Dynamic Coalition on Accessibility and Disability (DCAD)

DCAD at a glance

DCAD works to ensure that ICT accessibility is included in discussions related to Internet governance, aiming to create a future in which all of the world's inhabitants have equal access to the opportunities presented by our Information Society.

DCAD came into being at the 2007 annual Internet Governance Forum (IGF) and remains a crucial mechanism to ensure that persons with disabilities are consulted and included in meetings of the IGF.

Specifically, the Coalition works to achieve:

- Improved telecommunications/ICT access for persons with disabilities, older persons with age-related disabilities and for people with literacy issues, including multilingualism and lack of written language.
- Improved access to computer skills education and training.
- Technically improved access to digital TV and IPTV for persons with disabilities.
- Improved bandwidth Internet for all, in order to provide access to the full spectrum of Internet content.

DCAD also strives to alert IGF stakeholders of the importance of building a culture of accessibility awareness among telecommunications/ICT policy makers, regulators, manufactures and service providers. This outreach aims to accomplish the following objectives:

- To raise awareness of the barriers to accessibility, suggesting solutions to overcome them and ensuring that new technologies address accessibility from their outset.
- To encourage ongoing education and training on accessibility awareness and the history of telecommunications/ICT accessibility at universities and other educational bodies; in order to drive the adoption of Universal Design and state-of-the-art best/good practices for ICT accessibility.

Additional References:

Publications developed by ITU in collaboration with G3ict, The Global Initiative for Inclusive ICTs:
e-Accessibility Policy Toolkit for Persons with Disabilities (February 2010)

Making Television Accessible (November 2011)

Making Mobile Phones and Services Accessible for Persons withDisabilities (August 2012)

ITU-T publications:
FSTP-TACL Telecommunication Accessibility Checklist for authors of standards (2006)

Recommendation ITU-T F.790: Telecommunications accessibility guidelinesfor older persons and persons with disabilities (2007)

More Information:

ITU-D Persons with Disabilities Initiative
www.itu.int/ITU-D/sis/PwDs/

ITU-R Accessibility Home
www.itu.int/ITU-R/go/disabilities-divide/

ITU-T Accessibility Home
www.itu.int/ITU-T/accessibility

ITU-T Study Group 16 *(lead ITU-T Study Group on Accessibility):*
Multimedia coding, systems and applications
www.itu.int/ITU-T/studygroups/com16

> **Question 26/16:** Accessibility to multimedia systems and services
> www.itu.int/ITU-T/studygroups/com16/sg16-q26.html

ITU-T Study Group 2: Operational aspects of service provision and telecommunications management
www.itu.int/ITU-T/studygroups/com02

> **Question 4/2:** Human factors related issues for improvement of the quality of life through international telecommunications
> www.itu.int/ITU-T/studygroups/com02/sg2-q4.html

FG AVA
Focus Group on Audiovisual Media Accessibility
www.itu.int/ITU-T/focusgroups/ava

JCA-AHF
Joint Coordination Activity on Accessibility and Human Factors
www.itu.int/ITU-T/jca/ahf

DCAD
ITU/IGF Dynamic Coalition on Accessibility and Disability
www.itu.int/themes/accessibility/dc

www.itu.int/ITU-T/accessibility

Accessibility Mainstreamed

Improving access to ICTs for persons with disabilities

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12.2012

ITU-T

Accessibility Mainstreamed

Accessibility at a glance

ITU works to increase access to information and communication technologies (ICTs) for persons with disabilities: by raising awareness of their right to access telecommunications/ICTs; mainstreaming accessibility in the development of international telecommunications/ICT standards; and providing education and training on key accessibility issues.

What is ITU doing to promote accessibility?

- Developing global telecommunications/ICT standards that include accessibility features.
- Encouraging the mainstreaming of accessibility in all the technologies, standards and practices of the telecommunications/ICT industry.
- Encouraging the development of assistive products and services.
- Assisting ITU Member States in fulfilling their obligations under the United Nations Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities.
- Encouraging the exchange of best/good practices.
- Producing telecommunications/ICT accessibility policy guidelines.
- Raising awareness on telecommunications/ICT accessibility through conferences, workshops, publications and outreach programs.

Focus Group on Audiovisual Media Accessibility (FG AVA)

ITU-T Focus Groups are established in response to immediate policy issues or market needs and are tasked with mapping a field's standardization demands as input to the standardization work of ITU-T Study Groups. Focus Groups have a great deal of flexibility in their working methods and participation is free of charge and open to all interested parties, including non-members of ITU.

FG AVA at a glance

FG AVA's objective is to stimulate the development of international standards that improve the accessibility of audiovisual (AV) media to persons with disabilities.

FG AVA enjoys a strong relationship with its parent group, ITU-T Study Group 16, and particularly with its Question 26/16 which works towards universal accessibility to multimedia systems and services. In mainstreaming accessibility, Question 26/6 works in collaboration with other ITU-T Study Groups, and with ITU-D, ITU-R and other standards development organizations (SDOs).

FG AVA participants include other SDOs, academic and research institutes, companies involved in the field of broadcasting and, most importantly, persons with disabilities. The principle of "nothing about us without us" must be applied to all standards' development.

Objectives

- To encourage the availability and use of accessibility services, and to promote adherence to the Universal Design principle in order to achieve "Accessibility for All" in line with the United Nations Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities.
- To determine better ways to involve all stakeholders, including potential users, in the development of AV accessibility systems.
- To identify standardization gaps in specifications already established in service requirements of systems defined by both ITU-T and ITU-R, adding accessibility features as appropriate.
- To identify current challenges to interoperability of AV media accessibility services, earmarking these areas for standardization.
- To promote the use of accessibility features which conform to internationally agreed standards for all given delivery platforms.
- To collect the real-life scenarios of exclusion most pressing to persons with disabilities and older persons experiencing age-related disabilities.
- To understand challenges facing the successful implementation of the United Nations Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities.
- To prepare clear guidelines on the application of the United Nations Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities, specifically in relation to the delivery of digital AV media.
- To collect examples of best/good practices of implementing accessibility services and features, and prepare guidelines on how to include accessibility features in all new digital AV consumer devices.

- To suggest actions through which ITU can promote the development of accessibility services and raise awareness around Universal Design; the principle that accessibility features be included in all technologies and standards from the date that they are initiated in order to avoid expensive retrofitting.

Joint Coordination Activity on Accessibility and Human Factors (JCA-AHF)

JCA-AHF at a glance

JCA-AHF acts as the first point of contact for those interested in ITU's accessibility-related activities. Participation is open to representatives and invited experts from organizations of persons with disabilities, SDOs, governments, regulatory bodies, private-sector entities and academia. Its meetings are always accessible both remotely and physically.

The JCA coordinates the accessibility work undertaken across ITU-D, ITU-R and ITU-T, working closely with Question 26/16 in ITU-T Study Group 16 and reporting to Question 4/2 in ITU-T Study Group 2 on "Human factors related issues for the improvement of the quality of life through international telecommunications".

Objectives

- To coordinate the accessibility work taking place across ITU's Sectors and Study Groups, and act as the ITU focal point for all questions related to ITU's accessibility activities.
- To ensure that ITU's standards take accessibility and human factors into account.
- To seek the advice and expertise of persons with disabilities and the groups representing them.
- To provide ITU-T Study Groups with the information and means necessary to ensure a coordinated approach to the development of standards that take human factors into account by including accessibility features.