

ITU - Plenipotentiary Conference Briefing Note¹

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About

The Plenipotentiary Conference is the key event at which ITU Member States decide on the future role of the organization, thereby determining the organization's ability to influence and affect the development of information and communication technologies (ICTs) worldwide.

Goals

The Plenipotentiary Conference is the top policy-making body of the ITU. Held every four years, the Conference:

- sets the Union's general policies;
- adopts four-year strategic and financial plans; and-
- elects the senior management team of the organization, the members of [Council](#), and the members of the [Radio Regulations Board](#).

Agenda

The Plenipotentiary Conference is ITU's top policy-making body that sets the general policies of the organization for the next four years. The agenda is a standing document sufficiently broad to enable discussions and debate on many issues. The work of the Conference is based on proposals tabled by Member States within the general framework of the agenda.

Deadlines:

Proposals to amend the Constitution and Convention of the ITU: 20

February 2014

Other proposals for the work of the Conference: 20 June 2014

- firm deadline for all contributions: 7 October 2014

Proposals so far:

<http://www.itu.int/md/meetingdoc.asp?parent=S14-PP-C&class=PROP&lang=en>

All contributions so far: <http://www.itu.int/md/S14-PP-C/en> >

<http://wcitleaks.org/>

(we do not have access to the documents yet...)

ITU Internet activities

Summary

This report summarizes ITU's activities related to Plenipotentiary Resolution 101 (Rev. Guadalajara, 2010): "Internet Protocol-based Networks"; Resolution 102 (Rev. Guadalajara, 2010): "ITU's role with regard to international public policy issues pertaining to the Internet and the management of Internet resources, including domain names and addresses"; Resolution 133

¹ With contributions from Sergio Alves.

f. <http://www.itu.int/en/plenipotentiary/2014/Pages/candidates.aspx>

2. Draft New Constitution

a. Serious work done over the previous 4 years, under the leadership of Mexico, with Vice-chairs from all Regions

b. The new version of the Stable Constitution should build upon the current ITU Constitution (CS) and Convention (CV), should not innovate in areas that are not covered or present in the current CS and CV of the Union

c. Countries will once again try to include terminology related to Internet, cybersecurity, data, information, security, human rights... as they did several times in the past

d. New language could be built to give the ITRs more meaning, since ITU lacks some of the legal provisions for its full implementation

e. Brazil, US, Colombia and Canada propose further studies, and that the mandate for the ITU Council Working Group on Draft Stable Constitution be renovated

f. <http://www.itu.int/council/groups/cwg-stb-cs/>

3. PP Resolutions

a. On core Internet matters

i. Res. 101 - Internet Protocol-based networks

ii. Res. 102 - ITU's role with regard to international public policy issues pertaining to the Internet and the management of Internet resources, including domain names and addresses

iii. 140 ITU's role in implementing the outcomes of the World Summit on the Information Society

1. Some countries might raise again the idea of ITU as a global Internet Registry

2. Some countries do not recognize multistakeholder models in the sense that is understood by US Internet community, and they will not recognize NETmundial or the wholeness of NETmundial outcomes

a. This is an old concept, but as mentioned, countries that prefer the UN and ITU track might not recognize some of ICANN's most recent moves (IANA transition, High Level Panel Report, NETmundial, NETmundial Initiative) and push for the implementation of "enhanced cooperation" under ITU and ITU's Council Working Group on Internet Policy Matters (as cited, an old concept still in the air)

b. It's decided that WSIS+10 will take place in NYC in 2015, but there is still a lot to be defined on modalities, work outreach and meanings of the Summit

b. Cybersecurity

i. Res. 130 - Strengthening the role of ITU in building confidence and security in the use of information and communication technologies

ii. Res. 181 - Definitions and terminology relating to building confidence and security in the use of information and communication technologies

1. These Resolutions govern most of ITU initiatives on Cybersecurity

2. Two aspects are central in it and might be focus of fierce negotiation

a. A definition of Cybersecurity

i. Usually referred to Recommendation ITU-T

X.1205: "Cybersecurity: Cybersecurity is the collection of tools, policies, security concepts, security safeguards, guidelines, risk management approaches, actions, training, best practices, assurance and technologies that can be used to protect the

cyber environment and organization and user's assets. Organization and user's assets include connected computing devices, personnel, infrastructure, applications, services, telecommunications systems, and the totality of transmitted and/or stored information in the cyber environment. Cybersecurity strives to ensure the attainment and maintenance of the security properties of the organization and user's assets against relevant security risks in the cyber environment. The general security objectives comprise the following: Availability; Integrity, which may include authenticity and non-repudiation; Confidentiality"

b. ITU's role in cybersecurity

i. Res. 130: "ITU shall focus resources and programmes on those areas of cybersecurity within its core mandate and expertise, notably the technical and development spheres, and not including areas related to Member States' application of legal or policy principles related to national defence, national security, content and cybercrime, which are within their sovereign rights, although this does not however exclude ITU from carrying out its mandate to develop technical recommendations designed to reduce vulnerabilities in the ICT infrastructure, nor from providing all the assistance that was agreed upon at WTDC-10, including Programme 2 activities such as "assisting Member States, in particular developing countries, in the elaboration of appropriate and workable legal measures relating to protection against cyberthreats" and in activities under Question 22-1/1"

(...)

2 consistent with Resolution 45 (Rev. Hyderabad, 2010,) to work towards the preparation of a document relating to a possible memorandum of understanding (MoU), including the legal analysis of the MoU and its scope of application, among interested Member States, to strengthen cybersecurity and combat cyberthreats, in order to protect developing countries and any country interested in acceding to this possible MoU, with the outcome of the meeting to be submitted to the Council session in 2011 for its consideration and any action, as appropriate;

c. Strategic Plan Of The ITU For 2016-2019

i. Res. 71 - Strategic plan for the Union for 2012-2015

ii. Res. 72 - Linking strategic, financial and operational planning

1. Work led/coordinated by Brazil

d. International security matters

i. Res. 32 Technical assistance to the Palestinian Authority for the development of telecommunications

ii. Res. 99 Status of Palestine in ITU

iii. Res.127 - Assistance and support to the Government of Afghanistan for rebuilding its telecommunication system

iv. Res. 159 Assistance and support to Lebanon for rebuilding its telecommunication networks (fixed and mobile)

1. Sensitive issues that have been on ITU's agenda for years. It scaled up at PP-10, with fierce discussions with interested parties and suggestions that those issues be taken to UN Security Council (a more proper venue)

2. They are not very related to Internet policy, but carry interesting diplomatic meanings

