
Agenda item: ADM 7

Document C14/75-E
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Note by the Secretary-General

CONTRIBUTION FROM THE UNITED ARAB EMIRATES
IMAC STUDY ON THE ITU HEADQUARTERS RELOCATION

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

Dr Hamadoun I. TOURE
Secretary-General

Contribution from the United Arab Emirates

IMAC Study on the ITU Headquarters relocation

Background:

Council document C14/50 presents the key elements and the status of a project to replace ITU's oldest building (the Varembe building). The various options for replacing Varembe building are compared mainly on their construction, finance and maintenance aspects.

Among the other options, there is an option 2.4 which is on the relocation of ITU Headquarter as recommended by IMAC (Independent Management Advisory Committee) to be studied. This study and the analysis will be prepared and presented to PP-14 for final decision. The document further highlights that, in terms of financial aspects, this option would require Financial plan adjustment unless the adjustments and changes are deferred beyond 2019 and in terms of cost summary, this option is conditional upon a Member State providing headquarters buildings free of charge and absorbing some proportion of staff relocation/termination/hiring costs.

Switzerland has been home to international organizations for more than a century. To date, it has concluded a "headquarters agreement" with 24 international organizations: 21 organizations have their headquarters in Geneva, two in Berne and one in Basel. The ITU headquarter was moved from Berne to Geneva in 1948. The international organisations based in Switzerland and members of their staff benefit from a certain number of privileges, immunities and facilities.

The Agreement between the Swiss Federal Council and the International Telecommunication Union concerning the legal status of the International Telecommunication Union in Switzerland was signed at Geneva on 22 July 1971.

The Joint Inspection Unit (JIU) of the United Nations issued two reports aimed at facilitating consistent practice in the implementation of the headquarters agreements. The first of these reports was issued in 2004, entitled "Review of headquarters agreements concluded by organizations of the United Nations system: Human resources issues affecting staff". The second was issued in 2006, entitled "A second review of the headquarters agreements concluded by organizations of the United Nations system: Provision of headquarters premises and other facilities".

Proposal

The United Arab Emirates supports the IMAC call for a study on the relocation of ITU Headquarters as highlighted in document C14/50, however UAE proposes that the following elements be considered and included in the analysis and study:

1. Immunities, privileges and facilities offered to the ITU staff.
2. Exemption from income or property taxes, customs duties and taxes on goods and services.
3. Requirements and expectations in terms of staff relocation/termination/hiring costs, facilities, necessary public services, premises availability etc. needed for the relocation.

4. Proposed time frame and future mechanism for the decision of relocation.
 5. Financial constraints, limitations and possible savings to ITU in case of relocation.
 6. The legal concepts underlying the relationship between international organizations and the host states.
 7. The status of current ITU assets and their future utilization in case of relocation.
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