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|  | **Document CWG-FHR-16/INF-5** |
| **11 October 2023** |
| **English only** |
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**Statement by Mr Ronaldo Neves de Moura Filho
Chair of the Member States Advisory Group**

**ITU Council Working Group FHR**

**11 October 2023**

Esteemed Delegates,

Secretary General and ITU Colleagues,

Firstly, I would like to recall it is a *resolve* from PP Res. 212 (Rev. Bucharest, 2022) that the Member States Advisory Group (MSAG) continue meeting to review the future headquarters project’s progress and provide guidance and advice. In the same line there is Council Decision 619.

Since the last Council Session, MSAG met twice and I had the honour to be appointed as its Chair by my colleagues, representatives of different regions, in MSAG’s 24th meeting, held on September 14.

In that 24th meeting, we had the Chair appointment, and the Deputy Secretary-General (DSG) briefed the Group with the updates on the Project Team, including the resignation of the Head of Facilities Management and Building Project Division (FMBPD), Mrs. Catherine Dobbelstein. Then the DSG and the Secretariat detailed the work done regarding the latest Council instructions:

A. Request to Member States for potential sponsorships;

B. Reassessment of needs;

C. Continuous engagement with Swiss Authorities.

At that point, MSAG demanded more clarification related to the scoping exercise, e.g. about other items that should integrate the exercise as (AV, Furniture, Equipment etc.) and that alternatives such a new competition with more modest requirements should be explored. In general, MSAG debated the presentation and pointed topics that should be more detailed in the following meetings as well as to the CWG-FHR and to the Council.

In MSAG’s 25th meeting, held on September 25th, the presentation from the ITU Secretariat brought more details on (1) the other items to be descoped in the project; and this time presented with regrouping the functionalities or items by feasibility; and on (2) the other alternatives presented considering a different perspective to the project, and how they relate to the rescoping exercise; and also on (3) the outcomes of the meeting of the Liaison Committee with the Swiss government.

Recalling the resignation of the Head of the Facilities Management and Building Project Division (FMBPD), and due to the importance of the project, the MSAG formally asked the Secretariat to consider whether this high-level seniority and experience in similar projects were reflected in the recruitment, and how can ITU ensure the selection of a candidate with this kind of accomplishment. It was agreed that this item should be addressed to this CWG-FHR and to the Council Session.

In the end, the general purpose of MSAG in these reported meetings was that the CWG-FHR and the Council could have more data and elements to decide about the still remaining alternatives, with perspective, criteria of feasibility and ranges of values added. At the same time MSAG was very attentive to the Project Management aspects, as it is reflected in the demand about the new Head position.

I would like to inform that the MSAG Meeting Summaries are published on the MSAG SharePoint and at the New Building webpage for consultation, and finally to express my gratitude for my colleagues in MSAG and our good observers for our productive debates. I also thank the ITU DSG and ITU Secretariat for the permanent dialogue and support to MSAG work.

Thank you, Madam Chair!

Best regards,

Ronaldo Neves de Moura Filho

Chair, MSAG

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