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| Contribution from Egypt (Arab Republic of) | |
| PROPOSAL FOR THE WORK OF THE EG-ITRS | |
| **Purpose**  In an increasingly interconnected world, the seamless exchange of information is paramount for social, economic, and technological progress. The International Telecommunication Regulations (ITRs) play a pivotal role in facilitating this exchange by establishing a framework for global telecommunications governance. These regulations are of particular significance as they provide a framework for the globalization and harmonization of international telecommunication services.  They discuss issues related to international telecommunication networks/services such as Quality of Service (QoS), consumer protection, transparency of international roaming prices, emergency telecommunication, and persons with disabilities, and other related issues. The provision of this treaty enable member states to facilitate global interconnection and interoperability of international networks and services.  Aligned with the primary objective of the ITU, which is to facilitate global cooperation and coordination in telecommunications and ICTs to ensure that these technologies contribute to social and economic development, improve access to information and services, and promote the well-being of people worldwide, it is important to have an up-to-date treaty that underpins how we communicate with each other.  ITRs are complimentary to the ITU Constitution. It is an instrument available to us, and we have an opportunity to make it useful for all our peoples.  The 2012 ITRs have been subject of much debate at the previous three ITU Plenipotentiary Conferences. In fact, discussions on revising the ITRs took place since before the Plenipotentiary Conference in Guadalajara 2010.There were no proposals to abrogate the ITRs.  For 13 years, Member States were unable to reach consensus regarding the path forward for this treaty.  Therefore, we believe that Member States have to engage in innovative and constructive deliberations, with the aim of converging on mutually agreeable and beneficial solutions to address this issue.  The existence of two versions of the ITRs makes it difficult to have them functional and useful. In addition, having an inactive treaty is harmful to the image of ITU as the UN agency responsible for telecommunications/ICTs.  The ITRs, both 1988 and 2012, are outdated in their current form and that there is a need to come up with a new ITRs, in a world where new and emerging technologies are expanding.  To achieve a different outcome, the new expert group should take a different approach from previous groups.  One of the main issues that must be updated in the ITRs, which is a binding document for Member States, is that the treaty needs address to Member States and not operating agencies. Member States would then, apply the provisions and articles of the ITRs in their respective territories, each according to their own laws and regulations.  In conclusion, the ITRs are essential for creating a level playing field in the world of telecommunications, ensuring that all nations have the opportunity to harness the benefits of modern communication technologies. These regulations not only facilitate access to vital services but also pave the way for socio-economic growth, global collaboration, and enhanced quality of life for millions of people in less affluent regions of the world.  **Action required**  The Expert Group of ITRs is invited to **discuss and approve** this document. | |

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