

INTERNATIONAL TELECOMMUNICATION UNION

General Secretariat



Geneva, 13 May 2009

Ref: **Circular letter 143**
SG/SPM/CGM

- To Member States of the ITU

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Subject: Management and functioning of the Union

Dear Sir/Madam,

At its 2008 session, Council considered Documents C08/48 and C08/49 on the management and functioning of the Union. In the introduction of those Documents, it was recalled that since 1992 the management and functioning of the Union had already been the subject of studies which had led to a number of significant structural and institutional reforms. Resolution 147 (Antalya, 2006) had instructed the Council to conduct a new study focusing on five issues that were examined in Document C08/48. Given the non-exhaustive nature of that list, the Union's management team had drawn up Document C08/49, which contained not solutions but lines of reflection other than those mentioned in Resolution 147 (Antalya, 2006) on the management and functioning of the Union, questions of a financial nature and questions relating to the Union's basic instruments. The two documents were very well received by Councillors who agreed that their respective content be brought to the attention of Member States to collect their comments, opinion and suggestions.

During the discussion, Councillors expressed themselves in favour of a consultation process that was as open as possible. Since Resolution 147 (Antalya, 2006) did not provide for the establishment of a working group, it was therefore proposed that the consultation should comprise two facets, namely access to a webpage open to all Member States and the dispatch of a letter to all Administrations, the aim being to enable all concerned to duly prepare proposals ahead of the 2010 Plenipotentiary Conference.

Having considered the wide scope and technical nature of some of the aspects raised in both documents and in response to a growing determination on the part of Member States to have an opportunity to carry out an in depth analysis on some of the issues, Council decided that Documents C08/48 and C08/49 be circulated to the Member States, which would then have until three months before Council 09 to submit their written comments.

The Secretary-General will then prepare, on the basis of these comments, a report to be submitted to the next ordinary session of the Council.

Following Council's decision, a website has been established at <http://www.itu.int/council/groups/res147/index.html> where all relevant information has been posted and where you can send your comments. I would suggest that you organise your comments following the five issues identified by Resolution 147 (Antalya, 2006) as well as the additional issues in Doc. C08/49:

- reporting structure in the Union;
- role, accountability, number and tenure/term of office of elected officials; terminology used to designate the Directors of the Bureaux;
- functioning of the Coordination Committee;
- election procedures; appointed staff standing for election to an elected official position;
- responsibility, accountability and transparency of the advisory groups;
- questions relating to Resolution 158 (Antalya, 2006):
 - system in place for setting the contributory unit and for the membership to announce its choice of class of contribution at a Plenipotentiary Conference;
 - consideration of more detailed criteria for Associates and of the respective amount of Sector Member and Associate contributions;
 - new categories of membership for academic or educational entities or even, more generally, for intergovernmental organizations;
 - services provided by the Union: cost recovery, invoicing for services supplied by ITU to its membership, but also to non-members;
- questions relating to the basic instruments of the Union:
 - amendments to the Constitution and Convention;
 - compilation of Final Acts.

I would invite your Administration to participate actively in this work and remind you that your comments should reach the ITU by 20 July 2009 at the latest.

I look forward to hearing from you, by email, at contributions@itu.int.

Yours faithfully,

(signed)

Dr Hamadoun I. TOURE
Secretary-General