

PLENARY MEETING

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Report by the Secretary-General

REQUESTS FOR EXEMPTION FROM ANY FINANCIAL CONTRIBUTION TO DEFRAYING EXPENSES RELATING TO PARTICIPATION IN THE WORK OF ITU

Summary

The requests received from regional and international organizations for exemption from any financial contribution have been examined by the various sessions of the Council in accordance with the procedure established by the Council at its session in 2000. According to that procedure, exemptions granted by the various sessions of the Council are valid up until the following plenipotentiary conference. The 2010 Plenipotentiary Conference (PP-10) examined and approved an extension of the exemptions until the next 2014 Plenipotentiary Conference (PP-14).

Taking into consideration the recommendation of the Council Working Group on Finance and Human Resources to undertake a full review of the criteria for fee exemptions, the Council 2014 postponed any decision regarding new requests for exemption to the 2014 Plenipotentiary Conference.

Action required

The Plenipotentiary Conference (Busan, 2014) is invited to:

- 1) **consider** the list of organizations submitted to the Council 2014 (Annex 1) and **approve** the recommendations of the Secretary-General;
- 2) **instruct** the Council to review the criteria for exemption and adjust the list accordingly (Annex 1 and Annex 2); and,
- 3) **approve** a short-term extension of the list of exempted entities until this review and adjustment by the Council is completed.

References

No. 231 of the Convention, Resolution 110 (Marrakesh, 2002), Documents C2000/28(Rev.1), C2001/26, C02/94 (§ 2), C03/40 and (Add.1), C03-ADD/3, C05/40, C09/62, C10/38, C10/39(Rev.1), C10/91, . C11/20 and (Add.1), C12/23 and (Add.1) and (Add.2), C13/44 and (Add.1) and (Add. 2) and (Add.3), C14/8

1. Situation

1.1 Currently, 112 regional and international organizations (See Annex 2 for the full list), which are ITU Sector Members or Associates under the terms of No. 231 of the Convention, have been exempted by the Council from any financial contribution in accordance with No. 476 of the Convention and the procedure adopted by the Council at its 2000 session ([C2000/28\(Rev.1\)](#)).

Exemption from fees is granted by the Council following an analysis and recommendation by the Secretary-General. The main criteria are that the entity must be a regional or international organization, non-profit-making, and must offer reciprocal benefits to ITU.

1.2 The procedure adopted by the Council at its 2000 session provides that any exemption granted by the Council is valid only up until the following plenipotentiary conference. The last Plenipotentiary Conference (PP-10) examined the list of exempted organizations which expressed their wish to continue and approved an extension of the exemptions until the next Plenipotentiary Conference (PP-14).

1.3 There has been a relatively quick rise in exemptions in the last few years: about one-third of the total has come since PP-10. Today, about one in five Sector Members is now exempt from fees. These exemptions represent 215 Sector Member participations across the three Sectors: 67 in ITU-R, 63 in ITU-T, and 85 in ITU-D; and three Associate participations: two in ITU-T and one in ITU-D. Furthermore, with the current broad criteria, a number of NGOs and business associations are among the organizations exempted, while other similar organizations are paying members of ITU.

1.4 The Council Working Group on Finance and Human Resources called for a review of eligibility criteria for exemptions to help bring greater clarity, consistency, and fairness between paying and non-paying members. Taking into consideration this recommendation, Council 2014 postponed any decision regarding new requests for exemption (See Annex 1 for the full list) to the 2014 Plenipotentiary Conference.

2. Profile and Participation of Exempted Organizations

2.1 Some 30% of exempted entities are Members of the three Sectors (ITU-R, ITU-T, ITU-D) and 42% are Members of only one Sector. In terms of participation, 69% of exempted entities have registered to at least one ITU event during the last four years. For the other 31%, the secretariat has no trace of registrations for ITU events during this period. In addition, 18% of exempted entities have concluded an agreement or equivalent with ITU (i.e. for a project or event sponsorship).

2.2 In preparation for PP-14, all exempted regional and international organizations were formally invited via a letter dated 1 April 2014 from the Secretary-General to confirm their wish to continue their participation in the work of ITU as Sector Members and to fill in a survey regarding their participation in and contributions to ITU over the past four-year period.

2.3 In response to the Secretary-General's letter, 72% (81 out of a total of 112) exempted regional and international organizations filled in the survey. Of this group, 58% are Members of ITU-R; 55% are Members of ITU-T, and 73% are Members of ITU-D. More than 90% of exempted members who answered the survey reported participation in ITU activities between 2010 and 2014, including attending ITU events and making contributions to study groups and working parties. About the same percentage said that they invited ITU to participate in their activities and

access their documentation, free of charge. Likewise, more than 90% reported that they plan to participate in the Union and to offer reciprocal benefits for the coming four-year period.

2.4 More detailed profiles of exempted members, their participation and responses to the above-noted survey are available [here](#).

3. Recommendation

3.1 PP-14 is invited to **consider** the list of organizations (Annex 1), which was submitted to the Council 2014 and to **approve** the recommendations from the Secretary-General.

3.2 PP-14 is further invited to **instruct** Council to review the criteria for exemption and adjust the list accordingly (Annex 1 and Annex 2), and to **approve** a short-term extension of the list of exempted entities until this review and adjustment by Council is completed.

Annexes: 2

ANNEX 1

Requests for Exemption Submitted to Council 2014

The following is a summary of the requests submitted by the secretariat to Council 2014. As noted above, Council 2014 postponed any decision regarding new requests for exemption to the 2014 Plenipotentiary Conference.

1.

Organization	Sector	Complies with criteria	SG Recommendation
AICEP - Associação Internacional das Comunicações de Expressão Portuguesa	ITU-R	NO	NO
	ITU-T	YES	YES
	ITU-D	YES	YES

Comments on mutual advantages:

The International Association of Portuguese-Speaking Communications (AICEP) is an international, technical, non-governmental and non-profit organization that brings together postal and telecommunications operators of Portuguese-speaking countries.

The organization's main mission is to support Portuguese-speaking countries communications' sustainable development through information sharing and reflection, training actions, and developmental projects.

Currently it has 36 members from nine Portuguese-speaking countries and territories, including postal operators, telecommunications operators and operators of contents (television), as well as six of the nine communications regulators of the Portuguese-speaking countries.

AICEP's members represent nine countries and territories of Portuguese Official Language: Angola, Brazil, Cabo Verde, Guinea-Bissau, Macau, Mozambique, Portugal, Sao Tome and Principe and Timor Leste, including: ITU-T Sector Members: Telecommunication Company of Macau; and ITU-T and ITU-D Sector Member: Portugal Telecom; ITU Member States' Regulators: Autoridade Geral de Regulação (AGER) Sao Tome and Principe, Autoridade Nacional de Comunicações (ANACOM) Portugal, Autoridade Reguladora Nacional das Tecnologias de Informação e Comunicação (ARN-TIC) Guinea-Bissau, Instituto Angolano das Comunicações (INACOM) Angola, (ARN-TIC); Instituto Nacional das Comunicações de Moçambique (INCM).

2.

Organization	Sector	Complies with criteria	SG Recommendation
APC - Association for Progressive Communications	ITU-R	NO	NO
	ITU-D	YES	YES

Comments on mutual advantages:

The Association for Progressive Communications (APC) is an International Network of NGOs founded in 1990 by networking seven non-profit organizations: IGC (USA), GreenNet (UK),

NordNet (Sweden), Web Networks (Canada), IBASE (Brazil), Nicarao/CRIES (Nicaragua), and Pegasus (Australia). It has now expanded its membership to 48 members in 35 countries from which 12 members are NGOs from Africa. Their activities focus on research, advocacy and education on matters related to Internet usage and civil society interest which leads to its members researching on telecommunications matters such as frequency management, universal access.

The research documents and knowledge accumulated by APC on civil society views on matters concerning the development of ICTs could add value to the ITU Study Groups, Conferences and development work in general. APC offered to share research documents they have which could be of interest to ITU.

This organization is most oriented to ITU-D. No evidence provided of relevant activities about radio, spectrum, satellite or any other ITU-R themes.

3.

Organization	Sector	Complies with criteria	SG Recommendation
ATIS - Alliance for Telecommunications Industry Solutions	ITU-R ITU-T	Consider as part of Council review of the criteria	Consider as part of Council review of the criteria

Comments on mutual advantages:

ATIS, a current ITU-T and ITU-R Sector Member, is a not-for-profit organization organized under the laws of the United States (accredited by ANSI) that develops technical and operational standards and solutions for the ICT industry. ATIS is the North American Organizational Partner for 3GPP, a founding Partner of oneM2M, a member and major U.S. contributor to ITU Radio and Telecommunications sectors, and a member of CITELE.

The organization has more than 250 member companies including wireless and wireline service providers, equipment manufacturers, broadband providers, software developers, consumer electronics companies, U.S. and Canadian public safety agencies, digital rights management companies, and internet service providers.

ATIS' membership, comprised of regional and global companies, includes key stakeholders from the ICT industry – wireless and wireline service providers, equipment manufacturers, broadband providers, software developers, consumer electronics companies, U.S. and Canadian public safety agencies, digital rights management companies, and internet service providers.

ATIS is currently a paying member of ITU-R and ITU-T. This request to change its current status to fee-exempted member should be further studied as part of a review by Council of the criteria.

4.

Organization	Sector	Complies with criteria	SG Recommendation
ECCAS – Economic Community of Central Africa States	ITU-R	NO	NO
	ITU-T	NO	NO
	ITU-D	YES	YES

Comments on mutual advantages:

ECCAS is an Economic Community established for the promotion of regional economic co-operation in Central Africa. It “aims to achieve collective autonomy, raise the standard of living of its populations and maintain economic stability through harmonious cooperation”.

The missions of ECCAS in the area of telecommunications/ICTs are set forth in Articles 45, 46, 47, 48, 49, and 50 of the Treaty Establishing the Economic Community of Central African States.

ITU is a strategic partner of ECCAS in the development and implementation of activities in the sector of telecommunications/ICTs in Central Africa. ITU provides support to ECCAS in activities among which are harmonization of national regulations that led to the elaboration of the draft model laws on telecommunications/ICTs and cybersecurity being adopted by the bodies of the Community, the techno-commercial study on roaming in Central Africa, and the consideration of safe management frequencies at the borders.

ECCAS is an ITU partner in development activities in the Central Africa Region. For example, the ECCAS Secretariat was the focal point for Central Africa countries during the implementation of HIPSSA project.

ITU is always invited to participate in ECCAS Meeting at all levels, i.e. Head of States, Ministerial or/and Technical. ITU has free access to all documentation related to the ICT/Telecommunications.

As the focus of collaboration has been on matters related to ITU-D. Activities have not fallen within the scope of ITU-R or ITU-T.

5.

Organization	Sector	Complies with criteria	SG Recommendation
IMPACT - International Multilateral Partnership Against Cyber Threats	ITU-T	YES	YES

Comments on mutual advantages:

IMPACT is a United Nations-affiliated cybersecurity alliance. Since 2011, IMPACT has played a key role in supporting the ITU’s mandate on cybersecurity and has undertaken various activities in the domain of ICT standardization.

A total of 149 countries of ITU’s 193 members are part of one of the largest cybersecurity alliance under the framework of ITU.

IMPACT has been involved in various activities and projects concerned with enhancing the cybersecurity of ITU's Member States since 2009.

All of their collaborative workshops, trainings and seminars with key partners will be available to ITU and its Member States at no cost.

IMPACT has put together a repository of resources related to collaborative activities with its partners. These resources include white papers, tools, Child Online Protection material, etc. All of these resources will be made available to ITU and its Member States at no cost.

6.

Organization	Sector	Complies with criteria	SG Recommendation
PITA - Pacific Islands Telecommunications Association	ITU-R ITU-D	YES YES	YES YES

Comments on mutual advantages:

The main activities of the Pacific Islands Telecommunications Association (PITA) are to promote, enhance and improve telecommunication in its member countries. The activities include regional meetings, technical workshops, training, and technical cooperation to foster greater exchange of skills, knowledge and capacity amongst the member countries and with organizations from the developed world. The members are telecommunication entities from Pacific Island states and territories. Associate members are industry organizations, suppliers and solution providers from around the world. PITA has a special category for governments and regulatory bodies.

PITA has collaborated with ITU to organize meetings and projects in the Pacific, using their own funding sources to perform their respective responsibilities under any such arrangement for the Pacific. PITA extends invitations to ITU without any registration fees to attend its meetings and activities. These activities have provided valuable and cost effective opportunities for ITU-D to report, exchange and discuss possibilities of common activities with key players from the Pacific Islands.

PITA has also been assisting with ITU-R initiatives for the Pacific Islands. In 2013, ITU-R and PITA organized in a partnership a Radio Seminar for Asia Pacific as well as a workshop on the future of C band in the Pacific region. For 2014, the ITU-R is currently preparing a high-level workshop with PITA, and will participate on PITA's Assembly, as it has done for the last two years.

As such, PITA is one of the valuable partners for ITU-R and ITU-D programs for the Pacific Islands, allowing for common benefits in exploring opportunities to promote regional telecommunications and information technology standards, to mutually cooperate in capacity building and transfer of skills, knowledge and competency to the Pacific Islands region.

ANNEX 2

Current List of Exempted Entities

ENTITY	ITU-R	ITU-T	ITU-D	Survey response
African Civil Society for the Information Society (ACSIS)	N	N	Y	Y
African ICT Consumers Network (AICN)	N	Y	Y	Y
African Telecommunications Union	Y	Y	Y	Y
African Union	Y	Y	Y	Y
African Union of Broadcasting	Y	Y	Y	N
Arab Business Forum for Information and Communication Technology	N	N	Y	N
Arab Information and Communication Technology Organization (AICTO)	Y	Y	Y	Y
Arab Private Broadcasting Union	Y	Y	Y	N
Arab Regulators Network	Y	Y	Y	Y
Arab States Broadcasting Union	Y	N	Y	N
Asia-Pacific Broadcasting Union	Y	Y	Y	Y
Asia-Pacific Institute for Broadcasting Development	N	N	Y	Y
Asia-Pacific Telecommunity	Y	Y	Y	Y
Asociación Iberoamericana de Centros de Investigación y Empresas de Telecomunicaciones	Y	Y	Y	Y
Asociación de Reguladores Administrador del Foro Latinoamericano de Entes Reguladores de Telecomunicaciones	Y	Y	Y	Y
Associação Empresarial de Comunicações de Portugal	N	N	Y	Y
Associação de Reguladores de Comunicações e Telecomunicações da Comunidade dos Países de Língua Portuguesa (ARCTEL-CPLP)	N	N	Y	Y
Association of Andean Community Telecommunications Enterprises	Y	Y	Y	N
Broadcast Networks Europe	Y	N	N	Y
Caribbean Association of National Telecommunication Organizations	N	N	Y	N
Caribbean Broadcasting Union	Y	N	Y	Y
Caribbean Telecommunications Union	Y	Y	Y	Y
Centre for Environment and Development for the Arab Region and Europe	N	Y	Y	Y
Child Helpline International	N	Y	Y	Y
Committee on Radio Astronomy Frequencies	Y	N	N	Y
Committee on Space Research	Y	N	N	Y
Commonwealth ITU Group	Y	Y	Y	Y
Commonwealth Telecommunications Organisation	N	Y	Y	Y

ENTITY	ITU-R	ITU-T	ITU-D	Survey response
Consortium d'Appui aux Actions pour la Promotion et le Développement de l'Afrique (CAPDA)	N	N	Y	N
Consumers International	N	Y	Y	Y
Continua Health Alliance	Y	Y	Y	N
Cooperation Council for the Arab States of the Gulf	Y	Y	Y	Y
Diaspora africaine pour la société de l'information	N	N	Y	Y
Digital Opportunity Trust	N	N	Y	Y
Digital Radio Mondiale	Y	N	Y	N
Dominic Foundation	N	Y	Y	Y
EIDQ Association -The Association for the Directory Information and Related Search Industry	N	A17	N	N
East African Communications Organization	Y	Y	Y	Y
East African Community	N	N	Y	N
Ecole Supérieure Multinationale des Télécommunications	Y	Y	Y	Y
Economic Community for West African States	Y	Y	Y	Y
European Broadcasting Union	Y	Y	Y	Y
European Communications Office	Y	Y	Y	Y
European Competitive Telecommunications Association	Y	Y	Y	N
European Conference of Postal and Telecommunications Administrations	Y	Y	Y	Y
European Telecommunications Network Operators' Association	Y	Y	Y	Y
European Telecommunications Satellite Organisation	Y	Y	Y	Y
European Telecommunications Standards Institute	Y	Y	Y	N
FTTH Council Asia-Pacific	N	N	Y	Y
Fibre to the Home Council Middle East & North Africa (FTTH MENA)	N	N	Y	Y
Forum of Incident Response and Security Teams (FIRST)	N	Y	Y	Y
G3ict - Global Initiative for Inclusive Information and Communication Technologies	N	Y	Y	Y
Global Knowledge Partnership Foundation	N	N	Y	N
Global VSAT Forum	N	N	Y	Y
Gobal ICT Standardization Forum for India (GISFI)	N	Y	N	Y
High Frequency Co-ordination Conference	Y	N	N	Y
IJMA3-The Arab ICT Organization	N	Y	Y	N
ITU-APT Foundation of India	N	Y	Y	Y
Indigenous Peoples ICT Task Force	N	N	Y	N
Institute of Electrical and Electronics Engineers, Inc.	Y	Y	Y	Y

ENTITY	ITU-R	ITU-T	ITU-D	Survey response
Inter-American Telecommunication Commission	Y	Y	Y	N
International Air Transport Association	Y	Y	Y	Y
International Amateur Radio Union	Y	N	Y	Y
International Association of Broadcasting	Y	N	N	Y
International Association of IT Lawyers (IAITL)	N	Y	N	Y
International Association of Marine Aids to Navigation and Lighthouse Authorities	Y	N	N	Y
International Astronautical Federation	Y	N	N	Y
International Astronomical Union	Y	N	N	Y
International Bureau of Weights and Measures	Y	N	N	Y
International Center for Disability Resources on the Internet (ICDRI)	N	Y	N	Y
International Center for Promotion of Enterprises	N	N	Y	Y
International Committee of the Red Cross	Y	Y	Y	Y
International Council for Science	Y	N	N	N
International Council on Large Electric Systems	Y	Y	N	N
International Electrotechnical Commission	Y	Y	Y	N
International Federation for Information Processing	N	Y	Y	Y
International Maritime Radio Association	Y	Y	N	Y
International Mobile Satellite Organization	Y	N	N	Y
International Organization for Standardization	Y	Y	Y	N
International Satellite System for Search and Rescue	Y	N	N	Y
International Special Committee on Radio Interference	Y	N	N	Y
International Telecommunication Academy	N	A13	A2	Y
International Telecommunications Satellite Organization	Y	Y	Y	Y
International Telecommunications Users Group	N	Y	Y	Y
International Union of Radio Science	Y	Y	Y	Y
Internet Society	N	Y	Y	Y
Internet Systems Consortium	N	Y	Y	N
League of Arab States	Y	Y	Y	Y
Mandat International	N	Y	N	Y
NetHope Inc	N	N	Y	Y
North American Broadcasters Association (NABA)	Y	N	N	Y
Open Geospatial Consortium (OGC)	N	Y	Y	Y
Pacific Islands Telecommunications Association	Y	Y	Y	Y
Regional African Satellite Communications Organization	Y	N	Y	Y
Regional Commonwealth in the Field of Communications	Y	Y	Y	Y
Scientific Committee on Frequency Allocations for Radio Astronomy and Space Science	Y	N	N	Y
Sintesis Foundation	N	N	Y	N

ENTITY	ITU-R	ITU-T	ITU-D	Survey response
Society of Motion Picture and Television Engineers	Y	N	N	Y
Southern Africa Telecentre Networks	Y	Y	Y	Y
Southern African Development Community	N	N	Y	N
Telecentre.org Foundation	N	N	Y	N
Telecommunications Regional Technical Commission	Y	Y	Y	Y
The Abdus Salam International Centre for Theoretical Physics	N	N	Y	Y
The Asia-Pacific Satellite Communications Council	Y	N	N	Y
UMTS Forum	Y	Y	Y	N
Union Economique et Monétaire Ouest Africaine	N	Y	Y	N
United Kingdom Telecommunications Academy (UKTA)	N	Y	Y	N
WebForce International Federation	N	N	Y	Y
West Africa Telecommunications Regulators Assembly	Y	Y	Y	Y
World Association of Community Radio Broadcasters	Y	N	Y	N
World Broadcasting Unions - Technical Committee	Y	N	N	Y
World Forum for Digital Audio Broadcasting	Y	N	N	N
