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| INTERNATIONAL TELECOMMUNICATION UNION **TELECOMMUNICATION STANDARDIZATION SECTOR**  STUDY PERIOD 2009-2012 | | **Joint Coordination Activity   On Accessibility and Human Factors** |
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**Accessibility studies “ITU GENEVA buildings”: Update 2013**

In 2012 work was carried out on improving accessibility (providing markings and signs on partition walls, glass façades, non-slip and contrast markings on stairways, appropriate direction signs for different areas with captions to guide and inform staff and visitors, and direction displays to guide staff and visitors with colour coding for each building (blue for the tower, green for Varembé, yellow for Montbrillant). An updated orientation plan of the premises has been produced with colour coding and axonometric graphics, making it easy for everyone to read and understand. This plan is available at all strategic points in ITU with “you are here” indications to help people get their bearings. The specifications for the renovation of the Popov Room expressly required measures to tackle problems of accessibility, and ways of removing cupboards and cabinets from the corridors are being considered in order to leave these spaces accessible and secure. A new toilet which conforms to Swiss standards is now available in the second basement level of the Tower.

This work will continue in order to achieve the goal of making staff and visitors as autonomous as possible. A graphic display system is being developed to indicate the main routes from the entrances to the various meeting and conference rooms, communal areas (cafeterias, delegates’ toilets and other areas, registration areas, cloakrooms, and so on). Information will be displayed on information screens with 3D representations of the different areas, to help delegates, including the hard of hearing, to get their bearings.

The new specifications of a possible replacement for the Varembé building will comply with established standards for disabled persons, and in particular SN 521 500 “***Construction adaptée aux personnes handicapées***” and other similar directives. In addition, the following criteria will also have to be met: access (outside spaces, street entrances, internal passage ways, premises, ramps, cashiers’ offices, public-access offices and registration areas) with no thresholds or steps, with non-slip covering and unimpeded access for wheelchairs, automatic doors, and gradients of not more than 6 per cent.

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