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| INTERNATIONAL TELECOMMUNICATION UNION | | **Joint Coordination Activity   On Accessibility and Human Factors** |
| **TELECOMMUNICATION STANDARDIZATION SECTOR**  STUDY PERIOD 2013-2016 | | **Doc 230** |
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| Source: | Chairman JCA-AHF | |
| Title: | Draft meeting report of Joint Coordination Activity on Accessibility and Human Factors (JCA-AHF), Geneva, 25 January 2016 | |

1. Opening of the meeting

The JCA-AHF meeting was held in the afternoon of 25 January 2016 during ITU-T Study Group 2 (20-29 January 2016) and chaired by the JCA-AHF Chairman Ms Andrea Saks (USA). The chairman welcomed all participants in both the room and participating remotely. Persons with disabilites attended the JCA-AHF, and the ITU provided accessible accommodation to enable them to attend, contribute, and follow the meeting

**From the deaf community:**

Vice-chairman Christopher Jones (UK) who is deaf was attending the meeting remotely with one British Sign Language (BSL) interpreter, also attending remotely but linked to Christopher by another remote tool (video based) separate from the main remote meeting tool which was Adobe Connect. The Adobe Connect tool had Captioning, within its own pod and with video of the meeting room, and documents as well as sound for the hearing BSL interpreter. Christopher through this separate video connect to the interpreter signed his responses to the BSL interpreter who then spoke for him to the meeting by translating his signs into and spoke directly to the meeting.

Also attending from the deaf community were Mr Roland Hermann, the President of the of the Swiss Federation of the Deaf, (SFD) a member of the International organization, World Federation of the Deaf and Mr Beat Kleeb from Switzerland and also deaf, and the representative to the ITU-T from of the World Federation of the Deaf (WFD). There were two sign language interpreters physically at the meeting, who provided ASL (American Sign Language). They also voiced the sign responses into spoken ones. Mr. Beat Kleeb requested that his spoken responses be voiced over by the interpreters to make sure he was clearly understood

There was Real Time Captioning provided for the entire meeting both in the room on separate screens and remotely in the captioning pod in Adobe Connect for those with hearing difficulties and for those who may not have English as a first language. There was also a URL provided so that participants could follow the captioning on their own PC screens, allowing for adjustment of font size and colour presentation to be adjusted by the user to suit his or her needs to aid those with vision impairments.

**From the Blind Community:**

Vice-chairman Mr Gerry Ellis (Ireland), who is blind and from the organization ‘Feel the Benefit’, was present in the meeting and was assisted by ITU staff for navigational purposes when required.

1. Agenda and allocation of documents

The Chairman introduced the draft agenda and there were timing adjustments made to accommodate different speakers. A presentation from the President of the Swiss Federation of the Deaf was added. You will find the revised agenda and document allocation as contained in JCA-AHF Document 222 Rev2.

The complete list of documents is available on the JCA-AHF website (<http://www.itu.int/en/ITU-T/jca/ahf/Pages/201601-docs.aspx>).

1. Approval of the last JCA-AHF meeting report

The “JCA-AHF 21 October 2015 meeting report” ([Document 221](http://www.itu.int/en/ITU-T/jca/ahf/Documents/Doc%20221.docx)) was approved.

1. **Mr. Jorge Araya, Secretary of the United Nations Committee on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities**

United Nations Committee on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities is the international body that monitors the implementation of the UN Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (CRPD), in 151 countries. Mr Jorge Araya highlighted works achieved since the approval of the Convention in 2006, such as, establishing partnership with a wide variety of entities, promoting awareness of the Convention worldwide through both public and private sectors, promoting adoption of accessibility policies and standards. He also raised the importance of accountability with clear goals, targets and educators. He also reported that the Committee started organizing accessible meetings, including remote participation for persons with disabilities in 2014. It was still experimental at this stage at the U.N. Secretariat. Accessible meetings will be improved further, as there is an ongoing processes to make conferences accessible for persons with disabilities, He stated collaborating with, the ITU which may be leading in the whole of the U.N. in accessible meetings by the provision of captioning in meetings, as well as other accessibility accommodations

Mr Jorge Araya also reaffirmed two concepts that the Convention has introduced. The first idea is the fact that disability is not attached to a person, and that we need to remove barriers in society in order to allow persons with disabilities to enjoy their rights on equal basis with others. The emphasis should be on removing the barriers not creating fixes to repair persons with disabilites to achieve functional equivalency. The second concept is about the additional cost for introducing accessible tools and services to allow functional equivalency. The cost of providing accessibility accommodation for functional equivalency is less than the cost of exclusion, as an inclusive society will over the long term cost less.

Mr Jorge Araya reported the progress in participation of persons with disabilities in decision-making processes at the national level, and he encouraged participation of women and children with disabilities, whose voices are starting to be heard. However in many countries this is still an area for improvement.

Mr Jorge Araya also highlighted the necessity of documenting reliable data on the implementation of the Convention at the national level. Thus, the Committee is in a process of developing indicators for that.

Mr Malcolm Johnson Deputy Secretary General of the ITU, expressed his sincere appreciation to Mr Jorge Araya for his presentation, and for the collaboration between the Committee and ITU, as well as to all the participants in this JCA-AHF meeting. He announced that there would be a social forum in Geneva from 3rd to 5th of October 2016 and whose topic would specifically be on accessibility. Mr. Johnson stated that this forum would be a good opportunity for ITU to bring to the attention of other bodies how much work ITU was doing on accessibility, as accessibility is mainstreamed in ITU now. All groups in ITU take into account accessibility issues and requirements. He mentioned that the ITU has also an expert group on child-on-line protection (JCA-COP) where the specific needs of children with disabilities on-line are being examined. Such works within ITU should be more known outside ITU. Mr Johnson expressed that ITU looks forward to continuing collaboration with Mr. Jorge Araya, Secretary of the UNCRPD and all other related bodies.

1. Review of ITU accessibility activities
   1. **ITU-D**

Ms Susan Schorr, ITU-BDT, reported about the Model ICT Accessibility Policy Report which is based on article 9 of the Convention. She described work done in terms of awareness-raising, advocacy, and capacity building.

Ms Roxanna Widmer-Iliescu, ITU-BDT, firstly reminded the participants of the deadline for the submission of a competition on the best strategies, policies and projects developed by the ITU members in the area of accessibility would be 19th of February 2016. Then, she described related events, among others, the success of the second meeting of ‘Accessible America’ in Colombia in 2015. She announced the third Accessible America would take place in Mexico in November 2016.

Ms Andrea Saks, Chairman, extended her appreciation for their work, and asked the JCA-AHF Secretariat to post the links to the webpage of the ITU-D accessibility activities on the JCA-AHF webpage, to better facilitate the finding of ITU-D’s information on current and future activities.

* 1. **General Secretariat**

Mr J.M. Diaz Batanero, ITU General Secretariat, introduced [Document 217](http://www.itu.int/en/ITU-T/jca/ahf/Documents/Doc%20217.docx), on Summary of the special meeting of ITU Accessibility Focal Points with invited Accessibility Experts (Geneva, 17 July 2015).

Ms Despoina Sareidaki, ITU General Secretariat, introduced the Open Consultation (online and physical) on Access to the Internet for Persons with Disabilities and specific needs, held by the ITU Council Working Group on International Internet Related Public Policy Issues (CWG-Internet) on Accessibility. She encouraged the participants to take part, and invited them to submit contributions topics regarding accessibility to the online site by Friday 29th January 2016. She clarified that there would be both captioning and interpretation services provided on the open consultation meeting on the 15th February 2016. There are no such services planned unless requested by persons with disabilites upon registration for the physical meeting of this open consulation on 15th February 2016.

* 1. **ITU-R**

Ms Junko Koizumi, ITU-BR, reported the progress about consideration of accessibility issue in the Radiocommunication Assembly last October. The first Accessibility resolution for the Radio sector was approved at the Radio Assembly meeting in 2015. [Radiocommunication Assembly 2015 Resolution 67](https://www.itu.int/pub/publications.aspx?lang=en&parent=R-RES-R.67-2015) "Telecommunication/ICT accessibility for persons with disabilities and persons with specific needs”. This Resolution will be considered by ITU-R Study Group 5, Working Party 5A and also by ITU-R SG6.

Mr Brian Copsey introduced [Document 223](http://www.itu.int/en/ITU-T/jca/ahf/Documents/Doc%20223.docm), a Report on Radio Spectrum Issues Related to Assistive Listing Devices (ADLs). After some discussion on this issue, it was agreed to send two Liaison Statements to ETSI and ITU-R WP1A respectively to request that they consider the interference to Hearing Aids (ALDs) from the Wireless Power Transfer (WPT) and take this important barrier into account in their work.

* 1. **ITU-T**

**SG16 – Multimedia (19-23 October 2015) Question 26**

Mr Masahito Kawamori, Rapporteur for Q26/16, introduced the following newly consented accessibility recommendation and approved accessibility technical papers by Q26 SG16 in October of 2015. They are ground breaking tools to better include persons with disabilities.

* [ITU-T H.702 (11/2015) Accessibility profiles for IPTV systems](http://www.itu.int/ITU-T/recommendations/rec.aspx?rec=12648&lang=en) This recomendation makes it possbile for accessbility features like captioning, sign language, and audio description to be added to Internet Protocol TV and that this can be deployed globally interoperably.
* [ITU-T F.791 (11/2015) Accessibility terms and definitions](http://www.itu.int/ITU-T/recommendations/rec.aspx?rec=12624&lang=en) This is the first consented UN stand alone recomnedation giving the correct definitons based on the UNCRD with consultation with persons with disabilites to be used by standard writers and others to used in all respective documents in English.
* [FSTP-ACC-RemPart - Guidelines for supporting remote participation in meetings for all](http://www.itu.int/pub/T-TUT-FSTP-2015-ACC) This is the first approved UN standalone technical paper giving instructions on how to organize and run an accessible remote participation meetings to include persons with disabilites taking into account both the accessible and in accessible aspects of the existing remote participation tools.
* [FSTP-AM - Guidelines for accessible meetings](http://www.itu.int/pub/T-TUT-FSTP-2015-AM) This is the first approved UN standalone technical paper giving instructions on how to organize and run an accessible meetings to include persons with disabilites.

1. Outside Groups

**ETSI**

Mr Michael Pluke, ETSI, introduced [document 225](http://www.itu.int/en/ITU-T/jca/ahf/Documents/Doc%20225.zip) and gave two presentations. One on ETSI STF 488 recommendations to allow people with cognitive disabilities to exploit the potential of mobile technologies and the second ETSI and TC Human Factors presentation re standards and guideline development in Human Factors..

**WHO**

Dr. Shelly Chadha, WHO, introduced [document 224](http://www.itu.int/en/ITU-T/jca/ahf/Documents/Doc%20224.zip) on 2015 Activity report of the WHO programme, Blindness and Deafness Prevention, Disability and Rehabilitation (BDD)Department for Management of NCDs, Disability, Violence and Injury Prevention (NVI)for the prevention of deafness and hearing loss. One of the key areas that the ITU-T and WHO are working closely together on is the increase of hearing loss due to the misuse of listening to music with portable devices especially by the young..

**ELECTRONIC COMMUNICATIONS COUNCIL of the REPUBLIC of SLOVENIA**

Dr. Dušan Caf, Chairman, Electronic Communications Council of the Republic of Slovenia (SEK) attended the JCA-AHF meeting remotely and reported on the workshop held in Slovenia last year.

The Electronic Communications Council of the Republic of Slovenia (SEK) <http://www.sek-rs.si/> in collaboration with the International Telecommunication Union (ITU) and National council of disabled people’s organisation of Slovenia (NSIOS) <http://www.nsios.si> organized a workshop on audiovisual media accessibility, which was be held on 7 December 2015 at the Grand Hotel Union in Ljubljana, Slovenia. <http://dostopnatv.si/sl/home/> the Agenda and a full list of presenters and panellist will be found.

The purpose of the workshop was to gather policy makers and regulators, representatives of broadcasters and IP TV organizations, cable and telecommunications operators, disability and pensioner organizations and experts on technology and standardization of the International Telecommunication Union (ITU), and to obtain the opinion of stakeholders and experts on how to ensure availability of TV and video programming for senior citizens and people with visual and hearing disabilities, reading disorders, motoric and cognitive handicaps and mental health problems.

Many disability organizations, independent persons with disabilites, broadcasters, and government regulators attended. The event had real time captioned, sign language interpretation was provided and was webcast.

Andrea J Saks, Chair of the ITU-T JCA-AHF gave the keynote. Dr.Masahito Kawamori (ITU-T) and Dr. Kemal Huseinovic (ITU-D) both gave presentations.

**SWISS FEDERATION OF THE DEAF**

Mr Roland Hermann, President of the Swiss Federation of the Deaf, gave a presentation [Document 227](http://www.itu.int/en/ITU-T/jca/ahf/Documents/Doc%20227.zip) on the history and the work of the Swiss Federation of the Deaf in sign language emphasizing the need for persons with disabilities to be included in the processes of any decisions being made that would impact their community.

**CEN/CENELEC/ETSI JWG "eAccessibility**

Andrea J. Saks, Chair of the ITU JCA-AHF attended the 9th meeting of CEN/CENELEC/ETSI JWG "eAccessibility under Mandate M/376", 10 December 2015 in Brussels. She gave a brief Oral report ([Doc 218](http://www.itu.int/en/ITU-T/jca/ahf/Documents/Doc%20218.docx), [Doc 219](http://www.itu.int/en/ITU-T/jca/ahf/Documents/Doc%20219.pdf)).

The main discussion was to decide whether or not the EN301 549, the European equivalent of the USA legislation of 508 on procurement, should be fast tracked to ISO for publication. The decision to that was vetoed as there were specific clauses that pertained to the implementation of Real Time Text (RTT) that were problematic and would impede interoperability on both a European scale and prevent future interoperability Globally for Deaf telecommunications access. Another issue was that the US Access Board was in the final process of revising 508 and appealed for time to be able to finish so the texts could be aligned. Aloes it was pointed out that there was not enough participation from persons with disabilites and was not actively solicited. The event was not captioned and there was disagreement as to what had been agreed at the previous meeting.

**DCAD at the 10th IGF meeting in Brazil 2015**

There was not time to go into detail and because the information would be available on the ITU DCAD webpage the Chairman recommended that interested people go to the DCAD webpage. <http://www.itu.int/en/ITU-T/accessibility/dcad/Pages/default.aspx> check the IGF webpages below.

The IGF held its [10th annual meeting](http://www.intgovforum.org/cms/2015-igf-joao-pessoa/igf-2015-website) on the theme, "Evolution of Internet Governance: Empowering Sustainable Development", in João Pessoa, Brazil, on 10 to 13 November 2015.

[Joint DCAD/G3ICT workshop 'Empowering the next billion by improving accessibility'](https://www.intgovforum.org/cms/wks2015/index.php/proposal/view_public/253)

1. Liaison Statements

Incoming Liaison Statements

The following Incoming Liaison Statement was noted.

* [LS/i/r on barriers to wireless connections for hearing aids and medical devices (IRG-AVA-1507-005)](http://www.itu.int/en/ITU-T/jca/ahf/Documents/Doc%20216.doc) [from ITU-T SG16]
* [LS/i on new ITU-T SG20](http://www.itu.int/en/ITU-T/jca/ahf/Documents/Doc%20215.zip)

Outgoing Liaison Statement

Three Outgoing Liaison Statements were agreed to be developed and are currently being approved by correspondence in the JCA-AHF mailing list.

* LS on request to consider the Hearing Aids issue on Wireless Power Transfer (WPT) work [to ETSI TC ERM TG28]
* LS on request to consider the Hearing Aids issue on Wireless Power Transfer (WPT) work [to ITU-R WP 1A]
* LS on request to use the term ‘universal design’ and to make ETSI inclusive to persons with disabilities [to ETSI TC Human Factors]

1. Future events

JCA-AHF Chairman drew the attention and encouraged participation to the following future events:

* [2nd Physical Open Consultation Meeting of the CWG-Internet](http://www.itu.int/en/council/cwg-internet/Pages/open-consultations.aspx), 15 February 2016, Geneva, Switzerland with remote participation
* IPTV-GSI meeting: Tokyo, Japan, 2 - 9 March 2016 in which the Accessiblity Q26/ will be meeting on 2,3,4 March and will include a half day conference under the JCA-AHF
* ETSI Workshop: From Research to Standardization, 10-11 May 2016 in its Headquarters in Sophia Antipolis (call for abstructs, deadline 29 February 2016) . ETSI will organize a Workshop on the subject “From Research To Standardization” in the context of the H2020 program of the European Commission. <http://www.etsi.org/news-events/events/1016-2016-05-ws-from-research-to-standardization>
* G3ict M-enabling Summit, June 13-14, 2016 Washington, DC. <http://www.m-enabling.com>

1. Next JCA-AHF meetings

The next JCA-AHF meeting will take place on 4th March 2016 during ITU-T IPTV-GSI in Tokyo, Japan, for a half day and include a conference with local groups.

1. Closing of the meeting

The JCA-AHF Chairman, Andrea Saks, thanked all the participants, in the room and remotely, for having attended the meeting. The Chairman thanked all the sign language interpreters both in the room and remotely and the real time captioners and the all of the staff from the ITU- IS department for the demonstration of the remote participation and all of ITU staff and the TSB staff for its help, the JCA-AHF secretary Xiaoya Yang for the smooth running of the meeting. And especially a big thank you for helping the meeting run one half hour late.

The meeting was adjourned at 18:02.

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