|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **Agenda item: PL** | **Document C23-ADD/2-E** |
| **18 September 2023** |
| **Original: English** |
|  |  |
| Report by the Secretary-General | |
| PROPOSED DATES AND DURATION OF THE 2024, 2025, AND 2026 SESSIONS OF THE COUNCIL ALONG WITH THE PROPOSED DATES OF CLUSTERS OF COUNCIL WORKING GROUPS AND EXPERT GROUPS FOR THE SAME PERIOD | |
| **Purpose**  Resolution 77 (Rev. Bucharest, 2022) of the Plenipotentiary Conference instructs the ITU Council, at each ordinary session, to schedule its next three ordinary sessions in June-July and to review the Council's schedule on a rolling basis.  **Action required by the Council**  The Council is invited to **confirm** the dates for its 2024, 2025, and 2026 sessions together with the dates of the clusters of CWGs & EGs for the same period, and to **adopt** the draft Decision contained in Annex to this document.  **Relevant link(s) with the Strategic Plan**  Convening platform  **Financial implications:**   * The costs for holding the 2024 and 2025 Council sessions and the clusters of Council Working Groups and Expert Groups at ITU are covered by the 2024-2025 biannual budget. * If a Council session is held in the International Conference Center Geneva (CICG), additional costs would be incurred, estimated at CHF 51 250 for a session of nine days. * If the clusters of Council Working Groups and Expert Groups are held in the CICG, the additional costs incurred are estimated at CHF 26 173 for two weeks.   \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_  **References**  [*Rule 1, Council Rules of Procedure*](http://www.itu.int/council/pd/rop-e.pdf)*; Resolution 77 (Rev. Bucharest, 2022),* [*Resolution 111 (Rev. Busan, 2014)*](https://www.itu.int/en/council/Documents/basic-texts/RES-111-E.pdf) *of the Plenipotentiary Conference; Council* [*Decision 626*](https://www.itu.int/md/S22-CL-C-0098/en) *(C22); Council documents* [*C22/2*](https://www.itu.int/md/S22-CL-C-0002/en)*;* [*C23/37*](https://www.itu.int/md/S23-CL-C-0037/en)*, and* [*C23/7*](https://www.itu.int/md/S23-CL-C-0007/en)*;* | |

**Introduction**

1. The ITU Council at its 2022 session adopted [Decision 626](https://www.itu.int/md/S22-CL-C-0098/en) regarding the dates and duration of the 2023, 2024, 2025, and 2026 sessions of the Council, along with the clusters of Council Working Groups and Expert Groups for 2023, 2024, and 2025.

2. The dates of the Council sessions and clusters of Council Working Groups approved in Decision 626 took into account major religious periods and the availability of the International Conference Center Geneva (CICG) during the demolition and early construction phase of the headquarters premises project.

3. The following changes to Decision 626 are proposed:

- In view of the religious periods, the Geneva motor show to be held from 26 February to 3 March 2024, and given the availability of ITU Headquarters in 2024: to hold the first Council Working Group cluster from **Monday, 22 January to Friday, 2 February 2024**.

- In light of the progress on the implementation of the Union’s headquarters premises project and the possibility to organize the 2024 ordinary session of the Council in June in ITU premises: to hold the session from **Tuesday,** **4 June to Friday, 14 June 2024.**

- In order to avoid a religious period in 2026: to hold the 2026 session of Council from **Tuesday, 28 April to Friday 8 May 2026.**

3. The Council is invited to **adopt** the draft new Decision in the Annex, agreeing on the dates of the Council sessions and the clusters of Council Working Groups and Experts Groups.

*Annex:* ***1***

Annex

DRAFT DECISION [...]

Dates and duration of the 2024, 2025, and 2026 sessions of the Council, along with the clusters of Council Working Groups and Expert Groups   
for 2024, 2025 and 2026

The ITU Council,

bearing in mind

1. Resolution 77 (Rev. Bucharest, 2022) of the Plenipotentiary Conference, which instructs the Council“at each ordinary session, to schedule its next three ordinary sessions in June-July and to review the Council’s schedule on a rolling basis”;
2. Resolution 111 (Rev. Busan, 2014) of the Plenipotentiary Conference, which resolves “that the Union and the Member States of the Council should make every effort, as far as practicable, in order that the planned period of any Council session not be scheduled during a period which is considered a major religious period by a Member State of the Council”;
3. Decision 619 on Headquarters Premises adopted at the additional 2019 session of the Council,

recalling

Council Decision 626 (C22) confirming the dates and duration for the 2023, 2024, 2025, and 2026 sessions of the Council, along with the cluster of Council Working Groups and Expert Groups for 2023, 2024, and 2025,

considering

the need to schedule ordinary sessions of the Council as much as possible around the same time-frame each year in order to facilitate the arrangement of other ITU events,

considering further

the need to organize the ordinary session of the Council taking place in a plenipotentiary conference (PP) year early enough to allow any Council reports intended to be further considered at PP to be published reasonably far in advance,

emphasizing

that scheduling the clusters of Council Working Groups and Expert Groups (CWGs & EGs), over the next three years, would not only improve the overall planning of ITU events, but also reduce the risk of overlapping,

*acknowledging*

the constraints linked to meeting room availabilities during the demolition and early construction phase of the Headquarters Premises,

mindful

of Decision 11 (Rev. Bucharest, 2022) of the Plenipotentiary Conference on the creation and management of Council Working Groups, referring to Annex 2 to Decision 5 (Rev. Bucharest, 2022) of the Conference on options for reducing expenses,

decides

1 that the 2024 session of the Council will open in Geneva for a period of nine working days, and will hold its clusters of CWGs & EGs as follows:

* First cluster: from Monday, 22 January to Friday, 2 February
* **Council-24: from Tuesday, 4 June to Friday, 14 June 2024**
* Second cluster: from Monday, 30 September to Friday, 11 October 2024;

2 that the 2025 session of the Council will open in Geneva for a period of nine working days, and will hold its clusters of CWGs & EGs as follows:

* First cluster: from Monday, 10 February to Friday, 21 February 2025
* **Council-25: from Tuesday, 1 July to Friday, 11 July 2025**
* Second cluster: from Monday, 8 September to Friday, 19 September 2025

3 that the 2026 ordinary session of the Council will open in Geneva for a period of nine working days, and will hold its cluster of CWGs & EGs as follows:

- Sole cluster: from Monday, 12 January to Friday, 23 January 2026

**- Council-26: from Tuesday, 28 April to Friday, 8 May 2026**, and shall have its final meeting on the Saturday prior to the start of the 2026 Plenipotentiary Conference.

\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_