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ITU PLENIPOTENTIARY CONFERENCE 2014

BUSAN, KOREA

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TENTH PLENARY

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>> CHAIRMAN: Good morning, ladies and gentlemen. Please take your seats. We will soon begin our 10th Plenary meeting. Please be seated.

Please, put on your headset.

Thank you. The 10th Plenary meeting is called to order.

I hope you had a good rest yesterday, and you enjoyed the fireworks which we enjoyed Saturday night.

So it was marvelous, wasn't it? Yeah, I hope all of you enjoyed that beautiful scene.

And we did a lot of work, actually, last week. So let me summarize what we have done. First, we elected new ITU management team. Congratulations again to the members of the new management team. Congratulations.

(Applause.)

>> CHAIRMAN: And we have heard 106 policy statements. All of those policy statements actually gave us a kind of idea and insight which we can use for our countries and for the whole Union. Thank you very much for your very informative and insight full policy statements. Thank you.

And we launched ITU's 150th anniversary celebration. We celebrated U.N. day on Friday. That was also Zambia's Independence Day. Congratulations again, Zambia.

(Applause.)

>> CHAIRMAN: There were over 25 evening receptions, 12 lunches, and eight sponsored coffee breaks. I would like to express my special thanks to Busan City Government for hosting Saturday's dinner and the United States of America and Zambia for hosting Sunday receptions.

(Applause.)

>> CHAIRMAN: So with that, this week is actually, this is kind of the beginning of the week, too. It's amazing, isn't it? We already finished the first week. Today we will do our elections for Council and RRB. And Tuesday we have a full schedule of GEM-Tech evenings. We have 2020 related issues and most importantly, from this week real substantive work of the conference will go on.

Actually, it already has begun. Last week committees and Working Group of the Plenary met. I heard that all Committees and Working Group of the Plenary made significant progress on important matters. Congratulations for that achievement. But at the same time there are many issues we have to address. We still need a lot of meetings and a lot of compromise. The best thing I could find last week was a kinds of spirit of cooperation in this room. I hope we can even strengthen that spirit throughout this whole week 2 and week 3 so we can make good compromise and good outcome throughout the discussions we will have in the Committee level and eventually in the Plenary.

Having said that, I would like to propose this agenda, draft Andy of the 10th Plenary to you. The first Agenda Item, of course, is the approval of the agenda. I submit this Draft Agenda for your approval. Any comments?

I see none. So the Agenda is approved.

As you know, before moving to the second Agenda Item, as you know, today is the kind of the deadline for informing the definitive choice of the to the Secretariat. That was 8:00 a.m. this morning, here Busan time. So I would like to invite Secretary-General to inform us on the results of the definitive choice of contributing units. Secretary-General, you have the floor. Thank you.

>> SECRETARY-GENERAL: Thank you, Mr. Chairman and thank you to you all. Indeed the deadline was 7:59 a.m. Busan time this morning, 2359 Geneva time.

That was the deadline for the announcement of the definitive choice of contributory units.

We were very pleased to see that a number of countries have increased their contributions by a total of five units. And three eighth contributory units. It is, however, a real disappointment to see a number of other countries reducing their number of contributory units by a total of 16. Sixteen units.

And frankly, we fully understand the difficult economic circumstances that many countries are facing today and the austerity measures that are in place in many others. But this nonetheless means that we now face a reduction in our budget for the next four years of ten and five/eighths contributory units amounting to a total shortfall of 13.5 million Swiss francs for the Union from 2016 to 2019.

My dear colleagues, this reduction puts us in a real difficult situation. For the next four years period, of course, but especially for the next 36 hours as under the current financial rules and procedures we have only 36 hours to present you with a balanced financial plan, taking into account the definitive number of credibility inventory units from membership.

Thirty-six hours. I'm sure that you can appreciate the difficulty of doing so. As this great Union takes its first steps into the next 150 years, perhaps it is time to review our processes and procedures so that we can act more efficiently. And respond to changes which is inevitable in a measured and strategic fashion.

This is the time for unity, I believe. We must unite as a Union to achieve success together. On our own we are weak, but together we can be strong. Our goal as we look ahead is to fulfill the important objectives that you, the membership, set us and to do this we need to have a clear and reliable picture on how those objectives are funded. Therefore, by setting the deadlines in the middle of the conference like this, while we have already had the draft financial plan approved by the ITU Council back in May and we know that I have already set the level of contributory units as an assumption for no change.

The current system made sense when we were changing constantly the contributory unit. Now that we know the contributory unit ahead of time there is no basis for waiting for such a long period and coming in the middle of the Council. And it puts countries that have reduced in a difficult situation. I know we had four contributory units reduction by France right after elections. We had five contributory units reduction by Canada right after elections. I know that their intention was not to wait elections to pass before they do this. But it puts them in a very difficult situation. It could appear obviously like foul play, whereas it is not. I'm sure; I know these countries. They are very Honorable people.

But the timing simply is not in their favor. And, therefore, I believe that choosing a timing of that limits one month before Plenipotentiary Conference, which is still within the current framework, because the constitution of the convention says that the latest date in which it has to be, but it could be any time before. And, therefore, I urge you to review those procedures and rules so that you can really make it easier for the current management team.

You have chosen in electing a new management team to take the -- you have gone for stability in terms of management. It would also seem to make sense to choose stability in terms of funding the work of the Union.

And I would like us to think about new revenue-generating activities for the coming years. We appreciate every franc, every dollar, every pound that is given to us by Member States to pursue the mandate you set us, and we appreciate the difficulties facing any Member States. But we would also appreciate ideas from membership about how we can improve the financial position of the Union.

To be frank, I was fortunate over the past eight years. I was able to balance the budget and I had strong support from you. I would like you to give the same support for the membership to come. For the management to come.

Thanks to that strong support I am leaving the organization in good health. We have twice the minimum required of 10 percent reserves. The organization is healthy. So I would like us to make sure that we are dealing with elections from contributory unit's choice. It simply makes everyone comfortable. We all remember Saudi Arabia in Guadalajara in 2010 proposing to increase, an increase of three contributory units to 13. And they kept their word after the elections, no matter what the results were. Minister of Saudi Arabia took the floor and said we continue to support this organization, and they continued so on.

(Applause.)

>> SECRETARY-GENERAL: I think that we really have to make sure that we, again we are dealing with the elections from the contributory unit so that people won't think, no one will think that it is blackmail. It is unnecessary. I know members will not do that. It is simply an appearance that will make them uncomfortable. Even in taking the decision, knowing very surely that those decisions has been taken long enough because of their local domestic situation, and that knowing that those countries are very much supporting the organization. That's why they are putting forward candidates. That means that they are taking seriously the situation, first of all. We also understand in that situation, in order to avoid putting them in that kind of difficulties, please let's review this. I am comfortable in saying this because I am not asking something to be done for me during my administration. It is for the next administration. It will really make their life easy.

One last plea. Please, give the management a chance to look for new revenue mechanisms and come to you with it, so that you can look at that positively. I know it will be too late for this conference, but if you give them a chance to look for it and come to the Council, the next Council, I'm sure they will be able to come with some innovative ideas that will help management. This is my plea to you. This is very important for the stability of the organization, our organization, our Union that needs to continue to shine. Thank you very much.

(Applause.)

>> CHAIRMAN: Thank you, Secretary-General.

I think the financial predictability is very important to set up a sound financial plan and Strategic Plan, too. Actually we put a lot of burden on Committee 6. We know that we have a very able Chairman for Committee 6. ITU staff are quite capable of dealing with these type of issues.

It seems to me that what the Secretary-General has suggested to set the deadline one month before, something like that, I don't know what is the right time. But I think Committee 6 can discuss this matter to increase the financial predict interest, so they can -- predict ability so they can come up with a better financial plan, Strategic Plan.

At the same time this august body has been given a mandate through this Plenary and by its constitution and convention, and there is a growing demand on the work of ITU which requires a lot of financial resources.

So I think we should be very creative. This body is not the Government. So they do not have fiscal policy or monetary policy. I think this is the time we need to collect our wisdom together and think about how we can support this Union so we can support, it can improve on its mission which has been given by our Member States.

The Secretary-General would like the floor again. I would like to give the floor to the SG.

>> SECRETARY-GENERAL: Mr. Chairman, I think it's fair for me also to come back to the fact that our three largest donors of the Union have continued to give us the trust, the United States of America, Japan, with 30 units. And Germany, with 25 units. They have kept their contributory units at the same level. That's something to be applauded. Thank you.

(Applause.)

>> CHAIRMAN: Thank you, our main contributors, the U.S., Japan, and Germany.

If you want to make any comments, I just want to open the floor. Even though we have to move to the next Agenda Item. If any country wants to make a contribution or comment on this issue, this is your chance to make your voice be heard.

South Africa, you have the floor.

>> SOUTH AFRICA: Thank you, Chairperson. South Africa would like to confirm that we are maintaining our contributory units to the ITU. We are a relatively small country. I think we are relatively generous in our contribution. We believe that the work of the ITU is extremely important for the development of all of our economies and for the socioeconomic development in general globally.

Thank you, Chairperson.

>> CHAIRMAN: Thank you for your commitment to the work of ITU. UAE, you have the floor.

>> UNITED ARAB EMIRATES: Thank you, Chairman. Chairman, I just wanted to add one thing --

I thank the Secretary-General for what he has said. And (audio difficulty.)

-- for the years to come.

>> CHAIRMAN: There was some interpretation problems. Mr. Al Ghanim, it would be appreciated if you make your statement again. UAE, you have the floor.

>> UNITED ARAB EMIRATES: Yes. I will repeat again. Thank you. I just said that in reply to the Secretary-General's comments regarding asking the conference to approve or to recommend or to support the new management team and the Council, to look into additional revenue streams and give it to look into over the next period. It's something we support. Thank you.

>> CHAIRMAN: Thank you, UAE. I would like to give the floor to Nigeria, and then we close and we have to move on to the election. Nigeria, you have the floor.

>> NIGERIA: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. We in Nigeria, as we have always been committed to the cause of ITU. We want to assure you we will maintain our contributory unit and we want to really assure you also that we will continue to support the new management and we want to urge your member administrations to support the new management team in order to move ITU to greater heights. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

>> CHAIRMAN: Thank you, Nigeria. Pakistan, please.

>> PAKISTAN: Thank you, Honorable Chairman. We fully support the suggestions that are being offered regarding maintaining our contribution. It is a very good idea to rule this process and bifurcate it from the Plenipotentiary.

Thank you.

>> CHAIRMAN: Thank you, Pakistan. Now I close the discussion on this matter. I would like to give the floor again to the Secretary-General to finalize the discussion on this matter. SG, you have the floor.

>> SECRETARY-GENERAL: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. As you know, the bad news is that there have been reductions. But the good news is that you cannot decrease anymore from this deadline. But you can increase. Chairman, if anyone wants to take the floor, give them the floor if they say I want to increase.

(Laughter.)

>> SECRETARY-GENERAL: Thank you very much.

(Applause.)

>> CHAIRMAN: Thank you.

For that cause, even though after Com 6 would submit the financial plan, if you want to increase your contributory unit, we will accept that.

Having said that we will move to the next Agenda Item, Agenda Item number 2, elections of the members of the radio regulation board and the Member States of the Council.

Last time I actually read the summarized version, but this is a new week. I need to refresh your memory. I will read the full instructions. Please allow me to read the whole one.

We will now proceed with the elections for members of the Radio Regulations Board and the Member States of Council.

We will follow the same basic procedure as the other elections: the room has been divided into 5 blocks having a voting station in each. The stations are identified by numbers from 1 to 5 and are placed conveniently within each block:

Document 102(Rev.2), listing all Member States having the right to vote within each block, has been published on the website. A floor plan indicating the location of voting stations is available on the screens to facilitate the voting process. Additionally, you are requested to bring your badge to the voting station and present it to the staff and tellers for verification.

I would like to give the floor to the Chairman of Committee 2 to inform the Plenary of any changes or additions in transfer of powers or proxies.

>> TIMOFEY KIM: Many thanks. Good morning, sir, Distinguished Delegate, yes, we have additional information on transfer of power, proxy vote. Panama gave Costa Rica its proxy vote for this conference. Today they were unable to attend the vote. This information is in the appropriate documents.

Right now we have three transfers of power from Malta to Netherlands, from Guinea to Mali and ice land to Denmark. Also a new one from Panama to Costa Rica. Thank you.

>> CHAIRMAN: Thank you, Chairman of Committee 2. There was -- it is Malta to the Netherlands, Iceland to Denmark, Guinea to Mali and Panama to Costa Rica.

So we have five transfers of power.

Those Member States who have a transfer of powers or proxy and who will therefore be casting two ballots for each election, are invited to cast each set of ballots at the voting station of the respective Member State, according to the roll call that will be read by the Secretary.

I would now like to introduce the 5 tellers who will oversee this election:

Region A: Ms Meredith Leter, Suriname, at ballot box 1.

Region B: Mr Raza Qureshi, Denmark, at ballot 2.

Region C: Ms Anna Rogozinska, Poland, at ballot 3.

Region D: Mr Abdoulaye Ouedraogo, at ballot 4.

Region E: Mr Saud Al Roweilly, at ballot 5.

The tellers are already in position, one at each of the voting stations.

The secretariat will now begin the process of distributing two separate ballot papers, one for each election, together with instructions on how to complete the ballot paper, and a pen, if you do not already have one from a previous round, to all Delegations having the right to vote and present in the room. Delegations having received a transfer of powers or a proxy from another delegation will receive four ballot papers. The ballot paper for members of the RRB is green and the one for the Council is white.

RRB is green and Council is white.

Each delegation is requested to complete both ballot papers at the same time so that both ballot papers may be put in the ballot box one after the other.

I would like to remind you that, in accordance with No. 131 of the General Rules, once the voting has begun, it cannot be interrupted, unless a point of order has been raised in connection with the way in which the vote is being taken. The voting will begin as soon as I announce its beginning and will end when I announce the results of the vote.

In accordance with constant ITU practice, the doors of this meeting room will therefore remain closed throughout the voting procedure, and will be opened again once the casting of ballots has been completed and the ballot boxes are moved to the green room for counting. You may leave the room but you will not be allowed to come back in.

Before completing your ballot paper, I strongly recommend that you carefully read the instructions in order not to have your vote declared invalid.

The ballot papers carry a computer-generated identification box in the lower right hand corner which permits the papers to be identified as being used in a specific round for a specific election. The box is identical on all ballot papers in the specific round. It is not possible to use the box to identify who has completed any specific ballot paper.

One final remark about the process, in the event that a delegate makes a mistake when completing a ballot paper once the vote has started, the delegate should raise the point of order paddle.

The secretariat will collect and destroy the ballot paper in question and provide a fresh one.

When the voting starts, the Secretary of the meeting will call out the French short names of the Member States having the right to vote in the French alphabetical order within each block by groups of 15 at a time. One representative of each Member State with the right to vote is invited to go to their voting station with both ballot papers and their badge as they are called by the Secretary.

At the end of the voting, when all Member States having the right to vote have been called, the Secretary will then call on those, hopefully few, who have not cast their vote and give them a second and last chance to do so. Following this last call, I will declare the vote closed.

Is everybody is comfortable with this? Are there any questions?

Before starting the vote, may I ask if all delegations having the right to vote have received two ballot papers, one green and one white. If not, could you.

Raise your hand so we can help you to get your ballot papers?

I believe all delegations having the right to vote now have their ballot papers.

Security, could you please close the doors to the Plenary room?

I now declare that the voting has begun and give the floor to the Secretary.

>> SECRETARY OF THE PLENARY: Thank you very much, Mr. Chairman and good morning ladies and gentlemen. I shall now call out the list of Member States having the right to vote in French alphabetical order within each Voting Station by group of 15.

Please refer to the document containing the designation of Member States by Voting Station. That's document 102 Rev 2.

You are invited to kindly use the pens that you were given last week when you are voting. You are also reminded to please mark an X, and only an X when you are voting.

When you are called to your ballot station, kindly bring your badge which will be scanned. We invite you to please return to your seats.

So the Delegations can see where the five Voting Stations are located, I would ask the staff at those stations to kindly hold up the ballot boxes. The ballot boxes are transparent so that you can see that they are empty. I will begin with ballot box number 1.

Ballot box number 2.

Ballot box number 3.

Ballot box number 4.

And ballot box number 5, which is all the way in the back of the room.

I will now begin calling those countries in Voting Station Number one.

Afghanistan.

Albania.

Algeria.

Germany.

Andorra.

Angola.

Saudi Arabia.

Australia.

Bahrain.

Bangladesh.

Barbados.

Belarus.

Belgium.

Belize.

Benin.

Voting Station Number 2.

Argentina.

Armenia.

Austria.

Azerbaijan.

Bahamas.

Brazil.

Burkina Faso.

Burundi.

Cabo Verde.

Cambodia.

Cameroon.

Chile.

Colombia.

Comoros.

Congo.

Voting Station Number 3.

United States.

Georgia.

Ghana.

Greece.

Grenada.

Guatemala.

Guinea.

Equatorial Guinea.

Guinea-Bissau.

Guyana.

Haiti.

Hungary.

Islamic Republic of Iran.

Iraq.

Israel.

Voting Station Number 4.

France.

Gabon.

India.

Indonesia.

Ireland.

Iceland.

Jordan.

Kazakhstan.

Kenya.

Kiribati.

Kuwait.

Lao People's Democratic Republic.

Lesotho.

Latvia.

The Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia.

Voting Station Number 5.

Philippines.

Poland.

Qatar.

Syrian Arab Republic.

Democratic Republic of Congo.

Kyrgyzstan.

Democratic People's Republic of Korea.

Slovakia.

Czech Republic.

Romania.

United Kingdom.

Rwanda.

Saint Lucia.

San Marino.

State of Samoa.

Station number 1.

Bhutan.

Bolivia.

Bosnia and Herzegovina.

Botswana.

Brunei Darussalam.

Bulgaria.

Canada.

Central African Republic.

China.

Cyprus.

Vatican.

Republic of Korea.

United Arab Emirates.

Voting Station Number 2.

Costa Rica.

Côte D'Ivoire.

Croatia.

Cuba.

Denmark.

Djibouti.

Dominican Republic.

Egypt.

El Salvador.

Ecuador.

Eritrea.

Spain.

Estonia.

Ethiopia.

Russian Federation.

Voting Station Number 3.

Italy.

Jamaica.

Japan.

Lebanon.

Liechtenstein.

Lithuania.

Luxembourg.

Madagascar.

Malaysia.

Malawi.

Maldives.

Mali.

Malta.

Morocco.

Moldova.

Voting Station Number 4.

Libya.

Mauritius.

Mauritania.

Mexico.

Mongolia.

Montenegro.

Myanmar.

Oman.

Uganda.

Pakistan.

Panama.

Papua New Guinea.

Paraguay.

The Netherlands.

Peru.

Voting Station Number 5.

Sao Tome and Principe.

Senegal.

Serbia.

Seychelles.

Sierra Leone.

Singapore.

Slovenia.

Somalia.

Sudan.

South Sudan.

Sri Lanka.

Republic of South Africa.

Sweden.

Switzerland.

Suriname.

Voting Station Number 2.

Fiji.

Finland.

Voting Station Number 3.

Monaco.

Mozambique.

Namibia.

Republic of Nepal.

Nicaragua.

Niger.

Nigeria.

Norway.

New Zealand.

Uzbekistan.

Voting Station Number 4.

Portugal.

And Voting Station Number 5.

Swaziland.

Tajikistan.

Tanzania.

Chad.

Thailand.

Timor-Leste.

Togo.

Tonga.

Trinidad and Tobago.

Tunisia.

Turkmenistan.

Turkey.

Ukraine.

Uruguay.

Vanuatu.

Venezuela.

Vietnam.

Yemen.

Zambia.

Zimbabwe.

Chairman, this completes my first call. Thank you.

>> CHAIRMAN: Thank you, Secretary of the Plenary. When I read the instructions, I said that there were five transfers of powers. Let me correct myself. Actually, there are four transfers of powers. Sorry for that. Sorry for the confusion.

(Pause for voting.)

>> SECRETARY OF THE PLENARY: Chairman, I will now begin the second and final call for Voting Stations 1, 2, 3, and 4 and I will come back afterwards to Voting Station Number 5.

Voting Station Number one, Afghanistan, Albania, Bangladesh and Belize.

Voting Station Number 2, El Salvador, Ecuador, Eritrea.

Voting Station Number 3, Equatorial Guinea, Nicaragua.

Voting Station Number 4, Kiribati, Libya.

Myanmar, Oman, Papua New Guinea and Peru.

Afterwards to Voting Station Number 5. Thank you.

Chairman, this is the second and final call for Voting Station Number 5.

Syrian Arab Republic, the Democratic Republic of Korea, Sao Tome and Principe, Tajikistan, Turkmenistan.

This completes the second and final call. Thank you.

>> CHAIRMAN: Thank you, Secretary of the Plenary. Thank you very much.

>> SECRETARY OF THE PLENARY: Chairman, as I mentioned, I completed my second and final calm. I wish to invite any Delegation present with the right to vote to please deposit their ballot papers now as we will soon close the voting boxes. So if you have not yet voted, please do so now.

Thank you very much.

>> CHAIRMAN: Thank you, Secretary of the Plenary. We will wait a few more minutes because still our colleagues are voting:

All of our colleagues have made their voting. I now declare that the casting of ballots is closed. I will ask the Tellers and ITU staff to please proceed to the Green Room with the ballot boxes.

Under the supervision of the tellers, in the Green Room, the ballot boxes will now be opened and the ballot papers counted. The results will be announced as soon as they are available.

While the tellers are tabulating the votes, I would like to invite His Excellency Mr Wei Miao, Minister, Ministry Of Industry and Information Technology of China to make a few remarks to the Plenary. China, you have the floor.

>> CHINA: Mr. Chairman, Secretary-General Dr. Touré, Delegates, please allow me to take this opportunity to congratulate the newly elected ITU management.

In the past years under the leadership of the Secretary-General, ITU has actively promoted global ICT development and elevated the role of ICT in economic growth and social progress.

At present, we see a new round of ICT revolution and industrial innovations, leading to profound changes in the quest of a smart grid development of all economic and social sectors.

The United Nations is formulating its agenda beyond 2015, and ITU will shoulder a more important task for sustainable development. These are both -- there are both opportunities and challenges. We expect ITU, based on its Strategic Plan 2016 to 2019, to seize opportunities of the times and innovate its way to development and make new contributions in the building of an Information Society.

The Chinese Government attaches great importance to the ICT development and China will work together with other countries and parties and provide more supports and help to ITU. On behalf of the Chinese Government, I am happy to announce that China will provide ITU with a voluntary donation of 2 million U.S. dollars in the coming four years.

(Applause.)

>> CHINA: In the Council meeting in May, we have announced the increase of two contributory units and increased the contributory unit to 14 units. We will also support ITU in its work on technology and capacity building.

We believe that this conference will become a milestone in the history of ITU and will turn a new chapter in the global ICT development.

Finally, I wish this conference a complete success. Thank you. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

(Applause.)

>> CHAIRMAN: Thank you Minister. On behalf of the ITU family, I would like to express our deep appreciation for your financial contribution to the work of ITU. At the same time congratulations on the election of Mr. Houlin Zhao as Chair of the ITU. Thank you very much.

I would like to give the floor to the Secretary-General, SG, you have the floor.

>> SECRETARY-GENERAL: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I simply want to thank China for its continuous support to the Union and contributions, financial contribution as well.

Over the past years, China has constantly, consistently been supporting the Union. And I believe the election of Mr. Zhao as Secretary-General is a testimony of our deep trust also in China and in Mr. Zhao on a personal level.

And I would like to also thank China and restate to the Minister my personal satisfaction over the past eight years for having a complete, open, and transparent and friendly relationship with Mr. Zhao that has led to the successful tenure of my time here as Secretary-General.

I would like you to know that your representative here in this organization has performed consistently well and with the greatest honesty. Mr. Zhao has constantly behaved himself as Deputy Secretary-General. He played that role so well.

I do not think of one single time over 16 years pared when we had a difference of opinion or a doubt in our relationship. This is a great man who has done that. I would simply like to thank him in front of you, Mr. Minister, so that you relay this to the management of your country. It is important what we do when we are doing well, all of us, as elected officials. When we are doing well, the credit goes to us. But when we do poorly, the blame goes to our countries, our nations, and our continent.

So at every given moment we have to continue to be disciplined and behave well so that our nations and countries and continents be continuously respected. And in that sense you can proudly report back, Mr. Minister, that Mr. Zhao has constantly behaved in that manner.

And it has been a personal pleasure to work with him and with China. Thank you very much.

(Applause.)

>> CHAIRMAN: Thank you, Secretary-General. Now I would like to invite His Excellency Mr. Ivo Ivanovski, the Minister of the Information Society and Administration of The Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia. Macedonia, you have the floor.

>> THE FORMER YUGOSLAV REPUBLIC OF MACEDONIA: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I would like to use this opportunity to also congratulate the Secretary-General Elect, Mr. Houlin Zhao. I wish him all the success in the upcoming term. I would also like to congratulate the under Secretary-General Elect, Mr. Malcolm Johnson as well as the three Directors we elected last week.

I would like to thank the Republic of Korea for hosting this year's Plenipotentiary meeting of ITU. This is a huge commitment. We truly appreciate it. I must say that you have done an incredible job so far. Thank you for that.

Ladies and gentlemen, the Republic of Macedonia has been committed to ITU for many years and have been very active in the last eight years where we have contributed, followed the recommendations and the standards, followed the policies that have come from all the Forums of ITU. With the ICT strategy that Macedonia set up in 2007 we were able to revolutionize the ICT sector and our Information Society in general. From computer for every pupil in the schools, broadband connectivity for each school. Free broadband WiFi in 680 rural areas, liberalizing the ICT sector, to analog, to overnight TV switch off and releasing the digital dividend in 2013 while issuing a 4G license for all mobile operators in 700-megahertz spectrum. We have already two mobile operators that run 4G and expect another by the end of this year.

For the next four years we have a diverse action plan to create a digital sustainable economy for Macedonia with two strategies, one being a short-term strategy for ICT with 2017 goal, and another one with a little bit longer 2020 long-term strategy for Macedonia.

Broadband Internet is in the heart, to do so in both of these strategies. Dear colleagues, the Republic of Macedonia last month hosted the first Ministerial Balkan Forum on Internet Governance where the majority of the Balkan countries had the opportunity to exchange their views on Internet governance. It was a unique opportunity to discuss the challenges that are ahead of us on this important topic. Unfortunately, with the action of the human kind in the history, the term Balkanization has been created, where usually it is an association with fragmentation.

We, the Balkan countries, would like to change this association and give it a positive connotation to the word Balkanization. That is why at the end of the conference we propose that the Balkan countries sign a declaration on Internet governance which shows that when it comes to the Internet governance, the Balkan countries are united and we all support the multistakeholder model in this region and I would urge other regions to follow with the billion can countries.

I would like to share our Committee to the International Telecommunication Union.

And our commitment to creating the multistakeholder model for Internet governance. Mr. Chairman, on behalf of the Government of the Republic of Macedonia, I would assure you of our strong support to assure the success of the Union and the success of this conference.

At the end, I would like to thank my dear friend, Vice Chair of the broadband commission and the Secretary-General of the ITU, Dr. Hamadoun Touré, for his personal support to me and the support that he gave to my country, Macedonia, in his term. I wish him all the best in his future endeavors and I am sure he will be as successful as he has been as Secretary-General of the ITU.

I know in a couple occasions he has offered to be a driver, if he cannot find a job. I would like to offer Dr. Touré a position to be my driver, because with his vision and his talent and his leadership, I'm confident he will only take me to the right destinations. Thank you very much.

(Applause.)

>> CHAIRMAN: Thank you, Minister. We may need to change the definition of Balkanization at the Wikipedia. Some of you just write down and submit it. Balkanization does not mean anymore the kind of diversion of ideas. Rather it is a kind of unification of ideas and harmonization of ideas.

As we mentioned, I think there is a general consensus around the world that the multistakeholder model is the right direction to go regarding Internet governance and that view is shared in this room, too.

I think that there is one thing you should consider very carefully. If you hire Dr. Touré as your chauffeur, you have a, you have someone who should be paid more than you. Be careful about that.

Having said that, I would like to propose a 30-minute coffee break because we need some time to count the ballot papers. This will be offered kindly by Saudi Arabia. Thank you very much for this coffee break.

(Applause.)

>> CHAIRMAN: So we will meet again at 10:20, 10:20 at this conference room. Thank you very much.

(Coffee break.)

>> ANNOUNCER: Ladies and gentlemen, the Plenary meeting will resume shortly. Please be seated and put on your headset. Once again, the Plenary meeting will resume shortly. Please be seated and put on your headset. Thank you.

>> CHAIRMAN: Ladies and gentlemen, could you put your headset on?

Okay, thank you. Thank you very much. Actually, when I announced the coffee break, I expected that we could get the results by this time. But apparently it is not the case. So I heard from our colleague that it may take 20 more minutes. Twenty more minutes. I would like to propose to extend our coffee break to 5 to 11. 5 to 11. We will meet again here 5 to 11.

Sorry for this, and thank you for your understanding. Thank you very much.

(Applause.)

(Coffee break.)

>> CHAIRMAN: Ladies and gentlemen, could you put your headsets on?

Thank you. Thank you for your understanding for this extended coffee break.

I am not quite sure this is good news or bad news when I just announced the extension of the coffee break, you gave me applause. Let me try this again.

Because the situation is like this. Actually, the secretariat has brought two counting machines, electric counting machines here in Busan, but one machine is out of order. So we are doing this counting with just one machine.

We actually, when I first announced the extension of the coffee break, we thought that 30 minutes would be enough to finish the counting, but the case is different.

What I heard is actually we may need one more hour for counting.

So my suggestion is I would like to suspend this Plenary until half past 12. Then give the Chairs of Committee 5 and 6 to run their Committee for approximately one hour and 20 minutes. Then we will resume our 10th Plenary meeting at 12:30 for the announcement of the election results.

Would that be acceptable? Thank you. Thank you.

(Applause.)

>> CHAIRMAN: Then the 10th Plenary meeting is suspended until half past 12. Meeting is suspended.)

(Please stand by for the ITU Plenipotentiary Conference 2014 Plenary Session to resume at 12:30 p.m.)

(Please stand by for the Plenary Session to resume shortly.)

(Standing by.)

>> ANNOUNCER: Ladies and gentlemen, the Plenary meeting will resume shortly. Please be seated and put on your headset. Once again, the Plenary meeting will resume shortly. Please be seated and put on your headset. Thank you.

>> CHAIRMAN: Thank you.

Ladies and gentlemen, please put your headset on.

The 10th Plenary meeting is resumed again. Thank you for your patience. One good thing I can say to you, there is no tie. So we will not have a second round of election. So I can provide you the final results of the election on RRB and Council.

I'm just waiting for the report. Within a couple minutes I can announce the result of both elections.

For this case, we have multiple winners. I would propose not to make congratulatory remarks. We have to finish this session by 1. On behalf of the Member States I will deliver the congratulatory remarks. If you want to make congratulatory remarks, please do it in person. Thank you for your cooperation.

In the interests of time I just want to remind you of a few things. This afternoon at 1530 in Room A the Secretary-General will hold an open consultive meeting to discuss concrete actions we can take to help the Ebola affected countries. Tomorrow we have a Plenary Session starting 9:30 a.m. and have the GEM-Tech awards and we are pleased that President Kagame from Rwanda will be presenting his remarks. Thank you. We have the GEM-Tech high level dialogue at 1:00 p.m., addressing why gender equality matters and looking at where we stand today. The event will be held in Room D, Room D.

And after the meeting, the Committee meetings for 5 and 6 will be convened at 1430, 2:30 p.m. at Room C and Room B respectively.

That's the kind of announcements I want to make.

And in a minute we will get the results.

Okay. Finally we have the results with us. First of all, let us congratulate the excellent work of the tellers. They have done a lot of work. Thank you very much. Congratulations.

(Applause.)

>> CHAIRMAN: I have received the reports from the tellers reports, two reports per Region and shall now proceed with the announcement of the results in the following order. First, members of the RRB Radio Regulations Board. Second, members of Council.

I shall start with the results of the Radio Regulations Board and would like to read them out by Region, starting with Region A.

Teller's report. Election of members of the RRB for Region A, two seats. Number of ballot papers deposited, 168.

Invalid ballot papers for this Region, zero. Total balloted votes for this Region, 168.

Blank ballot papers for this Region, zero.

Maximum number of votes obtainable by a candidate in this Region, 168.

Mr. Ricardo Terán from Argentina received 159 votes.

Ms. Joanne Wilson from the U.S. received 154 votes. Congratulations.

(Applause.)

>> CHAIRMAN: So Mr. Ricardo Terán and Ms. Joanne Wilson are elected as members of the RRB for Region A.

(Applause.)

>> CHAIRMAN: Now I will read the tellers' report for Region B. Election of the members, round number one, two seats. Number of ballots papers deposited, 168. Invalid ballot papers for Region B, zero. Total valid votes, 168.

Blank ballot papers for the Region, 2. Maximum number of votes obtainable by a candidate in this Region, 166.

Mr. Alfredo Magenta of Italy, 85 votes.

Ms. Lilian Jeanty of Netherlands, 81 votes.

Ms. Vicente Carretón of Spain, 77 votes.

Mr. Peter Major of Hungary, 76 votes.

As a result, Mr. Alfredo Magenta and Lilian Jeanty are elected as Regional Members of the RRB for Region B. Congratulations.

Now I will read the results of the RRB for Region C.

Election of members of the RRB for Region C.

Number of ballot papers deposited, 168. Invalid ballot papers for this Region, 1. Total valid votes for this Region, 167. Blank ballot papers for this Region, 3.

Maximum number of votes obtainable by a candidate in this Region, 164.

Mr. Victor Strelets of Russia, 102 votes.

Mr. Ievgen Khairov of Ukraine, 68 votes.

And Mr. Momcilo Simic of Serbia, 67 votes.

Mr. Rizat Nurshabekov of Kazakhstan, 57 votes.

Twenty-seven votes for Mr. Ilham Afandiyev.

As a result of this election, Mr. Victor Strelets of Russian and Mr. Ievgen Khairov of Ukraine are elected for Region C of RRB. Congratulations.

(Applause.)

>> CHAIRMAN: Now I will read the tellers' report for Region D. Round number one, three seats. Number of ballot papers deposited, 168. Invalid ballot papers for this Region, zero. Total valid votes for this Region, 168. Blank ballot papers for this Region, one. Maximum number of votes obtainable by a candidate in this Region, 167.

Mr. Stanley Kibe, Kenya, 163 votes.

Mr. Simon Koffi of Côte D'Ivoire, 160 votes.

Mr. Mustapha Bessi of Morocco, 159 votes.

So as a result of this election, Mr. Stanley Kibe of Kenya, Mr. Simon Koffi of Côte d'Ivoire, Mr. Mustapha Bessi of Morocco are elected as members of the RRB for Region B. Congratulations.

(Applause.)

>> CHAIRMAN: Tellers' report, election of the members of the RRB for Region E, round number one, three seats. Number of ballots, 168. Invalid ballots, zero. Total valid votes for this Region, 168. Blank ballot papers for this Region, one. Maximum number of votes obtainable by a candidate in this Region, 167.

Mr. Yasuhiko Ito of Japan, 136 votes.

Mr. Nasser Bin Hammad of UAE, 108 votes. Mr. Doan Quang Hoan of Vietnam, 71 votes.

Mr. Meiditomo Sutyarjoko of Indonesia, 57 votes.

Mr. Alireza Darvishi of Iran, 54 votes.

Mr. R.J.S. Kushvaha of India, 54 votes.

Mr. Yasuhiko Ito of Japan, Mr. Nasser Bin Hammad, and Mr. Doan Quang Hoan are elected.

On behalf of the Member States I would like to convey the congratulations to those who are elected as new members of RRB.

At the same time, I also would like to express our appreciation for those who would not be given the chance this time to serve the RRB but their noble intention and noble cause to work for the ITU. Congratulations and thank you for your noble intent to serve the whole ITU Union. Thank you very much.

Now I should read the results of the Council and will do so by Region, starting with Region A.

Election of Member States of the Region for Region A, round number one, nine seats. Number of ballot papers deposited, 168.

Invalid ballot papers for this Region, zero.

Total valid votes for this Region, 168. Blank ballot papers for this Region, zero. Maximum number of votes obtainable by a candidate 168.

Brazil, 152 votes.

Argentina, 149 votes.

Mexico, 149 votes.

Cuba, 143 votes.

Costa Rica, 138 votes.

United States, 136 votes.

Canada, 129 votes.

Paraguay, 128 votes.

Venezuela, 115 votes.

Barbados, 113 votes.

As a result of this election, Brazil, Argentina, Mexico, Cuba, Costa Rica, U.S., Canada, Paraguay and Venezuela are elected as Council members for Region A.

(Applause.)

>> CHAIRMAN: Congratulations.

Now I will read the tellers report for Region B. Round number one, eight seats. Number of ballot papers deposited, 168. Invalid ballot papers for this Region, zero.

Total ballot votes for this Region, 168. Blank ballot papers for this Region, one. Maximum number of votes obtainable by a candidate in this Region, 167.

Switzerland, 156 votes.

Italy, 155 votes.

Turkey, 154 votes.

Germany, 153 votes.

Spain, 150 votes.

France, 150 votes.

Greece, 149 votes.

Lithuania, 145 votes.

As a result of this election, Swiss, Italy, Turkey, Germany, Spain, France, Greece and Lithuania are elected as Council members for Region B. Congratulations.

(Applause.)

>> CHAIRMAN: Now I will read the results of the Region C.

Election of Member States of the Council for Region C, five seats. Number of ballot papers deposited, 168. Invalid ballot papers for this Region, one. Total valid votes for this Region, 167. Blank ballot papers for this Region, three. Maximum number of votes obtainable by a candidate in this Region, 164.

Poland, 133 votes.

Bulgaria, 124 votes.

Russia, 124 votes.

Romania, 111 votes.

Azerbaijan, 94 votes.

Kyrgyzstan, 91 votes.

Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, 71 votes.

As a result of this election, Poland, Bulgaria, Russia, Romania and Azerbaijan are elected as Council Members for Region C.

(Applause.)

>> CHAIRMAN: Congratulations.

Now I will read the results for Region D. Election of Member States of the Council for Region D. Number of ballot papers deposited, 168. Invalid ballot papers for this Region, 2. Total valid votes for this Region, 166.

Blank ballot papers for this Region, 1. Maximum number of votes obtainable by a candidate in this Region, 165.

Mali, 133 votes.

Ghana, 130 votes.

Kenya, 127 votes.

Burkina Faso, 124 votes.

Uganda, 117 votes.

Egypt, 115 votes.

Tunisia, 115 votes.

Morocco, 114 votes.

Rwanda, 110 votes.

Senegal, 110 votes.

Tanzania, 110 votes.

Nigeria, 109 votes.

Algeria, 106 votes.

South Africa, 105 votes.

Cameroon, 102 votes.

Côte d'Ivoire, 99 votes.

Zambia, 89 votes.

As a result of this election, Mali, Ghana, Kenya, Burkina Faso, Uganda, Egypt, Tunisia, Morocco, Rwanda, Senegal, Tanzania, Nigeria and Algeria are elected as Council members for Region D. Congratulations.

(Applause.)

>> CHAIRMAN: Now I will read the tellers' report for Region E. Election of Member States of the Council for Region E, round number one, 13 seats. Number of ballot papers deposited, 168. Invalid ballot papers for this Region, one. Total valid votes for this Region, 167.

Blank ballot papers for this Region, 0. Maximum number of votes obtainable by a candidate in this Region, 167.

China, 142 votes.

Korea, 140 votes.

Japan, 139 votes.

Indonesia, 121 votes.

Kuwait, 121 votes.

UAE, 120 votes.

Australia, 116 votes.

Saudi Arabia, 115 votes.

Bangladesh, 115 votes.

Philippines, 115 votes.

Thailand, 108 votes.

India, 103 votes.

Pakistan, 101 vote.

Malaysia, 100 votes.

Sri Lanka, 83 votes.

Lebanon, 80 votes.

Iran, 72 votes.

Bahrain, 70 votes.

China, Korea, Japan, Indonesia, Kuwait, UAE, Australia, Saudi Arabia, Bangladesh, Philippines, Thailand, India, and Pakistan are elected as Council members for Region E.

(Applause.)

>> CHAIRMAN: Big congratulations to those countries who are elected as Members of Council.

And I also appreciate the countries who cannot win the seat at Council this time, but their noble cause and intent to serve this Union and the Council. Congratulations and thank you very much.

(Applause.)

>> CHAIRMAN: Now I would like to give the floor to the Secretary-General. Secretary-General, you have the floor.

>> SECRETARY-GENERAL: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Ladies and gentlemen, let me first of all congratulate all the newly elected members of the Radio Regulations Board and all of the Member States that have been elected as the ITU Council. It is another opportunity for me to now congratulate all the elected officials of the Union. The Secretary-General, the Deputy Secretary-General and Directors of BDT, BR and TSB.

In fact, I'm saying in that order. Normally, you know, the order normally is TSB, then BR -- no, BR first and then TSB and then BDT, even though at the opening when you were opening the ballots for the Directors I asked you kindly and you agreed to announce the order for the Director first because of the seniority system that I put in here when acting for Secretary-General when Secretary-General and deputy are not here, I do the acting from the Directors in the order of the seniority, the ones who is first elected because the Director of BDT was going for election, he would be more senior than the newly elected Director of TSB, but the order is not important.

The most important thing, they are all here.

Let me tell you, this confirms again that the structure that we have in ITU is a very good structure. We sometimes are criticized for having five elected officials. I believe it is a good thing. Here we are, we have completed this election process in just two and a half days. And this is a great thing.

In many organizations where there is only one elected official it can take weeks and months and sometimes it will end up with two half Secretary-Generals or Deputy Secretary-Generals.

Therefore, I believe the system is strong. The Union is strong. And given the number of candidates for these elections it shows there is still interest for this Union. I want to congratulate you all.

I will be leaving this organization at the end of this year, leaving a strong organization, an organization we can all be proud of. Congratulations to you all.

(Applause.)

>> CHAIRMAN: Thank you, Secretary-General. That answer ends, actually, this 10th Plenary meeting. This meeting stands adjourned.

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