

Agenda item: PL 2.9

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**Chairman of the Committee for the preparation of
the 150th Anniversary celebrations**

**REPORT OF THE CHAIRMAN OF COMMITTEE FOR THE PREPARATION OF THE 150TH
ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATIONS (COUNCIL DECISION 575)**

Summary

This report summarizes the discussions and the conclusions of the Committee for the preparation of the 150th Anniversary celebrations. It also includes a draft resolution about the 150th Anniversary celebrations to be discussed by the Council.

Action required

The Council is invited to **endorse** the conclusions of the Committee and to **adopt** the Resolution on the 150th Anniversary of the International Telecommunication Union.

Reference

[Document C12/12](#); [Document C13/47](#); [Document C14/INF/8](#)
[Decision 575 - Establishment of the Committee for the preparation of the 150th Anniversary celebrations](#)

1 Background

1.1 Council 2013 decided at its second Plenary Meeting to establish a Committee for the preparation of the 150th Anniversary celebrations of ITU ([Council 2013 Decision 575](#)) to steer the commemoration planning and to submit a progress report to Council 2014. According to Decision 575, the Committee would invite ITU membership and ITU staff to make further proposals for the celebrations to commemorate ITU's 150th Anniversary, review them, study resource requirements involved, make a timeline, and report back to the 2014 Session of Council with its recommendations for the celebrations at ITU, in Member States and in the UN family. The Committee is open for the participation of Member States, Sector Members, Associates, and Academia.

1.2 The Committee, which was open for the participation of Member States, Sector Members, Associates and Academia, was chaired by Mr Nasser Bin Hammad (United Arab Emirates). Vice-chairs of the committee included Mr Yin Chen (China), Mr Issah Yahaya (Ghana), Mr Ahmet Cavusoglu (Turkey), Ms Natalia Timofeeva (Russia), and Ms Maria Victoria Romero (Mexico).

1.3 The following report presents the result of the work of the Committee. The Council is invited to take note of this report and provide further guidance on the work to be conducted by the ITU secretariat to ensure successful 150th ITU Anniversary celebrations. Section 2 presents a summary of the results of the first and second meetings of the Committee, respectively, while Section 3 presents recommendations to the Council on the activities for the Anniversary celebrations.

2 Meetings held by the ITU 150th Anniversary Council Committee

2.1 The Committee conducted its work in two meetings, held in ITU premises on 15 November 2013 and 26 February 2014. The first meeting had two areas of focus: (a) reviewing the activities which took place for past ITU anniversaries, as well as the activities organized by other organizations for similar anniversaries; and (b) considering the contributions presented by ITU membership for the Anniversary, as well as by ITU staff. The meeting discussed the preferred timeline for the Anniversary celebrations, as well as the importance of aligning the theme of the Anniversary with the proposed theme for the 2015 World Telecommunication and Information Society Day (WTISD 2015), to be endorsed at the 2014 session of ITU Council.

2.2 The second meeting of the Committee focused on the progress reached by the secretariat in the preparatory process for the Anniversary, as well as in producing a preliminary assessment of the cost implications of the proposed activities for the Anniversary. The meeting agreed on the recommendations to be presented by the Committee to the Council.

3 Conclusions from the Council Committee

- **Theme.** ITU's 150th Anniversary should focus on ITU's achievements in innovation and their impact on daily life throughout history and in the future. The theme of the Anniversary should be in line with the theme of WTISD 2015, "ICTs: Drivers of innovation", as proposed in document [C14/17](#).
- **Timeline for celebrations.**
 - *2014 Plenipotentiary Conference:* Launch of the official website of the Anniversary and announcement of the final list of activities to be organized, including activities organized by ITU membership (see point **f.** below):
 - *1 January 2015:* Start of the Anniversary year
 - *17 May 2015:* Anniversary celebrations
 - *31 December 2015:* Closing of the Anniversary year
- **Venues.** The Council Committee emphasized the importance of the following venues for the celebrations:
 - On 17 May 2015, celebrations should take place in ITU facilities. The Committee suggests that the ICT Discovery would be the best choice for the celebrations,

considering its role in showcasing the evolution of ICTs through the ages and the work of ITU to support their development.

- Other ITU events in the course of 2015 should **all** include an Anniversary celebration side event or action point (*see [Document C14/INF/8](#) for a list of such proposed events*).
- **Proposed activities.** The Committee has produced a shortlist of activities for the Anniversary celebrations, based on the proposals by the membership, the ITU secretariat and the Bureaux. The list, which includes a preliminary assessment of costs, is presented in [Document C14/INF/8](#).
- **Resource Mobilization.** The Council Committee recommends that the Council consider the following options to mobilize resources for the Anniversary celebrations:
 - Option 1 – To establish an inclusive strategy for all ITU membership (Sector Members and Member States) inviting them to make a donation based on years of membership.
 - Option 2 – To sponsor specific celebration activities.
 - Option 3 – To provide other voluntary contributions to the fund established for the Anniversary.
 - Option 4 – To provide in-kind support and resources for celebration activities (e.g. creation/hosting of an Anniversary website, providing a social media platform).
- **Awareness Raising.** The Council Committee recommends that all opportunities are taken to raise awareness among the largest possible audiences about the 150th Anniversary, during meetings and events taking place from today till the end of 2015. Information sessions and presentations should be added to all upcoming ITU events to give wide publicity to ITU's Anniversary, as well as to its fundraising campaign.
- **Involvement of ITU membership.** The Council Committee recommends that the Council encourage all members of the Union to become involved in this important milestone in ITU's history and to study as soon as possible the measures to be taken for organizing national celebrations and full participation of membership in the all Anniversary events organized in 2015. The Council may also invite membership to inform the ITU secretariat of their celebration plans. The secretariat will include those plans in a global agenda of activities for the Anniversary.
- **Resolution to Council 2014.** The Council Committee would like to propose the draft resolution included in Annex for consideration of the Council at its 2014 Session. Further resolutions to WTDC-14 and PP-14 may be considered.

4 Future meetings of the Committee

Following the instructions from Council Decision 575, the Committee will coordinate with the ITU secretariat the organization of future meetings in 2015 to prepare the report to the 2015 Session of ITU Council on the progress achieved in the preparations for the Anniversary.

ANNEX

DRAFT RESOLUTION

150th Anniversary of the International Telecommunication Union

The Council,

recalling

- a) that 17 May 2015 will mark the 150th Anniversary of the International Telecommunication Union;
- b) the Reports by the Secretary-General on the 150th Anniversary presented to the 2012 and 2013 sessions of the Council;
- c) Decision 575 of Council 2013 to create a Committee open to ITU membership for the preparation of the 150th Anniversary celebrations;
- d) Resolution 68 (Rev. Guadalajara, 2010) on the annual celebration of World Telecommunication and Information Society Day,

recognizing

- a) that the 150th Anniversary of the International Telecommunication Union is a major milestone in the history of the oldest of the intergovernmental organizations which have become specialized agencies of the United Nations;
- b) that it is desirable to raise awareness for ITU's outstanding record of 150 years of innovative work in the field of telecommunications/ICTs;
- c) that it is a very important opportunity to draw attention and shine a positive spotlight on the organization during the celebration year 2015 and to attract positive press;
- d) that the Anniversary reaffirms ITU's longevity for the benefit of all stakeholders and the community as a whole;
- e) that the celebrations of the 150th Anniversary reinforce and validate ITU's mission and strategic goals;
- f) that the Anniversary celebration allows ITU to honour the past as well as launch activities for the future;
- g) that celebrating the Union brings tribute to and inspires its employees;
- h) that the 150 years of the Union's history underscore its contribution to the industry and the community at large;
- i) that the involvement of ITU membership in the celebrations of the 150th Anniversary of the Union is essential;
- j) that support for the Anniversary celebrations from the ITU/ICT community can be obtained through funding and donations as well as through in-kind support,

noting

- a) the role and the work of the Council Committee for the preparation of the 150th Anniversary celebrations;
- b) the report of the Council Committee to the 2014 session of the Council including proposals:
 - for the theme of the Anniversary to be in line with the theme of WTISD 2015;
 - for the timeline for 2013-2014-2015;
 - for the celebration year to run from 1 January 2015 till 31 December 2015, during which all ITU events will have an Anniversary component or side event;
 - for the celebration day to be held on 17 May 2015;
 - for a global awareness campaign to be prepared by the secretariat;
 - for a resource mobilization plan prepared by the secretariat;
 - for the establishment of a special fund for voluntary contributions by the membership for celebrating the Anniversary,

resolves

to commemorate the 150th Anniversary of ITU throughout 2015,

invites ITU Member States, Sector Members, Associates and Academia

- 1 to promote and increase the interest for the 150th Anniversary celebrations in their countries and their constituencies;
- 2 to organize national celebrations involving all stakeholders;
- 3 to actively support and take part in the WTISD 2015 and the Anniversary celebration events organized at ITU headquarters and/or at ITU's regional offices;
- 4 to contribute to the Fund for the Anniversary according to the resource mobilization plan as recommended by the Council Committee,

instructs the Secretary-General

to liaise with and to raise awareness about ITU's Anniversary among the United Nations and United Nations programmes, funds and other specialized agencies,

instructs the Secretary-General and the Directors of the Bureaux, within available resources

- 1 to launch a resource mobilization campaign for funding and in-kind support for the Anniversary activities, engaging ITU membership as well as other stakeholders of the telecommunications/ICT sector;
 - 2 to start a global awareness campaign in 2014 about the 150th Anniversary including side events/information sessions at all upcoming ITU events;
 - 3 to start arrangements for celebrations in 2015 including activities at each ITU event;
 - 4 to report to Council 2015 on the implementation of this resolution;
 - 5 To forward this Resolution to the Plenipotentiary.
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