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| **Plenipotentiary Conference (PP-22) Bucharest, 26 September – 14 October 2022** |  |
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| PLENARY MEETING | **Addendum 3 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) | |
| proposals for the revision of RESOLUTION 25 (Rev. Dubai, 2018) | |
| Strengthening the regional presence | |

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| **Summary**  The purpose of this document is to present proposals for amendments to Resolution 25 (Rev. Dubai, 2018) of the Plenipotentiary Conference, on strengthening the regional presence, in order to take into account of the results of discussions on how to enhance the effectiveness of the ITU regional presence emerging from study and discussion within the Council Working Group on financial and human resources (CWG-FHR) and ITU Council sessions during the period 2019-2022.  The proposed changes to the substance of Resolution 25 are intended to shorten the text, as the current version contains much repetition and a large number of references to documents of lower standing than plenipotentiary conference resolutions; many of these documents are outdated. The resolution therefore needs to be substantially shortened without losing any elements of significance regarding the nature of the regional presence or breaching requirements on ensuring the continuity and quality of the work of the Union.  Analysing the information contained on the ITU site relating to the regional presence does not provide a basis for a clear understanding of the location, role and functions of the ITU regional presence within the organizational structure of the Union; there is some duplication of information on the regional presence across all Sectors and the General Secretariat.  We did not detect a single reference to ITU basic texts that might contain a specific definition of the concept of "regional presence", including Resolution 25 (Rev. Dubai, 2018), which also does not provide a full and precise definition of the location and reporting lines of regional and area offices. The text of the resolution frequently omits any mention of the area offices.  Moreover, studies and discussions conducted by ITU on how to strengthen the role of the regional presence within the activities of the Union provide enough basis and information to better reflect the location, role and functions of the regional presence in the "One ITU" format, with greater significance given to the work of all three Sectors within the system of the regional presence, bearing in mind that the regional presence is one of the tools that allows ITU to work as closely as possible with its members and respond to their needs; to establish closer ties with regional and subregional telecommunication/ICT organizations and provide technical assistance and informational support to countries in special need; and to use the structure and opportunities provided by the regional presence as a channel for the dissemination of information on ITU activities in the interests of Member States.  **Action required**  The RCC member Administrations propose that the suggested amendments to Resolution 25 (Rev. Dubai, 2018), on strengthening the regional presence, be considered with a view to their adoption by the 2022 Plenipotentiary Conference.  \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_  **References**  *-* |

MOD RCC/68A3/1

RESOLUTION 25 (Rev. bucharest, 2022)

Strengthening the regional presence in ITU

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

considering

*a)* the benefits of telecommunications/information and communication technologies (ICTs) and the need to promote their greater availability for all, in particular in developing countries[[1]](#footnote-1)1;

*b)* that the development of national and regional telecommunication/ICT infrastructures assists in narrowing the national and global digital divides and achieving the SDGs;

*c)* the efforts of the ITU Member States in promoting access to telecommunications/ICTs at affordable prices, with special attention to the most disadvantaged, and to remote and hard‑to‑reach areas,

considering further

*a)* the provisions of Article 1 of the ITU Constitution on the purposes of the Union, which include to promote and to offer technical assistance to developing countries in the field of telecommunications, and also to promote the mobilization of the material, human and financial resources needed for its implementation, as well as access to information;

*b)* the provisions of Article 5 of the ITU Convention, which stipulates that the Secretary-General shall coordinate the activities of the General Secretariat and the Sectors of the Union, taking into account the views of the Coordination Committee, with a view to assuring the most effective and economical use of the resources of the Union;

*c)* Resolution 71 (Rev. Bucharest, 2022), on the strategic plan for the Union for 2024-2027;

*d)* Resolution 123 (Rev. Dubai, 2018) of the Plenipotentiary Conference, on bridging the standardization gap between developing and developed countries;

*e)* Resolution 191 [(Rev. Bucharest, 2022)] of the Plenipotentiary Conference, on strategy for the coordination of efforts among the three Sectors of the Union and efforts to enhance coordination and collaboration among the three Bureaux and the General Secretariat, with a view to avoiding internal duplication of effort and optimizing the use of resources;

*f)* relevant resolutions and decisions of conferences and assemblies of the three Sectors of ITU on enhanced participation by developing countries in the activities of the Union; strengthening the regional presence in the work of the study groups on bridging the standardization gap between developing and developed countries;

*g)* reports of the United Nations Joint Inspection Unit (JIU), which have made a number of recommendations on ways to improve the ITU regional presence and have highlighted the need to ensure that the tool of the regional presence in achieving "One ITU" is mainstreamed in the strategic plan of the Union and to ensure that this role is appropriately cascaded down into the operational plan of each Sector,

noting with appreciation

*a)* the efforts of ITU to implement UNGA resolutions in support of UN operational activities to promote development and assist Member States in their activities to implement the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development (A/RES/70/1) and Resolution A/RES/70/125, "Outcome document of the high-level meeting of the General Assembly on the overall review of the implementation of the outcomes of the World Summit on the Information Society";

*b)* that the Inter-Sectoral Coordination Task Force (ISC-TF) led by ITU Deputy Secretary-General was established to enhance coordination and collaboration among the three Bureaux and the General Secretariat, with a view to avoiding internal duplication of effort and optimizing the use of resources;

*c)* that the Inter-Sector Coordination Group (ICSG) on issues of mutual interest, which is composed of representatives from the three advisory groups, identifies subjects of common interest and mechanisms to enhance collaboration and cooperation among the Sectors,

recognizing

*a)* the difficulty faced by many countries, particularly developing countries with stringent budgetary constraints, in participating in the activities of ITU;

*b)* that ITU's capacity to hold electronic meetings as provided for by Resolution 167 (Rev. Dubai, 2018) of the Plenipotentiary Conference contributes to reinforcing the effectiveness of the Union's activities, including project implementation as set forth in Resolution 157 (Rev. Dubai, 2018) of the Plenipotentiary Conference,

convinced

*a)* that the ITU regional presence, as a system, fulfils an important function in working as closely as possible with its membership, as a channel for disseminating information on the Union's activities, developing closer ties with regional and subregional organizations and providing technical assistance to countries in special need through the system of regional and area offices, which, as structural elements of the ITU secretariat, serve as an extension of the Union as a whole, enabling the achievement of "One ITU";

*b)* of the importance of and the need to expand collaboration between the Radiocommunication Bureau (BR), the Telecommunication Standardization Bureau (TSB), the Telecommunication Development Bureau (BDT) and the General Secretariat in order to promote and improve the work of the regional and area offices;

*c)* that the regional and area offices enable ITU to be more aware of and more responsive to the priorities and specific needs of the regions;

*d)* the directions, aims and tasks of the regional and area offices correlate with the provisions of Resolution 71 (Rev. Bucharest, 2022), on the strategic plan for the Union for 2024-2027, and the resources for the offices provided for in Decision 5 (Rev. Bucharest, 2022), which indicates the resource limitations for the period 2024-2027 and specifies tasks and measures to improve the efficiency of ITU activities;

*e)* that activities within the framework of the regional presence system are based on principles derived from the criteria of: coherence, relevance, control, efficiency, effectiveness, impact, and sustainability;

*f)* that both the Plenipotentiary Conference and the Council have endorsed the principle that regional and area offices should be entrusted with clear and specific functions, and that, to be effective, the regional presence must have the necessary level of authority to meet the diverse requirements of the membership;

*g)* that resources are limited, and that efficiency and effectiveness are therefore key considerations for activities to be undertaken by ITU, as well as of the need to consolidate the technical expertise and knowledge of the human resources assigned to regional and area offices, to represent the three ITU Sectors;

*h)* that full engagement and commitment from the regional and area offices is fundamental for the successful implementation of the strategic plan for the Union, the operational plans of the three Sectors and General Secretariat, and the ITU‑D Action Plan,

noting

*a)* that the role of the ITU regional and area offices is to assist countries in the regions in many areas such as executing and following up projects, including ones related to the regional initiatives, bridging the standardization gap, capacity building related to frequency management, updating the regions on ITU activities and strengthening collaboration with the regional telecommunication organizations;

*b)* that there should be greater cooperation and coordination among the three Bureaux and the General Secretariat in order to encourage participation by the regional offices in their respective spheres;

*c)* that there is a need for ongoing evaluation of the resourcing requirement, including staff, for regional and area offices to deliver on their agreed mandates;

*d)* that regional and area offices represent the presence of the entire Union, that their activities should be linked to ITU headquarters and should reflect the coordinated objectives of all three Sectors and the General Secretariat, and that regional activities should enhance the effective participation of all members in ITU work;

*e)* that adequate online access between headquarters and the field offices significantly enhances technical cooperation activities;

*f)* that all regional and area offices should have access to the same relevant electronic information available at headquarters, in order to be able to keep the countries of the region informed;

*g)* that regional and area offices, which play a key role in facilitating discussions on regional matters and the dissemination of information and results of activities of all three Sectors of the Union and the General Secretariat, must perform this function together with headquarters and in collaboration with the regional telecommunication organizations, avoiding duplication of activities and efforts,

resolves

1 to strengthen the system and functions of the regional presence, taking the provisions of this resolution into account, so that it can play a significant part in implementing the aims of the ITU strategic plan, operational plans, programmes and projects, and the regional initiatives, by making available to the members of the Union the specialized technical knowledge and experience of ITU as a whole, thereby assisting in the updating and efficiency of the activities of the three Sectors and field offices, through joint planning and collaboration;

2 within the available resources, including those allocated by the financial plan and from other relevant sources such as voluntary contributions, to provide for the possibility of funding the system of the regional presence in the three ITU Sectors, taking into account the "One ITU" concept;

3 that the regional and area offices shall be empowered to make decisions within their mandate, while the coordination functions and the balance between ITU headquarters and the regional and area offices should be facilitated and improved;

4 that the regional and area offices should contribute, to the extent practicable, *inter* *alia*, to the annual four-year rolling operational plans of the General Secretariat and of the three Sectors, with content specific to each regional and area office, linked to the strategic plan for the Union for 2024-2027 and the ITU‑D Action Plan, then set up and continue to publish the annual plan/events on the ITU website for implementation;

5 that regional and area offices shall actively engage in the implementation of the strategic plan for the Union for 2024-2027 in accomplishing the strategic targets;

6 that regional and area offices shall actively engage in the implementation of the ITU‑D Kigali Action Plan, in particular with respect to achieving the respective outcomes, the outputs and implementing the regional initiatives;

7 that cooperation between the ITU regional and area offices, relevant regional organizations and other international organizations dealing with development and financial matters should continue to be improved, in the interests of optimizing the use of resources and avoiding duplication, and that Member States should be kept updated, through BDT, where necessary, in order to ensure that their needs are being met in a coordinated and consultative fashion;

8 that the regional and area offices shall be fully involved in the organization of all ITU events/meetings/conferences, in close collaboration with the General Secretariat, the relevant Bureau(x) and the regional organizations, taking into consideration the priorities identified by the membership in the regions, in order to increase efficiency in the coordination of such events, avoid duplication of events/topics and derive benefit from synergy between the Bureaux and regional offices;

9 that, for the effective performance of their duties, regional and area offices must have sufficient resources, within the resources allocated by the financial plan, including the technological platforms to hold electronic meetings and utilize electronic working methods, and also to disseminate relevant information through the various existing electronic tools to their respective Member States;

10 that the objectives and outcomes identified in the strategic plan for the Union for 2024-2027, along with the four-year rolling operational plans of the General Secretariat and the three Sectors and the review criteria identified in annex to this resolution, shall be used to review the regional presence, and, where regional and area offices do not meet the agreed review criteria, the Council should assess the reasons and take the necessary corrective actions that it considers appropriate, in consultation with the countries concerned;

11 that, to promote the participation of developing countries in ITU activities, delegates of any developing countries which have made input contributions to ITU events can be eligible for a fellowship if the related budget allows,

further resolves

1 to review the ITU regional presence in the light of the criteria contained in the annex to this resolution, on a systematic basis, but at least once in the period between two plenipotentiary conferences;

2 that regional and area offices shall regularly provide reports to the Sector advisory groups, as appropriate, and to inform the Directors of BDT, BR and TSB on regional activities related to their respective Sectors,

instructs the ITU Council

1 to include a report by the Secretary-General on activities within the system of the regional presence, including, *inter alia*, information on the achievement of effective/targeted indicators at the level of the regional and area offices, as an item on the agenda of each ordinary session of the Council in order to adopt relevant decisions for the implementation of the provisions of this resolution;

2 to take into account the requirements of the Union's membership and give effect to the decisions adopted at conferences and assemblies of the Union, bearing in mind *instructs the ITU Council*4 below;

3 to allocate the appropriate financial resources within the financial limits established by the Plenipotentiary Conference to implement this resolution;

4 to report to the next plenipotentiary conference on the progress made in implementing this resolution, taking into account the results of the review of the regional presence referred to in *further* *resolves*1;

5 to analyse the performance of regional and area offices based on the annual report referred to in *instructs the ITU Council*2, to take appropriate measures and, if necessary, to establish guidelines and recommendations for improving and strengthening the system of the ITU regional presence;

6 to continue to consider implementation of the recommendations from the reports of oversight bodies, such as IMAC, internal and external audit and JIU, relating to the regional presence with a view to strengthening it;

7 to consider the outcomes of the review conducted by the Secretary-General and take appropriate action to increase the effectiveness with which the system of the ITU regional presence operates;

8 to consider, with a view to approving, the Provisions on the ITU Regional Presence and the Guidelines on In-kind Contributions prepared by the secretariat , while making the necessary amendments to the Financial Regulations, if necessary,

instructs the Secretary-General

1 to facilitate the tasks of the Council by providing all necessary support for strengthening the regional presence as described in this resolution;

2 to develop, jointly with the Directors of the ITU Sectors, Provisions on the ITU Regional Presence and Guidelines on In-kind Contributions and submit them for approval by the Council;

3 to adapt, where necessary, the prevailing terms and conditions of host-country agreement(s) to the changing environment in the respective host country, after prior consultations with countries concerned and the representatives of the regional intergovernmental organizations of the affected countries;

4 to conduct, once every four years, within the available resources, an overall review on ITU regional presence, taking into consideration the elements contained in the annex to this resolution, including a survey of the level of satisfaction of Member States, Sector Members and regional telecommunication organizations with ITU's regional presence, and proposals for appropriate measures to ensure the continued efficiency and effectiveness of the ITU regional presence, and to present the results in a report to the session of Council prior to each plenipotentiary conference;

5 to submit each year to the Council a report on the regional presence containing, for each specific regional and area office, detailed information on how the goals and objectives identified in the strategic plan and the four-year rolling operational plans of the General Secretariat and the three Sectors are being delivered in the context of Resolution 151 (Rev. Bucharest, 2022) of the Plenipotentiary Conference, on the results-based management framework; the report should include detailed information on:

i) staffing of regional and area offices, including number of staff members, their category of employment and other factors in accordance with Resolution 48 (Rev. Bucharest, 2022) of the Plenipotentiary Conference;

ii) financial information, including budget allocated to the regional and area offices and expenses per objective and planned output;

iii) activities related to the three Sectors, outcomes of projects, including regional initiatives, events/meetings/conferences and regional preparatory meetings, and attraction of new Sector Members, in coordination with regional intergovernmental organizations;

iv) fellowships awarded;

6 to continue to engage with the United Nations, other United Nations development system entities and Member States with a view to enhancing the system of the ITU regional presence and supporting implementation of UNGA Resolutions 71/243 and 72/279,

instructs the Secretary-General, in close consultation with the Directors of the three Bureaux

1 to take the necessary measures to further strengthen the regional presence as an extension of ITU as a whole, as well as measures to ensure that the activities of BR and TSB are effectively incorporated in the regional and area offices, as described in this resolution;

2 to organize the preparation of draft Provisions on the ITU Regional Presence jointly with the Directors of the three Bureaux and chiefs of departments within the ITU General Secretariat whose functions are connected with the work of regional offices in the field;

3 to ensure that all planned activities of the three Sectors and the General Secretariat in the regions are consolidated into the parts of the operational plans relating to the regions and implemented under the coordination of the regional offices;

4 to ensure that the annual operational plans of the regional offices are based on input from the respective regions prior to implementation;

5 to report annually to the Council on the implementation of all activities of the three Sectors and the General Secretariat in the regions under the coordination of the regional offices,

instructs the Director of the Telecommunication Development Bureau

1 to implement the following measures for further strengthening the regional presence:

i) to strengthen the regional and area offices by identifying functions which could be decentralized and implementing them as soon as possible;

ii) to strive to have in the regional and area offices staff who have expertise in each of the three Sectors;

iii) to review the internal administrative procedures pertaining to the work of the regional and area offices, with a view to their simplification and transparency and enhancing work efficiency;

iv) to assist countries in implementing the regional initiatives in accordance with resolutions of WTDC through the transparent project funding mechanisms described in the ITU Financial Regulations and Financial Rules, including in relation to contributions in kind;

v) to hold consultations with Member States in accordance with the accepted and approved procedures in the Provisions on the ITU Regional Presence, in order to prioritize the consolidated regional initiatives and keep Member States informed on project selection and funding;

vi) to solicit specialized input from the regional and area offices to better inform decision-making and address the crucial needs of the ITU membership in the region;

vii) in accordance with the Provisions on the ITU Regional Presence developed and the competences provided for therein, to provide the regional and area offices with greater flexibility, including, but not limited to:

• functions relating to the dissemination of information, provision of expert advice and hosting of meetings, courses and seminars, as well as availability of all electronic tools required to carry out these activities;

• any functions and tasks that may be delegated to them relating to the preparation and implementation of their allocated budgets;

• ensuring their effective participation in discussions on the future of the Union and on strategic issues concerning the telecommunication/ICT sector,

instructs the Director of the Telecommunication Development Bureau, in close consultation with the Secretary-General and the Directors of the Radiocommunication Bureau and the Telecommunication Standardization Bureau

1 to develop Provisions on the ITU Regional Presence and to take the necessary measures to further strengthen the regional presence as an extension of ITU as whole, as well as measures to ensure that the activities of BR and TSB are effectively incorporated in the regional and area offices, as described in this resolution;

2 to support the review of the ITU's regional presence, taking into account the elements set out in annex to this resolution;

3 to review and determine the appropriate posts, including permanent posts, in regional and area offices, and strive to ensure that each region has at least one professional with skills and knowledge relevant to each of the three Sectors, reporting to the regional director, including by training existing staff, while hiring specialized staff on an as-needed basis to meet particular needs;

4 to fill in a timely manner vacant posts in the regional and area offices, where appropriate, planning staff availability and giving due consideration to the regional distribution of staff positions and the knowledge and the expertise in the three Sectors of the Union to the extent possible;

5 to ensure that the regional and area offices are given the necessary priority among the activities and programmes of the Union as a whole, and that, to supervise the implementation of funds-in-trust projects and projects financed from the ICT Development Fund, they have the required autonomy, the decision-making authority and responsibility, and the appropriate means;

6 to take the necessary measures in a timely manner to improve the exchange of information between headquarters and field offices;

7 to strengthen the human resource capabilities and provide the regional and area offices with a measure of flexibility in terms of the recruitment of professional staff as well as support staff,

instructs the Directors of the Radiocommunication Bureau and the Telecommunication Standardization Bureau and the Telecommunication Development Bureau

1 to enhance the ability of the regional and area offices to provide information on their Sectors' activities, as well as the necessary expertise, to strengthen cooperation and coordination with the relevant regional organizations and to facilitate the participation of all Member States and Sector Members in the activities of the three Sectors of the Union in accordance with the "One ITU" concept;

2 to provide Sectoral regional activities through regional and area offices,

invites the sectoral Advisory Groups

to assist in identifying subjects common to the three Sectors, or, bilaterally, subjects common to two Sectors, and in identifying the necessary mechanisms to strengthen cooperation and joint activity among the three Sectors or with each Sector, on issues of joint interest, paying particular attention to the interests of the developing countries, including through participation in ISCG.

ANNEX TO RESOLUTION 25 (Rev. bucharest, 2022)

Elements for review of the ITU regional presence

The review of the regional presence should take into account, but not be limited to, the following elements:

a) the extent of fulfilment of the provisions of Resolution 25 (Rev. Bucharest, 2022) of the Plenipotentiary Conference by the Telecommunication Development Bureau, the General Secretariat and the other two Bureaux, as appropriate;

b) how further decentralization could ensure greater efficiency at lower cost, taking into consideration accountability and transparency;

c) the result of past surveys of the level of satisfaction of Member States, Sector Members and regional telecommunication organizations with ITU's regional presence;

d) assistance for developing countries to participate in ITU activities;

e) the extent of possible duplication between the functions of ITU headquarters and the regional and area offices;

f) the extent of fulfilment of the provisions of Resolution 17 (Rev. Kigali, 2022) of the World Telecommunication Development Conference;

g) the degree of autonomy in decision-making currently accorded to regional and area offices, and whether greater autonomy could enhance their efficiency and effectiveness;

h) the effectiveness of collaboration and coordination between the ITU regional/area offices, regional telecommunication organizations and other regional and international development and financial organizations;

i) how regional presence and the organization of activities in the regions can enhance the effective participation of all countries in ITU work;

j) the resources currently made available to the regional and area offices for reducing the digital divide;

k) the optimal overall structure of the ITU regional presence, including the location and number of regional and area offices.

This review should be conducted on the basis of the Provisions on the ITU Regional Presence and with input from and in consultation with Member States and Sector Members, also seeking input from regional and area offices and regional and international organizations, as appropriate.

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1. 1 These include the least developed countries, small island developing states, landlocked developing countries and countries with economies in transition. [↑](#footnote-ref-1)