

# **ITU Seminar on Outcomes of WTSA 12 & WCIT 2012**

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## **Key Issues on Bridging the Standardization GAP**

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# Outline

- Overview of BSG Program
- Africa Issues at WTSA 12
- Resolution 44
- Resolutions 54,59,71& 74
- Approaching Standardization Development
- Conclusions and Recommendations



# Overview of BSG

# Bridging the Standardization Gap

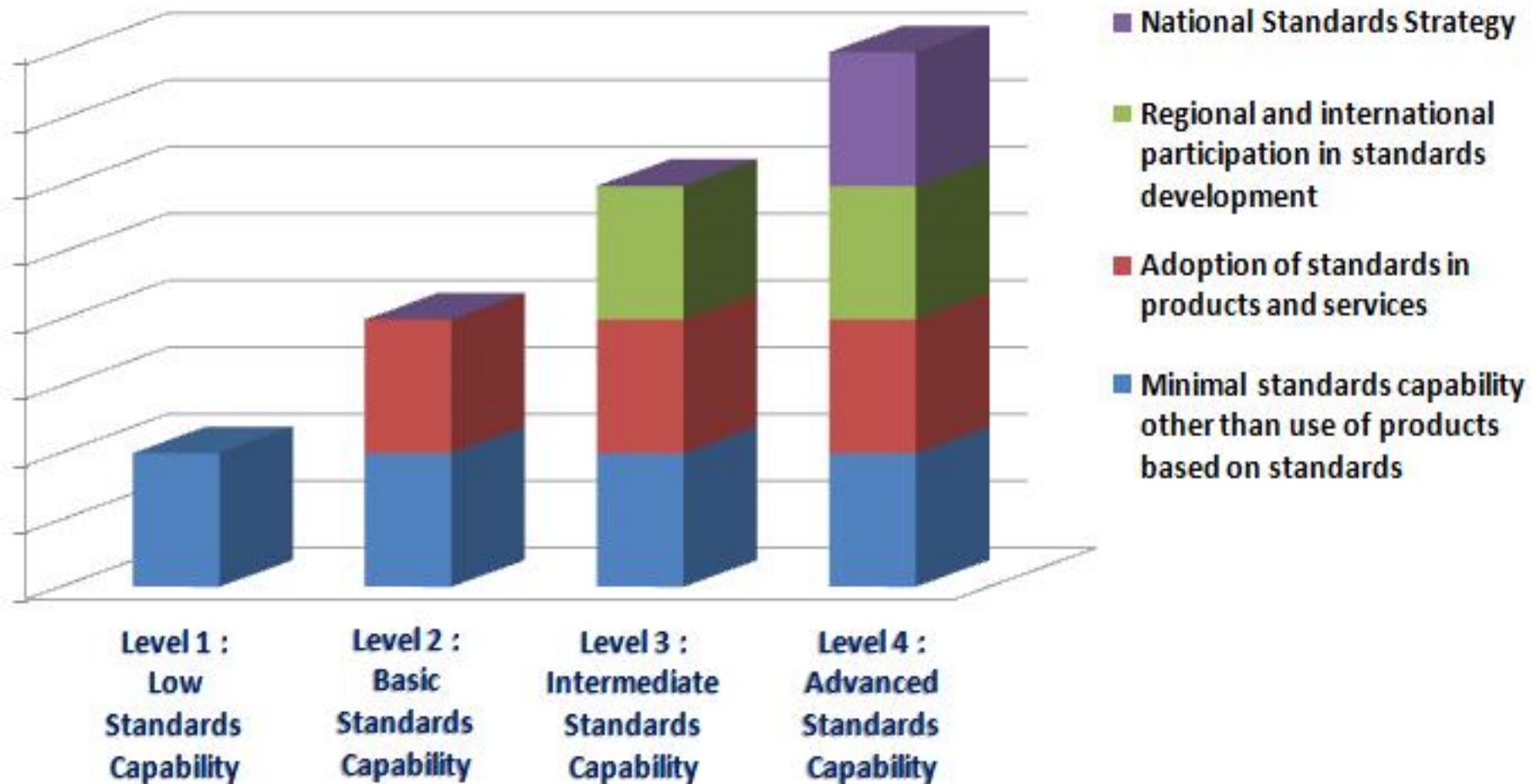
- BSG is one of strategic goals of ITU-T
- Defined as the disparities in the ability of developing countries, relative to developed ones, **to access, implement, contribute to and influence** international ICT standards, specifically ITU-T Recommendations.
- Bridging the standardization gap: PP Res 123, WTSA Res 44 and WTDC Res 47

# The Standards Gaps

- Lack of Understanding of the National Importance of Standards
- Relatively Less Private Industry Involvement in Standards
- Inadequate Funding of Standardization
- Insufficient Standardization Human Resources
- Insufficient Involvement in International Standards Development Processes
- Inadequate Technical Infrastructure for Standards Participation

# National Standards Capability

## Four Levels of National Standards Capability



# Addressing the Standardization Gap

- Disparities between developed and developing countries in standardization have 5 main components:
  - disparity of voluntary standardization,
  - disparity of mandatory technical regulations
  - disparity of conformity assessment,
  - disparity in human resources skilled in standardization
  - disparity in effective participation in ITU-T activities

# Africa Proposals to WTSA 12

- Coordination and support from ITU regional offices to Regional Groups
- Facilitation of participation of Industry and Academia from Africa
- Support for participation and contributions to Study Groups
- To be able to create Regional Standardization bodies as an umbrella to Regional Groups





# WTSA 12 Resolution 44

# Resolution 44 – Bridging the standardization gap between

*further resolves that ITU regional offices*

1 be engaged in the activities of TSB in order to promote and coordinate standardization activities in their regions to support the implementation of the relevant parts of this resolution and to carry out the objectives of the action plan, and launch campaigns to attract new Sector Members, Associates and Academia from developing countries to join ITU-T;

## Action Point to ITU Regional Office

To provide contact person to the Regional Groups similar to Advisors from TSB

# Resolution 44 – Bridging the standardization gap between

*further resolves that ITU regional offices*

2 assist the vice-chairmen, within the offices' budgets, in mobilizing members within their respective regions for increased standardization participation;

3 organize and coordinate the activities of the regional groups of ITU-T study groups;

## Action Point to Vice Chairmen:

To consider to promote standardization activities and mobilize members at sub-regional groups such as CRASA, EACO, UEMOA, WATRA, etc

# Resolution 44 – Bridging the standardization gap between

*further resolves that ITU regional offices*

4 provide the necessary assistance to the regional groups of ITU-T study groups;

5 provide assistance to the regional telecommunication organizations for the setting-up and management of regional standardization bodies,

## Action Point to Vice Chairmen:

To form a conclave to come out with the terms of reference for the setting up and management of a regional standardization body

# Resolution 44 – Bridging the standardization gap between

*invites regions and their Member States*

1 to pursue the creation of regional groups of parent ITU-T study groups in their respective regions in accordance with resolves 5 of this resolution and Resolution 54 (Rev. Dubai, 2012) of this assembly, and to support their meetings and activities, as appropriate, in coordination with TSB;

2 to take an active part in the activities of the ITU-T regional groups and support regional organizations in setting up regional frameworks for the development of standardization activities;

## Action Point to Member Countries:

To elevate the ToR from Vice Chairmen to Africa Union Ministerial session

# Resolution 44 – Bridging the standardization gap between

*invites regions and their Member States*

3 to create regional standardization bodies, as appropriate, and encourage joint and coordinated meetings of such bodies with the regional groups of the ITU-T study groups in the respective regions, so that these standardization bodies act as an umbrella for such regional group meetings;

## Caution to Member Countries:

To avoid conflicts of regional standardization body and parent Study Group

# Resolution 44 – Bridging the standardization gap between

*encourages Member States and Sector Members to take the objectives set out in the action plan in the annex to this resolution into account in their participation in ITU T.*

## Objective I

To improve the standard-making capabilities of developing countries.

## Objective II Assisting developing countries in:

- Ensuring that developing countries have a clear understanding of ITU T Recommendations.
- Enhancing the application of ITU T Recommendations in developing countries.

## Objective III

To increase the human resources capacity of developing countries in ITU-T and national standardization activities.

# ITU Activities to Bridge the Gap

- Strengthen Standard Making Capability
- Assist Developing Countries in Standards Implementation
- Develop Human Resources
- Regional Groups (Resolution 54)



# Strengthen Standard Making Capability

- Mentoring programme for newcomers to Study Groups
- Mentor role in study group
- Research on measuring and reducing the standardization capability gap
- Free access to ITU-T Standards
- Increase remote participation and collaboration
- Reduced fees (CHF 3,975) for developing countries including academia
- Study on assessing the standardization capability of developing countries

# Strengthen Standard Making Capability

## New Actions From WTSA-12

- Developing guidelines to assist developing countries in their involvement in ITU-T activities.
- Improving procedures and electronic tools for remote participation.
- Conducting consultancy projects designed to support developing countries in the development of standardization plans
- Studies on ICT innovations and standardization in developing countries

# Assist Developing Countries in Standards Implementation

## ■ Technical Reports

- Handbook on Testing (2011)
- Convergent Networks (2010),
- ITU-T Manual on Optical Transport Networks from TDM to Packet (2010)
- DSL Story (2010),
- Deployment of packet based networks (2009)
- Handbook on Fibre Optic Cables and Systems (2009),
- Security in Telecommunications and IT (2009)

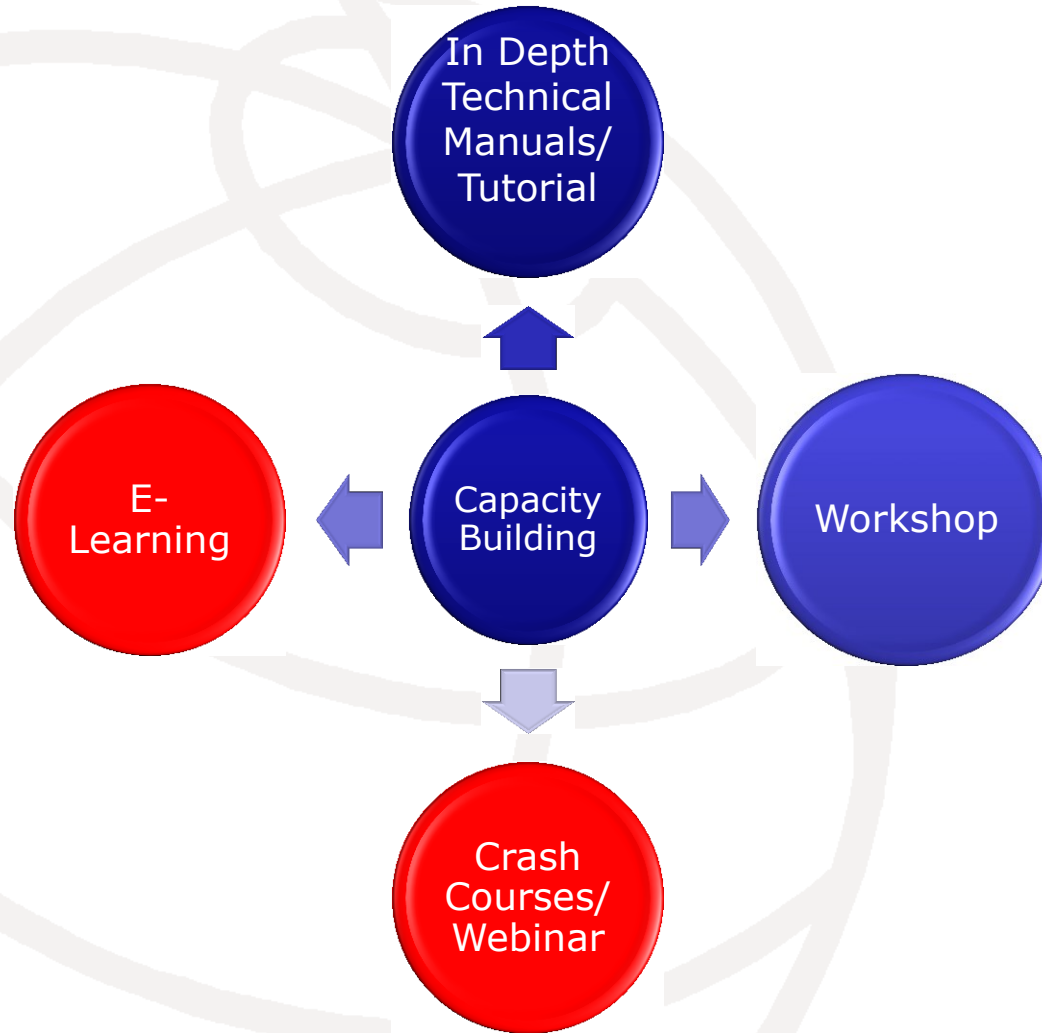
## ■ Standards Q&A Online Forum

# Assist Developing Countries in Standards Implementation

## New Actions From WTSA-12

- Assist developing countries to
  - Establish a standardization secretariat to coordinate standardization activities and participation in ITU-T study groups
  - Determine whether their existing national standards are consistent and in accordance with the current ITU-T Recommendations
- Develop implementation guidelines for new ITU-T Recommendations
- Enhance Standards Q&A Forum (webinars to be held before each Study Group meeting)
- E-learning courses on ITU-T Recommendations

# Develop Human Resources



# Develop Human Resources

- In-depth technical tutorials on ITU-T Recommendations
- Increase number of officials (Chairs / Rapporteurs) from developing countries in ITU-T Study Groups
- E-learning course on ITU-T Meeting Procedures (ITU-T A.1)  
NEW!
- New Actions From WTSA-12
  - Fellowships to be provided under TSB budget to eligible countries to attend relevant ITU-T meetings.
  - Encouraging secondment and short-term employment opportunities for developing countries experts in test laboratories of international standards development organizations (SDOs) and manufacturers, in particular in the area of conformance and interoperability testing

# Regional Groups

- SG2 Groups for Arab and East Africa Regions
- SG3 Groups for Asia and Oceania, Africa, Europe and Mediterranean, Latin America and Caribbean (Tariff and accounting principles)
- SG5 Groups for Arab, Africa, Latin America and Caribbean, Asia-Pacific (Feb 2013) (ICT and Climate Change)
- SG12 Group for Africa (Performance, QoS)

# Regional Groups

- Regional Offices to collaborate closely with TSB
- Promote ITU-T Meetings and Regional Group events
- Assist TSB to coordinate standardization activities in the region
- Provide assistance to establish regional standardization bodies
- New Regional Groups established at WTSA-12
  - SG2 Group for Latin America
  - SG5 Group for Latin America
  - SG 13 Group for Africa





# Resolution 54

# **Resolution 54 – Creation of, and assistance to, regional groups**

*invites the regions and their Member States*

1 to pursue the creation of regional groups of parent ITU-T study groups in their respective regions in accordance with resolves 1 of this resolution, and to support their meetings and activities, as appropriate, in coordination with TSB;

# **Resolution 54 – Creation of, and assistance to, regional groups**

*invites the regions and their Member States*

3 to create regional standardization bodies, as appropriate, and encourage joint and coordinated meetings of such bodies with the regional groups of ITU-T study groups in their respective regions, so that these standardization bodies act as an umbrella for such regional group meetings,

# **Resolution 54 – Creation of, and assistance to, regional groups**

*invites the regional groups thus created*

1 to disseminate information about telecommunication standardization and encourage the involvement of developing countries in standardization activities in their regions, and to submit written contributions to the parent study group reflecting the priorities of their respective regions;

# **Resolution 54 – Creation of, and assistance to, regional groups**

*invites the regional groups thus created*

2 to cooperate closely with the relevant respective regional organizations,

## **Action Point to ITU Regional Office**

To provide contact person to the Regional Groups similar to Advisors from TSB



# Resolution 59

# **Resolution 59 – Enhancing participation of telecommunication operators from developing countries**

*invites Member States*

to encourage their Sector Members to participate in ITU T activities.

## **Action Points to Member States:**

- Invite participation of Operators to Standardization activities and Regional Groups
- Invite comments from Operators on Work items and on issues the Operators associate with



# Resolution 71



# **Resolution 71 – Admission of academia to participate in the work of the ITU Telecommunication Standardization Sector**

*invites the ITU membership*

to inform academia of this resolution and to support and encourage academia to join ITU-T and participate in its activities.

## **Action Point to Member States:**

Support participation of Academia with funding from Universal Service Funds



# Resolution 74

# **Resolution 74-Admission of Sector Members from developing countries in the work of the ITU Telecommunication Standardization Sector**

*resolves*

to encourage the adoption of the necessary measures to enable new members from developing countries to join ITU T and to be entitled to take part in the work of the ITU T study groups and other groups within ITU T, taking into consideration levels of financial contributions equal to those applied for developing countries for admission to the study groups in the ITU Telecommunication Development Sector (ITU D).

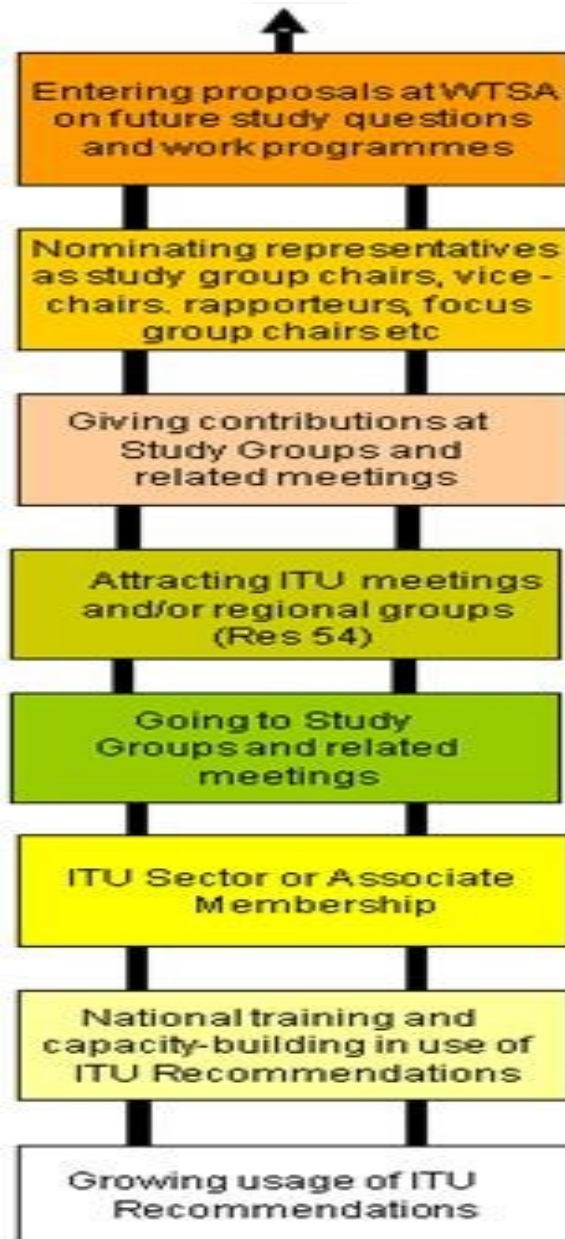
## **Action Points to Member States:**

- Invite participation of Operators to Standardization activities and Regional Groups
- Invite comments from Operators on Work items and on issues the Operators associate with



# Approaching Standardization Development

# Ladder of Standardization Development



The Standardization Ladder Concept

# Conclusions and Recommendations

WTSA-12 strengthen ITU-T's mandate for BSG

## ■ Bridging the Standardization Gap

- Enhanced co-ordination on ICT standardization at national level
- Regional offices to work closely with TSB
- Enhance implementation of ITU-T Recommendations
- Capacity building on standardization and ITU-T Recommendations
- Increase participation in Study Groups, Workshops, Meetings and number of contributions

## ■ Mobilize resources for BSG Fund

# Conclusions and Recommendations

- Member States to:
  - Ensure consistent participation of their Regulators to contribute to Regional Groups studies on Standardization
  - Host and support Regional Group meetings
  - Encourage participation of Operators and other contribution to ITU-T activities
  - Support participation of Academia and their contributions to Regional Group activities
- Member States to consider standardization issues at subregional groups

# References

- ITU,2010 Measuring and Reducing the Standards Gap
- ITU,2012 ICT Standardization Capabilities of Developing Countries
- WTSA 12 Resolutions 44,54,59,71 and 74
- <http://www.itu.int/en/ITU-T/gap/Pages/reducing-the-standards-gap.aspx>