Radiocommunication Advisory Group
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OVERLAP OF STUDIES BETWEEN ITU-T, ITU-D AND ITU-R STUDY GROUPS

1. Introduction

The United States has noticed that there may some duplicative work occurring among the study groups of the three ITU Sectors, and wishes to bring this matter to the attention of the RAG. It is possible that appropriate coordination is underway on certain studies but it is also possible that work in the three Sectors is occurring independently with, perhaps, some overlap.

2. Overlaps already identified

2.1 Power line telecommunication studies

See Document RAG10-1/3 of 21 January 2010 from the Chairman of ITU-R Study Group 6 addressing PLT issues and Recommendation ITU-T G.9960[1], "Unified high-speed wire-line based home networking transceivers – Foundation". Not only are PLT issues being studied in ITU-R Study Group 6 (Broadcasting) and ITU-R Study Group 5 (Terrestrial), but complementary PLT measurement issues and compatibility are being studied in ITU-R Study Group 1 (Spectrum Management). See Question ITU-R 218-1/1, "Techniques for measurement of radiation from high data rate telecommunication systems using wired electrical power supply" and also Question ITU-R 221-1/1, "Compatibility between radiocommunication systems and high data rate telecommunication systems using wired electrical power supply." See also Reports ITU-R SM.2157, "Measurement methods for power line high data rate telecommunication systems" and SM.2158, "Impact of power line telecommunication systems on radiocommunication systems operating in the LF, MF, HF and VHF bands below 80 MHz". In the ITU-T Sector, studies are on-going on this matter in

[1] Les Brown, Canada, Editor for Recommendation ITU-T G.9960,

ITU-T Study Group 15. (See Document 5/163, "Liaison Statement to ITU-T SG 13 (Copy to the Chairman of ITU-D SG2 and ITU-R SG5").

2.2 Human exposure to RF radiation levels

This matter was concluded by WTSA-08 in October 2008 in its Resolution 72, "Measurement concerns related to exposure to electromagnetic fields" that *resolves*, inter alia, to invite ITU-T, in particular its Study Group 5, to expand and accelerate its work and support in this domain, including but not limited to: "…cooperating on these issues with ITU-R Study Groups 1 and 6, and with Study Group 2 of the ITU Telecommunication Development Sector (ITU-D) in the framework of Question 9-2/2". The U.S. is unaware of any measures that have been taken toward cooperation, or coordination, among the three sectors as resolved on this issue. The issue of exposure of humans to EM fields was previously reviewed several decades ago by ITU-R Study Group 1 that concluded, after many years of study, that international health organizations have both the expertise and responsibility for issues related to human exposure to electromagnetic fields, and not the ITU.

Currently, the international RF exposure limits are under review by the respective scientific community (World Health Organization and national health organizations) and the respective test standards are being updated to reflect changes in technology. Given the fact that the expertise on this issue rests outside the ITU, the U.S. recommends that the issue not be continued by ITU other than to monitor work on-going in the international health organizations. Even for the question of RF measurement techniques for which expertise does repose in the R-Sector, it is difficult to evolve RF measurement methods when the values and parameters to be measured are under consideration and could be changed. Review of the current state of the science and changes to the internationally accepted test standard may not be achieved in the near future. Without this information, work at the ITU is premature, counterproductive, and even possibly detrimental to good results at the end of the day.

2.3 ICT and climate change

This matter was concluded by WTSA-08 in October 2008 in its Resolution 73, "Information and communication technologies and climate change" that *resolves*, inter alia, to promote "the use of more energy-efficient (with respect to efficiency, promotion of efficient use of materials used in ICT devices and network elements) devices and networks and more efficient working methods, as well as ICTs that can be used to replace or displace higher energy consuming technologies/uses", and *invites* all ITU-T Study Groups, inter alia, "to liaise with the relevant ITU-R and ITU-D study groups and promote liaison with other standards development organizations in order to avoid duplication of work and to optimize the use of resources,"

2.4 ITU conformance database (or interoperability database)

This matter was concluded by WTSA-08 in October 2008 in its Resolution 76, "Studies related to conformance and interoperability testing, assistance to developing countries, and a possible future ITU mark programme", that *resolves* that ITU-T study groups develop the necessary conformance testing Recommendations for telecommunication equipment as soon

as possible and that ITU-T Recommendation to address interoperability testing shall be progressed as quickly as possible. It is assumed that Recommendations for conformance testing of telecommunication equipment covered by ITU-R Recommendations would have to be developed by Member States and Sector Members, e.g., manufacturers, that participate in the Radiocommunication Sector in lieu of, or in addition to testing in the service providers' networks. This matter has now become related to a database located at http://www.itu.int/net/ITU-T/cdb/ that the Telecommunication Standardization Bureau maintains. Some clarification is needed to determine the extent to which this effort might impact radiocommunication equipment. There could be a negative impact on the membership of the ITU-R Sector, and the operation and budget of the Radiocommunication Bureau.

2.5 ITU membership

The issue of enlarging the categories of ITU membership, e.g., to academia, universities, and associated research establishments as members of the ITU-T Sector at varying levels of contribution, as a consequence of Resolution 71 (WTSA-08), could have serious implications for the ITU-D and ITU-R Sectors. Council, in its follow-up to Resolution 71, is considering further extending the principles of membership extension to ITU-R and ITU-D Sectors. Council is invited to forward a recommendation to the 2010 Plenipotentiary Conference in Mexico, including amendments to the ITU Convention Articles 19 and 33 to implement this proposal. There consequently could be a negative impact on the membership, the operation, and the budget of at least the Radiocommunication Sector as a result of this action. The three ITU sectors all operate differently with different mandates. What is appropriate for one sector may not be appropriate for the other two sectors. This is certainly a Plenipotentiary Conference issue that is addressed separately in a U.S. contribution to this RAG meeting.

3. Conclusions and proposals

The United States is concerned that duplicative efforts occurring in the Sectors are detrimental to the progress of the work in the ITU. Likewise, there is concern if a particular Sector is addressing work that might more appropriately be under the purview and competency of another Sector. The United States would prefer that, to the extent possible, overlap and duplication of work be eliminated, minimized in its scope, or at least coordinated if it is deemed to be necessary at all.

It is suggested that the RAG might wish to take note of these type situations and recognize that the specific remedies are not universal in nature. They must be investigated for each circumstance at the responsible level, which might be between Working Parties, Study Groups, across the Sectors or might even fall under the scope of Council or even need to be addressed at the Plenipotentiary Conference.

The United States further suggests that as a starting point, the Directors of the ITU-R, ITU-T, and ITU-D should review this situation with regard to the current work and seek to place work in the most relevant and competent Sector.

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