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English only

## Chairman, Council Working Group on Languages

### DRAFT REVISION OF RESOLUTION 154 ON LANGUAGES TO ASSIST MEMBER STATES IN THEIR PREPARATIONS FOR PP-14

#### **Summary**

In the course of its discussions on Resolution 154 (Rev. Guadalajara, 2010), the Council Working Group on Languages (CWG-LANG) formulated some possible suggested revisions to Resolution 154, solely with a view to facilitating Member States' preparations for PP-14. The results of this work are set out in this document, for information.

#### **Action required**

No action on the part of the Council. Member States may wish to take the suggestions into account in preparing for PP-14.

#### **References**

[Document C14/44](#)

RESOLUTION 154 (Rev. ~~Guadalajara, 2010~~[Busan, 2014](#))

**Use of the six official languages of the Union on an equal footing**

The Plenipotentiary Conference of the International Telecommunication Union (Guadalajara, 2010),

*recalling*

- [a\) United Nations General Assembly Resolution 67/292, on multilingualism;](#)
- ~~b)~~ Resolution 154 (~~Rev, Guadalajara, 2010~~[Antalya, 2006](#)) of the Plenipotentiary Conference;
- ~~c)~~ Resolution 115 (Marrakesh, 2002) of the Plenipotentiary Conference;
- ~~d)~~ Resolution 104 (Minneapolis, 1998) of the Plenipotentiary Conference;
- ~~e)~~ Resolution 66 (Rev. Guadalajara, 2010) of ~~this the Plenipotentiary Conference;~~
- [f\) Resolution 165 \(Rev. Guadalajara, 2010\) of the Plenipotentiary Conference;](#)
- [g\) Resolution 168 \(Rev. Guadalajara, 2010\) of the Plenipotentiary Conference,](#)

*reaffirming*

the fundamental principle of equal treatment of the six official languages, as enshrined in Resolutions 115 (Marrakesh, 2002) and 154 (~~Rev, Guadalajara, 2010~~[Antalya, 2006](#)), on the use of the six languages on an equal footing,

*noting with satisfaction and appreciation*

- ~~a)~~ the steps taken so far to implement Resolution 115 (Marrakesh, 2002) as from 1 January 2005 and Resolution 154 (~~Rev, Guadalajara, 2010~~[Antalya, 2006](#));
- ~~b)~~ the progress made in the successful implementation of Resolution 104 (Minneapolis, 1998) and resulting efficiencies and economies;
- [c\) the progress made in the implementation of Resolution 154 \(Rev, Guadalajara, 2010\) in regard to alignment of working methods and optimization of staffing levels in the six languages, linguistic unification of databases for definitions and terminology and centralizing editing functions;](#)
- [d\) ITU participation in the International Annual Meeting on Language Arrangements, Documentation and Publications \(IAMLADP\),](#)

*recognizing*

- ~~a)~~ the importance of maintaining and improving the multilingual content of services required by the universal character of United Nations system organizations, as called for in the United Nations Joint Inspection Unit report on *Multilingualism in the United Nations System* (Document JIU/REP/2002/11);

b) that, notwithstanding the successful implementation of Resolution 115 (Marrakesh, 2002), for various reasons the switchover to six languages cannot be achieved overnight, and a "transition period" to full implementation is inevitable;

~~c) that, in order to achieve such full implementation, it is necessary also to align working methods and optimize staffing levels in the six languages;~~

~~d) the work accomplished by the Council Working Group on Languages, as well as the start madework by the secretariat to implement the working group's recommendations as agreed by the Council at its 2006-2009 session, in particular with regard to the unification of linguistic databases for definitions and terminology and the centralization of editing functions, the integration of the terminology database for Arabic, Chinese and Russian as well as harmonizing and unifying working procedures in the six language services,~~

*recognizing further*

the budget constraints facing the Union,

*resolves*

to continue to take all necessary measures to ensure use of the six official languages of the Union on an equal footing and to maximize interpretation and the translation of ITU documentation ~~in the six languages on an equal footing~~, although some work in ITU (for example working ~~groupsparties, study groups,~~ regional conferences) might not require the use of all six languages,

*instructs the Council*

1 to ~~review the interim monitor, including through the use of appropriate indicators, application of the updated~~ measures and principles for interpretation and translation adopted by the Council at its 2014 session ~~proposed by the three Sectors and the General Secretariat, in order to adopt final measures~~, taking into consideration the financial constraints, and bearing in mind the ultimate objective of full implementation of treatment of the six official languages on an equal footing;

2 to pursue and monitor appropriate ~~structural~~ operational measures, such as:

– ~~fundamental to continue~~ review of ITU documentation and publication services with a view to eliminating any duplication and creating synergies;

– ~~appropriate means and measures for expediting to facilitate~~ the timely and simultaneous delivery of ~~ITU~~ high-quality and efficient language services (interpretation, documentation, and publications and public-information materials) in the six languages, in support of the Union's strategic goals;

– to support optimum levels of staffing, including core staff, temporary assistance and outsourcing, while ensuring the required high quality of interpretation and translation;

– to continue implementation of judicious and efficient use of information and communication technologies in language and publications activities, taking into consideration experience gained by other international organizations and best practices, notably through the International Annual Meeting on Language Arrangements, Documentation and Publications (IAMLADP);

– to continue to explore and implement all possible measures to reduce the size and volume of documents (page-limits, executive summaries, material in annexes or hyperlinks), and achieve greener meetings, when justified, without affecting the quality and content of

the documents to be translated or to be published, and bearing clearly in mind the need to comply with the United Nations system objective of multilingualism;

– to take, to the extent practicable, all necessary measures for equitable use of the six languages on the ITU website in terms of multilingual content and user-friendly use of the site;

3 to monitor the work carried out by the ITU secretariat ~~on~~ in regard to:

~~• ——— paying special attention to completion of the integration of the terminology database for Arabic, Chinese and Russian and provide for the priority translation into Arabic, Chinese and Russian of terms and definitions;~~

– merging all existing databases for definitions and terminology into a centralized system, with proper measures for its maintenance, expansion and updating;

– completion and maintenance of the ITU database for telecommunication/ICT terminology and definitions, with particular emphasis on any and all language(s), in particular Arabic, for which a terminology deficit persists;

~~— creating the necessary centralized editing functions for each language, on an equal footing between languages;~~

~~– harmonizing and unifying working procedures in the six language services, and providing the six language service units them~~ with the necessary qualified staff and tools to meet their requirements in each language;

~~– enhancing ITU's image and the effectiveness of its public-information work, making use of all six languages of the Union, in, among other things, publishing ITU News, creating ITU websites, organizing Internet broadcasting and archiving of recordings, and issuing documents of a public-information nature, including announcements of world and regional ITU TELECOM exhibitions and forum events,~~ e-flashes and such like;

4 to continue the work of maintain the Council Working Group on Languages, in order to monitor progress and report to the Council on the implementation of this resolution;

5 to review, in collaboration with the Sector advisory groups, the types of material to be included in output documents and translated;

6 to continue to consider measures to reduce the cost and volume of documentation as a standing item, in particular for conferences and assemblies;

57 to report to the next plenipotentiary conference on the implementation of this resolution,  
invites Member States and Sector Members

to ensure that the different language versions of documents and publications are utilized, downloaded and purchased by the corresponding language communities, for the sake of maximizing their benefit and cost-effectiveness.

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