ITU-T JCA-AHF Convener[*]

REPORT OF THE VIRTUAL MEETING OF THE JOINT COORDINATION ACTIVITY ON ACCESSIBILITY AND HUMAN FACTORS

1   Introduction

The second virtual meeting of 2009 of the Joint Coordination Activity on Accessibility and human Factors (JCA-AHF was held 02 December 2009; this meeting was conducted virtually via an audio conference bridge and "Go-To-Meeting" to display the presentations to the remote participants. Remote Captioning was provided for Persons with Disabilities and could be accessed remotely by URL. The Chair of the meeting was Andrea Saks Convener, JCA-AHF.

2   Executive Summary

This was the second of the required bi-annual meetings of JCA-AHF for 2009. It was held as a virtual meeting, assisted by GoToMeeting and remote captioning. It was attended by representatives from ITU-T SGs and ITU-D SGs and other interested parties, including SG Counselors, Chairmen, Vice Chairmen and rapporteurs from both sectors. The list of attendees and apologies can be found in Annex 1. The group agreed upon the agenda. It was noted that there was no nominee for the replacement of the Vice Convener, William Jolley (AUS), who had resigned before the last meeting in March. This was agreed to be decided with by email with the other members of the JCA. The present convener, Andrea Saks (USA) and Vice Convener, Floris Van Nes (NL), would continue. There was no change in the terms of reference and work plan. The 2009 plan was to be carried over, intact, to 2010. No date was agreed for the next meeting in 2010.

3.   Salient discussion

There was discussion of some documents from the previous meeting in March for the benefit of people attending a JCA meeting for the first time. Mr. Kisrawi Chairman of ITU-D SG 2 stressed the importance of the year ahead for the ITU-D sector, citing the new accessibility resolution for WTDC-10: Access to information and communication technology by persons with disabilities,

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[*]   Andrea Saks, USA.

(created by ITU-D Q20/SG1 (Access to telecommunication services for people with disabilities). He stressed the need for the involvement of the JCA-AHF in the next TDAG meetings and the subsequent WTDC meetings in May 2010.

It was noted that Captioning and sign language is still sporadically provided and that it has to be requested by a person with disabilities. It is becoming clear that Captioning is also beneficial for persons who, while are not physically disabled, do not have English as a first language. Also, the aging process causes diminished hearing. Many of the delegates have commented that captioning improved their ability to follow a meeting, especially those that are paperless.

The following questions were asked about captioning:

a.   WTDC: should it be captioned and a liaison sent from the JCA?

b.   ITU Plenipotentiary Conference: should it be captioned and a liaison sent?

c.   Council: should it be captioned and a liaison sent?

It was decided that the convener should not send liaisons directly from the JCA but could act as an individual with regard to this. However, it is noted that item 7 in the work plan says to

Continue the work on creating guidelines for accessibility in ITU meetings by identifying users' requirements, including real-time captioning, appropriate sign language interpretation as required, web accessibility to include registration forms that include accessibility requests and physical assistance for individuals when needed.

d.   Should ITU-T Study Groups plenary sessions be captioned, in addition to Q.26/16 and Q.4/2?

e.   Should captioning be brought up at TSAG to at least cover the ITU-T needs?

f.   Should captioning be brought up at TDAG to cover the ITU-D needs?

g.   Should registration forms be more explicit, citing a section to request special needs like captioning and sign language etc. Contributions to TDAG and TSAG?

3.1   Status report of JCA_AHF development activities in support of Accessibility

The Accessibility workshops for the year of 2009 were discussed, where the JCA-AHF played an important role in the organizing and participation. They were:

ITU panel "Globalization of Standardization and Making the International Telecommunication Union (ITU) Accessible" at the TDI conference "Where Access begins"
(Washington DC, USA, 30 July – 1 August 2009) The convener and the Secretariat of JCA-AHF, plus Cynthia Waddell, gave a presentations and took note of other presentations and speakers for future presentations and workshops.

Asia-Pacific Regional Forum on Mainstreaming ICT Accessibility for Persons with Disabilities
(Bangkok, Thailand, 25 - 27 August 2009). The JCA-AHF Secretariat, Alexandra Gaspari, attended and gave a presentation on the accessibility work in ITU-T in ITU-D.

Session on assistive technologies: accessibility and e-health, Forum World Telecom 2009
(Geneva, 8 October 2009) JCA Convener chaired the event, which was captioned.

The Workshop on Accessibility (Bamako, Mali, 13 – 15 October 2009)   This event was organized by the JCA-AHF, ITU-T and the ITU regional office in Addis Abba.

"The impact of the United Nations Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities on the work of the ITU-T" workshop (Geneva, Switzerland, 2 November 2009) ITU-T SG16, in particular Q26, and the JCA-AHF organized the event.

The Dynamic Coalition on Accessibility and Disability (DCAD) 4th IGF meeting (Sharm El Sheikh, Egypt, 15 - 18 November 2009). Two accessibility workshops were organized by the JCA-AHF.

Future workshops, planned for 2010, are:

Joint WIPO-ITU Accessibility Workshop (Geneva, 2 - 5 February, 2010) JCA-AHF Secretariat, Alexandra Gaspari, is the organizer and one of the moderators for the ITU. The objective of this Workshop is to promote awareness on accessibility and encourage webmasters within the United Nations system and other International Organizations to implement accessibility in their daily work.

The Dynamic Coalition on Accessibility and Disability (DCAD) will be participating with the JCA-AHF to organize an Accessibility workshop at the next (5th) IGF meeting, 14 - 17 September 2010, in Vilnius, Lithuania. Details will be available on the JCA-AHF website and the DCAD website.

It was agreed that collaboration would continue with the following organizations

a.   United Nations
b.   G3ict - Global Initiative for Inclusive Information and Communication Technologies
c.   Standards Bodies (for instance, the Special Working Group on Accessibility - ISO/IEC JTC 1/SWGA)
d.   EBU - European Broadcasting Union
e.   ILO – International Labour Organization
f.   WIPO – World Intellectual Property Organization
g.   IGF – Internet Governance Forum
h.   Other organizations

3.2 Input documents

http://www.itu.int/ITU-T/jca/ahf/documents.html#200912

Number	Document Title	Source
Doc 20rev2	Draft agenda of the second meeting of the JCA-AHF	TSB/JCA-AHF
Doc 21	LS on initial draft recommendation Y.NGN-vehicle "Framework of Networked Vehicle in NGN"	Working Party 2/13 "Service requirements, scenarios and evolution aspects " (Geneva, 22 May 2009)
Doc 22	Interim JCA-AHF report (March – November 2009)	JCA-AHF Convener
Doc 23	Work Plan 2009	JCA-AHF
Doc 24	Report of Question 26/16 "Accessibility to multimedia systems and services"	Q.26/16 Rapporteur
Doc 25	Q.4/2 Report (see Joint meeting report with Q.26/16 – Doc. No. 26)	Q.4/2 Rapporteur
Doc 26	Report of Joint meeting of Question 26/16	Q.26/16 Rapporteur and Q.4/2 Rapporteur
Doc 27	Report of the Accessibility Workshop "ITU-T Workshop on "The impact of the United Nations Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities on the work of the ITU-T" (Geneva, 2 November 2009) (see Joint meeting report with Q.26/16 – and Question 4/2	Q.26/16 Rapporteur
Doc 28	Report of the meeting of the Rapporteur's Group on Question 20/1 (Geneva, 9 September 2009)	ITU-D Q.20/1 Rapporteur
Doc 29	Proposed Resolution for WTDC-10: Access to information and communication technology by persons with disabilities	ITU-D Q.20/1 Rapporteur
Doc 30	Report of the Workshop on Accessibility (Bamako, Mali, 13 – 15 October 2009)	Workshop Chair
Doc 31	Message delivered at the IGF 2009 from the DCAD	DCAD
Doc 32	Response to Liaison on Accessibility and Resolution 70 (WTSA-08) "Telecommunication/information and communication technology accessibility for persons with disabilities"	ITU-T Study Group 15
Doc 34	Captioning transcript of JCA-AHF meeting (Geneva, 2 December 2009)	TSB

3.3   Liaisons

ITU Accessibility Task Force is being considered, but has not been finalized, and it is hoped that this will be activated soon to help answer some of these questions and set polices. Tutorials on best practices for accessibility will be needed for the members of this new Task Force so that the expensive and dangerous mistakes can be avoided. It was agreed that a liaison could be written to enquiry to the progress, the text of which is to be agreed by email.

The Radiocommunication Bureau has not yet been actively solicited by the JCA-AHF, as mandated by WTSA Resolution 70. A focal point for accessibility to the JCA-AHF has not been requested. It was agreed that a liaison requesting such a person needs to be sent and that this report be sent to RAG.

3.4   Preparation of agenda for next face-to-face meeting

The participants discussed the needs for the next meeting, which is to take place in Geneva on 12 February 2010 beginning at 09h30, immediately after the next TSAG meeting. They agreed to include the agenda as part of the announcement for that meeting. The chairman advised that the meeting could extend into the afternoon, should there be sufficient input and discussion.

3.5   Other business

None

4.   Next meeting

JCA-AHF participants agreed to meet again via virtual techniques on a date to be decided following TSAG, TDAG and RAG. The draft agenda will be sent at that time for approval.

ANNEX 1

Participants in virtual meeting on 2 December 2009

Name	Organization
Barrett, Paul	ITU-T SG 12 Vice Chairman UK (Psytechnics)
Dembele Abdoulaye	ITU-D SG1 Q20 Assist. Rapporteur Accessibility (Mali)
Gaspari, Alexandra	ITU-T Secretariat JCA-AHF (ITU-TSB)
Jones, Greg	ITU-T SG 15 Counselor (ITU-TSB)
Kisrawi, Nabil	ITU-D SG2 Chairman (Syria)
Pechey, Bill	ITU-T SG 16 Q 26 Rapporteur Accessibility (UK)
Saks, Andrea	ITU-T JCA-AHF Convener
Van Nes, Floris	ITU-T SG2 Q4 Rapporteur Human Factors (Netherlands)

NOTE – Ms. Cynthia Waddell, Mr. Charles Dvorak, and Mr. Leo Lehmann sent their regrets for conflicts that prevented their participation.

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