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FOCUS GROUPS

ITU–T Focus Groups augment the Study Group system providing a way to quickly react to ICT standardization needs and allowing great flexibility in terms of participation and working methods. A key feature is that they are open to non-member participants. Focus Groups choose their deliverables, working methods, leadership and financing. Current Focus Groups are:

- Smart Cable Television **NEW!**
- Bridging the Gap: from Innovation to Standards (FG Innovation)
- Disaster Relief Systems, Network Resilience and Recovery (FG-DR and NRR)
- M2M Service Layer (FG M2M)
- Accessibility
- Car Communication (FG CarCOM)
- Driver Distraction

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JOINT COORDINATION ACTIVITIES

In consultation with ITU-R and ITU-D, JCAs coordinate ITU-T work across ITU-T Study Groups to eliminate gaps and overlaps. External participants from relevant SDOs, academia or fora can be invited to join. Current JCAs are:

- Child Online Protection (JCA-COP) **NEW!**
- Smart Grid and Home Networking (JCA-SG and HN)
- Cloud Computing (JCA-Cloud)
- ICT and climate change (JCA-ICT and CC)
- Accessibility and Human factors (JCA-AHF)
- Identity Management (JCA-IdM)
- Internet of Things (JCA-IoT)
- IPTV (JCA-IPTV)
- Conformance and Interoperability Testing (JCA-CIT)

GLOBAL STANDARDS INITIATIVE

A GSI is not a working entity but is a name for the package of work being conducted through co-located meetings of the involved study groups and rapporteur groups under the umbrella of a coordinated work plan managed by a JCA.

Sets of Questions are studied concurrently by Rapporteurs from different Study Groups according to a coordinated work plan.

GSIs are used to expedite the work in response to market need to achieve a visible focus for the work. They allow the participation of invited experts and Academia.

Current GSIs are:

- Next Generation Networks Global Standards Initiative (NGN-GSI)
- IPTV Global Standards Initiative (IPTV-GSI)
- Internet of Things Global Standards Initiative (IoT-GSI)

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Where the work gets done in ITU-T

ITU-T Study Groups and other activities work together to drive forward the cross-cutting agenda on global standards development. Ideas, contributions and topics for standardization are dynamic according to market needs and entirely member-driven.

Study Group 2 — Operational aspects

- Service definition, numbering and routing
- Telecommunication for disaster relief/early warning
- Telecommunication management

From the international country codes to identification codes for mobile phones and electronic numbering (ENUM), Study Group 2 develops telecommunication numbering and addressing standards to ensure that we can stay in touch on any device, anywhere. Even in disaster situations, telecommunications stay functional through SG 2 prioritization of urgent calls and assignment of special numbers to United Nations emergency responders.

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Study Group 3 — Economic and policy issues

- Tariff and accounting matters for international telecommunication services
- Telecommunication economic, accounting and policy issues

Study Group 3 works towards the harmonization of global interconnection rates which directly affect the prices that end-users pay for telecommunications services. In particular, SG 3 recommends costing methodologies that aim to keep rates fair and as low as possible without compromising service.

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Study Group 13 — Future networks

- Future networks and NGN
- Mobility management and fixed-mobile convergence

SG13 focuses on global standards for IP-based and next generation networks (NGN). Its work concentrates on aspects including quality, security and mobility supporting fixed-mobile convergence in which services are supplied seamlessly to users, on any device, anytime, anywhere. Current studies examine ubiquitous networking, distributed service networking, ad-hoc networks, the web of things, energy saving networks and future networks.

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Study Group 5 — Environment and climate change

- Electromagnetic compatibility and electromagnetic effects
- ICTs and climate change

Study Group 5 is responsible for studies on methodologies for evaluating the ICT effects on climate change and on design methodologies to reduce environmental effects, for example recycling of ICT facilities and equipment. On top of its environmental mandate, SG 5 works to protect telecommunication equipment against damage due to electromagnetic disturbances and is responsible for ensuring the safety of users of networks against current and voltages and to avoid health risks from electromagnetic fields (EMF) produced by telecommunication devices.

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Study Group 12 — Performance, QoS and QoE

- Quality of service and quality of experience

Study Group 12 is responsible for the development of software tools that allow the modeling of potential network/terminal configurations and the prediction of the user impact of associated impairments. SG 12 has developed a model for voice quality prediction and works on a model for wideband speech and multimedia. It also gives Quality of Service (QoS) guidance in new fields such as hands-free communications in vehicles, and services based on speech technology.

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Study Group 15 — Transport and access

- Access network transport
- Optical technology
- Optical transport networks

SG15 works on home networking, access and transport networks to provide infrastructure technologies for telecommunication networks. Its standards on passive optical networks (PONs) are key ways of implementing fibre-to-the-home/building and a crucial step towards all-optical networks. Study Group 15 is also the home of the digital subscriber line (DSL) standards, including the latest standards ADSL 2+ and VDSL2, which provide broadband Internet connections all around the world.

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Study Group 9 — Broadband cable and TV

- Integrated broadband cable and television networks

Study Group 9 studies the use of telecommunication systems for contribution, primary distribution and secondary distribution of television and sound programs as well as the use of CATV networks to provide interactive video services, telephone and data services, including Internet access. Among recent work are Recommendations on IP-based television and video distribution (IPTV service), and next generation cable modems which act as set-top-boxes for home networking. Furthermore, SG9 is working on high definition television (HDTV) video quality assessment as well as 3D video quality assessment.

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Study Group 11 — Protocols and test specifications

- Signaling and protocols
- Intelligent networks
- Test specifications

Study Group 11 produces standards that define how telephone or data calls are handled in the network. This includes means for monitoring the status of a line to see if it is busy, alerts that indicate the arrival of a call, and the addressing system that routes calls. As operators look to align this 'circuit switched' based environment with the rapidly emerging Internet technologies, SG11's work is shifting towards Internet protocol (IP) based networks or next generation networks (NGN).

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Study Group 16 — Multimedia

- Multimedia coding, systems and applications
- Ubiquitous applications ("e-everything", such as e-health)
- Telecommunication/ICT accessibility for persons with disabilities

Study Group 16 is the origin of a wide family of successful videoconferencing systems, IPTV systems and applications. A key focus is media coding, including the Emmy award winning H.264 video codec. SG 16 is active in all aspects of multimedia standardization and focuses its studies on directory services, PSTN modems and facsimile terminals, network signal processing and ICT accessibility.

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Study Group 17 — Security

- Telecommunication security
- Identity management (IdM)
- Languages and description techniques

Study Group 17 is responsible for studies relating to security including cybersecurity, countering spam and identity management. SG 17 is also responsible for the application of open system communications including directory and object identifiers, and for technical languages, the method for their usage and other issues related to the software aspects of telecommunication systems.

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