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|  | **Document C24/122-E** |
| **29 August 2024** |
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| **SUMMARY RECORD**  **OF THE**  **TWELFTH AND LAST PLENARY MEETING** | |
| Friday, 14 June 2024, from 1430 to 1600 hours  **Chair**: Mr F. SAUVAGE (France) | |

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|  | **Subjects discussed** | **Documents** |
| 1 | Green digital transformation: ITU activities on climate change and environmental sustainability (*continued*) | [C24/72](https://www.itu.int/md/S24-CL-C-0072/en), [C24/88](https://www.itu.int/md/S24-CL-C-0088/en), [C24/DT/11](https://www.itu.int/md/S24-CL-240604-TD-0011/en) |
| 2 | Dates and duration of the 2025, 2026 and 2027 sessions of the ITU Council and Council working group clusters (*continued*) | [C24/2](https://www.itu.int/md/S24-CL-C-0002/en), [C24/DT/13](https://www.itu.int/md/S24-CL-240604-TD-0013/en) |
| 3 | List of chairs and vice-chairs of the Council working groups and expert groups (*continued*) | [C24/21(Rev.5)](https://www.itu.int/md/S24-CL-C-0021/en) |
| 4 | Closure of the Council session | - |

# 1 Green digital transformation: ITU activities on climate change and environmental sustainability (*continued*) (Documents [C24/72](https://www.itu.int/md/S24-CL-C-0072/en), [C24/88](https://www.itu.int/md/S24-CL-C-0088/en) and [C24/DT/11](https://www.itu.int/md/S24-CL-240604-TD-0011/en))

1.1 The councillor from France said that Document C24/DT/11 set out a draft resolution on ITU’s role in facilitating the contribution of ICTs to sustainability and climate action, on which consensus had been reached following the informal consultations initiated at the third plenary meeting. The text reflected the different visions shared during the consultations regarding, *inter alia*, a balanced approach to the contribution of ICTs —both positive and negative— to addressing environmental challenges; the importance of sharing studies and best practices; the need to take a broader view of sustainability, including social and economic dimensions; and catering for the specific needs of developing countries. The draft resolution fitted coherently with other ITU texts, such as Resolution 182 (Rev. Bucharest, 2022) of the Plenipotentiary Conference and Resolution 73 (Rev. Geneva, 2022) of the World Telecommunication Standardization Assembly, positioning ITU as a key player in multistakeholder initiatives to address climate-change and environmental-sustainability issues.

1.2 Councillors expressed support for the draft resolution and welcomed in particular the balance reflected between the environmental impact of ICTs, on the one hand, and their empowering role in helping other sectors, on the other; the reference to best practices; and the focus on capacity building for the developing countries. On the latter point, two councillors from the Africa region said they would like to see the resolution go further in addressing the unique challenges faced by African countries and other developing regions, which were bearing the brunt of the climate crisis, by also prioritizing tailored climate-change adaptation solutions for vulnerable regions, capacity building and knowledge sharing on e‑waste management, dedicated financing mechanisms and inclusive partnerships.

1.3 The Council **adopted** the new resolution contained in Document C24/DT/11.

1.4 The Deputy Secretary-General said that efforts were already under way on consolidating ITU’s work on environmental sustainability under the Green Digital Action initiative, including resource-mobilization efforts, to which he encouraged Member States to contribute. ITU would strive to equip every region and country with the capacity to address digital sustainability issues. He further commended close collaboration between ITU and future UN climate change conference Host Countries, Azerbaijan and Brazil, on the digital agenda and invited a strong participation of digital policymakers in the upcoming conferences.

# 2 Dates and duration of the 2025, 2026 and 2027 sessions of the ITU Council and Council working group clusters (*continued*) (Documents [C24/2](https://www.itu.int/md/S24-CL-C-0002/en) and [C24/DT/13](https://www.itu.int/md/S24-CL-240604-TD-0013/en))

2.1 The Secretary of the Plenary said that, in response to the two requests made at the 11th plenary meeting that morning, a solution had been found to enable the 2025 session of the Council to be brought forward by two weeks and thus be held in June rather than July; and the first CWG cluster in 2027 to be brought forward by one week. Those changes were reflected in a revised version of the draft new decision, set out in Document C24/DT/13.

2.2 The Council **confirmed** the dates of its 2025, 2026 and 2027 sessions and the dates of the CWG and EG clusters for the same period and **adopted** the decision in Document C24/DT/13.

# 3 List of chairs and vice-chairs of the Council working groups and expert groups (*continued*) (Document [C24/21(Rev.5)](https://www.itu.int/md/S24-CL-C-0021/en))

3.1 The Chair informed the meeting that, regrettably, discussions he had undertaken with interested parties in the time available since the previous plenary meeting had not enabled a consensus to be reached on the appointment of the vice-chair of the Council Working Group on the use of the six official languages (CWG-LANG). He therefore saw no option but to defer consideration of the matter until Council‑25.

3.2 It was so **agreed**.

3.3 Replying to a question from a councillor carried over from the previous plenary regarding the implications of CWG-LANG functioning without a vice-chair for any given language, the Secretary of the Plenary noted that a number of groups had found themselves in such a situation for a period of time. It was up to Member States to evaluate the work of specific groups and draw any conclusions. Pursuant to its terms of reference, however, all Member States were entitled to participate in CWG-LANG.

3.4 The councillor from South Africa said that South Africa considered that the matter of the appointment of the CWG-LANG vice-chair for the Russian language could have been handled better. It believed that a compromise had been close, and that not enough opportunity had been given to conclude the matter, for example by considering the proposal by one observer to appoint “acting vice-chairs”. That view was echoed by the councillor from Cuba, who also expressed support for the latter proposal.

# 4 Closure of the Council session

4.1 The Secretary-General delivered the address available at: <http://council.itu.int/2024/wp-content/uploads/sites/4/2024/07/C24-ITU-SG-closing-speech.docx>.

4.2 The Chair delivered the address available at: <http://council.itu.int/2024/wp-content/uploads/sites/4/2024/08/C24-Statement-Chair-Council_closing-e.docx>.

4.3 A video was screened showcasing the highlights of the 2024 session of the Council.

4.4 The Chair of the Standing Committee on Administration and Management (ADM) said that, on completion of his two-year term of office as ADM chair, which had been a very intense but enriching experience, he wished sincerely to thank everyone who had supported him: the Vice-Chair, the elected officials, the entire secretariat, with special mention for the Secretary of the committee and the report-writers for their Herculean efforts, his predecessors, those councillors who had been particularly active in the preparatory work and/or chaired ad hoc groups, the Chair of the Council and his predecessor, the Swiss delegation and, last but not least, his very supportive family.

4.5 The Secretary-General awarded the Chair of the Council the ITU Medal, and for him as well as the Vice-Chair of the ADM committee a certificate of appreciation in recognition of their excellent leadership of the Council and the committee.

4.6 Several councillors, two of them speaking on behalf of their regional telecommunication organizations, praised the Chair for his patience and leadership during the 2024 session of the Council. They also thanked the Vice-Chair of the Council, the Chair and Vice-Chair of ADM, the elected officials, the Secretary of the Plenary and the entire secretariat for their valuable support, as well as the technical teams such as the interpreters and technicians who had helped to ensure the smooth running of the session.

4.7 The Chair declared the 2024 session of the Council closed.

The Secretary-General: The Chair:

D. BOGDAN-MARTIN F. SAUVAGE

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