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| INTERNATIONAL TELECOMMUNICATION UNION**TELECOMMUNICATIONSTANDARDIZATION SECTOR**STUDY PERIOD 2009-2012 | **Joint Coordination Activity on Accessibility and human Factors (JCA-AHF)** |
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| **Title:** | Accessibility for Persons with Disability Amendments to A.7 |

In relation to the amendments to A.7, a contribution was submitted to the last meeting of TSAG (January 2012) from ICDRI International Center for Disability Resources on the Internet and G3ict Global Initiative for Inclusive ICTs.

The document is attached.

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| **itu-old** | INTERNATIONAL TELECOMMUNICATION UNION | **TSAG – C 68 – E** |
| **TELECOMMUNICATIONSTANDARDIZATION SECTOR**STUDY PERIOD 2009-2012 | **December 2011** |
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| **TELECOMMUNICATION STANDARDIZATION ADVISORY GROUP****CONTRIBUTION 68** |
| **Source:** | ICDRI International Center for Disability Resources on the Internet, G3ict Global Initiative for Inclusive ICTs |
| **Title:** | Accessibility for Persons with Disability Amendments to A7 |

**Abstract**

PP 10 Resolution 175 passed at the ITU Plenipotentiary Conference 2010 sets out ways for ITU to mainstream people with disabilities in all its work. Entitled “Telecommunication/information and communication technology accessibility for persons with disabilities, including age-related disabilities”, the resolution recognizes a number of international agreements. These include the United Nations Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities, which requires States Parties to adopt appropriate measures to provide access for persons with disabilities - on an equal basis with others - to ICT, emergency services and Internet service; Resolution 70 of the World Telecommunication Standardization Assembly (Johannesburg, 2008), Resolution 58 of the World Telecommunication Development Conference (Hyderabad, 2010); the Tunis Commitment, made at the second phase of the World Summit on the Information Society (Tunis, 2005), and the Phuket Declaration on Tsunami Preparedness for Persons with Disabilities.

Therefore A7 is out of date and needs to be updated with regard to Persons with Disabilities and equivalent access to all events including Focus Groups.

**Proposal**

We, ICDRI and G3ict, therefore propose to rectify out of date passages in ITU-T A.7’in line with the higher instruments listed above. The following document shows the changes we wish to see agreed with regard to the inclusion of Persons with Disabilities to participate in ITU-T Focus groups. This document is a marked-up copy of the in-force edition of Rec. ITU-T A.7. We have only listed the sections where we wish to see those changes made and not the entire document.

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Recommendation ITU-T A.7

Focus groups: Working methods and Procedures

# 3 Participation

Participation is open to any individual from a country that is a member of ITU who wishes to contribute to the work. This includes individuals who are also members of international, regional and national organizations.

Participation in focus groups should not be used as an alternative to ITU membership list of participants is to be maintained for reference purposes. This list will include information for participants with disabilities on how their participation shall be facilitated.

Participation in focus groups that have impacts on strategic, structural and/or operational aspects of ITU-T is limited to ITU-T members.

# 4 General financing of focus groups

Each focus group will determine its own method of financing.

Focus groups shall not use ITU-T funds or resources except for the use of Telecommunication Information Exchange Services (TIES) and for those situations where deliverables and progress reports are made available to ITU-T, as in clause 10, and for the participation of Persons with Disabilities in accordance with the higher instruments that now apply Non-ITU members must pay a fee, determined by TSB, for the use of TIES.

## 4.1 Financing of meetings

It is suggested that financing of meetings and their preparation be accomplished by volunteer hosting in a similar manner to rapporteur groups, or on the basis of financial arrangements determined by the focus group. The participation of persons with disabilities shall be facilitated in accordance to the higher instruments that now apply.

# 5 Administrative support

Focus groups can establish their own method of providing and financing administrative support between meetings.

Where administrative services are requested from TSB, the costs, except costs for the use of TIES, are to be covered by the focus group concerned.

# 6 Meeting logistics

The frequency and location of meetings is decided by each focus group. Meetings held in host countries and outside ITU premises shall be accessible to persons with disabilities. Electronic document handling methods should be used as much as possible to advance the work rapidly, e.g., by using electronic conferences and the World Wide Web. Electronic document handling methods shall facilitate the participation of persons with disabilities.

The collective letter of the focus group meetings should be received by bodies participating in the activities of particular ITU-T focus group meetings no later than four weeks before the beginning of the meeting in order to facilitate participation by persons with disabilities and to allow all participants to obtain appropriate Visas.

In addition, the collective letter shall include an invitation for participants with disabilities to inform the meeting host how their participation shall be facilitated.

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