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| **Council 2022 Geneva, 21-31 March 2022** |  |
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|  | **Document C22/93-E** |
| **6 April 2022** |
| **Original: English** |
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| SUMMARY RECORD  OF THE  EIGHTH PLENARY MEETING | |
| Wednesday, 30 March 2022, from 1535 to 1830 hours | |
| **Chairman**: Mr S. BIN GHELAITA (United Arab Emirates) | |

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|  | **Subjects discussed** | **Documents** |
| 1 | Obsolete Council resolutions and decisions | [C22/3](https://www.itu.int/md/S22-CL-C-0003/en) |
| 2 | Report of the Standing Committee on Administration and Management | [C22/88](https://www.itu.int/md/S22-CL-C-0088/en) |
| 3 | Statements by ministers and councillors | - |
| 4 | Closing ceremony | - |

# 1 Obsolete Council resolutions and decisions (Document C22/3)

1.1 The representative of the General Secretariat introduced Document [C22/3](https://www.itu.int/md/S22-CL-C-0003/en), containing a list of Council resolutions and decisions to be abrogated.

1.2 Document C22/3 was **approved**.

# 2 Report of the Standing Committee on Administration and Management (Document C22/88)

2.1 The Chairman of the Standing Committee on Administration and Management introduced her committee’s report contained in Document [C22/88](https://www.itu.int/md/S22-CL-C-0088/en), section by section. The Council was invited to consider and, as appropriate, approve the recommendations it contained, thereby also approving the texts contained in Annexes A to C to the report.

2.2 The Chairman of the Standing Committee drew attention to the fact that, in accordance with Resolution 51 (Rev. Minneapolis, 1998) of the Plenipotentiary Conference, Mr Maximillian Jacobson-Gonzalez, President of the ITU Staff Council, had made a statement, the text of which is available at: <https://www.itu.int/md/S22-CL-INF-0015/en>

2.3 In the ensuing debate, in addition to various minor editorial amendments reflected in the final texts of the recommendations as set out below, the following main comments and changes were made and the following actions taken.

* *Report by the Chairman of the Council Working Group on financial and human resources (Document* [*C22/50*](https://www.itu.int/md/S22-CL-C-0050/en)*)*

2.4 The following recommendation was **approved**:

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| *Recommendation*  The Committee recommends that the Council take note of the work of CWG-FHR as presented in Document C22/50 and consider and offer views, as appropriate, on the actions identified in the report. |

* *Contribution by Australia and Canada - Proposal for implementation analysis on the use of gender-neutral language in ITU texts (Document*[*C22/68*](http://www.itu.int/md/S22-CL-C-0068/en)*)*

2.5 The Chairman of the Standing Committee drew attention to paragraph 2.38 of her report, which read: “Since there was no consensus, the Chairman concluded that no further discussion would be fruitful at this time.”

2.6 One councillor suggested that the words “the Chairman” should be altered to “the Committee”.

2.7 It was so **agreed**.

2.8 Responding to another councillor, the Chairman of the Council confirmed that the wording of the paragraph did not preclude the subject being discussed again in the future.

* *Report by the Chairman of the Council Working Group on financial and human resources: Four-year CWG-FHR report (Document*[*C22/54*](http://www.itu.int/md/S22-CL-C-0054/en)*)*

2.9 The following recommendation was **approved**:

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| *Recommendation*  The Committee recommends that the Council consider this report and submit its recommendations to the Plenipotentiary Conference as appropriate, particularly the continuation of the activities of CWG-FHR for the next four years. |

* *Annual review of revenue and expenses and efficiency measures (Document*[*C22/9*](http://www.itu.int/md/S22-CL-C-0009/en)*)*

2.10 The following recommendation was **approved**:

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| *Recommendation*  The Committee recommends that the Council endorse Document C22/9. |

* *Cost recovery for the processing of satellite network filings (Document*[*C22/16*](http://www.itu.int/md/S22-CL-C-0016/en)*)*

2.11 The following recommendation was **approved**:

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| *Recommendation*  The Committee recommends that the Council take note of Document C22/16. |

* *Provisional participation of entities dealing with telecommunication matters in the activities of ITU (Document*[*C22/31*](http://www.itu.int/md/S22-CL-C-0031/en)*)*

2.12 The following recommendation was **approved**:

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| *Recommendation*  The Committee recommends that the Council endorse the action taken by the Secretary-General regarding the admission of the entities dealing with telecommunication matters, as listed in Annex to Document C22/31. |

* *Request for exemption from any financial contribution to defraying expenses relating to participation in the work of ITU (Document*[*C22/39*](http://www.itu.int/md/S22-CL-C-0039/en)*)*

2.13 The following recommendation was **approved**:

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| *Recommendation*  As recommended by the Secretary-General, the Committee recommends that the Council approve the request of the Digital Cooperation Organization for ITU-D Sector Membership with fee exemption, and that Council defer the requests of TSDSI and IoT Lab until the review of the full list of exempted entities is conducted and reported to the next session of the Council. |

* *Contribution by India – Private-sector and academia membership in ITU Sectors with focus on LDCs, LLDCs, SIDS and countries in special need (CISN) (Document*[*C22/79*](http://www.itu.int/md/S22-CL-C-0079/en)*)*

2.14 One councillor suggested that the word “synchronized” should be changed to “harmonized” and that the words “if they so wish” should be added in the final sentence of the recommendation.

2.15 It was so **agreed**, and the following recommendation, as amended, was **approved**:

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| *Recommendation*  A harmonized and comprehensive engagement on enhancing sectoral and academia membership from LDCs, LLDCs, SIDS and CISNs, which is currently observed to be very low, is important. The Committee recommends that the Council further consider the recommendations outlined in Document C22/79 aimed at increasing the participation of the private sector and academia from Member States within the LDC, LLDC, SIDS and CISN categories, including implementation and cost implications. The secretariat is directed to work out details and bring the matter to the attention of WTDC and the Plenipotentiary Conference. The Republic of India and other members are also encouraged to provide inputs on the relevant activities and resolutions addressed at these conferences, if they so wish. |

* *Preliminary amount of the contributory unit (Document*[*C22/29*](http://www.itu.int/md/S22-CL-C-0029/en)*)*

2.16 The following recommendation was **approved**:

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| *Recommendation*  The Committee recommends that the Council take note of Document C22/29. |

* *Draft financial plan for the Union for 2024-2027 (Document*[*C22/63*](http://www.itu.int/md/S22-CL-C-0063/en)*)*

2.17 Two councillors pointed out that, for clarity, the words “the latter” should be changed to “the draft financial plan for 2024-2027”.

2.18 It was so **agreed**, and the following recommendation, as amended, was **approved**:

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| *Recommendation*  The Committee recommends that the Council transmit the draft financial plan for 2024-2027 to the 2022 plenipotentiary conference. |

* *New ITU accountability model and framework (Document*[*C22/57*](http://www.itu.int/md/S22-CL-C-0057/en)*)*

2.19 The following recommendation was **approved**:

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| *Recommendation*  The Committee recommends that the Council endorse the new ITU accountability model and framework contained in Document C22/57. |

* *Memoranda of understanding having financial and/or strategic implications (oral presentation)*

2.20 One councillor suggested that the words “if any” be added at the end of the recommendation, in order not to prejudge whether there would be such implications.

2.21 It was so **agreed**, and the following recommendation, as amended, was **approved**:

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| *Recommendation*  The Committee recommends that the Council note the oral presentation and request the secretariat to prepare a detailed report for Council 2023 providing clarity on the legal clauses, the status of the MoUs and an overview of the strategic and financial implications, if any. |

* *Strengthening the regional presence (Document*[*C22/25*](http://www.itu.int/md/S22-CL-C-0025/en)*)*

2.22 The following recommendation was **approved**:

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| *Recommendation*  The Committee recommends that the Council take note of Document C22/25. |

* *Improvement of management and follow-up of the defrayal of ITU expenses by Sector Members and Associates (Document* *[C22/41](http://www.itu.int/md/S22-CL-C-0041/en))*

2.23 The following recommendation was **approved**:

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| *Recommendation*  The Committee recommends that the Council take note of the report by the Secretary-General on the improvement of management and follow-up of the defrayal of ITU expenses by Sector Members, Associates and Academia and endorse the recommendations as per Section 4 of Document C22/41. |

* *Report on the implementation of Resolution 191 (Rev. Dubai, 2018) - Strategy for the coordination of efforts among the three Sectors of the Union (Document*[*C22/38(Rev.1)*](http://www.itu.int/md/S22-CL-C-0038/en)*)*

2.24 The following recommendation was **approved**:

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| *Recommendation*  The Committee recommends that the Council take note of Document C22/38(Rev.1). |

* *Report on progress on the Union's headquarters premises project   
  (Document* [*C22/7(Rev.1)*](http://www.itu.int/md/S22-CL-C-0007/en)*)*

2.25 The following recommendation was **approved**:

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| *Recommendation*  The Committee recommends that the Council take note of the report and approve the use of indirect project costs for notary fees to engage an external legal firm. |

* *Summary report on the work of the Member States Advisory Group on the Union's headquarters premises project (Document* [*C22/48*](http://www.itu.int/md/S22-CL-C-0048/en)*)*

2.26 The following recommendation was **approved**:

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| *Recommendation*  The Committee recommends that the Council take note of the report in Document C22/48. |

* *New approach to financial risk management of construction (Document*[*C22/62*](http://www.itu.int/md/S22-CL-C-0062/en)*)*

2.27 The following recommendation was **approved**:

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| *Recommendation*  The Committee recommends that the Council take note of Document C22/62 and its recommendation. |

* *Information and Communication Technologies Development Fund  
  (ICT-DF) (Document* [*C22/34*](http://www.itu.int/md/S22-CL-C-0034/en)*)*

2.28 The following recommendation was **approved**:

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| *Recommendation*  The Committee recommends that the Council take note of Document C22/34. |

* *Virtual and hybrid meetings (Document* [*C22/65*](http://www.itu.int/md/S22-CL-C-0065/en)*)*
* *Contribution by Australia and Canada - ITU framework for the conduct of hybrid meetings (Document* [*C22/69*](http://www.itu.int/md/S22-CL-C-0069/en)*)*

2.29 Two councillors suggested that it would be beneficial to receive the background document requested in paragraph 12.2 of Document C22/88 well in advance of PP-22, as it could inform preparations for and the conduct of that conference. It could usefully be submitted to the inter-regional meetings for consideration. Another, while agreeing with the spirit of that suggestion, cautioned against setting the precedent of requiring documents to be circulated in advance of the statutory deadlines.

2.30 The Chairman, while encouraging the secretariat to circulate the document as soon as possible, expressed the view that the existing submission and distribution deadlines would provide ample time for the background document to be studied.

2.31 The following recommendation was **approved**:

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| *Recommendation*  The Committee recommends that the Council request the Secretary-General to prepare a background document on the current ITU practices regarding fully virtual meetings, physical meetings with remote participation and hybrid meetings, taking into account the specificities of each Sector, the legal issues and the logistics constraints and to present it to the 2022 plenipotentiary conference. |

**Contribution by China - Proposal to further improve remote participation in ITU (Document**[**C22/73**](http://www.itu.int/md/S22-CL-C-0073/en)**)**

2.32 The following recommendation was **approved**:

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| *Recommendation*  The Committee recommends that the Council request the Secretary-General to take into account the points raised by the People’s Republic of China in Document C22/73 in preparing the background document for the 2022 plenipotentiary conference. |

* *Feasibility study on establishing an ITU training institute: Proposals from the secretariat (Document*[*C22/5*](http://www.itu.int/md/S22-CL-C-0056/en)*6)*

2.33 One councillor suggested that the word “short-term” should be deleted, as the implementation of all activities should be reviewed periodically, but others pointed out that it referred directly back to paragraph 13.4 of Document C22/88 in order to focus on the short-term recommendations in the Jigsaw consultancy report.

2.34 The following recommendation was **approved**:

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| *Recommendation*  The Committee recommends that the Council approve the proposals contained in Document C22/56.  The Committee invites future Councils to review periodically the implementation of the short-term recommendations. |

* *Contribution by China - Proposal to enhance capacity building in ITU (Document*[*C22/70*](http://www.itu.int/md/S22-CL-C-0070/en)*)*

2.35 The following recommendation was **approved**:

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| *Recommendation*  The Committee recommends that the Council take note of Document C22/70 and that the secretariat take into consideration the proposals contained therein in its ongoing efforts to harmonize ITU’s work on capacity development and training across ITU. |

* *Progress report on the implementation of the human resources strategic plan and of Resolution 48 (Rev. Dubai, 2018) (Document*[*C22/36*](http://www.itu.int/md/S22-CL-C-0036/en)*)*

2.36 The following recommendation was **approved**:

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| *Recommendation*  The Committee recommends that the Council take note of the report on the implementation of the human resources strategic plan as presented in Document C22/36. |

* *Membership of the ITU Staff Pension Committee (oral presentation)*

2.37 The following recommendation was **approved**:

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| *Recommendation*  The Committee recommends that the Council take note of the oral report. |

* *Decisions of the United Nations General Assembly on conditions of service under the United Nations common system (Document*[*C22/23*](http://www.itu.int/md/S22-CL-C-0023/en)*)*

2.38 The following recommendation was **approved**:

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| *Recommendation*  The Committee recommends that the Council take note of the modifications to the conditions of service for staff in the Professional and higher categories, as well as for staff in the General Services category.  In accordance with Resolution 46 (Kyoto, 1994), the Committee recommends that the Council approve the salary scale and the pensionable remuneration applicable to elected officials, as it appears in the draft resolution contained in Annex A to this report. |

* *Changes to the Staff Regulations (reduction of the advertisement period) (Document*[*C22/52*](http://www.itu.int/md/S22-CL-C-0052/en)*)*

2.39 The following recommendation was **approved**:

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| *Recommendation*  Considering that there was no consensus with the proposal presented by the secretariat in Document C22/52, the Committee recommends that the secretariat carry out further consultations and review the proposal to include the overall recruitment process and report back to a future session of the Council. |

* *Changes to the Staff Regulations (personal status for the purpose of ITU entitlements) (Document*[*C22/47*](http://www.itu.int/md/S22-CL-C-0047/en)*)*

2.40 One councillor, highlighting the sensitivity of the issue, requested that the wording of paragraph 18.7 of Document C22/88 be altered to reflect the fact that several delegates had sought clarification of the meaning and scope of application of the term “domestic partnerships”, rather than a specific definition thereof.

2.41 It was so **agreed**.

2.42 The councillor from Canada requested that Document C22/88 be amended to reflect the fact that one delegation had asked repeatedly why there was no consensus on the proposed change to the Staff Regulations, while similar proposals had been presented at other United Nations agencies and adopted by the same Member States that had not accepted the proposal presented at ITU. In response to the objections of some councillors as to the substance of the proposed change to the Staff Regulations, he emphasized that it was the right of any Council Member State to make a statement or ask a question and to ask for the report of the Chairman of the Standing Committee to be amended to reflect it. Others might consider his delegation’s question misguided, but that did not alter the fact that it had been asked.

2.43 Several councillors emphasized that further work needs to be done by the secretariat. More information was needed on the meaning and the scope of application of domestic partnership as well as on the practice of other organizations within the United Nations system. It was suggested that including a request to the secretariat to that effect might obviate the need to refer to the specific question raised.

2.44 The Chairman of the Standing Committee confirmed that the question had been asked; accordingly, the report could be amended to reflect it.

2.45 The Chairman, urging councillors not to re-open the debate on the substance of the issue, took it that the Council agreed to amend Document C22/88 as requested.

2.46 It was so **agreed**.

2.47 One councillor suggested that, in the recommendation, the word “members” should be changed to “Member States” for clarity.

2.48 It was so **agreed**, and the following recommendation, as amended, was **approved**:

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| *Recommendation*  Considering that there was no consensus with the proposal presented by the secretariat in Document C22/47, the Committee recommends that the secretariat carry out further consultations with Member States and report back to a future session of the Council. |

* *Changes to the Staff Regulations (advancement within grade for Professional and higher categories) (Document*[*C22/49*](http://www.itu.int/md/S22-CL-C-0049/en)*)*

2.49 The following recommendation was **approved**:

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| *Recommendation*  The Committee recommends that the Council approve the draft decision contained in Annex B to this report. |

* *Financial operating report for the financial year 2020 (Document*[*C22/42*](http://www.itu.int/md/S22-CL-C-0042/en)*)*

2.50 The following recommendation was **approved**:

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| *Recommendation*  The Committee recommends that the Council take note of the financial operating report for the financial year 2020 and approve the draft resolution in Annex C to this report. |

* *Report by the External Auditor (Document*[*C22/40*](http://www.itu.int/md/S22-CL-C-0040/en)*)*

2.51 The following recommendation was **approved**:

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| *Recommendation*  The Committee recommends that the Council endorse the External Auditor’s report on the accounts for 2020, approve the accounts as audited and as presented in Document C22/40, and instruct the secretariat to implement the recommendations for action. |

* *Introduction of the new external auditors: United Kingdom National Audit Office (oral presentation)*

2.52 The Chairman of the Standing Committee drew attention to paragraph 22.2 of Document C22/88, and suggested that it be amended to read: “The Committee welcomed the new External Auditor and looks forward to a fruitful collaboration”.

2.53 It was so **agreed**.

* *11th annual report of the Independent Management Advisory Committee (IMAC) (Document*[*C22/22*](http://www.itu.int/md/S22-CL-C-0022/en)*)*

2.54 One councillor suggested that, for clarity and procedural accuracy, the words “by the Committee” should be deleted from the recommendation.

2.55 It was so **agreed**, and the following recommendation, as amended, was **approved**:

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| *Recommendation*  The Committee recommends that the Council approve the IMAC report and its recommendation in Document C22/22 for action by the secretariat, and also invite Member States to consider the amendments related to its terms of reference (Annex to Document C22/22), as proposed revisions to Resolution 162 (Rev. Busan, 2014), when preparing their contributions to the 2022 plenipotentiary conference. |

* *Report by the Working Group on internal controls (Document*[*C22/20*](http://www.itu.int/md/S22-CL-C-0020/en)*)*

2.56 The following recommendation was **approved**:

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| *Recommendation*  The Committee recommends that the Council take note of the report contained in Document C22/20. |

* *JIU reports on United Nations system-wide issues for 2020-2021 and recommendations to executive heads and legislative bodies (Document*[*C22/61*](http://www.itu.int/md/S22-CL-C-0061/en)*)*
* *Contribution by Paraguay (Document*[*C22/66*](http://www.itu.int/md/S22-CL-C-0066/en)*)*

2.57 In response to queries from several councillors, the Chairman of the Standing Committee clarified that the terms “executive head” and “legislative body” were used by JIU in its recommendations, which were worded so as to apply to any individual organization of the United Nations system. Of the various ways of simplifying and clarifying the text subsequently suggested, the Chairman of the Council took it that the Council agreed to alteration of the words “executive head” to “executive head (Secretary-General)” and deletion of the words “addressed to the ITU legislative body”.

2.58 It was so **agreed**, and the following recommendation, as amended, was **approved**:

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| *Recommendation*  The Committee recommends that the Council take note of the report in Document C22/61 and its recommendations addressed to the Executive Head (Secretary-General) and accept the recommendations as presented in Table 2. |

2.59 With respect to Document C22/66, the following recommendation was **approved**:

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| *Recommendation*  The Committee recommends that the Council take note of the content of this contribution in Document C22/66 and endorse the proposals. |

* *Report of the Internal Auditor on internal audit activities (Document*[*C22/44*](http://www.itu.int/md/S22-CL-C-0044/en)*)*

2.60 The Chairman of the Standing Committee noted that there had been extensive discussions on how to draft the committee’s recommendations on Document C22/44; however, in view of the fact that the report of the Internal Auditor contained no recommendations itself, the Standing Committee had restricted itself to recommending to the Council that it endorse the Standing Committee’s considerations as set out in Document C22/88.

2.61 The following recommendation was **approved**:

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| *Recommendation*  The Committee considered the report and recommends that the Council take note of the report in Document C22/44 and endorse the Committee’s considerations set out in Document C22/88. |

* *Report from the Ethics Office (Document*[*C22/14*](http://www.itu.int/md/S22-CL-C-0014/en)*)*

2.62 The following recommendation was **approved**:

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| *Recommendation*  The Committee recommends that the Council take note of the Ethics Office 2021 report and recommends that the Council consider the issue of staff resources in the Ethics Office with a view to it being adequately staffed. |

2.63 By approving the recommendations set out above, the Council also **approved** the following texts contained in Document [C22/88](https://www.itu.int/md/S22-CL-C-0088/en):

Annex A - Draft resolution on conditions of service of ITU elected officials

Annex B - Draft decision on amendments to the Staff Regulations applicable to appointed staff (Regulation 3.4: Advancement within a grade)

Annex C - Draft resolution on the financial operating report for the 2020 financial year.

2.64 The report by the Chairman of the Standing Committee on Administration and Management (Document [C22/88](https://www.itu.int/md/S22-CL-C-0088/en)), as a whole, as amended, was **approved**.

# 3 Statements by councillors

3.1 The councillor from Egypt, reiterating her country’s support for the work of ITU, announced that Egypt would be standing for re-election to the Council and would be nominating Mr Elsayed Azzouz for re-election to the Radio Regulations Board.

3.2 The councillor from Indonesia reaffirmed his country’s commitment to ITU, and announced that Indonesia would be standing for re-election to the Council and would be supporting Mr Meiditomo Sutyarjoko as a candidate for election to the Radio Regulations Board.

3.3 The councillor from the Bahamas, recalling the crucial role of ITU in helping to protect the critical digital infrastructure of small island nations, announced that the Bahamas would be standing for election to the Council.

3.4 The councillor from India announced that India would be standing for re-election to the Council and, recognizing the dual criteria of expertise and gender balance, would be putting forward the candidature of Ms Revathi Mannepalli for election to the Radio Regulations Board.

# 4 Closing ceremony

4.1 A video reflecting the spirit in which the Council’s work had been conducted was screened, along with a video showcasing highlights from WTSA-20.

4.2 The Secretary-General delivered the address available at: <https://www.itu.int/en/council/2022/Documents/speeches/Closing-Remarks-SG.docx> .

4.3 The Chairman delivered the address available at: <https://www.itu.int/en/council/2022/Documents/speeches/Closing-speech-Chair-en.docx>.

4.4 Numerous councillors, speaking on behalf of their own countries or regional groups, praised the Chairman for his wise and steady leadership, his compassion and his desire to seek compromise, especially during the challenges presented by the COVID-19 pandemic and remote working. They thanked the Vice-Chairman of the Council, the Chairman and vice-chairmen of the Standing Committee, the chairmen and vice-chairmen of the Council working, ad hoc and expert groups, the elected officials, the Secretary of the Plenary and the entire secretariat for their valuable support.

4.5 The councillor from the Russian Federation, also expressing his gratitude to the Chairman and the secretariat and congratulating the Council on the conclusion of its work, delivered the following statement in relation to the issue of the resolution on Ukraine:  
<https://www.itu.int/en/council/2022/Documents/speeches/Statement-closing-Russian-Federation-en.docx>.

4.6 The Chairman thanked participants for their kind words and declared the 2022 session of the Council closed.

The Secretary-General: The Chairman:

H. ZHAO S. BIN GHELAITA

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