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| **Plenipotentiary Conference (PP-22) Bucharest, 26 September – 14 October 2022** |  |
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| PLENARY MEETING | **Addendum 19 to Document 76-E** |
|  | **1 September 2022** |
|  | **Original: English** |
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| Member States of the Inter-American Telecommunication Commission (CITEL) | |
| IAP 19 - PROPOSAL TO MODIFY RESOLUTION 11 on | |
| ITU Telecom events | |
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**Abstract:**

This proposal updates PP Resolution 11 to reflect that the ITU hold ITU Telecom events virtually, if at all, through the next Plenipotentiary Conference.

CITEL proposes to modify PP Resolution 11 to resolve that the ITU hold upcoming ITU Telecom events either virtually or not at all, given ITU Telecom’s continuing strain on ITU financial and administrative resources and the struggle to compete for participation in a saturated telecommunications/ICT events environment. Particularly in light of the global challenges and changes brought on by the COVID-19 pandemic, the ITU should update its approach to ITU Telecom and look to achieve outcomes through the ITU’s other existing global and regional events.

MOD IAP/76A19/1

RESOLUTION 11 (Rev. BUCHAREST, 2022)

ITU Telecom events

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

recalling

*a)* the External Audit of the Union’s Accounts on ITU Telecom World 2019 exhibition, which details the profit and loss account for the ITU Telecom World 2019 event;

*b)* the Dalberg Presentation to the Council 2020 on ITU Telecom Events Strategic and Financial Assessment, which reviews and assesses the status of ITU Telecom events, including an assessment of their financial sustainability;

*c)* the Report by the Secretary-General on ITU Telecom World Events presented to the Council 2022, which outlines highlights of ITU Digital World 2021 and plans for ITU Telecom events going forward,

considering

*a)* that the purposes of the Union, as reflected in Article 1 of the ITU Constitution, include to promote the extension of the benefits of the new telecommunication technologies to all the world's inhabitants and to harmonize the actions of Member States and Sector Members in the attainment of those ends;

*b)* that annually, numerous organizations host a wide range of national, regional and global exhibitions and conferences on telecommunications/information and communication technologies (ICTs) that are attended by ITU members;

*c)* that in addition, the ITU also hosts a number of global and regional events to promote the development and advancement of telecommunications/ICTs, consistent with the aims of the strategic and financial plans of the Union and taking into account the ITU's efficiency measures,

noting

*a)* that the ITU held ITU Telecom events virtually in 2020 and 2021 (ITU Digital World 2020 and 2021) and did not hold an ITU Telecom event in 2022 due to the challenges posed by the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic;

*b)* that ITU Telecom events continue to face ongoing challenges, such as the increasing costs of exhibits, achieving financial sustainability, and the need to provide value to industry;

*c)* that financial difficulties are the main limitation for developing countries[[1]](#footnote-1)1 to participate in ITU events in general, and ITU Telecom events in particular, where the price for some types of entry pass is high;

*d)* that the ITU’s approach to ITU Telecom should reflect the ongoing global transitions within the telecommunications and ICT environment to provide value and opportunities for ITU members and participants, particularly developing countries and SMEs;

*e)* that there is a need to ensure the financial viability of the ITU, including through consideration of the limited resources of the ITU secretariat,

recognizing

*a)* that the global COVID-19 pandemic transformed the work environment, elevating the importance of remote work, virtual meetings, and work from home practices;

*b)* that the ITU continues to experience financial and administrative challenges due to increased demands on the ITU’s limited staff and decreasing revenues,

resolves

1 that the ITU, in collaboration with its Member States and its Sector Members, should hold ITU Telecom events either virtually or not at all through the next Plenipotentiary Conference;

2 that the Secretary-General should look to achieve the outcomes previously achieved by ITU Telecom through the ITU’s other existing global and regional events;

3 that when considering virtual programming, the ITU should, in collaboration with its Member States and Sector Members, seek to increase the participation of SMEs in ITU events by scheduling issues of importance to SMEs throughout the events' programmes and inviting SMEs to speak on the technical, regulatory and policy issues that affect them;

4 that the Secretary-General is fully accountable for ITU Telecom activities (including planning, organization and finance);

5 that each ITU Telecom event shall be financially viable and shall have no negative impact on the ITU budget on the basis of the existing cost-allocation system as determined by the Council,

instructs the Secretary-General

1 to consider the necessity of holding ITU Telecom events virtually, if at all, considering the financial effects on the ITU and the perceived and actual value to Member States and Sector Members in light of the saturated telecommunications/ICT event environment;

2 to ensure the appropriate management of ITU Telecom events and resources, in line with the regulations of the Union;

3 to develop a business plan for each proposed event;

4 to ensure that there is internal control and that internal and external audits of the accounts for the different ITU Telecom events are carried out on regular basis;

5 to ensure the transparency of ITU Telecom events and report on them in a separate annual report to the Council, including:

– all ITU Telecom business activities;

– financial implications and risks for future ITU Telecom events, preferably two years in advance;

6 to ensure that ITU Telecom events do not overlap with any major ITU conferences or assemblies;

7 to report annually to the Council on the implementation of this resolution, and to the next plenipotentiary conference on whether or not to continue holding ITU Telecom events, given their financial implications and risks,

instructs the Secretary-General, in cooperation with the Directors of the Bureaux

to give due consideration, in planning ITU Telecom events, to the possible synergies with the major ITU conferences and meetings, and vice versa, where justified,

instructs the ITU Council

1 to review the annual report on ITU Telecom events described under *instructs the Secretary-General*5 and 7.

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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)