Agenda item: PL 2.8

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Note by the Secretary-General

CONTRIBUTION FROM SWEDEN ON ITU DOCUMENT ACCESS POLICY FOR THE PREPARATION OF PP-14

I have the honour to transmit to the Member States of the Council a contribution received from **Sweden.**

Dr Hamadoun I. TOURE
Secretary-General

Contribution from Sweden

on

ITU document access policy

for the preparations of PP-14

1 Summary

1.1   Sweden proposes that the ITU Council decide to authorize public access to ITU documents related to the Plenipotentiary Conference 2014 unless otherwise decided for a specific document. ITU documents shall be accessible to all stakeholders without password protection.

2 Background

2.1   The ITU document access policy was discussed at the Council meeting in 2012. The Council considered the possibility to take a transparent and open stance on ITU documents in order to adapt ITU practices to today's needs.

2.2   It was noted that the outside world's perception of the Union was important. Furthermore it was noted that, if documents are not publicly available, there is always the risks of projecting an erroneous or incomplete image of ITU.

2.3   During the discussion in the Council a number of administrations also highlighted the general trend towards more transparent access to documentation and supported that documents should be made publicly available.

2.4   It was also noted during the discussions at Council 2012 that there would also be a need to discuss the document access policy at the Plenipotentiary Conference 2014.

2.5   Documents for the World Telecommunication Policy Forum 2013 were available to stakeholders without the need for a password. The WTPF noted the positive response from stakeholders on this approach.

3 General views

3.1   Sweden is of the view that openness and transparency is important and is one of the basic principles to be applied in ITU.

3.2   Sweden notes that many issues discussed at ITU meetings are of interest both to the membership and to non-members including the general public.

3.3   Sweden is further of the view that there is a need to take full account of the interests of all stakeholders, both members and non-members of ITU

3.4   Sweden is of the view that, in order to encourage the involvement of stakeholders in the preparations for ITU meetings, there is a need to make documents available to all interested parties.

3.5   Sweden is of the view that public access to documents would help to promote ITU as a transparent and open organization and to improve its public image.

3.6   Sweden notes with satisfaction the decisions to allow public access to the basic instruments of ITU, the administrative regulations and the ITU-T and ITU-R Recommendations.

3.7   Sweden notes the positive experience of the free access to documents at WTPF, including the preparations for the forum.

4   Proposal

4.1   Sweden proposes that the ITU Council decide to authorize public access to ITU documents related to the Plenipotentiary Conference 2014, unless otherwise decided for a specific document. This policy should enter into force at the end of Council 2013. The documents shall be accessible to all stakeholders without password protection.

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