secretariat is of the view that they do not meet all of the criteria as they are a national foundation and do not have members in multiple Member States.

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| Organization | Sector | SG Recommendation |
| **Techfugees Foundation** | ITU-D | YES |

Techfugees is a UK headquartered non-profit social enterprise with an international volunteer-led digital technology community of entrepreneurs, engineers, researchers, NGOs, and displaced persons. They are globally present across 10 countries and expanding but act locally to bring different organisations and people together in an open, connected, and trusted environment to curate digital technology humanitarian solutions developed by the displaced, for the displaced. The secretariat is of the view that this entity meets the criteria for exemption for ITU-D.

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| Organization | Sector | SG Recommendation |
| **Global Mobile Suppliers Association (GSA)** | ITU-R | NO |

The Global Mobile Suppliers Association is a not-for-profit industry organization representing companies across the worldwide mobile ecosystem who are engaged in the supply of infrastructure, semiconductors, test equipment, devices, applications, and mobile support services. They promote the 3GPP technology road-map – 3G, 4G and 5G – and are a source of information for industry reports and market intelligence. Given that GSA’s membership is predominately for-profit companies, the secretariat is of the view that this entity does not meet the criteria for exemption.

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