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| **Plenipotentiary Conference (PP-22) Bucharest, 26 September – 14 October 2022** |  |
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| PLENARY MEETING | **Addendum 17 to Document 68-E** |
|  | **18 August 2022** |
|  | **Original: Russian** |
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| ITU Member States, members of the Regional Commonwealth in the field of Communications (RCC) | |
| DRAFT NEW PP-22 DECISION | |
| CONDUCT OF ELECTION CAMPAIGNS AND PROCEDURES FOR ELECTIng THE SECRETARY-GENERAL, DEPUTY SECRETARY-GENERAL, DIRECTORS OF THE BUREAUX OF THE SECTORS AND MEMBERS OF THE RADIO REGULATIONS BOARD | |

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| Summary  The Plenipotentiary Conferences of 2014 (PP-14) and 2018 (PP-18) discussed the issue of improving the election process for elected officials, i.e. the Secretary-General, the Deputy Secretary-General and the Directors of the Bureaux. Given the complexity of the issue and the lack of thorough preparatory work on the matter, however, the conferences were unable to take any specific decisions on changing the existing election process.  At PP-18, the proposals on improving the election process were discussed by Committee 5, which produced and submitted to the plenary meeting Document PP-18/155, containing a text of these recommendations. The PP-18 plenary meeting adopted these recommendations (see Document PP-18/173).  In accordance with Nos. 54-56 of the ITU Constitution, the holding of elections is one of the primary functions of the Plenipotentiary Conference. General approaches and requirements for elections can be found in:  – Article 9 of the Constitution, on principles concerning elections and related matters; and  – Article 2 of the ITU Convention, on elections and related matters.  The ITU election process is directly regulated by the rules set out in Chapter III of the General Rules of conferences, assemblies and meetings of the Union (General Rules).  The provisions of the above-mentioned basic texts of the Union and General Rules apply to all candidates and do not impose any additional restrictions, including on "internal" candidates from among the staff of the ITU secretariat. However, certain provisions of the Staff Regulations and Staff Rules, in particular Regulation 12.2, on appointed staff of the Union standing for election or elected to an elected official post, effectively impose restrictions on the participation of appointed staff of the Union in election campaigns and place them on an unequal footing with elected officials of the Union, for whom no such restrictions exist.  Regulation 12.2.1.a) reads:  "An appointed staff member of the Union standing for election to one of the elected official posts referred to, respectively, in Article 9 of the Constitution and Article 2 of the Convention of the Union (Geneva, 1992) shall automatically be placed on special leave without pay by the Secretary-General, in accordance with Regulation 5.2 of the Staff Regulations and Staff Rules for appointed staff, with effect from the day following the date of submission of his candidature to the Secretary-General."  This provision makes it practically impossible for appointed staff to begin election campaigns in good time, as many, if not most, ITU Member States, in particular developing countries, are not prepared to cover the costs of their candidates' unpaid leave. Consequently, many candidates from the appointed staff of the Union wait until only 28 days prior to a plenipotentiary conference before officially submitting their candidatures (see No. 170 of the General Rules), which in practice makes it impossible for them to participate effectively in campaign activities.  The same text is repeated in Regulation XI.2.1.a) of the Staff Regulations and Staff Rules for elected officials.  At the same time, the absence of any formal restrictions on the participation of elected officials in election campaigns and their broad involvement in various events organized by ITU, Member States and regional telecommunication organizations give these candidates certain advantages in promoting their candidatures over other candidates from ITU Member States, whether they are appointed staff of the Union or not.  In 2021, the ITU Council approved by correspondence guidelines on ethical aspects of certain campaign activities prior to a plenipotentiary conference (see Annex 3 to Document C21/4(Rev.1)), which contain a whole series of very useful and necessary provisions and recommendations; however, they do not eliminate this inequality and, strictly speaking, the document is not binding.  Action required  The RCC member Administrations propose that the proposal for a new Decision on the conduct of election campaigns and procedures for electing the Secretary-General, Deputy Secretary-General, Directors of the Bureaux of the Sectors and members of the Radio Regulations Board be considered, with a view to its adoption by the 2022 Plenipotentiary Conference.  \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_  References  - |

ADD RCC/68A17/1

Draft New Decision [RCC-1]

Conduct of election campaigns and procedures for electing the Secretary-General, Deputy Secretary-General, Directors of the Bureaux of the Sectors and members of the Radio Regulations Board

The Plenipotentiary Conference of the International Telecommunication Union (Bucharest, 2022),

considering

*a)* that, in accordance with Nos. 54‑56 of the ITU Constitution, the Plenipotentiary Conference elects the Secretary-General, the Deputy Secretary-General, the Directors of the Bureaux of the Sectors, the members of the Radio Regulations Board (RRB) and the Member States which are to serve on the ITU Council;

*b)* that provisions concerning elections and related matters are set out in Article 9 of the Constitution and Article 2 of the ITU Convention;

*c)* that election procedures are set out in Chapter III of the General Rules of conferences, assemblies and meetings of the Union (General Rules);

*d)* that, at least six months prior to the opening of a plenipotentiary conference, the Secretary-General shall invite Member States to submit candidatures;

*e)* that candidatures and curricula vitae must reach the Secretary-General not later than 2359 hours (Geneva time) on the twenty-eighth day prior to the conference;

*f)* that the above-mentioned basic texts of the Union and the General Rules contain no provisions defining the process and procedures to be followed by candidates during election campaigns;

*g)* that the process for the participation of candidates from among the staff of the secretariat, including elected officials, is defined in the Staff Regulations and Staff Rules applicable to appointed staff and in the Staff Regulations and Staff Rules for elected officials;

*h)* that the provisions referred to in *considering g)* above and current practice do not ensure the same conditions for all candidates;

*i)* that measures need to be taken to ensure that all candidates have the opportunity to participate on an equal footing and to enhance transparency, integrity and impartiality in the conduct of election campaigns and elections;

*j)* that the Plenipotentiary Conference (Dubai, 2018) instructed the Council to conduct a comprehensive study on possible improvements of the ITU election process as a whole, in particular on the need for a revision of the General Rules related to election procedures, including studies for holding hearings and to amend, if necessary, the ITU Staff Regulations and Staff Rules applicable to appointed staff and the Staff Regulations and Staff Rules for elected officials,

noting

the work carried out by Member States, the Council and the secretariat to fulfil the instructions of the 2018 Plenipotentiary Conference on this matter, including the approval by the Member States of the Council, through consultation by correspondence, of guidelines on ethical aspects of certain campaign activities prior to the plenipotentiary conference,

taking into account

the experience of sister organizations, such as the International Labour Organization, the World Health Organization, the World Intellectual Property Organization, the United Nations Industrial Development Organization and the United Nations General Assembly, etc., in relation to the selection and election of the executive heads of United Nations system organizations,

decides

1 that candidates for the posts of Secretary-General, Deputy Secretary-General, Directors of the Bureaux of the Sectors and members of RRB shall have equal rights and opportunities to conduct election campaigns, present manifestos and interact with members of the Union;

2 that elected officials, and also appointed staff of the ITU secretariat, who have been nominated by their Member States for re-election or election to another elected post shall conduct election campaign activities exclusively at their own expense and away from locations hosting events being held with the involvement of ITU and its resources;

3 that procedures for electing elected officials, including rules on campaigning, and the process of and procedures for holding elections based on the principles of fairness, equality, transparency, integrity, dignity and mutual respect, need to be further improved;

4 that proposals made by the Member States of the Union and the practical experience of other United Nations system agencies shall be taken into account in drafting documents governing election processes,

instructs the Secretary-General

1 to invite, in accordance with No. 168 of the General Rules, ITU Member States to submit candidatures for the posts of Secretary-General, Deputy Secretary-General, Directors of the Bureaux of the Sectors and members of RRB at least twelve months prior to the opening of a plenipotentiary conference;

2 to grant appointed staff members and elected officials from among the staff of the Union standing as candidates for the posts listed in *instructs the Secretary-General*1 above short leave without pay while they conduct campaigning activities (including travel);

Note - An appointed staff member and/or elected official from among the ITU staff shall become a candidate for an elected post and be able to participate in campaigning activities only once the Secretary-General has received, in response to the invitation mentioned in *instructs the Secretary-General* 1 above, the corresponding submission from an ITU Member State and the signed undertaking referred to in *instructs the Secretary-General* 4 below;

3 not to apply Regulation 12.2.1.a) of the Staff Regulations and Staff Rules or Regulation XI.2.1.a) of the Staff Regulations and Staff Rules for elected officials, as worded prior to this conference, to the staff of the Union referred to in *instructs the Secretary-General* 2 above;

4 to require candidates for elected posts from among the staff of the Union to sign an undertaking that they:

a) shall in no way use any ITU resources for campaigning purposes;

b) shall not use the emblems of the Union;

c) shall disclose any real or perceived conflict of interest;

d) shall strictly comply with established ITU rules on the conduct of election campaigns;

5 to arrange for a specific section on the plenipotentiary conference website where information submitted by candidates, including campaign manifestos and a schedule of events planned for the promotion of candidates activities, shall be posted;

6 to allow for the holding of virtual hearings for candidates for the posts of Secretary-General, Deputy Secretary-General and Directors of the Bureaux of the Sectors during the Council session in the year in which a plenipotentiary conference is to be held (at a time designated by the Council);

7 given the significant number of RRB posts, and therefore of candidates, and the considerable amount of time required for virtual hearings for the candidates, to create, one month before the beginning of the Council session in the year in which a plenipotentiary conference is to be held, a specific subsection on the plenipotentiary conference website for the posting of information on candidates for membership of RRB and their manifestos, thereby enabling ITU Member States and the Council to conduct a preliminary analysis of the candidates for RRB membership;

8 to monitor the campaigning process to ensure equal rights and opportunities for the candidates,

instructs the ITU Council

1 to determine the process for holding, and to hold, hearings for candidates for the posts of Secretary-General, Deputy Secretary-General and Directors of the Bureaux of the Sectors during the Council session in the year in which a plenipotentiary conference is to be held (preferably on a Saturday or outside the working hours of the Council);

2 to revise the Staff Regulations and Staff Rules, taking into account *decides* and *instructs the Secretary General*1‑4 above;

3 to continue to improve election processes and related documents to give full effect to this Decision;

4 to report to the Plenipotentiary Conference on the progress made in and the results of implementing this Decision,

invites ITU Member States

1 to refrain from announcing during events or meetings of the Union their intention to nominate candidates for the posts of Secretary-General, Deputy Secretary-General, Directors of the Bureaux of the Sectors and members of RRB or for membership of the Council prior to receiving the invitation from the ITU Secretary-General (in accordance with No. 168 of the General Rules);

2 to refrain from expressing support for or promoting candidates for the posts of Secretary-General, Deputy Secretary-General, Directors of the Bureaux of the Sectors and members of RRB or for membership of the Council at events and meetings of the Union prior to the official submission of candidatures to the ITU Secretary-General (in accordance with No. 169 of the General Rules);

3 in response to the Secretary-General's invitation for nominations, to submit candidatures for elected posts as soon as possible, with accompanying curricula vitae and, if considered appropriate, candidates' manifestos;

4 to inform the Secretary-General of the time and place of an event in support of their candidates at least one month prior to the event;

5 to conduct election campaigns in accordance with established ITU rules.

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