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| **Agenda item: PL 3** | **Document C23/12-E** |
| **16 May 2023** |
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| Report by the Secretary-General | |
| PERIODIC REVIEW OF THE INTERNATIONAL TELECOMMUNICATION REGULATIONS | |
| **Purpose**  This document provides an overview of the International Telecommunication Regulations (ITRs) and highlights instructions received from the ITU Plenipotentiary Conference (Bucharest, 2022) on the periodic review of the ITRs.  **Action required by the Council**  Resolution 146 (Rev. Bucharest, 2022) of the Plenipotentiary Conference instructs the Secretary-General to reconvene an expert group on the ITRs (EG‑ITR), open to the ITU Member States and Sector Members, with terms of reference (ToR) and working methods established by the ITU Council.  Resolution 146 (Rev. Bucharest, 2022) instructs the Council to review and revise, at its 2023 session, the ToR for EG‑ITR.  The Council is invited **to review and revise** the ToR for EG‑ITR.  **Relevant link(s) with the Strategic Plan**  Convening platform; development and application of the ITU Administrative Regulations.  **Financial implications:** to be identified based on the ToR as reviewed by the Council.  \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_  **References**  [Resolution 146](https://www.itu.int/en/council/Documents/basic-texts-2023/RES-146-E.pdf) (Rev. Bucharest, 2022), [Document PP-22/207](https://www.itu.int/md/S22-PP-C-0207/en) | |

**1 Overview of the ITRs**

1.1Further to Resolution 171 (Guadalajara, 2010) of the ITU Plenipotentiary Conference, and in accordance with ITU Council Resolution 1335, the World Conference on International Telecommunications (WCIT-12) was held in Dubai from 3 to 14 December 2012.

1.2 WCIT-12 revised the International Telecommunication Regulations (ITRs) in their entirety and also adopted five new resolutions.

1.3 The revised ITRs entered into force on 1 January 2015 for Member States having deposited before that date their instrument of ratification, acceptance, approval or accession.

1.4 The list of signatories of the WCIT-12 Final Acts is available at <http://www.itu.int/osg/wcit-12/highlights/signatories.html>.

1.5 The list of Member States having ratified, accepted or approved, or acceded to, the revised ITRs (Dubai, 2012) is available at <https://www.itu.int/online/mm/scripts/mm.final-acts.list?_languageid=1&_agrmts_type=WCIT-2012>.

**2 Periodic review of the ITRs**

2.1 The Plenipotentiary Conference (Dubai, 2018) resolved through Resolution 146 (Rev. Dubai, 2018), on periodic review and revision of the ITRs, that the ITRs should normally be reviewed periodically; and to conduct a comprehensive review of the ITRs with a view to achieving consensus on the way forward in respect of the ITRs. It instructed the Secretary-General to reconvene an expert group on the ITRs (EG‑ITR), open to the ITU Member States and Sector Members, with terms of reference (ToR) and working methods established by the Council, to review those regulations. Pursuant to Resolution146 (Rev. Dubai, 2018), the 2019 session of the Council modified Council [Resolution 1379](https://www.itu.int/md/S19-CL-C-0139/en), on EG-ITR, and established the group’s ToR, as set out in the [Annex](#Annex) hereto.

2.2 In 2022, the Plenipotentiary Conference (Bucharest, 2022) revised Resolution 146 (Rev. Bucharest, 2022), on periodic review of the ITRs, and resolved to continue consideration of issues relating to the ITRs, including their review.

2.3 Resolution 146 (Rev. Bucharest, 2022) instructs the Secretary-General to reconvene an EG‑ITR, open to the ITU Member States and Sector Members, with ToR and working methods established by the Council, to review the regulations. It also instructs the Secretary-General to submit the report of EG‑ITR on the outcome of the review to the Council for consideration, publication and subsequent submission to the 2026 plenipotentiary conference.

2.4 Resolution 146 (Rev. Bucharest, 2022) instructs the Council to review and revise, at its 2023 session, the ToR for EG-ITR referred to above; and to examine the reports of EG-ITR at its annual sessions and submit the final report of EG-ITR to the 2026 plenipotentiary conference with the Council’s comments.

2.5 Resolution 146 (Rev. Bucharest, 2022) instructs the Directors of the Bureaux, each within their field of competence, with advice from the relevant advisory group, to contribute to the activities of EG-ITR, recognizing that the ITU Telecommunication Standardization Sector has most of the work relevant to the ITRs. The Directors are instructed to submit the results of their work to EG-ITR. The Directors are also instructed to consider providing fellowships, where resources are available, for developing[[1]](#footnote-1)1 and least developed countries according to the list established by the United Nations, in order to widen their participation in the expert group.

***Annex: 1***

Annex

Annex to Council Resolution 1379 (C16, last amended C19)

Terms of Reference of the Expert Group on the International Telecommunication Regulations (EG-ITRs)

1 On the basis of contributions submitted by Member States, Sector Members and inputs from the Directors of the Bureaux if necessary, the EG-ITRs shall undertake a comprehensive review of the ITRs.

2 The EG-ITRs shall undertake a provision-by-provision examination of the ITRs, focusing on the 2012 ITRs, taking into account new trends in telecommunications/ICT and emerging issues in international telecommunications/ICT environment.

3 The review should include, among others:

a) applicability of the provisions of the ITRs in fostering the provision and development of international telecommunication/ICT services and networks;

b) flexibility of, or lack thereof, the provisions of the ITRs to accommodate new trends in telecommunications/ICT and emerging issues in international telecommunications/ICT environment;

4 The EG-ITRs will present a progress report reflecting all views on the ITRs review to Council 2020 and Council 2021, and a final report to Council 2022 for examination and submission to the 2022 Plenipotentiary Conference with the Council’s comments.

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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)