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**WSC-Workshop « Accessibility and the contribution of International Standards” 3 – 5 November 2010, Geneva, Switzerland**

**Final recommendations adopted by the workshop on 5 November 2010**

The participants in the workshop agreed that as a background to the recommendations, they wished to underline that “Accessibility” is not limited to addressing the needs of persons with disabilities, elderly people or persons with temporary impairments, but aims at the usability of a product, service, environment or facility by people with the widest range of capabilities.

**A. Recommendations with a high priority**

**1.** Establish a **Strategic Advisory Group „Accessibility“** between the WSC-organizations, including key accessibility stakeholders to address, decide and monitor key issues related to accessibility, the standards development process, accessible formats of standards, considering financing mechanisms to strengthen the participation of disabled persons in standards development as well as the creation of awareness about accessibility.

**2.** A **common accessibility policy between the WSC-organizations** should be developed which could become an annex to the key rule documents (e.g. Directives or others) on standards development.

**3.** Encourage **national members of the WSC-organizations** to actively promote the implementation of accessibility standards, to provide training to disabled persons and to build capacity to prepare them prior to attending meetings in international standardization.

**4.** WSC-organizations should strengthen their **relationship with the United Nations Convention of the Rights of Persons with Disabilities** (CRPD) and establish **links and liaisons with disability organizations**.

**5.** The **revision of ISO/IEC Guide 71** under leadership of ISO and IEC is a key task to ensure consistent concepts in the area of accessibility. The revision should take into account relevant documents developed by ISO, IEC and ITU (and other organizations), such as ISO/TR 22411, ISO 21542, IEC TR 62678 to achieve a common approach between the WSC-organizations. Guide 71 should be promoted to all committees as the key reference document (in ISO and IEC) to be applied by them when addressing accessibility matters.

**6.** If the content of documents proposed in **New Work Item Proposals** is related to accessibility, then this should be identified (e.g. through the introduction of a system of check boxes). **Agendas of meetings of standards committees** should include a standing item in which accessibility should be addressed.

**B. Recommendations with a medium priority**

**7.** Establish an **Accessibility Portal** to provide up-to-date online information about ongoing projects and standards related to accessibility issues. The portal may be extended to include links to similar activities of other organizations (e.g. at regional level).

**8.** Establish an **Accessibility Helpdesk** which could link up with other organizations such as national bodies and disability organizations to advise on accessibility issues and support addressing accessibility in standards development.

**9.** There is a need for **awareness raising and training** of committee secretariats, chairs, convenors, Central Secretariat-staff about accessibility. Training in accessibility matters should be organized and promoted by the WSC-organizations. Existing training materials, including videos etc., should be re-used and shared and the concept of “accessibility for all” should be promoted.

1. **Recommendations with a lower priority**

**10.** Prepare **synopses of key accessibility standards** in simple language that is easy to understand to facilitate application.

**11.** Use new **social network tools** (such as Facebook, Twitter) to facilitate accessibility and provide a way for people with disabilities to link up and exchange experiences and expertise.

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