

## RESOLUTION 154 (REV. BUCHAREST, 2022)

### Use of the six official languages of the Union on an equal footing

The Plenipotentiary Conference of the International Telecommunication Union (Bucharest, 2022),

*referring to*

- a) United Nations General Assembly (UNGA) Resolution 76/268, on multilingualism;
- b) Article 29 of the ITU Constitution and Article 35 of the ITU Convention, on the official languages of the Union;
- c) Resolution 66 (Rev. Bucharest, 2022) of this conference, on documents and publications of the Union;
- d) Resolution 165 (Rev. Dubai, 2018) of the Plenipotentiary Conference, on deadlines for the submission of proposals and procedures for the registration of participants for conferences and assemblies of the Union;
- e) Resolution 168 (Guadalajara, 2010) of the Plenipotentiary Conference, on translation of ITU recommendations;
- f) Decision 5 (Rev. Bucharest, 2022) of this conference, on revenue and expenses for the Union;
- g) ITU Council Resolution 1372 (2015, last amended 2019), on the Council Working Group on languages (CWG-LANG);
- h) Council Resolution 1386 (2017), on the ITU Coordination Committee for Terminology (ITU CCT);

- i) relevant resolutions of the ITU Sectors on languages;
- j) Decision 11 (Rev. Bucharest, 2022) of this conference,

*reaffirming*

- a) that UNGA, in Resolution 76/268, recognized that multilingualism, as a core value of the Organization, contributes to the achievement of the goals of the United Nations, as set out in Article 1 of the Charter of the United Nations;
- b) the fundamental principle of equal treatment of the six official languages, as enshrined in Resolution 115 (Marrakesh, 2002) of the Plenipotentiary Conference, on use of the six official and working languages of the Union on an equal footing,

*noting with satisfaction and appreciation*

- a) the progress made in regard to alignment of working methods and optimization of staffing levels in all the official languages, linguistic unification of databases for terminology and definitions, and centralizing editing functions;
- b) ITU's active participation in the International Annual Meeting on Language Arrangements, Documentation and Publications (IAMLADP);
- c) the development of the ITU database for telecommunication/information and communication technology (ICT) terminology and definitions in all the official languages of the Union;
- d) the work accomplished by ITU CCT on the agreement and adoption of terms and definitions in the field of telecommunications/ICTs in all six official languages of the Union,

*recognizing*

- a) that multilingualism is also important for ITU;
- b) that translation and interpretation are essential elements of the work of the Union that enable a common understanding among the entire ITU membership on the important issues under discussion;

c) the importance of maintaining and improving the multilingual content of services required by the universal character of United Nations system organizations, as called for in United Nations Joint Inspection Unit Report 2020/6: Multilingualism in the United Nations system;

d) the work accomplished by CWG-LANG, as well as the work by the secretariat to implement the working group's recommendations as agreed by the Council, in particular with regard to the unification of linguistic databases for terminology and definitions, the centralization of editing functions, and the integration of the terminology database for all six official languages of the Union, as well as harmonizing and unifying working procedures in the six language services;

e) that websites in the six official languages of ITU are important tools for the membership, the media, educational institutions and the general public,

*recognizing further*

a) the budget constraints facing the Union, and the importance of ensuring that ITU's work on the use of the languages of the Union on an equal footing is considered in conjunction with the budget so as to achieve an efficient allocation of expenses;

b) that expenses on interpretation, translation and text processing in respect of all the official languages of the Union for the years 2024-2027 shall not exceed the figure specified in the appropriate part of Decision 5 (Rev. Bucharest, 2022);

c) that the Council, in Resolution 1386, resolved that ITU CCT should include the Coordination Committee for Vocabulary in the ITU Radiocommunication Sector and the Standardization Committee for Vocabulary in the ITU Telecommunication Standardization Sector, functioning in accordance with the relevant resolutions of the Radiocommunication Assembly and the World Telecommunication Standardization Assembly, and representatives of the ITU Telecommunication Development Sector, in close collaboration with the ITU secretariat,

*resolves*

- 1 to continue to take all necessary measures to ensure use of the six official languages of the Union on an equal footing and to provide interpretation and the translation of ITU documentation, although some work in ITU (for example working parties, regional conferences) might not require the use of all official languages;
- 2 that ITU CCT, which is composed of experts who are proficient in various official languages and who are designated by the interested membership, the study groups of the Sectors and the ITU secretariat, shall be responsible for coordinating ITU terminology work and for developing and supporting the vocabulary of telecommunications and ICTs;
- 3 that ITU CCT, in close collaboration with the language sections of the General Secretariat, shall examine proposals submitted by the study groups and working groups of the Council in English, and approve translations in the other official languages, if necessary;
- 4 that when selecting terms and preparing definitions, study groups, and after them ITU CCT, shall take into account the established use of terms and existing definitions in ITU, in particular those already included in the online database of terms and definitions of ITU; in cases where several terms are proposed with similar definitions or concepts, a single term and definition should be selected that will be acceptable for all study groups concerned,

*instructs the Secretary-General, in close collaboration with the Directors of the Bureaux*

- 1 to present annually to the Council and to CWG-LANG a report containing:
  - i) evolution of the budget for translation of documents to the six official languages of the Union since the most recent plenipotentiary conference, taking into consideration variations in the volumes of translation services provided in each year;
  - ii) procedures adopted by other international organizations inside and outside the United Nations system and benchmark studies on their costs of translation;
  - iii) initiatives undertaken by the General Secretariat and the three Bureaux to increase efficiencies and cost savings in the implementation of this resolution and comparison with the evolution of the budget since the most recent plenipotentiary conference;

- iv) alternative translation procedures feasible to be adopted by ITU, in particular the use of innovative technologies, and their advantages and disadvantages;
  - v) progress made on the implementation of measures and principles for translation and interpretation adopted by the Council;
- 2 to publish all contributions submitted to the ITU secretariat for any ITU event in their original language on the respective event website as soon as possible, but in any case not later than three working days after they were received, and even before their translation into the other official languages of the Union;
- 3 to intensify work on harmonization of the websites of the ITU Sectors and the General Secretariat in all the official languages of the Union to ensure clarity and ease of navigation and to achieve the image of "One ITU";
- 4 to support the incorporation of multilingualism in communications and knowledge exchange, paying particular attention to multilingual content on official websites and social media accounts around the world;
- 5 to provide timely updates of the pages of the ITU website in all six languages of the Union;
- 6 to provide all necessary information and support to ITU CCT;
- 7 to collect all new terms and definitions proposed by ITU study groups in consultation with ITU CCT, enter them in ITU's online database for such terms and definitions, and improve the search facilities of the database based upon time ranges;
- 8 to monitor the quality of interpretation and translation and the associated expenditures;
- 9 to continue to translate ITU policy documents and other documents providing guidance on intellectual property rights in ITU;
- 10 to continue to explore all possible options for the provision of interpretation and translation of existing ITU documentation to promote the use of the six official languages of the Union on an equal footing during official meetings of ITU;

11 to continue to collaborate with interested Member States and, to the extent practicable, to refine the translation of terminology and definitions in all six official languages,

*instructs the ITU Council*

1 to continue to analyse the adoption by ITU of alternative translation procedures, taking into account their financial implications and leveraging the benefits of innovative technologies in order to reduce translation and typing expenses in the budget of the Union, while maintaining or improving the current quality of translation and the correct use of technical telecommunication terminology;

2 to continue to analyse, including through the use of appropriate indicators, application of the updated measures and principles for interpretation and translation adopted by the Council at its 2014 session, taking into consideration the financial constraints, and bearing in mind the ultimate objective of full implementation of treatment of the six official languages on an equal footing;

3 to monitor implementation of the Policy Framework on Multilingualism in ITU;

4 to pursue and monitor appropriate operational measures, such as:

- i) to continue review of ITU documentation and publication services with a view to eliminating any duplication and to creating synergies;
- ii) to facilitate the timely and simultaneous delivery of high-quality and efficient language services (interpretation, documentation, publications and public-information materials) in the six languages, in support of the Union's strategic goals;
- iii) to support optimum levels of staffing, including core staff, temporary assistance and outsourcing, while ensuring the required high quality of interpretation and translation;
- iv) to continue implementation of judicious and efficient use of ICTs in language and publications activities, taking into consideration experience gained by other international organizations and best practices;

- v) to continue to explore and implement all possible measures to reduce the size and volume of documents (page-limits, executive summaries, material in annexes or hyperlinks), and achieve greener meetings, when justified, without affecting the quality and content of the documents to be translated or to be published, and bearing clearly in mind the need to comply with the United Nations system objective of multilingualism;
  - vi) as a matter of priority, to take, to the extent practicable, all necessary measures for equitable use of all official languages on the ITU website in terms of multilingual content and user-friendliness;
- 5 to monitor the work carried out by the ITU secretariat in regard to:
- i) merging all existing databases for terminology and definitions into a centralized system, with proper measures for its maintenance, expansion and updating;
  - ii) completion and maintenance of the ITU database for telecommunication/ICT terminology and definitions for all languages;
  - iii) providing all language service units with the necessary qualified staff and tools to meet their requirements in each language;
  - iv) enhancing ITU's image and the effectiveness of its public-information work, making use of all official languages of the Union, in, among other things, publishing ITU News, creating ITU websites, organizing Internet broadcasting and archiving of recordings, and issuing documents of a public-information nature, including announcements of ITU Telecom events, e-flashes and such like;
- 6 to maintain CWG-LANG, in order to monitor progress and report to the Council, including making recommendations, as appropriate, on the implementation of this resolution, working in close collaboration with ITU CCT and the Council Working Group on financial and human resources;

7 to review, in collaboration with the Sector advisory groups, the types of material to be included in output documents and translated;

8 to continue to consider measures to reduce, without sacrificing quality, the cost and volume of documentation as a standing item, in particular for conferences and assemblies;

9 to report to the next plenipotentiary conference on the implementation of this resolution,

*instructs the Sector advisory groups*

to review annually the use of all official languages of the Union on an equal footing in ITU publications and on ITU websites,

*invites Member States and Sector Members*

1 to ensure that the different language versions of documents and publications are utilized, downloaded and purchased by the corresponding language communities, for the sake of maximizing their benefit and cost-effectiveness;

2 to submit their contributions and inputs sufficiently early before the beginning of conferences, assemblies and meetings of the Union, respecting deadlines for the submission of contributions that require translation, and to contain their size and volume to the greatest extent;

3 to continue to cooperate in the refinement of the official language translation of terminology and definitions at the request of ITU CCT.

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*(Antalya, 2006) – (Rev. Guadalajara, 2010) – (Rev. Busan, 2014) – (Rev. Dubai, 2018)  
– (Rev. Bucharest, 2022)*

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