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| **Council 2022 Geneva, 21-31 March 2022** |  |
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| **Agenda item: PL 1.7** | **Document C22/72-E** |
| **5 March 2022** |
| **Original: Chinese** |
| Proposal by the People's Republic of China | |
| Recommendations on keeping the expert group on INTERNATIONAL TELECOMMUNICATION REGULATIONS (EG-ITRS) | |

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| Summary  It is proposed that the Expert Group on International Telecommunication Regulations should be maintained for the continuation of the review of the International Telecommunication Regulations and related work based on the solid achievements of the previous two groups and to promote consensus on a wider scale and yield more fruitful results.  Action required  The Council is invited to consider this proposal and take actions, as appropriate.  \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_  References  *None* |

Background

The Expert Group on the International Telecommunication Regulations (EG-ITRs), open to all Member States and Sector Members, was established in accordance with ITU Plenipotentiary Resolution 146 (Rev. Busan, 2014) and the Council Resolution 1379 (Mod. 2019). The expert group held four physical meetings from February 2017 through April 2018 to discuss the some of the key issues, such as the applicability and the legal analysis of the 2012 version of the International Telecommunication Regulations and the possible conflicts between the 1988 and the 2012 versions and formed related opinions.

PP-18 revised its Resolution 146 (Rev. Dubai, 2018) and decided to conduct a comprehensive review of the International Telecommunication Regulations, and thus instructed the Secretary-General to again set up an expert group on the International Telecommunication Regulations open to ITU Member States and Sector Members. The Council revised its Resolution 1379 at its 2019 session, specifying the terms of reference of the new expert group. In September 2019, the new expert group held its first meeting in Geneva, and all parties reached an agreement on the working methods and plans of the review and developed a template for provision-by-provision examination of the International Telecommunication Regulations and work plan, which was accepted by all parties. From February 2020 to January 2022, the expert group held the second to sixth meetings, during which the 2012 version of the International Telecommunication Rules was successfully reviewed provision by provision.

Proposal

Since 2016, the two expert groups on the International Telecommunication Regulations have actively carried out the review of the International Telecommunication Regulations and related work in accordance with Resolution 146 of the ITU Plenipotentiary Conference and relevant resolutions of the Council, conducted in-depth discussions and exchanges on issues of concern to all parties, examined the 2012 version of the International Telecommunication Regulations on a provision-by-provision basis, formed review opinions on the "applicability in fostering the provision and development of networks and services" and "flexibility to accommodate new trends and emerging issues" of each provision and prepared a summary of outcomes as agreed by all the members during the meetings. Thanks to the joint efforts of the two expert groups, substantive progress has been made in the review of the International Telecommunication Regulations. In its final report to the Council, the expert group provided a comprehensive summary of the current work achievements and review progress, as well as the views and positions of all parties, hence laying a solid foundation for the related work at the next step.

In accordance with Article 4 "Instruments of the Union" of the ITU Constitution, the International Telecommunication Regulations (ITRs) are one of the two Administrative Regulations included in the list of Instruments of the Union. To date, the ITRs remains the only treaty in the world that establishes general principles to promote the provision and operation of international telecommunications. It is conducive to the improvement of the efficiency, practicability and availability of global international telecommunication networks, infrastructure and services, especially for the vast number of developing members. At the same time, considering the new trend of telecom/ICT and the emerging issues in the international telecom/ICT environment, it is also very important to cultivate a legal and regulatory environment that can keep up with the rapidly changing information and communication technology ecosystem. In view of this, we propose that the Expert Group on the International Telecommunication Regulations should be retained in the future, and the review of the International Telecommunication Regulations and related work should be continued on the basis of the solid work achievements of the previous two expert groups so as to reach a wider consensus and produce more fruitful outcomes.

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