
PLENARY MEETING

**Addendum 2 to
Document 27-E
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United States of America

PROPOSALS FOR THE WORK OF THE CONFERENCE

The United States of America is pleased to submit its third tranche of proposals for consideration by the 2014 ITU Plenipotentiary Conference (PP-14). In this contribution, the United States focuses on strengthening the work of the Union in three key areas: project execution, membership, and participation.

With respect to strengthening project execution, the United States' proposed revision to Resolution 157 seeks to optimize the ITU's ability to conduct sustainable capacity building projects by increasing collaboration and partnerships and sharing project materials with the membership so that members may use and build upon on it for the future. We also propose modifying Resolution 177 to reflect the progress in the areas of conformance and interoperability and to support the ongoing work in the Telecommunications Development and Standardization Bureaus with the goal of improving interoperability of equipment developed to ITU-T Recommendations.

Two proposals are aimed at Sector Membership issues. The first is a revision to Resolution 152 to provide additional flexibility for the Secretary-General in addressing Sector Membership participation, renewal and retention. The second is a draft new Resolution on review of current methodologies and development of a future vision for the participation of Sector Members, Associates and Academia in order to determine a means of preserving and growing the membership and participation in the Union's activities.

Finally, we propose to revise Resolution 175 on Telecommunication/information and communication technology accessibility for persons with disabilities, including age-related disabilities, in order to update terminology, recognize accessibility as an intersectoral objective in Strategic Plan, and provide for webcasting and captioning as invaluable tools for enabling the participation of persons with disabilities and specific needs.

RESOLUTION 152

Improvement of management and follow-up of the defrayal of ITU expenses by Sector Members and Associates

Introduction

Resolution 152 (Rev. Guadalajara, 2010) instructs the Secretary-General, in consultation with the Directors of the Bureaux, to report to the Council on the management and follow-up of the defrayal of ITU expenses by Sector Members and Associates, highlighting any difficulty that may be encountered and proposing further improvements.

The Secretary-General reported to Council 2011 (Document C11/21) that following its initial implementation, Resolution 152 (Antalya, 2006) brought about a considerable improvement in the follow-up and oversight of the annual contributions of Sector Members and Associates. However, results showed that the prescribed implementation of Resolution 152 resulted in a systematic exclusion of a number of the Union's Sector Members and Associates. Faced with this trend, the ITU management decided, on a provisional basis from January 2011, to not automatically exclude Sector Members and Associates for non-payment of fees or when difficulties arose following an acquisition when one of the parties was in arrears. The concerned entities were instead contacted to encourage their continued participation and the payment of fees that were previously invoiced. It is common practice in the private sector for companies to negotiate with creditors to clear outstanding debts but the ITU Secretariat did not have the flexibility to make such arrangements, and was thus missing the opportunity to recover some of the past debts owed.

The Secretary-General reported to Council 2011 (Document C11/21, §3.1) that while there can be no disputing the fact that Resolution 152 has had positive results in terms of the management and follow-up of the defrayal of ITU expenses by Sector Members and Associates, it was also clear that its strict application could lead to certain difficulties, particularly with regard to flexibility in the recovery of arrears and improving the Union's membership and financial situation. In that regard, the Council 2011 was requested to grant the Secretary-General flexibility, in cooperation with relevant administrations, with regard to the application of Resolution 152 (Rev. Guadalajara, 2010), particularly vis-à-vis the prescribed timelines, on the suspension and exclusion of Sector Members and Associates. Council 2011 granted that request on a one year trial basis and each subsequent Council, considering further reports and requests of the Secretary-General, has continued to grant such flexibility for an additional one year period.

MOD USA/27A2/1

RESOLUTION 152 (REV. ~~GUADALAJARA, 2010~~BUSAN, 2014)

**Improvement of management and follow-up of the defrayal
of ITU expenses by Sector Members and Associates**

The Plenipotentiary Conference of the International Telecommunication Union
(~~Guadalajara, 2010~~Busan, 2014),

considering

~~a) — Resolution 110 (Marrakesh, 2002) of the Plenipotentiary Conference, on review of the contribution of Sector Members towards defraying the expenses of the Union;~~

a) the report to Council by the Secretariat-General in Document C11/21, noting improvements due to implementation of Resolution 152 (Guadalajara, 2010) while also requesting flexibility when addressing the strict time intervals found in *resolves 6* of this Resolution;

b) Council 2011, as reported in §4.7 of Document C11/120, approved granting the Secretary-General flexibility for one year regarding implementation of this Resolution and that the Secretary-General report to Council 2012 on progress achieved, and such flexibility was extended for an additional one year by each succeeding Council

~~b) — Resolution 1208 of the ITU Council, which set the terms of reference of the working group open to all Member States and all Sector Members to study the system whereby Sector Members and Associates contribute towards defraying the expenses of the Union, and instructed the working group to make a final report to the 2005 session of the Council at the latest,~~

considering further

~~the reports accordingly presented by the Secretary-General to Council 2012 in Document C12/10, Council 2013 in Document C13/14 and Council 2014 in Document C14/working group to the Council at its 2005 session in Document C05/40, and more specifically Part 5 and recommendations R7 and R8 thereof,~~

noting

the provisions of Article 33 of the ITU Convention regarding the obligations of Member States, Sector Members and other entities in respect of defraying the expenses of the Union and the financial consequences of denunciation,

noting further

the amendments made to No. 240 of the Convention ~~by this conference in order~~ that denunciation shall take effect at the end of six months from the date when notification is received by the Secretary-General,

recognizing

a) the rapid pace of the market and the financial realities faced by private-sector entities;

- b) that it is essential to retain and attract more Sector Members and Associates, having regard to their invaluable contribution to the work of the Union;
- c) that there is a need to ensure better follow-up and oversight of financial matters relating to Sector Members and Associates, on the part of both ITU and the Member States, in order to ensure increased stability in the finances of the Union;
- d) that the rules and procedures regarding the oversight of financial matters relating to Sector Members and Associates should be amended so as to be flexible and effective, and hence fully enforceable,

recognizing further

a) that a better collection rate and a significant reduction in debts of Sector Members and Associates have resulted from flexibility granted by the Council to the Secretary-General with regard to application of Res. 152 (Guadalajara, 2010) in recovery of arrears, negotiation of payment conditions, and special terms and conditions for acquisitions,

~~a) — that the relevance and effectiveness of penalties applicable in the case of arrears may be questioned, since Sector Members' arrears are increasing more rapidly than those of Member States;~~

~~b) — that, under the present framework, a Sector Member or an Associate in arrears is able to participate in ITU for at least three years before any sanction is imposed, and therefore may not have any incentive to submit a repayment schedule;~~

~~c) — that the applicable time frame for the imposition of suspension and exclusion must be shortened;~~

resolves

- 1 that simple changes of name and address of Sector Members or Associates shall be handled administratively, without charge;
- 2 that, in the case of a merger between Sector Members or Associates of the same Sector, duly notified to the Secretary-General, No. 240 of the Convention shall not apply and shall thus not have the effect of requiring the Sector Member or the Associate resulting from the merger to pay more than one contribution for its participation in the work of the Sector concerned;
- 3 that every new Sector Member or Associate shall, in respect of the year of its accession or admission, pay in advance a contribution calculated as from the first day of the month of accession or admission, as the case may be;
- 4 that annual contributions for existing Sector Members or existing Associates will be invoiced in advance and no later than 15 September each year;
- 5 that annual contributions for existing Sector Members or existing Associates become due for payment on 31 March each year;
- 6 that, in the event of late payment, suspension of participation in ITU ~~shall~~should, in the case of a Sector Member or Associate, occur six months (180 days) after the date on which payment of the annual contribution was due, and in the absence of a negotiated and agreed repayment schedule, exclusion of a Sector Member or an Associate on grounds of non-payment ~~shall~~should occur three months (90 days) after the date of receipt of the notification of suspension;

6bis that, with a view of retaining members and recovering past debts owed, the Secretary-General may have flexibility in implementing resolves 6 of this Resolution and negotiating repayment plans with Sector Members and Associates;

7 that Sector Members and Associates can be readmitted to the Union under the usual conditions and upon payment of membership contributions;

8 that any difficulty (e.g. non-payment, mail returned due to lack of information regarding a new address) shall be immediately notified to the Member State which endorsed the Sector Member or the Associate,

instructs the Secretary-General

in consultation with the Directors of the Bureaux, to report to the Council on the implementation of this resolution, highlighting any difficulty that may be encountered and proposing further improvements, as appropriate,

instructs the Council

to take appropriate measures to facilitate the implementation of this resolution,

invites Member States

as appropriate, to participate actively in the follow-up and oversight of financial matters relating to Sector Members and Associates.

Reasons: Based on the positive results from the above mentioned trial periods, and with the view to retain members and recover past debts, it is proposed to include flexibility for the Secretary-General in application of prescribed timelines of resolves 6 of Resolution 152, regarding the suspension and exclusion of Sector Members and Associates.

MOD USA/27A2/2

RESOLUTION 157 (REV. ~~GUADALAJARA, 2010~~BUSAN, 2014)

Strengthening of the project execution function in ITU

The Plenipotentiary Conference of the International Telecommunication Union
(~~Guadalajara, 2010~~Busan, 2014),

considering

- a) No. 118 of the ITU Constitution outlining the Union's dual responsibility as a United Nations specialized agency and executing agency for implementing projects under the United Nations development system or other funding arrangements so as to facilitate and enhance telecommunication/information and communication technology (ICT) development by offering, organizing and coordinating technical cooperation and assistance activities;
- b) Resolution 135 (Rev. Guadalajara, 2010) ~~of this conference~~of the Plenipotentiary Conference, on participation of the Union in the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), in other programmes of the United Nations system and in other funding arrangements, which instructed the ITU Council to take all necessary measures to ensure maximum efficiency of the Union's participation in UNDP and other funding arrangements;
- c) Resolution 52 (~~Doha, 2006~~Rev. Dubai, 2014) of the World Telecommunication Development Conference (WTDC), on strengthening the executing agency role of the ITU Telecommunication Development Sector (ITU-D), which emphasized the importance of establishing partnerships between the public and private sectors as an efficient means of implementing sustainable ITU projects, and of utilizing locally available expertise in executing ITU projects on a regional or country-wide basis;
- ~~d) — Resolution 13 (Rev. Doha, 2006) of WTDC, on resource mobilization and partnership for accelerating telecommunication/ICT development, which highlights the need for practical solutions for mobilizing funds, particularly in support of projects and activities in developing countries;~~
- d) Annex 2 to Decision 5 (Rev. Guadalajara, 2010) on measures for reducing expenditure, which highlights the importance of coordination with regional organizations with a view to sharing the available resources and minimizing the costs of participation;
- e) Resolution 100 (Rev. Busan, 2014) on the role of the Secretary-General of ITU as depositary for memoranda of understanding (MoUs) and when entering into MoUs with financial and/or strategic implications,

recognizing

Resolution 17 (Rev. ~~Hyderabad, 2010~~Dubai, 2014) of WTDC, on implementation of initiatives at the national, regional, interregional and global levels approved by the six ITU-D regions, which, having taken into consideration the lack of funding from UNDP and other international financial institutions, urged the Telecommunication Development Bureau (BDT) to explore various funding options, including possible partnerships with Member States, ITU-D Sector Members, financial

institutions and international organizations in order to sponsor implementation activities for the initiatives endorsed by WTDC-0614,

noting

- a) that the sustainability of the role of ITU-D in the implementation of technical cooperation projects with developing countries and the establishment of business/client relationships is dependent on the creation and maintenance of a level of expertise within the secretariat to permit BDT to manage projects effectively and in a timely and efficient manner; to this effect, the enhancement of training capabilities in the Union, as foreseen in Resolution 48 (Rev. Antalya, 2006Guadalajara, 2010) of this conference, should contribute toward the sustainability of the requisite expertise to enhance the project execution function;
- b) that the strengthening of project execution and management expertise in BDT will also require the improvement of skills in the area of resource mobilization and financing,
- c) that the effectiveness of the ITU's project execution role would be enhanced through closer collaboration and coordination with expert organizations at the regional and international levels,

resolves

to strengthen the project execution function consistent with No. 118 of the Constitution when providing technical cooperation assistance and when executing projects by:

- i. collaborating and partnering with relevant expert organizations at the regional and international levels, particularly in those areas where the ITU would benefit from specialized expertise, to avoid duplication of effort, optimize resources, and enhance the effectiveness of ITU projects;
- ii. utilizing local and regional experts when offering and coordinating technical cooperation and assistance activities to maximize resources and ensure continuity beyond the duration of the project;
- iii. making available to the ITU membership any relevant materials from a technical cooperation or assistance activity so that they may be utilized for future efforts,

resolves to instruct the Secretary-General, in close collaboration with the Director of the Telecommunication Development Bureau

- 1 to continue reviewing the experience of ITU-D in discharging its responsibility for implementing projects under the United Nations development system or other funding arrangements by identifying lessons learned and by developing a strategy for strengthening this function in the future;
- 2 to ~~undertake a~~ continue reviewing of best practices within the United Nations system and within organizations external to the United Nations in the area of technical cooperation, with a view to ~~promoting~~ adapting such practices ~~to the circumstances prevailing in ITU~~ when offering, organizing, and coordinating technical cooperation and assistance activities, consistent with No. 118 of the Constitution;
- 3 to ensure that the requisite expertise in the areas of project management and execution as well as resource mobilization and financing is identified;
- 4 to encourage projects from all sources, including the private sector;

- 5 to focus on the implementation of larger-scale projects, while carefully considering delivery of smaller-scale projects;
- 6 to ensure that a minimum support cost of 7 per cent, associated with the execution of projects under UNDP or other funding arrangements, is set as the target to be recovered, while allowing some degree of flexibility for negotiation during the funding discussion;
- 7 to continue to examine the percentage of support-cost resources in respect of such projects, with the aim of increasing them in order to exploit them to improve the implementation function;
- 8 to recruit qualified staff internally and/or externally, if necessary, within the financial limits set by plenipotentiary conferences, or under support-cost resources in respect of such projects, in order to strengthen, and ensure continuity as well as sustainability in, the execution of the Union's responsibility for organizing and coordinating technical cooperation and assistance activities;
- 9 to prepare reports annually to the Council on progress achieved in fulfilling the functions specified in No. 118 of the Constitution.

Reasons: The United States proposes to modify Resolution 157 “Strengthening the project execution function in the ITU” to include measures that will optimize the ITU’s ability to conduct effective and sustainable capacity building projects. As was evidenced by the outputs of the 2010-2014 study period and reinforced in the Dubai Action Plan, collaboration between the ITU and relevant expert entities on capacity building activities is critical to maximize the benefit delivered to Members, particularly to Least Developed Countries. The United States believes that when executing projects, the ITU-D should strive to take advantage of both available resources, developed by and in other organizations, and local and regional experts, who can assist the ITU in tailoring a project to a specific context and can implement lessons-learned beyond a project’s duration. The United States believes that in doing so the ITU can supplement its own expertise, maximize resources, and avoid duplication of effort. The United States also believes that once a project is completed, the ITU should strive to make available any relevant materials to interested Members seeking to replicate projects to achieve even greater return on investment.

MOD USA/27A2/3

RESOLUTION 175 (~~GUADALAJARA, 2010~~REV. BUSAN, 2014)

**Telecommunication/information and communication technology
accessibility for persons with disabilities, including age-related
disabilities**

The Plenipotentiary Conference of the International Telecommunication Union
(~~Guadalajara, 2010~~Busan, 2014),

recognizing

- a) Resolution 70 (~~Johannesburg, 2008~~Rev. Dubai, 2012) of the World Telecommunication Standardization Assembly, on telecommunication/information and communication technology (ICT) accessibility for persons with disabilities, and the current studies, initiatives and events on this issue undertaken by the ITU Telecommunication Standardization Sector (ITU-T) and its study groups, in particular Study Group 2 and Study Group 16, in collaboration with the Joint Coordination Activity on Accessibility and Human Factors (JCA-AHF);
- b) Resolution 58 (~~Hyderabad, 2010~~Rev. Dubai, 2014) of the World Telecommunication Development Conference, on access to ICT for persons with disabilities, including age-related disabilities, based on the ITU Telecommunication Development Sector (ITU-D) special initiative work carried out through studies conducted within the framework of Question 20/1 of ITU-D Study Group 1, ~~commencing in September 2006 and proposing the wording of that resolution and, likewise,~~ the ITU-D initiative on development of an e-accessibility toolkit for persons with disabilities, in collaboration and partnership with the Global Initiative for Inclusive ICTs (G3ict);
- c) that webcasting and captioning are invaluable tools, which benefit persons with disabilities and specific needs;
- d) ~~ongoing work in, the ITU Radiocommunication Sector (ITU-R); ITU-T and ITU-D to bridge the digital disability divide;~~
- i) Recommendation ITU-R M.1076 entitled "Wireless communication systems for persons with impaired hearing;"
- ii) relevant parts of the ITU-R Handbook entitled "Digital terrestrial television broadcasting in the VHF/UHF bands", providing guidance on techniques to be used for delivering programmes for people with hearing difficulties;
- iii) ongoing work in ITU-R to bridge the digital disability divide, including the work in ITU-R Study Group 6 on broadcasting and the creation of the new Intersectoral Rapporteur Group on Audiovisual Media Accessibility (IRG-AVA) between ITU-R and ITU-T, as result of the work of ITU-T FG-AVA;
- iv) the work in ITU-R Study Group 4 Working Parties 4A and 4B and Study Group 5 Working Party 5A with regard to improving access to digital hearing aids on a global basis;
- e) ongoing work in the ITU Telecommunication Standardization Sector (ITU-T):

- i) studies under Question 4/2 on human factors-related issues for improvement of the quality of life through international telecommunications and Question 26/16 on accessibility to multimedia systems and services, including Recommendation ITU-T F.790 on telecommunication accessibility guidelines for older persons and persons with disabilities;
- ii) publication by the Telecommunication Standardization Advisory Group of the guide for ITU study groups entitled "Considering end-user needs in developing Recommendations;"
- iii) creation of the Joint Coordination Activity on accessibility and human factors for the purposes of awareness-raising, advice, assistance, collaboration, coordination and networking;
- iv) the creation of the ITU-T Focus Group on Audiovisual Media Accessibility (FG-AVA), which is working on broadcasting and Internet television in order to include voice description for the visually impaired and captioning/subtitles for the deaf and hearing impaired, as well as accessible remote Internet participation;
- f) ongoing work in the ITU Development Sector (ITU-D):
 - i) studies under Question 20-1/1 Access to telecommunication/ICT services by persons with disabilities and with specific needs;
 - ii) the Dubai Action plan (WTDC 2014);
 - iii) the Dubai Declaration (WTDC 2014);
- g) that the Strategic Plan for the Union for 2016-2019, as approved by this 2014 Plenipotentiary Conference, includes intersectoral objective 1.5: "Enhance access to telecommunications/ICTs for persons with disabilities and specific needs" and related outcomes and outputs;
- dh) the outcomes of the World Summit on the Information Society (WSIS), calling for special attention to be given to persons with disabilities, including age-related disabilities;
- ei) the United Nations Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities, which entered into force on 3 May 2008 and which requires for States Parties to take appropriate measures for access for persons with disabilities on an equal basis with others to ICT, emergency services and Internet services,

considering

- a) that the World Health Organization estimates that ten per cent of the world's population (more than 650 million people) are persons with disabilities, and that this percentage may increase due to factors such as the greater availability of medical treatment and longer life expectancy, and also because people may acquire disability through aging, accidents, wars and circumstances of poverty;
- b) that over the past 60 years, the approach to disability adopted by United Nations agencies, and by many Member States (through a changed emphasis in their laws, regulations, policies and programmes), has moved from a health and welfare perspective to an approach based on human-rights, which recognizes that persons with disabilities are people first, and that societal actions have, in certain instances, placed barriers upon them as opposed to their disabilities, and which includes the goal of full participation in society by persons with disabilities;

c) that the United Nations Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities, which entered into force on 3 May 2008, requires States Parties, under Article 9 on accessibility, to take appropriate measures including:

- i) 9(2)(g) "*to promote access for persons with disabilities to new information and communications technologies and systems, including the Internet*";
 - ii) 9(2)(h) "*to promote the design, development, production and distribution of accessible information and communications technologies and systems at an early stage, so that these technologies and systems become accessible at minimum cost*";
- d) the importance of cooperation between governments, the private sector and relevant organizations to provide possibilities for low-cost access,

recalling

a) § 18 of the Tunis Commitment, made at the second phase of WSIS (Tunis, 2005): "*We shall strive unremittingly, therefore, to promote universal, ubiquitous, equitable and affordable access to ICTs, including universal design and assistive technologies, for all people, especially those with disabilities, everywhere, to ensure that the benefits are more evenly distributed between and within societies, and to bridge the digital divide in order to create digital opportunities for all and benefit from the potential offered by ICTs for development*";

b) the Phuket Declaration on Tsunami Preparedness for Persons with Disabilities (Phuket, 2007), which emphasizes the need for inclusive emergency warning and disaster management systems using telecommunication/ICT facilities based on open, non-proprietary, global standards;

c) Resolution GSC-14/27 agreed at the 14th Global Standards Collaboration meeting (Geneva 2009), which encouraged greater collaboration among global, regional, and national standardization bodies as a basis for establishing and/or strengthening activities and initiatives concerning the use of telecommunication/ICT accessibility for persons with disabilities,

resolves

1 to take account of persons with disabilities [and specific needs](#) in the work of ITU, and to collaborate in adopting a comprehensive action plan in order to extend access to telecommunications/ICTs to persons with disabilities [and specific needs](#), in collaboration with external entities and bodies concerned with this subject;

2 [to maximize use of webcasting facilities and captioning \(including transcripts of the captioning\), and if possible, provide it in all six official languages of the Union both during and after the conclusion of any session when convening conferences, assemblies and meetings of the Union as articulated in Chapter II, Section 12 Setting up of committees of the General Rules Of Conferences, Assemblies And Meetings Of The Union,](#)

instructs the Secretary-General, in consultation with the Directors of the Bureaux

1 to coordinate accessibility-related activities between ITU-R, ITU-T and ITU-D, in collaboration with other relevant organizations and entities where appropriate, in order to avoid duplication and to ensure that the needs of persons with disabilities [and specific needs](#) are taken into account;

2 to consider the financial implications for ITU of providing accessible information through ICTs and access to ITU facilities, services and programmes for participants with visual, hearing or physical disabilities, including captioning at meetings, [sign language interpretation](#), access to print

information and the ITU website, access to ITU buildings and meeting facilities, and the adoption of accessible ITU recruitment practices and employment;

3 to encourage and promote representation by persons with disabilities [and specific needs](#) so as to ensure that their experiences, views and opinions are taken into account when developing and progressing ITU work;

4 to consider expanding the fellowship programme in order to enable delegates with disabilities [and specific needs](#), within existing budgetary constraints, to participate in the work of ITU;

5 to identify, document and disseminate examples of best practices for accessibility in the field of telecommunications/ICTs among ITU Member States and Sector Members;

6 to work collaboratively on accessibility-related activities with ITU-R, ITU-T and ITU-D, in particular concerning awareness and mainstreaming of [accessibility features into telecommunication/ICT accessibility standards by encouraging deployment of Universal Design in all standards as defined in UNCRPD Article 2](#) and in developing programmes that enable developing countries to introduce services that allow persons with disabilities [and specific needs](#) to utilize telecommunication/ICT services effectively;

7 to work collaboratively and cooperatively with other relevant organizations and entities, in particular in the interest of ensuring that ongoing work in the field of accessibility is taken into account;

8 to work collaboratively and cooperatively with disability organizations in all regions to ensure that the needs of persons with disabilities [and specific needs](#) are taken into account;

9 to review the current ITU services and facilities, including meetings and events, in order to make them available to persons with disabilities [and specific needs](#), [in particular through appropriate provisions in host country agreements as required by Resolution 144 \(Rev. Busan, 2014\)](#), and to endeavour to make the necessary changes to improve accessibility, where appropriate and economically feasible, pursuant to United Nations General Assembly Resolution 61/106;

10 to consider accessibility standards and guidelines whenever undertaking renovations or changing the use of space at a facility, so that accessibility features are maintained and additional barriers are not inadvertently implemented;

11 to prepare a report for submission to each annual session of the Council on implementation of this resolution having regard to the budget allocated for this purpose;

12 to submit a report to the next plenipotentiary conference on measures taken to implement this resolution,

invites Member States and Sector Members

1 to consider developing, within their national legal frameworks, guidelines or other mechanisms to enhance the accessibility, compatibility and usability of telecommunication/ICT services, products and terminals, and to offer support to regional initiatives related to this issue;

2 to consider introducing appropriate telecommunication/ICT services in order to enable persons with disabilities [and specific needs](#) to utilize these services on an equal basis with others, and to promote international cooperation in this regard;

3 to participate actively in accessibility-related activities/studies in ITU-R, ITU-T and ITU-D, including participating actively in the work of the study groups concerned, and to encourage and promote representation by persons with disabilities [and specific needs](#) so as to ensure that their experiences, views and opinions are taken into account;

4 to take into account *considering c) ii) and d) above*, and the benefits of cost affordability for equipment and services for persons with disabilities [and specific needs](#), including universal design;

5 to encourage the international community to make voluntary contributions to the special trust fund set up by ITU to support activities relating to the implementation of this resolution.

Reasons: These modifications update Resolution 175 to reflect revisions to referenced resolutions, to update terminology as agreed at the 2014 World Telecommunications Development Conference, to recognize the inclusion of an intersectoral objective regarding accessibility that has been included in the Strategic Plan for the ITU, and to provide for webcasting and captioning as invaluable tools for enabling the participation of persons with disabilities and specific needs.

Conformance and interoperability

Background:

Since 2010, the ITU has developed a Conformance and Interoperability Programme (C&I Programme) to address issues raised by developing countries at WTDC-10, PP-10 and WTSA-12. The Director of the Telecommunication Standards Bureau (TSB) has developed an Action Plan, endorsed by Council, laying out actions and responsibilities for different aspects of the C&I Programme. According to the Action Plan approved at Council 2013 (C13/24 Rev. 1), the C&I Programme is based on four pillars:

1. Conformity assessment
2. Interoperability events
3. Capacity building
4. Establishment of test centres and C&I programmes in developing countries.

Pillars 1 & 2 are to be led by the Telecommunication Standardization Bureau (TSB) and Pillars 3 & 4 are to be led by the Telecommunication Development Bureau (BDT). Over the last 4 years, the TSB and BDT have been active in carrying out the tasks in the Action Plan in developing workshops and handbooks on conformance and interoperability issues as well as on the subject of establishing test centres. In addition, the ITU-T Study Groups have been identifying Recommendations suitable for conformance testing with Study Group 11 taking the lead on the Conformance and Interoperability Program. Information on these activities can be found in the progress reports submitted to Council and to Plenipotentiary 2014 as well as at:

<http://www.itu.int/ITU-D/tech/ConformanceInteroperability/>.

<http://www.itu.int/net/ITU-T/conformity/>

WTSA 2012 updated Resolution 76 and WTDC 2014 updated Resolution 47 to reflect the progress made at the dates of those conferences. In addition, WTDC 2014 approved a new Question to study Conformance and Interoperability.

Proposal

The United States proposes modifying Resolution 177 to reflect the progress to date including the Conformance and Interoperability action plan, results of WTSA 2012 and WTDC 2014 and to support the ongoing work in the BDT and TSB with the goal of improving interoperability of equipment developed to ITU-T Recommendations. Consistent with previous proposals, Resolution 177 should support the technical work and decisions being made within the Study Groups who are doing the work. The United States also proposes removing the reference to counterfeit equipment, recognizing the ongoing work in ITU-D and ITU-T separate from conformance testing, removing the reference to the ITU Mark, and encouraging mutual recognition of test results from accredited test labs.

MOD USA/27A2/4

RESOLUTION 177 (~~GUADALAJARA, 2010~~REV. BUSAN, 2014)

Conformance and interoperability

The Plenipotentiary Conference of the International Telecommunication Union
(~~Guadalajara, 2010~~Busan, 2014),

recognizing

a) that the World Telecommunication Standardization Assembly adopted Resolution 76
(~~Johannesburg, 2008~~Rev. Dubai, 2012);

b) that the World Telecommunication Development Conference adopted Resolution 47
(Rev. ~~Hyderabad, 2010~~Dubai, 2014);

bbis) that the World Telecommunication Development Conference adopted Resolution Com3/4
(Dubai, 2014);

c) that, at its ~~2009~~2012 session, the ITU Council endorsed the ~~following recommendations~~
Conformance and Interoperability Program Action Plan of the Director of the Telecommunication
Standardization Bureau (TSB) (~~Document C09/28~~); with revisions approved by Council at its
session;

~~1) — implementation of the proposed conformity assessment programme;~~

~~2) — implementation of the proposed interoperability events programme;~~

~~3) — implementation of the proposed human resources capacity building;~~

~~4) — implementation of the proposed recommendations to assist in the establishment of test
facilities in developing countries;~~

~~5) — that the Director of TSB should report to a future Council session on the implementation of
recommendations 1) and 2) above, and jointly with the Director of the Telecommunication
Development Bureau (BDT) on recommendations 3) and 4) above, and on a proposed
business plan for the long term implementation of the programmes;~~

d) the annual progress reports by the Director of TSB made to the Council ~~at its 2009 and 2010
sessions~~ and to the ~~2010~~2014 plenipotentiary conference;

e) the Report of the Council on the Implementation of the Strategic Plan and Activities of the
Union provided to the 2014 plenipotentiary conference;

f) the focus of the Conformance and Interoperability Program Action Plan, agreed by Council
2013, on the four pillars of conformity assessment, interoperability events, capacity building, and
establishment of test centres and C&I programmes in developing countries and away from
questions related to the ITU Mark,

resolves

1 to endorse the objectives of both Resolution 76 (~~Johannesburg, 2008~~Rev. Dubai 2012) and
Resolution 47 (Rev. ~~Hyderabad, 2010~~Dubai, 2014), and the ~~recommendations of the Director of~~

TSB-Conformance and Interoperability Action Plan endorsed by the Council at its 2012 session and subsequently revised at its 2009-2013 session;

2 that this programme of work continue to be implemented ~~in parallel without any delay~~, including the informative pilot conformity database and its development into a fully functioning database; bearing in mind the need for a business plan to be expeditiously developed by the Director of TSB, and approved by the Council, for its long-term implementation, in consultation with each region, taking into consideration a) the outcome and effect that the pilot conformity database may have on Member States, Sector Members and stakeholders (e.g., other standards development organizations (SDOs)), b) the impact the database will have on bridging the standardization gap as relevant to each region, c) the potential liability issues for ITU and for Member States, Sector Members and stakeholders; and taking into account the results of ~~the~~ regional ITU conformity and interoperability consultations;

3 to assist developing countries in establishing regional or subregional conformity and interoperability centres suitable to perform interoperability testing as appropriate and according to market needs,

instructs the Director of the Telecommunication Standardization Bureau,

1 to continue the consultation with all stakeholders in all regions, taking into consideration the needs of each region, on implementation of the recommendations Action Plan endorsed by the Council, including, in collaboration with the Director of BDT, the recommendations on human capacity building and assistance in the establishment of test facilities in developing countries;-

~~2—to continue to carry out the necessary studies with a view to introducing the use of ITU Mark for a possible future ITU Mark programme, as a voluntary programme permitting manufacturers and service providers to make a visible declaration that their equipment conforms to applicable recommendations of the ITU Telecommunication Standardization Sector (ITU-T) and increasing the probability of interoperability, and to consider its possible application as an indication of a degree of interoperability capability in the future;~~

2 in cooperation with the Director of the Telecommunication Development Bureau, and based on the consultations in *instructs the Director of the Telecommunication Standardization Bureau 1* above, to implement the Action Plan agreed by the Council in its session of 2012 and revised by Council in its session of 2013;

3 to enhance and improve standards-setting processes in order to improve ~~interoperability through conformity~~;

4 to prepare a business plan for the long-term implementation of this resolution;

5 to provide the Council with progress reports, including the results of studies, relating to the implementation of this resolution,

instructs the Director of the Telecommunication Development Bureau, in close collaboration with the Director of the Telecommunication Standardization Bureau and the Director of the Radiocommunication Bureau

1 to advance the implementation of Resolution 47 (Rev. ~~Hyderabad, 2010~~ Dubai, 2014) and the relevant parts of the Action Plan, and to report to the Council;

~~2—to assist Member States in addressing their concerns with respect to counterfeit equipment,~~

invites the Council

- 1 to consider the reports of the Directors of TSB and BDT and to take all necessary measures so as to contribute to the achievement of the objectives of this resolution;
- 2 to report to the next plenipotentiary conference on the progress made with respect to this resolution,

invites Sector Members

- 1 to populate the pilot conformity database with details of their products tested to applicable ITU-T recommendations in accredited test laboratories (first, second or third party), ~~or by accredited certification bodies,~~ or according to procedures adopted by a standards development organization or forum qualified in accordance with Recommendation ITU-T A.5;
- 2 to participate in ITU-facilitated interoperability events;
- 3 to take an active role in building developing countries' capacity in conformity conformance and interoperability testing, including on-the-job training, particularly as part of any supply contract for telecommunication equipment, services and systems to these countries,

invites organizations qualified in accordance with Recommendation ITU-T A.5

- 1 to participate in the ITU pilot conformity database activities and, sharing links on a mutual basis, to enrich its extent by referring to more recommendations and standards within a product, and to allow for more exposure of vendors' products and widen the portfolio of selection to the users;
- 2 to participate in developing countries' capacity-building programmes and activities facilitated by TSB and BDT, in particular offering opportunities for developing-country experts – particularly from operators – to gain on-the-job experience,

invites Member States

- 1 to contribute to the implementation of this resolution;
- 2 to encourage national and regional testing entities to assist ITU in implementing this resolution;
- 3 ~~to adopt conformity assessment regimes and procedures based on applicable ITU-T recommendations~~ to support implementation of the Conformance and Interoperability Action Plan, leading to better quality of service/quality of experience, and to higher probability of interoperability of equipment, services and systems;
- 4 to encourage acceptance of test results developed by accredited laboratories in order to increase confidence, minimize the cost associated with conformity assessment, enhance timely access to equipment and reduce barriers to trade.

~~*further invites Member States and Sector Members*~~

~~to bear in mind the legal and regulatory frameworks of other countries concerning equipment that negatively affects the quality of their telecommunication infrastructure, in particular recognizing the concerns of developing countries with respect to counterfeit equipment,~~

further invites Member States

~~to contribute to the next radiocommunication assembly in 2012 in order for it to consider and take appropriate actions as deemed necessary.~~

Reasons: Since Plenipotentiary 2010, there has been progress in settling many questions raised about the Conformance and Interoperability program. Council endorsed a concrete action plan in 2012 (revised in 2013) that allowed the Study Groups to start work investigating conformance testing of ITU-T Recommendations.

WTSA 2012 recognized this progress in revising Resolution 76, further clarifying the roles of the Study Groups in addressing conformance testing and interoperability testing of ITU-T Recommendations.

Given the progress made and still needed, Resolution 177 (Guadalajara, 2010) should be updated to reflect the activity since the last Plenipotentiary and to support ongoing productive work.

Counterfeit ICT equipment is a significant problem. Addressing the issue of counterfeit ICT equipment requires active participation of law enforcement and the judiciary to address many significant drivers of counterfeiting. During the discussions over the last four years, we have come to a better understanding that conformance testing is not the solution for counterfeit equipment. More study and greater communication with industry organizations that are addressing the problem of counterfeit equipment (such as GSMA, Mobile Manufacturer's Forum, ICC's Business Action to Stop Counterfeiting and Piracy (BASCAP)) are needed. WTDC 2014 approved a new resolution to study counterfeit equipment. In addition, ITU-T Study Group 11 is developing a technical report on counterfeit equipment in conjunction with ITU-D. It has been recognized that counterfeit equipment can pass conformance testing and can even be delivered with counterfeit test results. Therefore, counterfeit equipment needs to be studied separately from conformance testing.

Resolution 177 (Guadalajara, 2010) instructed the TSB Director to carry out studies with a view to introducing an ITU Mark. This provision sparked much debate and stalled progress until the TSB Director proposed a path forward at the 2012 session of Council by introducing an action plan with concrete steps toward advancing conformance testing and interoperability and providing assistance to developing countries. The question of an ITU Mark was deferred, pending progress on the action plan, completion of a market study and completion of a business plan. The endorsement of this plan by Council 2012 (with revisions to the action plan by Council in 2013) allowed for progress by both TSB and BDT. Council has not provided budget for the market study or for completion of the business plan. A way forward, given the financial constraints of the Union, would be to focus on progress that can be made under the TSB Director's action plan without the distraction of the question of the ITU Mark, which is not mentioned in the action plan.

Since 2010, the BDT has published several handbooks related to conformity assessment, testing, etc. and has provided a number of workshops in conjunction with the TSB, including materials on Mutual Recognition Agreements. It has been generally understood that mutual recognition of test results from accredited test laboratories is an important part of conformity assessment to help increase the level of confidence in equipment, reduce the cost to equipment manufacturers, increase trade and enhance timely access to new technologies.

DRAFT NEW RESOLUTION

Review of the current methodologies and development of a future vision for the participation of Sector Members, Associates and Academia in the activities of ITU

Over the last four years, the Union has been considering several issues concerning the participation of Sector Members, Associates, and Academia. These studies were undertaken pursuant to four studies by the Guadalajara Plenipotentiary Conference:

- Resolution 152 (Rev. Guadalajara, 2010), *Improvement of management and follow-up of the defrayal of ITU expenses by Sector Members and Associates*;
- Resolution 158 (Rev. Guadalajara, 2010), *Financial issues for consideration by the Council*;
- Resolution 169 (Guadalajara, 2010), *Admission of academia, universities and their associated research establishments to participate in the work of the three Sectors of the Union*; and
- Resolution 170 (Guadalajara, 2010), *Admission of Sector Members from developing countries to participate in the work of the ITU Radiocommunication Sector and the Telecommunication Standardization*.

At its 2014 Session, Council noted the report of the Council Working Group on Financial and Human Resources and approved a Draft New Resolution recommending further review of the current methodologies and development of a future vision for the participation of Sector Members, Associates, and Academia in the activities of the ITU. This Draft New Resolution has been submitted to the Busan Conference as Document No. [PP-14/53](#).

PROPOSAL:

The United States of America supports the efforts of the Council and its Working Group on these important matters and agrees that further review is needed. We therefore propose the attached Draft New Resolution based on Document PP-14/53 with an addition to *resolves 5* to focus study of participation of non-profit entities to those dealing with telecommunications/ICT matters to align it more closely with criteria applying to other participants.

ADD USA/27A2/5

DRAFT NEW RESOLUTION [USA-2]

Review of the current methodologies and development of a future vision for the participation of Sector Members, Associates and Academia in the activities of ITU

The Plenipotentiary Conference of the International Telecommunication Union (Busan, 2014),

recognizing

- a) Resolution 152 (Rev. Guadalajara, 2010) of the Plenipotentiary Conference, on *improvement of management and follow-up of the defrayal of ITU expenses by Sector Members and Associates*, which revised procedures related to the payment of fees;
- b) Resolution 158 (Rev. Guadalajara, 2010), *Financial issues for consideration by the Council*, instructed Council to review the present approach to Sector Membership, including the possibility of changes in areas such as the fee structure and membership categories, including the feasibility of combining sector participation (i.e. a single ITU membership across all three Sectors), and asked Council to review progress of implementation, and recommend modifications where required;
- c) Resolution 169 (Guadalajara, 2010), *Admission of academia, universities and their associated research establishments to participate in the work of the three Sectors of the Union*, which established this new category of participation on a trial basis, and instructed Council to add any additional conditions or procedures if deemed appropriate, and to submit a report to the next Plenipotentiary Conference for a final decision on such participation;
- d) Resolution 170 (Guadalajara, 2010), *Admission of Sector Members from developing countries to participate in the work of the ITU Radiocommunication Sector and the Telecommunication Standardization Sector*, established a reduced fee structure to promote participation in the activities of the two Sectors,

recalling

Resolution 1360, *Study of the current methodologies for the participation of Sector Members, Associates and Academia*, adopted by the 2013 session of the Council,

considering

that the 2011 session of the Council referred the follow-up to Resolution 158 on these matters to the Council Working Group on Financial and Human Resources (CWG-FHR) to prepare recommendations, which in turn deliberated on this subject during its 2012-14 meetings, including a special open consultation with Sector Members, Associates and Academia,

noting

that the Council, based on input from the CWG-FHR, recommended that the Union implement changes to simplify, improve fairness and modernize Sector Membership, while maintaining the existing three Sector structure for Sector Membership, including Associates and Academia,

resolves to instruct the Council

- 1 to analyse the implications of various pricing methodologies for Sector Members and Associates, in terms of advantages and disadvantages, and consider additional benefits, including special status for Sector Members of all three Sectors;
- 2 to study the current structure of membership and the benefits and participation rights of Sector Members, Associates and Academia, with a view to ensuring consistency and fairness between categories of membership;
- 3 to review the practical application of the rights and obligations of Sector Members as provided in the ITU Constitution and Convention, Resolution 14 (Rev. Antalya, 2006), as well as the arrangements for the participation of Associates and Academia, to ensure that they are properly recognized during ITU conferences, assemblies, study groups, working parties, advisory groups and other activities;
- 4 to develop guidelines and training for chairmen/vice-chairmen, study group counsellors and others on such arrangements pertaining to various categories of membership and participation, following the review outlined in *resolves* 3 above;
- 5 to study ways of increasing participation among non-profit entities dealing with telecommunication/ICT matters in the work of the Union, including the feasibility of establishing a new category of participation with corresponding rights and obligations;
- 6 to review the practice of exempting entities from membership fees (based on criteria such as reciprocity), and if necessary, make changes to the eligibility criteria;
- 7 to develop a comprehensive consultation strategy with Member States, Sector Members, Associates and Academia and others as appropriate, to ensure that all points of view are thoroughly considered,

instructs the Secretary-General and the Directors of the three Bureaux

to provide the necessary support to the Council to ensure that all members and participants have an opportunity to provide feedback to this initiative,

invites Member States, Sector Members, Associates and Academia

to participate in consultations on the subject, and provide comments on an ongoing basis.

Reasons: Further review is needed to determine means of preserving and growing the membership and participation in the Union's activities.
