

I n t e r n a t i o n a l T e l e c o m m u n i c a t i o n U n i o n

ITU-T

TELECOMMUNICATION
STANDARDIZATION SECTOR
OF ITU

WORLD TELECOMMUNICATION STANDARDIZATION
ASSEMBLY

Hammamet, 25 October – 3 November 2016

**Resolution 35 – Appointment and maximum
term of office for chairmen and vice chairmen of
study groups of the Telecommunication
Standardization Sector and of the
Telecommunication Standardization
Advisory Group**

FOREWORD

The International Telecommunication Union (ITU) is the United Nations specialized agency in the field of telecommunications, information and communication technologies (ICTs). The ITU Telecommunication Standardization Sector (ITU-T) is a permanent organ of ITU. ITU-T is responsible for studying technical, operating and tariff questions and issuing Recommendations on them with a view to standardizing telecommunications on a worldwide basis.

The World Telecommunication Standardization Assembly (WTSA), which meets every four years, establishes the topics for study by the ITU-T study groups which, in turn, produce Recommendations on these topics.

The approval of ITU-T Recommendations is covered by the procedure laid down in WTSA Resolution 1.

In some areas of information technology which fall within ITU-T's purview, the necessary standards are prepared on a collaborative basis with ISO and IEC.

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RESOLUTION 35 (Rev. Hammamet, 2016)

Appointment and maximum term of office for chairmen and vice-chairmen of study groups of the Telecommunication Standardization Sector and of the Telecommunication Standardization Advisory Group

(Montreal, 2000; Florianópolis, 2004; Johannesburg, 2008; Dubai, 2012; Hammamet, 2016)

The World Telecommunication Standardization Assembly (Hammamet, 2016),

considering

- a) that No. 189 of the ITU Convention provides for the establishment of study groups of the ITU Telecommunication Standardization Sector (ITU-T);
- b) that Article 20 of the Convention provides that, in appointing chairmen and vice-chairmen, personal competence and equitable geographical distribution should be especially kept in mind, as well as the need to promote more effective participation by developing countries¹;
- c) that No. 192 of the Convention and other related provisions indicate the nature of the work of the study groups;
- d) that provisions for the Telecommunication Standardization Advisory Group (TSAG) have been incorporated in Article 14A of the Convention;
- e) that No. 242 of the Convention requires the World Telecommunication Standardization Assembly (WTSA) to appoint chairmen and vice-chairmen of study groups, taking account of competence and equitable geographical distribution, and the need to promote more efficient participation by the developing countries;
- f) that 1.10 of Section 1 of Resolution 1 (Rev. Hammamet, 2016) of this assembly indicates that WTSA shall appoint the chairmen and vice-chairmen of study groups and of TSAG;
- g) that Section 3 of Resolution 1 (Rev. Hammamet, 2016) of this assembly contains guidelines regarding the appointment of study group chairmen and vice-chairmen at WTSAs;
- h) that procedures and qualifications for the chairman and vice-chairmen of TSAG should generally follow those for the appointment of study group chairman and vice-chairmen;
- i) that experience of ITU in general, and of ITU-T in particular, would be of particular value for the chairman and vice-chairmen of TSAG;
- j) that No. 244 of the Convention describes the procedure for replacing a study group chairman or vice-chairman who is unable to carry out his or her duties at some time in the interval between two WTSAs;
- k) that No. 197G of the Convention states that TSAG shall "adopt its own working procedures compatible with those adopted by the world telecommunication standardization assembly";
- l) that a specific time-limit on the term of office would permit the introduction of new ideas on a periodic basis, while at the same time give an opportunity for study group chairmen and vice-chairmen and the chairman and vice-chairmen of TSAG to be appointed from different Member States and Sector Members,

¹ These include the least developed countries, small island developing states, landlocked developing countries and countries with economies in transition.

pursuant to

- a) Resolution 166 (Rev. Busan, 2014) of the Plenipotentiary Conference, on the number of vice-chairmen of Sector advisory groups, study groups and other groups;
- b) Resolution 70 (Rev. Busan, 2014) of the Plenipotentiary Conference, on mainstreaming a gender perspective in ITU and promotion of gender equality and the empowerment of women through information and communication technologies,

noting

- a) Article 19 of the Convention, on the participation of entities and organizations in the Union's activities;
- b) Resolution 58 (Rev. Busan, 2014) of the Plenipotentiary Conference, on strengthening of relations between ITU and regional telecommunication organizations and regional preparations for the Plenipotentiary Conference, in particular *resolves* 2 thereof;
- c) Resolution 43 (Rev. Dubai, 2012) of WTSA, on regional preparations for WTSA's,

taking into account

- a) that a maximum time in office of two terms for study group and TSAG chairmen and vice-chairmen provides for a reasonable amount of stability while providing the opportunity for different individuals to serve in these capacities;
- b) that the management team of TSAG and a study group should include at least the chairman, vice-chairmen and subordinate group chairmen;
- c) the convenience of nominating by consensus up to two candidates per region as vice-chairmen of the advisory group;
- d) the value of prior experience of the nominee at least as rapporteur, associate rapporteur or editor in the respective study groups,

resolves

1 that candidates for the posts of chairmen and vice-chairmen of the ITU-T study groups and candidates for the posts of chairman and vice-chairmen of TSAG should be appointed according to the procedures given in Annex A, the qualifications given in Annex B and the guidelines given in Annex C to this resolution and *resolves* 2 of Resolution 58 (Rev. Busan, 2014);

2 that candidates for the posts of study group chairmen and vice-chairmen and candidates for the posts of chairman and vice-chairmen of TSAG should be identified, taking into account that, for each study group and for TSAG, WTSA will appoint the chairman and only the number of vice-chairmen deemed necessary for the efficient and effective management and functioning of the group in question, applying the guidelines given in Annex C;

3 that nominations for the posts of study group chairmen and vice-chairmen or for the posts of chairman and vice-chairmen of TSAG should be accompanied by a biographical profile highlighting the qualifications of the individuals proposed, taking into careful consideration continuity in participation in ITU-T study groups or TSAG, and that the Director of the Telecommunication Standardization Bureau will circulate the profiles to the heads of delegation present at WTSA;

4 that the term of office for both chairmen and vice-chairmen should not exceed two terms of office between consecutive assemblies;

5 that the term of office in one appointment (e.g. as a vice-chairman) does not count towards the term of office for another appointment (e.g. as a chairman) and that steps should be taken to provide some continuity between chairmen and vice-chairmen;

6 that the interval between assemblies during which a chairman or vice-chairman is elected under No. 244 of the Convention does not count towards the term of office,

resolves further

1 that vice-chairmen of TSAG and study groups should be encouraged to assume the leadership role of activities in order to ensure equitable distribution of tasks and to achieve greater involvement by the vice-chairmen in the management and work of TSAG and the study groups;

2 that the appointment of vice-chairmen of study groups should be limited to three candidates from each region, taking into account Resolution 70 (Rev. Busan, 2014) and *resolves 2* of Resolution 58 (Rev. Busan, 2014), to ensure equitable geographical distribution among the ITU regions so as to ensure that every region is represented by not more than three competent and qualified candidates,

invites Member States and Sector Members

1 to support their successful candidates for such posts in ITU-T, and support and facilitate their task during their term of office;

2 to promote the nomination of women candidates for the posts of chairmen and vice-chairmen of the ITU-T study groups and for the posts of chairman and vice-chairmen of TSAG.

ANNEX A (to Resolution 35 (Rev. Hammamet, 2016))

Procedure for the appointment of chairmen and vice-chairmen of the ITU-T study groups and of TSAG

- 1 Typically, the positions of chairmen and vice-chairmen to be filled are known in advance of WTSA.
- a) In order to help WTSA appoint chairmen/vice-chairmen, Member States and ITU-T Sector Members are encouraged to indicate to the Director of TSB suitable candidates, preferably three months, but no later than two weeks, before the opening of WTSA.
- b) In nominating suitable candidates, ITU-T Sector Members should carry out prior consultations with the administration/Member State concerned, in order to avoid any possible disagreement in regard to such nomination.
- c) On the basis of received proposals, the Director of TSB will circulate to Member States and Sector Members the list of candidates. The list of candidates should be accompanied by an indication of the qualifications of each candidate as given in Annex B to this resolution.
- d) On the basis of this document and any relevant received comments, the heads of delegation, at a suitable time during WTSA, should be invited to prepare, in consultation with the Director of TSB, a consolidated list of designated study group chairmen and vice-chairmen to be submitted in a document to WTSA for final approval.
- e) In drafting the consolidated list, the following should be taken into account: In cases where there are two or more candidates with equal competence for the same chairman position, preference should be given to candidates from Member States and Sector Members having the lowest number of designated study group and TSAG chairmen.

2 Situations which cannot be considered within the above will be dealt with on a case-by-case basis at WTSA.

For example, if a merger of two existing study groups is envisaged, the proposals pertaining to the relevant study groups can be considered. Therefore the procedure outlined in § 1 can still be applied.

However, if WTSA decides to set up a completely new study group, discussions will have to be held at WTSA and appointments made.

3 These procedures should be applied for appointments made by TSAG under delegated authority (see Resolution 22 (Rev. Hammamet, 2016) of this assembly).

4 Vacant positions of chairmen and vice-chairmen that occur in mid-term between WTSA's are filled in accordance with No. 244 of the Convention.

ANNEX B (to Resolution 35 (Rev. Hammamet, 2016))

Qualifications of chairmen and vice-chairmen

No. 242 of the Convention states that:

"... In appointing chairmen and vice-chairmen, particular consideration shall be given to the requirements of competence and equitable geographical distribution and to the need to promote more efficient participation by the developing countries."

Whilst giving primary consideration to the qualifications below, there should be an appropriate representation of chairmen and vice-chairmen from developing countries, including the least developed countries, small island developing states and countries with economies in transition.

As regards competence, the following qualifications, *inter alia*, appear to be of paramount importance when appointing chairmen and vice-chairmen:

- relevant professional knowledge and experience;
- continuity in participation in the relevant study group or, for chairmen and vice-chairmen of TSAG, in ITU-T;
- managerial skills;
- availability²;
- knowledge for standardization related activities.

Particular reference to the above qualifications should be included in the biographical profile to be circulated by the Director of TSB.

² A further factor to be considered when appointing chairmen and vice-chairmen to both study groups and TSAG is candidates' availability for the period up to the next WTSA.

ANNEX C
(to Resolution 35 (Rev. Hammamet, 2016))

**Guidelines for appointment of the optimum numbers of vice-chairmen
for ITU-T study groups and for TSAG**

1 Pursuant to Resolution 166 (Rev. Busan, 2014) and No. 242 of the Convention, the requirements of competence, equitable geographical distribution and the need to promote more effective participation by the developing countries should be taken into account³ to the extent practicable.

2 To the extent possible, and taking into account the need for demonstrated competence, appointment or selection to the management team should utilize the resources of as broad a range of Member States and Sector Members as possible, at the same time recognizing the need to appoint only the number of vice-chairmen necessary for the efficient and effective management and functioning of the study groups, consistent with the projected structure and work programme.

3 The workload should be a factor in determining the appropriate number of vice-chairmen to ensure that every aspect within the purview of TSAG and the study groups is fully managed. The distribution of tasks among the vice-chairmen shall be made in the framework of each study group and TSAG, and may be modified according to the needs of the work.

4 The total number of vice-chairmen proposed by any administration should be fairly reasonable, so as to observe the principle of equitable distribution of posts among the Member States concerned.

5 Regional representation⁴ in the advisory group, study groups and other groups of all three Sectors should be taken into account, such that no single individual may hold more than one vice-chairmanship position in these groups in any one Sector, and only in exceptional cases hold such a position in more than one Sector⁵.

6 Where the re-election of vice-chairmen is concerned, the nomination of candidates who have failed to participate in at least half of all meetings during the previous study period should normally be avoided, taking into account prevailing circumstances.

³ For those regions consisting of numerous administrations and with diverse economic and technological developments within the region, to the extent possible the number of representatives of those regions may be increased, as appropriate.

⁴ Taking into account Resolution 58 (Rev. Busan, 2014) of the Plenipotentiary Conference in regard to the six regional telecommunication organizations, namely: the Asia-Pacific Telecommunity (APT), the European Conference of Postal and Telecommunications Administrations (CEPT), the Inter-American Telecommunications Commission (CITEL), the African Telecommunications Union (ATU), the Council of Arab Ministers of Telecommunication and Information represented by the Secretariat-General of the League of Arab States (LAS), and the Regional Commonwealth in the field of Communications (RCC).

⁵ The criterion mentioned in this paragraph should not prevent a vice-chairman of a given advisory group or a vice-chairman of a given study group from holding positions of chairman or vice-chairman of a given working party or as rapporteur or associate rapporteur for any group under the mandate of that Sector group.