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| **Plenipotentiary Conference (PP-22) Bucharest, 26 September – 14 October 2022** |  |
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| PLENARY MEETING | **Document 203-E** |
|  | **26 October 2022** |
|  | **Original: English** |
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| MINUTES  OF THE  Thirteenth PLENARY MEETING | |
| Monday, 10 October 2022, at 1335 hours | |
| **Chairman:** Mr Sabin Sărmaș (Romania) | |

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|  | **Subjects discussed** | **Documents** |
| 1 | Statement by the Director General of the Universal Postal Union | - |
| 2 | Report on progress in the implementation of ITU Council Resolution 1408 | [70](https://www.itu.int/md/S22-PP-C-0070/en) |
| 3 | Ninth series of texts submitted by the Editorial Committee for first reading (B.9) | [143](https://www.itu.int/md/S22-PP-C-0143/en) |
| 4 | Ninth series of texts submitted by the Editorial Committee – second reading | 143 |
| 5 | Tenth series of texts submitted by the Editorial Committee for first reading (B.10) | [144](https://www.itu.int/md/S22-PP-C-0144/en) |
| 6 | Tenth series of texts submitted by the Editorial Committee – second reading | 144 |
| 7 | Eleventh series of texts submitted by the Editorial Committee for first reading (B.11) | [145](https://www.itu.int/md/S22-PP-C-0145/en) |
| 8 | Eleventh series of texts submitted by the Editorial Committee –second reading | 145 |
| 9 | Twelfth series of texts submitted by the Editorial Committee for first reading (B.12) | [153](https://www.itu.int/md/S22-PP-C-0153/en) |
| 10 | Twelfth series of texts submitted by the Editorial Committee –second reading | 153 |
| 11 | Thirteenth series of texts submitted by the Editorial Committee for first reading (B.13) | [154](https://www.itu.int/md/S22-PP-C-0154/en) |
| 12 | Thirteenth series of texts submitted by the Editorial Committee –second reading | 154 |
| 13 | Fourteenth series of texts submitted by the Editorial Committee for first reading (B.14) | [155](https://www.itu.int/md/S22-PP-C-0155/en) |
| 14 | Fourteenth series of texts submitted by the Editorial Committee – second reading | 155 |
| 15 | Presentation to the Editor-in-Chief of the ITU Journal | - |

**1 Statement by the Director General of the Universal Postal Union**

1.1 The **Director General of the Universal Postal Union,** Mr Masahiko Metoki, delivered the statement available at   
<https://pp22.itu.int/en/itu_policy_statements/masahiko-metoki-universal-postal-union/>.

1.2 The **Secretary-General** welcomed the long-standing cooperation between UPU and ITU, including on a range of joint projects. Noting that many ITU delegations were also actively involved in the field of postal services and ICTs, he was confident that the fruitful cooperation between the two organizations would continue in the future.

**2 Report on progress in the implementation of ITU Council Resolution 1408   
(Document** [**70**](https://www.itu.int/md/S22-PP-C-0070/en)**)**

2.1 The **Secretary-General**, introducingDocument 70, thanked Member States and stakeholders who had responded to the call to support ITU’s efforts to rebuild the telecommunication and broadcasting infrastructure in Ukraine, which had been destroyed by war. Pledges amounting to more than EUR 100 million had been made to that end to ITU’s Partner2Connect Digital Coalition initiative. In particular, he wished to thank Poland, which had increased its pledge to USD 21 million; Lithuania, Spain, Estonia, Slovenia, Japan, the United States, Germany, the United Kingdom and the European Union, which had made pledges; and delegations currently in the process of making a pledge.

2.2 Technical assistance needed to be evidence-based, but the damage assessment being carried out in Ukraine could not yet be finalized owing to the ongoing conflict. Further coordination was required and work would resume after the end of the present conference. The results of the assessment would be used to design an effective technical assistance programme, to be implemented in close coordination with the Administration of Ukraine. In that context, ITU’s cooperation within the United Nations system and at the national, regional and global level had been enhanced, and Resolution 1408 had been brought to the attention of executive heads of other United Nations entities, and the World Bank. Given that rebuilding the telecommunication and broadcasting infrastructure in Ukraine would require significant human and financial resources, he called for further support from the ITU membership.

2.3 The **delegate of Ukraine** condemned the ongoing Russian attacks on critical facilities, including the telecommunication infrastructure, in her country, which were a blatant violation of the Union’s values, and were causing many casualties. Speaking also on behalf of the Member States of the European Union, Albania, Andorra, Australia, Canada, Ecuador, Georgia, Iceland, Israel, Japan, Liechtenstein, Moldova, Monaco, Montenegro, New Zealand, North Macedonia, Norway, Peru, the Republic of Korea, Switzerland, the United Kingdom and the United States, she delivered the joint statement reproduced in **Annex A** to these minutes. She concluded with a call to observe a minute of silence in memory of the victims of the war in Ukraine.

2.4 **Participants observed a minute of silence.**

2.5 The **delegate of the Russian Federation**, speaking on the Secretary-General’s report on the implementation of Council Resolution 1408, delivered the statement reproduced in **Annex B** to these minutes. Speaking on the intervention by the delegation of Ukraine, he said that the Russian Federation would submit to the secretariat an official statement and reservation, which is reproduced in **Annex C** to these minutes.

2.6 The **delegate of the Syrian Arab Republic** said that ITU had no mandate to discuss political issues and should not be used to push political agendas. Criticizing or condemning any ITU Member State based on its political agenda would set a precedent for the Union, divide its membership and hamper efforts to achieve its goals.

2.7 The **delegate of the Czech Republic**, speaking on behalf of the European Union and its Member States, said that the European Union objected to the statement made by the Russian Federation, expressed its unwavering support for Ukraine and condemned the unprovoked attack on that country. It urged the Russian Federation to stop its attacks and immediately and unconditionally withdraw all troops and military equipment from the entire territory of Ukraine. It also demanded that the Russian Federation fully respect the territorial integrity, sovereignty and independence of Ukraine within that country’s internationally recognized borders, abide by the United Nations General Assembly resolution on aggression against Ukraine, and stop its disinformation campaign.

2.8 The **delegate of Poland** expressed full solidarity with Ukraine and its people. There was no room for any State that violated the core principles of the United Nations Charter and showed disrespect for human life. Since the start of the conflict in Ukraine, Poland had taken all necessary steps not only to connect the unconnected, but also to reconnect the temporarily disconnected. Poland welcomed the progress report in Document 70, and looked forward to publication of the assessment report and any other documents related to assistance for Ukraine, which would determine the next steps in the consensually agreed countermeasures to the unprovoked war taking place in Europe.

2.9 The **delegate of Japan**, expressing solidarity with the people of Ukraine, said that Japan fully supported the content of Document 70 and would continue to support rebuilding of Ukraine’s telecommunication sector. He urged all other delegates to take the report into account and contribute to the work.

2.10 The **delegate of Belarus** said that expressing politicized positions and views at the plenipotentiary conference in order to exert pressure on one side of the conflict in Ukraine would not serve a genuine resolution of the crisis situation, which could only be achieved through appropriate political and diplomatic efforts involving all the parties. The conference should avoid politicization and not split the membership in any way that would undermine the otherwise constructive work done by ITU.

2.11 The **delegate of the United States** welcomed the Secretary-General’s report and expressed appreciation for the ongoing efforts to support Ukraine and complete the ongoing assessment. While ITU was not a political body, it was concerned at the destruction of telecommunication infrastructure in Ukraine caused by the war. The issue could be resolved by the Russian Federation’s compliance with United Nations General Assembly resolutions and complete withdrawal from the territory of Ukraine.

2.12 The delegate of the **Russian Federation** said that the criticism levelled at the Russian Federation was essentially a provocation and took the work of the conference into the discussion of matters that were outside its purview. He nevertheless wished to exercise the right to point out briefly that the current situation was the result of the refusal of the Ukrainian authorities to follow the Minsk package of measures, which had been endorsed by Resolution 2202 of the United Nations Security Council of 17 February 2015. The Russian Federation rejected the unlawful accusations against its country and urged everyone to refrain from politically motivated statements aimed at Member States, which it considered to be moves in a global confrontation. ITU was an organization that had a peaceful and technical agenda, and it did not have the authority to discuss the legal status of relations between its Member States, including matters of territorial integrity and national sovereignty of States. The Russian Federation called on the 2022 ITU plenipotentiary conference to ignore statements that went beyond the mandate of the Union, and not to allow politicized decisions to be adopted under such pressure.

2.13 The **delegate of Australia**, expressing full solidarity with and support for Ukraine, said that her country strongly condemned attacks on telecommunication infrastructure and actions to block or degrade Internet access. Such issues were at the heart of ITU’s mission and Australia acknowledged the efforts of ITU to assist Ukraine by implementing ITU Council Resolution 1408. Activities under that resolution were entirely within the scope of, and centred on, the ITU’s mission and expertise.

2.14 The **delegate of the United Kingdom**, expressing his country’s unwavering support for Ukraine, endorsed the statements made by previous speakers in support of Ukraine. The United Kingdom condemned the Russian Federation’s illegal war, which was a serious breach of the United Nations Charter and of the shared principles of sovereignty and territorial integrity, on which both the United Nations and ITU were predicated and which must be upheld. Furthermore, telecommunications for peace was a pillar of the ITU Constitution and actions that undermined the Union’s core values could not be ignored. The United Kingdom looked forward to publication of the report under ITU Council Resolution 1408 as a basis for ongoing ITU action and support for Ukraine.

2.15 The **delegate of Canada** said that suffering was being caused by the illegal, unprovoked and immoral attack by the Russian Federation. It was necessary to discuss and implement ITU Council Resolution 1408, which addressed reconstruction of the telecommunication infrastructure in Ukraine, because daily attacks were resulting in an absence of basic infrastructure. Canada fully aligned itself with the interventions of like-minded countries and stood firmly with Ukraine and the tenets of civilized behaviour.

2.16 Document 70 was **noted**.

**3 Ninth series of texts submitted by the Editorial Committee for first reading (B9) (Document** [**143**](https://www.itu.int/md/S22-PP-C-0143/en)**)**

3.1 The **Chairman of the Editorial Committee** pointed out that the proposed decisions and resolutions in the series of texts before the Plenary contained references to other decisions and resolutions not yet approved or adopted. The Editorial Committee would ensure that all cross-references between resolutions and decisions referred to the correct versions thereof.

**Draft Resolution 123 (Rev. Bucharest, 2022) - Bridging the standardization gap between developing and developed countries**

**Draft Resolution 198 (Rev. Bucharest, 2022) - Empowerment of youth through telecommunication/information and communication technology**

**Draft Resolution 200 (Rev. Bucharest, 2022) - Connect 2030 Agenda for global telecommunication/information and communication technology, including broadband, for sustainable development**

3.2 **Adopted**.

3.3 The ninth series of texts submitted by the Editorial Committee for first reading (B9) (Document 143) was **approved**.

**4 Ninth series of texts submitted by the Editorial Committee – second reading   
(Document** [**143**](https://www.itu.int/md/S22-PP-C-0143/en)**)**

4.1 The ninth series of texts submitted by the Editorial Committee (Document 143) was **approved** on second reading.

**5 Tenth series of texts submitted by the Editorial Committee for first reading (B10) (Document** [**144**](https://www.itu.int/md/S22-PP-C-0144/en)**)**

**Draft Resolution 170 (Rev. Bucharest, 2022) - Admission of Sector Members from developing countries to participate in the work of the ITU Radiocommunication Sector and the ITU Telecommunication Standardization Sector**

**Draft Resolution 176 (Rev. Bucharest, 2022) - Measurement and assessment concerns related to human exposure to electromagnetic fields**

5.1 **Adopted**.

5.2 The tenth series of texts submitted by the Editorial Committee for first reading (B10) (Document 144) was **approved**.

**6 Tenth series of texts submitted by the Editorial Committee – second reading   
(Document** [**144**](https://www.itu.int/md/S22-PP-C-0144/en)**)**

6.1 The tenth series of texts submitted by the Editorial Committee (Document 144) was **approved** on second reading.

**7 Eleventh series of texts submitted by the Editorial Committee for first reading (B11) (Document** [**145**](https://www.itu.int/md/S22-PP-C-0145/en)**)**

**Draft Resolution 154 (Rev. Bucharest, 2022) - Use of the six official languages of the Union on an equal footing**

7.1 **Adopted**.

7.2 The eleventh series of texts submitted by the Editorial Committee for first reading (B11) (Document 145) was **approved**.

**8 Eleventh series of texts submitted by the Editorial Committee – second reading (Document** [**145**](https://www.itu.int/md/S22-PP-C-0145/en)**)**

8.1 The eleventh series of texts submitted by the Editorial Committee (Document 145) was **approved** on second reading.

**9 Twelfth series of texts submitted by the Editorial Committee for first reading (B12) (Document** [**153**](https://www.itu.int/md/S22-PP-C-0153/en)**)**

**Draft Resolution 30 (Rev. Bucharest, 2022) - Special measures for the least developed countries, small island developing states, landlocked developing countries and countries with economies in transition**

9.1 **Adopted.**

**Draft Resolution 193 (Rev. Bucharest, 2022) - Support and assistance for Iraq to continue rebuilding and developing its telecommunication/information and communication technology sector**

9.2 The **delegate of Jordan** requested that the wording of the Arabic version of *invites Member States* be checked by the Editorial Committee to align on the English version.

9.3 On that understanding, draft Resolution 193 (Rev. Bucharest, 2022) was **adopted**.

9.4 The twelfth series of texts submitted by the Editorial Committee for first reading (B12) (Document 153) was **approved**.

**10 Twelfth series of texts submitted by the Editorial Committee – second reading (Document** [**153**](https://www.itu.int/md/S22-PP-C-0153/en)**)**

10.1 The twelfth series of texts submitted by the Editorial Committee (Document 153) was **approved** on second reading.

**11 Thirteenth series of texts submitted by the Editorial Committee for first reading (B13) (Document** [**154**](https://www.itu.int/md/S22-PP-C-0154/en)**)**

**Draft Resolution 70 (Rev. Bucharest, 2022) - Mainstreaming a gender perspective in ITU and promoting gender equality and the empowerment of women and girls through telecommunications/information and communication technologies**

11.1 The **delegate of Jordan** requested that the Arabic term for “mainstreaming” in the title of the draft resolution be checked by the Editorial Committee.

11.2 On that understanding, draft Resolution 70 (Rev. Bucharest, 2022) was **adopted**.

**Draft Resolution 140 (Rev. Bucharest, 2022) - ITU’s role in implementing the outcomes of the World Summit on the Information Society and the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, as well as in their follow-up and review processes**

11.3 **Adopted**.

**Draft Resolution 179 (Rev. Bucharest, 2022) - ITU’s role in child online protection**

11.4 The **delegate of Argentina**, supported by the **delegates of Uruguay** and **Mexico**, requested that “los niños” be replaced with “los niños y las niñas” in the Spanish version of the draft resolution.

11.5 On that understanding, draft Resolution 179 (Rev. Bucharest, 2022) was **adopted**.

**Draft new Resolution WGPL/1 - Artificial intelligence technologies and telecommunications/information and communication technologies**

11.6In response to a question from the **delegate of Jordan**, the **Chairman of the Working Group of the Plenary** said that the wording of the title of the draft resolution had been agreed on within the group.

11.7 Draft new Resolution WGPL/1 was **adopted**.

11.8 The thirteenth series of texts submitted by the Editorial Committee for first reading (B13) (Document 154) was **approved**.

**12 Thirteenth series of texts submitted by the Editorial Committee – second reading (Document** [**154**](https://www.itu.int/md/S22-PP-C-0154/en)**)**

12.1 The thirteenth series of texts submitted by the Editorial Committee (Document 154) was **approved** on second reading.

**13 Fourteenth series of texts submitted by the Editorial Committee for first reading (B14) (Document** [**155**](https://www.itu.int/md/S22-PP-C-0155/en)**)**

**Draft Resolution 21 (Rev. Bucharest, 2022) - Measures concerning alternative calling procedures on international telecommunication networks**

13.1 The **delegate of Jordan** requested that the Editorial Committee consider deleting the acronym “NNAI” from the Arabic version of *recognizing a)*.

13.2 On that understanding, draft Resolution 21 (Rev. Bucharest, 2022) was **adopted**.

**Draft Resolution 119 (Rev. Bucharest, 2022) - Methods to improve the efficiency and effectiveness of the Radio Regulations Board**

**Draft Resolution 177 (Rev. Bucharest, 2022) - Conformance and interoperability**

**Draft Resolution 189 (Rev. Bucharest, 2022) - Assisting Member States to combat and deter mobile device theft**

**Draft Resolution 196 (Rev. Bucharest, 2022) - Protecting telecommunication service users/consumers**

13.3 **Adopted**.

13.4 The fourteenth series of texts submitted by the Editorial Committee for first reading (B14) (Document 155) was **approved**.

**14 Fourteenth series of texts submitted by the Editorial Committee – second reading (Document** [**155**](https://www.itu.int/md/S22-PP-C-0155/en)**)**

14.1 The fourteenth series of texts submitted by the Editorial Committee (Document 155) was **approved** on second reading.

**15** **Presentation to the Editor-in-Chief of the ITU Journal**

15.1 The **Secretary-General** presented Mr Ian F. Akyildiz, the Editor-in-Chief of the ITU Journal on Future and Evolving Technologies, with a certificate in appreciation of his work and invaluable support to the Union.

15.2 **Mr Akyildiz** said that he was honoured to receive recognition for his work. He thanked the Secretary-General and his colleagues at the Journal. He encouraged delegates to explore the journal website, noting that the publication aimed to create a bridge between ITU and the academic world. He looked forward to future opportunities for an exchange of ideas.

**The meeting rose at 1515 hours.**

The Secretary-General: The Chairman:

H. ZHAO S. SĂRMAȘ

***Annexes****: 3*

Annex A

Original: English

Statement by the delegation of Ukraine

Mr Chairman, Mr Secretary-General,

Excellencies, ladies and gentlemen,

I have the honour to read a statement on behalf of the following Member States of ITU: **Ukraine, 27 EU Member States, Albania, Andorra, Australia, Canada, Ecuador, Georgia, Iceland,** **Israel,** **Japan, Liechtenstein, Moldova, Monaco, Montenegro, New Zealand, North Macedonia, Norway, Peru, the Republic of Korea, Switzerland,** the **United Kingdom and** the **United States**, and further request that the statement be entered into the record of the meeting.

We thank the Secretary-General for his oral update on the implementation of the 2022 ITU Council Resolution 1408, on assistance and support to Ukraine for rebuilding its telecommunication sector. We look forward to the release of the first written report assessing the impact of the war in Ukraine in the field of telecommunications, and providing proposals for effective assistance, at the earliest opportunity and in any event no later than the end of the year.

The very first line of the ITU Constitution recognizes the importance of telecommunications for peace, and in order to foster the economic and social development of all Member States. The support for Ukraine provided by ITU and its Member States is uniquely valuable for the rebuilding of Ukraine’s telecommunication sector. We are proud that our Union has stepped up to support a Member State in urgent need.

We welcome the establishment of a special task force at the level of the General Secretariat, and of a special fund-in-trust, in order to provide assistance and support to rebuild Ukraine’s telecommunication infrastructure and to provide the necessary support and technical capacity building. We are grateful to ITU Member States for the contributions they have made to support these efforts, including the projects and pledges announced on the occasion of the ITU Partner2Connect High-Level Digital Development Dialogues held at the World Telecommunication Development Conference in Kigali in June 2022.

We call on Member States and the Union not to lose this momentum, but to continue to provide assistance and financial contributions to Ukraine for rebuilding its telecommunication sector and to support the use of telecommunications/ICTs for recovery and sustainable development. In addition, we call on ITU to ensure adequate financial and human resources mobilization within its budget in order to support this effort, in line with Council Resolution 1408.

As an important member of the United Nations family, ITU cannot ignore the fact that it is Russia which is responsible for the war in Ukraine. As recognized by United Nations General Assembly Resolution [A/RES/ES-11/1](https://digitallibrary.un.org/record/3965290?ln=es) of 2 March 2022, on aggression against Ukraine, Russia’s unprovoked and unjust invasion of Ukraine violates international law, including the United Nations Charter, and shows flagrant disregard for human suffering.

Since Russia’s full-scale invasion on 24 February 2022, Ukraine has suffered attacks on critical telecommunication infrastructure, failure of telecom services and outages of the mobile networks. Russia’s actions have had a devastating impact on the operation of telecommunication facilities and services in Ukraine and on the exercise of Ukraine’s sovereign right to regulate telecommunications within its internationally recognized territory. These unjustified actions stand in clear contradiction to ITU’s mission to promote digital connectivity for sustainable development worldwide and fail to respect the fundamental principles enshrined in the ITU Constitution. Russia has lost its status as a credible partner for ITU activities and cannot claim to promote its values.

We firmly reject and unequivocally condemn the illegal attempted annexation by Russia of Ukraine's Donetsk, Luhansk, Zaporizhzhia and Kherson regions. These actions, based on sham “referenda” carried out by the Russian-installed officials in temporarily seized Ukrainian territories, are a further blatant violation of Ukraine’s independence, sovereignty and territorial integrity, and of international law. The results of these illegal “votes” are null and void and these areas will never be recognized by the international community as anything but a part of Ukraine’s sovereign territory. We call on ITU to refrain from any actions or publications that might be interpreted as recognizing or endorsing any alteration of the internationally recognized borders of Ukraine, and to support Ukraine in exercising its sovereign right to regulate telecommunications within those borders.

The supporters of this statement stand firmly and unwaveringly in solidarity with Ukraine. We strongly condemn the Russian Federation's violation of the sovereignty and territorial integrity of Ukraine, and deplore the suffering and loss of life that it has caused. We reiterate the call of the United Nations General Assembly resolution of 2 March and urge Russia to immediately cease its use of force against Ukraine and to immediately, completely and unconditionally withdraw all of its military forces from the territory of Ukraine within its internationally recognized borders. And in doing so we urge Russia to respect, in full, the obligations which arise from ITU membership.

I thank you.

Stand with Ukraine

Annex B

Original: Russian

Statement by the Russian Federation on Document 70   
(Report on progress in the implementation of ITU Council Resolution 1408)

At the 2022 session of the Council, during the discussion of draft Resolution 1408 the Administration of the Russian Federation argued against the acute politicization of any aspect of the work of the Union and of relations between Member States that fall outside the scope of ITU’s mandate, which is strictly defined in the Constitution and Convention.

The Russian Federation thanks the Secretary-General for his presentation of the report on progress in the implementation of ITU Council Resolution 1408 in [Document 70](https://www.itu.int/md/S22-PP-C-0070/en), and we support the noting of the report by the Plenipotentiary Conference. However, we draw attention to a number of issues relating to the Union’s fulfilment of its mandate to assist and support countries in difficulties, as follows.

According to Document 70 the ITU secretariat undertook a series of actions to implement the Resolution, including the creation of a special [website](https://www.itu.int/en/ITU-D/Regional-Presence/Europe/Pages/Projects/Council%20Resolution%20on%20Ukraine%20-%20Coordination%20and%20Implementation/Council-Resolution-on-Ukraine---Coordination-and-Implementation.aspx).

It is worth recalling that the Resolution cited above concerns assistance and support to a Member State for rebuilding its telecommunication sector. At the same time, ITU, as a specialized agency of the United Nations for telecommunications/ICTs, does not have the authority to define the legal status and nature of relations between its Member States.

However, the thematic webpage created on ITU’s official website towards implementation of the Resolution makes unacceptable politicized and subjective assertions. This goes beyond the authority of the Union and is not in line with accepted practice in such situations. As a separate issue we note that the ITU secretariat did not provide a translation of the webpage, on the Telecommunication Development Sector part of the ITU website, into the six official languages of the Union, which goes against provisions of the ITU Constitution and Convention and Resolution 154 (Rev. Dubai, 2018) of the Plenipotentiary Conference.

Furthermore, one has the impression that a selective approach is being taken towards the use of ITU resources in the fulfilment of its mandate to provide technical assistance and support to countries in difficulties, in favouring a single ITU Member State, despite the fact that, in 2022 alone, several ITU Member States already covered by existing resolutions of the Plenipotentiary Conference, specifically Resolutions 34, 125, 126, 127, 159 and 193, found themselves in need of greater assistance from ITU.

In view of the foregoing, and following the principle of equal rights for all ITU Member States, the Russian Federation invites the Secretary-General to prepare reports on all of the resolutions that concern assistance to countries in difficulties, specifying the complete set of measures, the sources and volume of funding, and the concrete results achieved for each of the 12 resolutions of the Plenipotentiary Conference. Furthermore, a single page should be created on the website of the Telecommunication Development Sector dedicated to the implementation of all such resolutions of the Plenipotentiary Conference and showing the concrete measures and results of the technical assistance provided. Those resolutions currently concern some 20 Member States from different regions of the world.

Annex C

Original: Russian

Statement by the Russian Federation in response to the statement by Ukraine

The delegation of the Russian Federation objects strongly to the attempts of certain Member States, including Ukraine, to use the forum of the International Telecommunication Union (ITU) to politicize the discussion and to debate issues that do not come under the remit of the organization. Such conduct is fundamentally provocative in nature and demonstrates a lack of regard for the ITU Constitution and Convention and for its Member States.

The delegation of the Russian Federation recalls that ITU, according to its basic texts, is not empowered to debate matters of a general political nature, including questions regarding the territorial integrity and sovereignty of States, any more than it is to characterize the situation in Ukraine as a "war" or "invasion", to determine who is responsible or to qualify the actions of States as acts of aggression.

We would point out that the current situation is the result of the refusal of the Ukrainian authorities to follow the Minsk package of measures, which was endorsed by Resolution 2202 of the United Nations Security Council of 17 February 2015.

The decisions to accept within the Russian Federation the people's republics of Donetsk and Luhansk and the provinces of Zaporizhzhya and Kherson are founded on the expressions of the will of their peoples in the referendums of 23-27 September 2022. The inhabitants of these territories had the possibility to express their opinion in an independent and free manner, as confirmed by numerous observers, including international observers.

All of these actions were carried out in complete conformity with international law, especially the right of peoples to self-determination, which is anchored in the Charter of the United Nations, the 1970 Declaration on Principles of International Law concerning Friendly Relations and Co-operation among States in accordance with the Charter of the United Nations, and many other documents. The aforementioned Declaration states: "Every State has the duty to refrain from any forcible action which deprives peoples referred to in the elaboration of the principle of equal rights and self-determination of their right to self-determination and freedom and independence."

All rights and obligations concerning the provision of telecommunication services for the population of and facilities within the territory of the people's republics of Donetsk and Luhansk and the provinces of Zaporizhzhya and Kherson have been transferred to the Russian Federation, including in regard to compliance with the provisions of the ITU Constitution and Convention and the ITU Radio Regulations. All attempts to contest this fact are groundless and meaningless.

The Russian Federation is acting in full compliance with Article 1 of the ITU Constitution, in satisfying requirements and ensuring availability of telecommunication/ICT means for the inhabitants of the above-mentioned subjects of the Russian Federation.

We reject the unlawful accusations against our country and urge everyone to refrain from politically motivated statements aimed at Member States of the Union, which we consider to be moves in a global confrontation. ITU is an organization that has a peaceful and technical agenda.

The Russian Federation calls on the ITU Plenipotentiary Conference 2022 to ignore statements that go beyond the mandate of the Union, and not to allow politicized decisions to be adopted under such pressure.

In view of the foregoing, the delegation of the Russian Federation, in signing the Final Acts of the Plenipotentiary Conference, reserves the right to refuse to comply with any provisions thereof if it considers that they infringe the sovereignty and territorial integrity of the Russian Federation under the laws of the Federation or qualify its actions in any way, in contravention of the mandate of ITU.

Should any State adopt measures to the detriment of the interests of the Russian Federation, we reserve the right to adopt any necessary countermeasures to safeguard our interests in accordance with international law.

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