|  |  |
| --- | --- |
|  | **Revision 1 to Document CWG-FHR-17/15** |
| **22 January 2024** |
| **English only** |
|  |  |
| Contribution from the Russian Federation, Armenia (Republic of), Belarus (Republic of), Kyrgyz Republic, Tajikistan (Republic of), and Uzbekistan (Republic of) | |
| PROPOSAL FOR THE REVISION OF COUNCIL RESOLUTION 925 "FINANCIAL CONDITIONS FOR THE PARTICIPATION OF THE UNITED NATIONS, THE SPECIALIZED AGENCIES AND OTHER INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATIONS IN THE CONFERENCES, ASSEMBLIES AND MEETINGS OF THE ITU" | |
| **Purpose**  This contribution presents proposals for amending the text of Council Resolution 925 (C-1985, last amendment C-19) "Financial conditions for the participation of the United Nations, the specialized agencies and other international organizations in conferences, assemblies and meetings of the ITU". The purpose of the proposals is to increase the accuracy and transparency of the procedures of exemption organizations dealing with telecommunications/ICT from defraying the expenditure of ITU conferences, assemblies and meetings in which they want to participate.  **Action required**  The Council Working Group on Financial and Human Resources is invited **to review and adopt** proposals for amendments to the text of Resolution 925 (C-1985, last amendment C19) "Financial conditions for the participation of the United Nations, the specialized agencies and other international organizations in conferences, assemblies and meetings of the ITU" in order **to submit them** **to the Council-24** for approval.  \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_  **References** *(if needed)*  *Council Resolution 925 (C-1985, last amendment C-19),* [*Council criteria for exemption(Rev. 2017)*](https://www.itu.int/hub/membership/our-members/exempted-entities/exemption-criteria/) | |

**1. Introduction**

The purpose of this document is to submit proposals for amending the text of Resolution 925 (C-1985, last amendment C-19) of the ITU Council "Financial conditions for the participation of the United Nations, the specialized agencies and other international organizations in conferences, assemblies and meetings of the ITU ", taking into account the results of the discussions at Council-22 and Council-23 on the formation of list of organizations exempted from defraying the expenditure of ITU conferences, assemblies and meetings in which they participate, during which the point of view was expressed that the criteria and procedure for their application for exempting such organizations from these fees should be sufficiently clear and transparent, should indicate the nature and degree of influence of each organization on the Union, and also, if possible, take into account the economic situation of the organizations that claim exemption from defraying the expenditure of ITU conferences and meetings in which they participate. It should also be taken into account that contributions for participation in ITU conferences, assemblies and meetings are part of the ITU budget, while about 130 organizations are currently exempt from the contributions mentioned above.

In addition, the document “Council Criteria for Exemption” from 2017 is posted on the ITU website without a number, authorship and exact date and place of approval and, both in name and content, cannot fully meet the objectives of providing the benefits discussed to interested organizations .

1. **Proposals**

Based on the foregoing, the proposed revisions to the text of Resolution 925 (below) are intended to clarify the circumstances to enable the Council to make an even more balanced decision to exempt certain organizations from all contributions to defraying the expenditure of ITU conferences and meetings in which they participate based on information provided by the Secretary General relating to the benefits and advantages which both ITU and a particular organization may receive as a result of their participation in the relevant activities.

**MOD:**

RESOLUTION 925 (C-1985, last amendment C-24)

Financial conditions for the participation of the United Nations, the specialized agencies and other international organizations in conferences, assemblies and meetings of the ITU

The ITU Council,

recalling

**MOD** a) that in accordance with Article 49 (paragraph 205) of the ITU Constitution, the relationship between the United Nations and the Union is defined in the Agreement concluded between these two organizations, which provides for the United Nations to be invited to participate in all conferences and assemblies of the Union, as well as in meetings of ITU Sector advisory and study groups and working bodies and all other meetings convened by the Union;

**ADD** b) that, in accordance with Article 43 (No. 194) of the ITU Constitution, Member States reserve the right, inter alia, to establish regional organizations for the purpose of settling telecommunication matters that may be resolved on a regional basis and are not in conflict with the ITU Constitution and Convention;

**ADD** c) that, in accordance with Article 50 (No. 206) of the ITU Constitution, the Union should cooperate with international organizations with related interests and activities in order to achieve full international coordination in the field of telecommunications,

considering

**MOD** *a)* that the Council, under the terms of No. 80 (Article 4) of the ITU Convention, is responsible for the coordination with all international organizations as referred to in Articles 49 and 50 of the Constitution, Article 23 (No. 269 A-D) of the Convention, and to this aim conclude, on behalf of the Union, provisional agreements with international organizations, on which the Plenipotentiary Conference shall take all necessary measures in accordance with the relevant provisions of No. 58j (Article 8) of the Constitution;

**NOC** *b)* that it is in the general interests of the specialized agencies in relation with the United Nations to cooperate within the limits of their powers in solving their common, related or complementary problems;

**NOC** *c)* that under the terms of No. 476 (Article 33) of the Convention, the Council may exempt “subject to reciprocity” certain international organizations from any share in defraying the expenses of ITU conferences, assemblies and meetings;

**MOD** *d)* that the only condition in such cases should be well-defined list of the benefits and advantages that both the ITU and the organization in question may derive from their mutual participation in the activities concerned;

**ADD** e) that objective criteria and procedures for their application should be formulated to exempt the above-mentioned organizations of an international character from defraying the expenditure of ITU conferences, assemblies and meetings in which they participate and to establish a list of such organizations to be submitted by the Secretary-General to the Council for approval;

**ADD** f) that account must be taken of the economic situation of organizations that claim exemption from defraying the expenditure of ITU conferences, assemblies and meetings in which they participate;

MOD g)

having regard to

**SUP\***

**ADD** a) Resolution 71 (Rev. Bucharest, 2022), which contains the Union's strategic plan for 2024-2027, including the strategic objectives, thematic priorities, and the products and services offered by the Union;

**ADD** b) Decision 5 (Rev. Bucharest, 2022), which defines the Union's financial resources for 2024-2027 and sets out objectives and measures to improve the efficiency and effectiveness of ITU;

**ADD** c) Resolution 25 (Rev. Bucharest, 2022), which decided to promote cooperation to optimize the use of resources and avoid duplication between ITU regional and area offices, relevant regional organizations, UN agencies, and other international organizations involved in development and financing of telecommunications;

**ADD** d) Article 33 of the ITU Convention (No. 476), which states that the Organizations referred to in Nos. 269A-269E of the Convention, and other organizations also referred to in Chapter II of the Convention (other than those mutually exempted by the Council) and the Sector Members referred to in No. 230 of the Convention shall share in the costs of conferences, assemblies and meetings, in which they participate, on the basis of the costs of those conferences and meetings and in accordance with the Financial Regulations;

**ADD** e) Article 7, paragraph b) of the Financial Regulations and Financial Rules of the ITU, which states that the contributions of Member States, entities and organizations that should contribute to the costs of conferences and meetings in accordance with the relevant provisions of the Constitution and the Convention" , are part of ITU revenues,

MOD resolves

**NOC** 1 that the United Nations shall be exempted from all contributions to defraying the expenditure of ITU conferences, assemblies and meetings in which it participates;

**MOD** 2 that, subject to the provisions of Articles 23, 24 and 25 of the Convention and the General Rules of conferences, assemblies and meetings of the Union, the specialized agencies of the United Nations, the International Atomic Energy Agency and other organizations referred to in these articles allowed to take part in conferences, assemblies and meetings of the Union as observers in an advisory capacity;

**MOD** 3 that, provided they accord reciprocity to the Union, the UN specialized agencies, the International Atomic Energy Agency and other organizations in accordance with Nos 269A–269D (Article 23), № 278 (Article 24), № 297 (Article 25), Chapter II of the Convention shall be exempted from all contributions to defraying the expenditure of any ITU conferences, assemblies and meetings in which they participate, and the rest of the organizations listed in Chapter II of the Convention may be exempted from defraying the expenditure of ITU conferences, assemblies and meetings in which they participate, subject to the approval of the Council (No. 476 of the Convention);

**NOC** 4 that liberation organizations, recognised by the United Nations, in accordance with Resolution 6 (Kyoto, 1994) may attend at any time ITU conferences, assemblies and meetings as observers and shall be exempted from all contributions to defraying the expenditure of such ITU conferences, assemblies and meetings;

**MOD** instructs the Secretary-General:

**MOD** 1 in accordance with Nos 3 and 4 above, generate and update, as necessary, a list of organizations exempt from all contributions to cover the costs of ITU conferences, assemblies and meetings, as well as organizations entitled to exemption from defraying the expenditure of ITU conferences, assemblies and meetings in which they participate, as decided by the Council in accordance with the criteria contained in the Annex to this resolution. The list comprises the following sections:

a) regional telecommunication organizations;

b) intergovernmental organizations operating satellite systems;

c) specialized agencies of the United Nations and the International Atomic Energy Agency;

d) liberation organizations recognized by the United Nations;

e) other associations and international organizations dealing with matters in the field of telecommunications/ICTs, exempted from all defraying the expenditure of ITU conferences, assemblies and meetings in which they participate as decided by the Council,

**MOD** 2 to present the scroll of organizations, entitled, by decision of the Council, to exempt from defraying the expenditure of ITU conferences, assemblies and meetings in which they participate, in accordance with No. 1e of this section, to the Council for consideration and approval;

**MOD** 3 maintain and post and, as necessary, update a list of all organizations exempt from defraying the expenditure of ITU conferences, assemblies and meetings in which they participate, including posting on the ITU website, as approved by the Council;

**MOD** 4 to report to the Council on measures to implement this Resolution including a list of benefits and advantages, in accordance with paragraph d) of section "*taking into account*" above, received by ITU from the participation of organizations exempt from defraying the expenditure of ITU conferences, assemblies and meetings in which they participate, as a result of their participation in relevant ITU activities;

**SUP** ADD instructs the Council

ADD to consider the list of organizations compiled by the Secretary General (in accordance with paragraph 2 of the section *instructs the Secretary General*) that are entitled to exemption from defraying the expenditure of ITU conferences, assemblies and meetings in which they participate in accordance with the criteria reflected in the Annex to this resolution, and adopt an appropriate decision, taking into account the views/comments expressed by the Secretary General.

**SUP**

ADD Annex

**MOD** Criteria and procedure for **Exemption of organizations of an international character**  from defraying the expenditure of ITU conferences, assemblies and meetings in which they participate[[1]](#footnote-1)

SUP **MOD Criteria**

SUP

**MOD** To fulfill the conditions which lead to a reciprocal arrangement, the organization concerned shall meet *all* of the following criteria:

**MOD** - be an organization of international character dealing with telecommunications/ICT issues and adhering to the provisions of the ITU Constitution and Convention;

**MOD** - be a legally-recognized as a non-profit organization, representing members which also have non-profit status;

**MOD** - have a significant presence and activities of its membership, whose participation in ITU activities would be beneficial to the aims of the Union;

**MOD** - allow ITU to be represented at and participate in the organization’s meetings free of charge and with the rights and benefits available to itsmembers;

**MOD** - allow ITU access to relevant documentation of the organization, including information available only to its members;

**ADD** - reflect the expected mutual benefits in the exemption application: benefits for the ITU from the participation of the organization in its activities; and the benefits arising from ITU's participation in the activities of the organization.

**MOD Procedure for release defraying the expenditure of ITU conferences and meetings in which organisation participates**

**MOD** 1. An organization applies to ITU for exemption from defraying the expenditure of ITU conferences, assemblies and meetings in which it plans participate Each application for exemption shall be submitted, in writing, to the Secretary-General.

**ADD** 2. The application for exemption must contain provisions justifying the application, including a list of mutual benefits.

**MOD**. 3 The Secretary-General will examine an organization's request for defraying the expenditure of ITU conferences, assemblies and meetings in which it plans participate, according to the criteria set out above and will report to the forthcoming session of Council, as appropriate.

**ADD** 4. The Secretary-General includes the organization in the list of organizations eligible for exemption from defraying the expenditure of ITU conferences, assemblies and meetings in which it plans participate, for approval by the upcoming session of the Council, expressing his opinion/comments on the possibility and appropriateness of exempting the specified organization from contributions (section 2 instructs the Secretary General).

**MOD** 5 In reaching a decision as to the granting of an exemption, from defraying the expenditure of ITU conferences, assemblies and meetings in which it plans participate the Council shall take account of views expressed by the Secretary-General. Such views shall identify: the advantages for ITU of participation of the organization in ITU’s activities; the benefits arising from participation of ITU in the activities of the organization.

**MOD** 6. If the organization's application for exemption from defraying the expenditure of ITU conferences, assemblies and meetings in which it plans participate is approved by the Council, it will take immediate effect from the date of the plenary meeting at which the decision is taken. , The exemption shall not be granted retroactively unless the Council decided otherwise in exceptional circumstances.

**MOD** 7. Organizations indebted to ITU cannot be exempted by the Council from defraying the expenditure of ITU conferences, assemblies and meetings in which it plans participate, they remain liable for any amounts due.

**MOD** 8 The exemption shall be valid until the following plenipotentiary conference, although the Council may at any time decideto revoke the the organization's exemption status defraying the expenditure of ITU conferences, assemblies and meetings as an organization which no longer fulfills the criteria noted above. Such a decision may be taken by the Council on the basis of information from the ITU Secretary-General or input received.

**MOD** 9. Each plenipotentiary conference may review the list of organizations exempted from defraying the expenditure of ITU conferences, assemblies and meetings in which they participate and decide which of them will continue to benefit the status of exempted from defraying the expenditure of ITU conferences, assemblies and meetings.

**MOD** 10 The list of exempted entities organizations exempted from defraying the expenditure of ITU conferences, assemblies and meetings in which they participate shall be made publicly available on the ITU website.

1. *[Council criteria for exemption (Rev. 2017)](https://www.itu.int/hub/membership/our-members/exempted-entities/exemption-criteria/)*

   <https://www.itu.int/hub/membership/our-members/exempted-entities/exemption-criteria/> [↑](#footnote-ref-1)