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| **The APT Preparatory Group for PP-14** | | **Document**  **PP14-3/OUT-03 (Rev.1)** | |
|  | | **05 June 2014** | |

**PRELIMINARY APT COMMON PROPOSAL (pacp): PROPOSED REVISION OF DECISION 5 (guadalajara, 2010)**

1. **INTRODUCTION**

The Council at its Session in 2014 considered the Report of the Council Working Group on Financial and Human Resources in which, among other things, were included proposed draft revisions to Decision 5.

In that Report, it was indicated that the membership should identify additional measures towards reducing expenses, in addition to the 21 listed in Annex 2 to Decision 5, in view of the difficult situation being faced by the Union to balance the budget.

At the Council a proposal was received from the membership that provided additional measures to be considered towards further reducing expenditure.

1. **PROPOSAL**

In view of the above, APT Member States propose the following revisions to the Decision 5 and its Annex 2.

**PACP/05**

**MOD**

DECISION 5 (Rev. Busan, 2014)

**Revenue and Expenses for the Union   
for the period 2016-2019**

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

*considering*

the strategic plans and goals established for the Union and its Sectors for the period 2016-2019, and the priorities identified therein,

*considering further*

*a)*Resolution 91 ( [Rev**.** Guadalajara, 2010)/Busan 2014]) of this conference, on general principles for cost recovery;

*b)* that, in the consideration of the draft financial plan of the Union for 2016-2019, the challenge to increase revenues in support of increasing programme demands is substantial,

*noting*

that this conference has adopted [Resolution 151 (Rev. Guadalajara, 2010)/Busan 2014 ]on the implementation of results-based management in ITU, an important component of which relates to planning, programming, budgeting, monitoring and evaluation, and which should lead, *inter alia*, to further strengthening of the financial management system of the Union,

*noting further*

that Resolution 48 [(Rev. Guadalajara, 2010/Busan 2014 ]) of this conference stresses the importance of the human resources of the Union for the fulfilment of its goals and objectives,

*decides*

1 that the Council is authorized to draw up the two biennial budgets of the Union in such a way that the total expenditure of the General Secretariat and the three Sectors of the Union is balanced by the anticipated revenue, on the basis of Annex 1 to this decision, taking into account the following:

1.1 that the amount of the contributory unit of Member States for the years 2016-2019 shall be CHF 318 000;

1.2 that expenditure on interpretation, translation and text processing in respect of the official languages of the Union shall not exceed CHF85 million for the years 2016-2019;

1.3 that, when adopting the biennial budgets of the Union, the Council may decide to give the Secretary-General the possibility, in order to meet unanticipated demand, to increase the budget for products or services which are subject to cost recovery, within the limit of the revenue from cost recovery for that activity;

1.4 that the Council shall each year review the revenue and expenses in the budget as well as the different activities and the related expenditure;

2 that, if no plenipotentiary conference is held in 2018, the Council shall establish the biennial budgets of the Union for 2020 – 2021 and 2022-2023 and thereafter, having first obtained approval for the budgeted annual values of the contributory unit from a majority of the Member States of the Union;

3 that the Council may authorize expenditure in excess of the limits for conferences, meetings and seminars if such excess can be compensated by sums within the expenditure limits accrued from previous years or charged to the following year;

4 that the Council shall, during each budgetary period, assess the changes that have taken place and the changes likely to take place in the current and coming budgetary periods under the following items:

4.1 salary scales, pension contributions and allowances, including post adjustments, established by the United Nations common system and applicable to the staff employed by the Union;

4.2 the exchange rate between the Swiss franc and the United States dollar in so far as this affects the staff costs for those staff members on United Nations scales;

4.3 the purchasing power of the Swiss franc in respect of non-staff items of expenditure;

5 that the Council shall have the task of effecting every possible economy, in particular taking into account the options for reducing expenditure contained in Annex 2 to this decision, and considering the application of the concept of unfunded mandatory activities (UMACs)[[1]](#footnote-1)1, and, to this end, that it shall establish the lowest possible authorized level of expenditure commensurate with the needs of the Union, within the limits established by *decides* 1 above, if necessary taking into account the provisions of *decides* 7 below; a set of options for reducing expenditure is given in Annex 2 to this decision;

6 that the following minimum guidelines should be applied in relation to any expenditure reductions:

a) the internal audit function of the Union should be maintained at a strong and effective level;

b) there should be no expenditure reductions which would affect cost-recovery income;

c) fixed costs such as those related to the reimbursement of loans or after-service health insurance should not be subject to expenditure reductions;

d) there should be no expenditure reductions in regular maintenance costs for ITU buildings which would affect the security or the health of staff;

e) the information services function in the Union should be maintained at an effective level;

7 that the Council, in determining the amount of withdrawals from or allocations to the Reserve Account, should aim under normal circumstances at keeping the Reserve Account at a level above six per cent of total annual expenditure,

*instructs the Secretary-General, with the assistance of the Coordination Committee*

1 to prepare the draft biennial budgets for the years 2016-2017, as well as 2018-2019, on the basis of the associated guidelines in *decides* above, the annexes to this decision and all relevant documents submitted to the Plenipotentiary Conference;

2 to ensure that, in each biennial budget, revenue and expenses are balanced;

3 to draw up and implement a programme of appropriate revenue increases, cost efficiencies and reductions across all ITU operations so as to ensure a balanced budget;

4 to implement the aforementioned programme as soon as possible,

*instructs the Secretary‑General*

1 to provide to the Council, no less than seven weeks before its 2015 and 2017 ordinary sessions, complete and accurate data as needed for the development, consideration and establishment of the biennial budget;

2 to undertake studies on the current status of and forecasts regarding financial stability and related reserve accounts of the Union under the changing circumstances after the introduction of the International Public Sector Accounting Standards (IPSAS), with a view to developing strategies for long-term financial stability, and to report annually to the Council;

3 to make every effort to achieve balanced biennial budgets, and to bring to the attention of the membership through the CWG-FHR any decisions that may have a financial impact likely to affect the achievement of such a balance,

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

to provide to the Council, on an annual basis, a report outlining expenditure relating to each item in Annex 2 to this decision, and to propose appropriate measures to be undertaken to reduce expenditure in each area,

*instructs the Council*

1 to review and approve the biennial budgets for 2016-2017 and 2018-2019, giving due consideration to the associated guidelines in *decides* above, the annexes to this decision and all documents submitted to the Plenipotentiary Conference;

2 to ensure that, in each biennial budget, revenue and expenses are balanced;

3 to consider further appropriations in the event that additional sources of revenue are identified or savings achieved;

4 to examine the cost-efficiency and cost-reduction programme drawn up by the Secretary-General;

5 to take account of the impact of any cost-reduction programme on the staff of the Union, including the implementation of a voluntary separation and early retirement scheme, where this can be funded from budgetary savings or through a withdrawal from the Reserve Account;

6 in addition to *instructs the Council* 5 above, in view of an unanticipated reduction of revenue due to the drop in classes of contribution from Member States and Sector Members, to authorize a one-time withdrawal from the Reserve Account, within the limits established in *decides* 7 above, in order to minimize the impact on staffing levels in the ITU biennial budgets for 2016-2017 and 2018-2019; any unused funds are to be returned to the Reserve Account at the end of each budgetary period;

7 in considering measures that could be adopted to strengthen the control of the finances of the Union, to take into account the financial impact of such issues as [ASHI]/funding, and the medium to long-term maintenance and/or replacement of buildings at the premises of the Union;

8 to invite the External Auditor, the Independent Management Advisory Committee and the Council Working Group on Financial and Human Resources to develop recommendations on strengthening financial control mechanisms in ITU, outlining specific objectives, as well as timelines and responsibilities for implementation, for consideration of Council, taking into account, *inter alia*, the issues identified in *instructs the Council* 7 above;

9 to consider the report of the Secretary-General relating to the matter referred to in *instructs the Secretary-General* 2 above, and report to the next plenipotentiary conference, as appropriate.

ANNEX 1 TO DECISION 5 (Rev. Busan, 2014)

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ANNEX 2 TO DECISION 5 (Rev. Busan, 2014)

**Measures for reducing expenditure**

1) Identification and elimination of possible duplications (functions, activities, workshops, seminars), and centralization of finance and administrative tasks.

1.bis) Integration, reduction, termination of Council Working Groups

2) Coordination and harmonization of seminars and workshops organized by the General Secretariat or the three Sectors in order to avoid duplication of the subjects covered and to optimize secretariat attendance toward their full integration as becoming ITU seminars and workshops.

3) Maximum coordination with regional organizations with a view to sharing the available resources of the regional organizations and minimizing the costs of participation (workshops, seminars, preparatory meetings for world conferences).

4) Possible savings from attrition, the redeployment of staff and the review and possible reduction of grades of vacant posts, in particular in non sensitive parts of the General Secretariat and the three Bureaux.

5) New or additional activities are to be implemented through staff redeployment.

6) Reduction in the cost of documentation of conferences and meetings by:

a) requesting at the time of registration whether paper copies are required;

b) setting of a maximum number of copies by the Plenipotentiary Conference or by the Council for all Union conferences, assemblies and meetings;

c) setting of a maximum of two sets per delegation;

d) reducing the number of paper copies sent to administrations from the current five to a maximum of two.

e) Reduce, to the absolute minimum necessary, other ITU publications placed on different areas in front of the meeting rooms.

7) Consideration of savings in languages (translation, interpretation) for study group meetings and publications, without prejudice to the goals of Resolution 154 (Rev. Guadalajara, 2010).

8) Implementation of WSIS activities through the redeployment of staff responsible for such activities within the existing resources and, as appropriate, through cost recovery and voluntary contributions.

9) Review of the costs of study groups and other relevant groups.

10) Limitation of the number of study group meetings and their duration.

11) Limitation of the number of days of meetings for the advisory groups to three days per year maximum with interpretation.

12) Reduction of the number and duration of physical meetings of working groups of the Council, where possible.

12bis) Reduction of number of Council Working Group to the absolute minimum necessary by integrating them into few numbers, terminating their activities if no further development occurred on their scope of activities.

13) Incorporation of the first preparatory meeting for the [2015] [2016] world radiocommunication conference within the conference period.

14) Identification of the level of achievement of the different programmes with a view to utilizing resources for other new activities.

15) For new programmes or those having additional financial resource implications, a "value-added impact statement" should justify how the proposed programmes differ from current and/or similar programmes in order to avoid overlap and duplication.

16) Sound consideration of the resources allocated to regional initiatives, programmes and assistance to members, to the regional presence both in the regions and at headquarters, as well as those resulting from the outcome of WTDC and the Hyderabad Action Plan, and financed directly as activities from the Sector budget.

17) Reduction of the cost of travel on duty, by limiting time on mission as well as through joint representation in meetings, and benefiting from reductions in air fares. To this effect rationalizing the number of staff sent to mission from various Departments/Divisions of the General Secretariat and the three Bureaux.

17bis) Reduction and/or elimination of travel to meetings the proceedings of which are webcasted and captioned including remote presentation of documents and contributions to these meetings.

18) Taking into account No. 145 of the Convention, a full range of electronic working methods needs to be explored to possibly reduce the costs, number and duration of the Radio Regulation s Board meetings in the future, e.g. reduction of the number of meetings in one calendar year from four to three.

19) Introduce incentive programmes, such as efficiency taxes, innovation funds and other methods in order to address innovative cross-cutting means of improving the Union's productivity.

20) Move, to the extent practicable, from present communications by fax between the Union and Member States to modern electronic communication methods.

20bis) Careful consideration of the Agenda of WRC s to the absolute minimum necessary to reduce the WRCs related activities between two WRCs.

20ter) Secretariat and administrative assistant sharing for Union’s officials and higher categories.

20qtr) Additional measures to reducing expenditure:

* Strategic, Financial and Operational Plans should not overlap
* Coordination of events and elimination of duplications
* Continuation of ITU’s collaboration with the six regional organizations
* Minimization of reprography cost
* Re-evaluation of translation policies and alternative translation procedures
* Evaluation of Regional Study Group meetings to avoid overlap with existing Working Groups and Committees of the six regional organization
* 30-day period requirement for travel requests, as far as possible
* Use of scanner by email in lieu of faxes and regular mail, whenever it is practicable.

21) Any additional measures adopted by the Council.

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1. 1 The concept of UMACs may be applied, where necessary, as a means of highlighting a number of activities within the overall programme of work mandated by the governing bodies of the Union, as well as those support activities which are deemed essential to implement the mandated activities, which could not be accommodated within the financial limits set by the Plenipotentiary Conference. The Secretary-General would be authorized to incur expenditure on these activities provided that savings are achieved or additional income is generated. [↑](#footnote-ref-1)