



United Nations Industrial Development Organization

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Industrial Development Board

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Item 4 (b) of the provisional agenda

Financial situation of UNIDO

Introduction of digital recordings

Note by the Secretariat

With a view to rationalizing proceedings of the policymaking organs and introducing further savings into Programme A.1, the present note contains a draft decision for consideration by the Board.

I. Introduction

1. In its consideration of the programme and budget proposals for 2012-2013, the Board adopted decision IDB.39/Dec.7, with a view, inter alia, to achieving economies in Major Programme A: Policymaking Organs. The present note provides legal and financial background information on a further proposal for potential savings in Programme A.1: Meetings of the Policymaking Organs.

II. Proposed savings

2. At present, and in compliance with rule 69 of the Rules of Procedure of the Board and rule 65 of the Rules of Procedure of the Conference, the Secretariat issues summary records of the plenary meetings of the Board and the Conference, as well as for the meetings of the Main Committee of the Conference. These records are provided in all six languages of the Board and the Conference. In practice, summary records in the English language are provided shortly after the sessions, whereas translations are processed at a later stage. The total costs for the translation of summary records during the biennium 2012-2013 are estimated at approximately € 300,000.

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3. An alternative to the issuance of summary records in all six languages would be to make available the complete digital recordings of the proceedings in all six languages on the password-secured UNIDO Permanent Missions Extranet in the form of mp3 files. The English language version would continue to be issued in written form. Such an approach would not only result in a reduction of documents and associated translation costs but would also allow the Secretariat to fully utilize modern and up-to-date technologies to service its Member States. Moreover, this approach would significantly reduce the delay in making available all language versions of the sessional proceedings.
4. For the reasons described above, Member States may wish to consider, on a trial basis, introducing the digital recording approach for the sessional proceedings for which summary records are required. It should be noted that other organizations in the United Nations system are also considering adopting this approach, and the United Nations Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space is already applying the approach on a trial basis.
5. Should the Member States wish to adopt this approach on a trial basis for the next round of sessions of the Board and of the General Conference, a temporary suspension of relevant portions of the rules of procedure for both organs would be required.

III. Action required of the Board

6. In light of budgetary constraints and with a view to streamlining further the proceedings of the policymaking organs, the Board may wish to consider the adoption of the following draft decision:

“The Industrial Development Board:

(a) Takes note of the information concerning proposed savings in Major Programme A: Policymaking organs, provided in document IDB.40/25;

(b) Decides to suspend the portion of rule 69.1 of the Rules of Procedure of the Board specifying “in the languages of the Board”, for its fortieth and forty-first sessions only;

(c) Requests the Director-General to ensure that digital recordings of the plenary meetings of its fortieth and forty-first sessions be made available to Member States in all six official languages on the Permanent Missions Extranet;

(d) Also requests the Director-General to issue the English language version of the summary records of its fortieth and forty-first sessions in written form;

(e) Recommends to the General Conference the suspension of the relevant portion of rule 65.1 of the Rules of Procedure of the Conference for its fifteenth session, as well as the suspension of the provision in its decision GC.3/Dec.11 calling for the issuance of summary records on the work of the Main Committee, while requesting the Director-General to ensure that digital recordings of its meetings be made available in all six official languages on the Permanent Missions Extranet and to issue written summary records in English only.”