

PRELIMINARY LIST OF PROJECTS FOR FUNDING VIA VOLUNTARY CONTRIBUTIONS

The following list was prepared by TSB as suggested projects of value to the membership that could be funded via voluntary contributions. They are listed in no particular order of importance.

#	Name	Summary	Why extra-budgetary?
1.	Bridging the standardization gap between developing and developed countries	Resolution 123 (Marrakesh, 2002) instructs the Secretary General and the Director of the three Bureaux to conduct case studies on the application of ITU-T Recommendations. Case Studies to be commissioned under this project could include: 1) How the Member Countries introduced new numbering plans, according to ITU-T E-Series Recommendations, taking into account new services (mobile) and new operators. 2) D-series Regional Recommendations contain several cost methodologies, including cost elements to be used. However, the collection of data requires a strategy in the company. A successful story to implement cost calculation tool in the company will be very useful. 3) Several technical Recommendations have been developed to implement IP-based networks, including interconnection. What Recommendations have been used to move from switched network to IP-based network?	Lack of in-house resources and of volunteering experts from the SGs
2.	Support to TSB in the WSIS preparation in the standardization field	Financial support to the preparation by TSB of appropriate and substantive inputs to the preparatory process of the second phase of WSIS, and/or the preparation and financing of concrete proposals to WSIS in the standardization field.	Not foreseen in budgeted resources
3.	Improvement of webcasting services	Webcasting of ITU-T events, either real-time or archived, is an important tool for allowing remote participation in particular for Workshops and Seminars. Currently, only <i>audio</i> webcasting is available. This project will study solutions that allow audiovisual broadcasting and implementation of electronic tools that will allow synchronization of the said presentations with the presentations themselves, thus increasing their value and usability.	Lack of in-house resources
4.	Provision of loaner laptops at SG meetings for delegates from developing countries	With the ever decrease in use of paper document at meetings, the provision of laptops on a loan basis for delegates coming from developing countries would enable them to a fuller participation at meetings. The objective of this project is to identify the appropriate hardware and acquire a number of units that would typically satisfy the needs at SG meetings held in Geneva, as well as the associated maintenance and insurance costs.	Lack of spare hardware and maintenance provisions

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5.	Travel kit for meetings outside Geneva	<p>A standard travel kit for meetings away from headquarters could include the portable wireless LAN, a compact projector, a dedicated laptop with all required software, remote connection to DPS and DMS, other accessories such as USB keys, CD/DVD burner, etc. A comprehensive list would be established with advice from TSB Meeting Support and the TSB Counsellors.</p> <p>The objective of this project is to ensure that a stable minimum of electronic services are provided at all ITU-T meetings and also to give the TSB secretariat a certain independence in case the services provided by the host do not meet the expected requirements.</p>	Not foreseen in budgeted resources
6.	Financing ITU-T presence at industry events	<p>ITU-T needs to be visible at industry events. Voluntary contribution could fund the preparation of mobile, reusable exhibition material</p>	Limited resources available
7.	Market research on ITU-T membership	<p>Except for the large and famous companies, we do not know enough about our membership. What do these companies do? What is their technical area of work? What are their expectations in terms of membership services and in terms of the topics they can find of interest within ITU-T? Why do they denounce their membership? How can we retain them?</p> <p>The objective of this project is to find a reply to the above questions in order to improve our membership services, be able to better target the market for recruiting new members, take measures to avoid losing members.</p>	Lack of in-house resources and expertise
8.	New ITU-T membership category	<p>The category of Associate was originally introduced to allow small and medium enterprises to participate in ITU-T. However, it proved impossible for ITU to verify the "size" of a company and therefore even huge companies can become Associates. On the other hand, there is no possibility for individuals such as students, researchers or consultants to participate even though this desire for such a possibility has been expressed for several years in TSAG.</p> <p>The objective of this project is to prepare a study on how to introduce, into the ITU Convention, a new category of membership in order to enlarge the ITU-T membership. This paper would then be transmitted through the appropriate channels (Director, TSAG, Council, etc.) up to the Plenipotentiary Conference for their consideration.</p>	Lack of in-house resources. The issue has been for study for two Plenipotentiary Conferences but has not been addressed so far.
9.	Outsourced articles for e-Flash etc.	<p>TSB plans to expand the content of its successful e-Flash with longer articles or features. Outsourcing this task to professional writers and/or experts in their field would be a way of ensuring quality. The sort of topics that we would hope to solicit might include generic pieces on a particular technology, case studies (perhaps illustrating the beneficial use of standards in a particular scenario), articles on new areas for standardization work, tutorials, articles of interest to the developing world, articles seeking to demystify the world of standards, FAQs etc.</p>	Outsourcing this task to professional writers and/or experts in their field would be a way of ensuring quality.

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10.	Outsourced promotional material	Voluntary contributions could fund the development and distribution of promotional material such as guides that encourage the use of ITU-T Recommendations in the development and procurement processes. For example, a guide containing a list of Recommendations relevant to the design or purchase of a particular type of product (e.g. PABX, DSLAM...)	Limited resources available
11.	Advertising for workshops	Voluntary contributions could be used to fund the development and placement of advertising material in magazines and publications. They could contribute to the distribution costs of flyers.	Limited resources available
12.	Workshop costs	Voluntary contributions could be used to fund the running costs of ITU-T workshops. This could include expenses related to the venue, support, speakers and distribution material. Hosting could also be considered as a voluntary contribution.	Limited resources available
13.	Complete the set of compilers for Recommendation purposes	In order to complete the ITU formal descriptions database and to enhance our editing process, we need to complete the set of compilers to cover the different formal languages used in ITU-T Recommendations, and mainly SDL, MSC, TTCN.	Funds needed to cover yearly software maintenance contract
14.	General clean-up of DMS information by comparison with TSB databases	An automatic comparison tool already developed by TSB depicted a huge number of discrepancies between the available Recommendations on the ITU web site (the DMS system) and catalogue, and the internal TSB databases. Many of those result from the different importation systems. This project will fund one engineer to implement the necessary corrections accumulated over the two years of deployment of DMS, according to a prioritised list among the more than 20,000 inconsistencies uncovered to-date. It is necessary to resolve those discrepancies very quickly in order to launch an efficient permanent controlling filter.	Lack of in-house resources
15.	Enhancement of ITU-T terms and definition database	The ITU-T terms and definitions database (SANCHO) could be enhanced by the incorporation of thesaurus-like metadata information (kind-of, part-of, synonym, etc). The advanced search tools could then use such information to enhance search results.	Lack of in-house resources
16.	e-OB	The object of this project is to review the production process of the Operation Bulletin (OB) and its annexed lists. Most OB information will be transformed as a specific database, and amendments operations will be treated as ADD/MOD/SUP transactions with notifications generated automatically in different languages. Such a project will enhance the service given by the OB, and reduce translation/composition costs by automating part of the process.	Lack of in-house resources

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17.	Pilot project for HTML hypertext version of Recommendations	The question of public availability of ITU Recommendations is an answer partly replied by the decision to allow "three free downloads" of Recommendations. This project proposes the study of an alternative solution, that of offering free web access to a few selected Recommendations in an HTML hypertext format (which would be inconvenient to download). This approach would increase the transparency of access to ITU-T Recommendations by allowing a seamless browsing through ITU-T information, at the same time that there is a clear distinction between paid-for (Winword/PDF) and free (HTML) versions of products. The effort in preparing these HTML "pilot texts" and their utilization would be carefully measured/monitored to identify the cost/benefit ratio of this pilot publication modality and to assess its viability as a larger-scale operation considering the different risks and advantages (revenue, copyright, marketing, visibility).	Lack of in-house resources
18.	Periodical ITU-T Regional Events on Standards during Telecommunications Day	Promotion of regular regional events on Telecommunications Day involving the academic community, industry and research organizations, operating companies, and administrations in the different parts of the world. By exposing these players to the standardization work of ITU and its environment we will create awareness of importance of standards, create interest in future technologists and middle-level managers, attract more people to join ITU-T and bring in new work.	Funds needed for travel, fellowship, prizes
19.	Guide material for developing countries	Developing countries have requested additional guides to assist them participate in ITU-T activities and apply ITU-T Recommendations. Once defined the requirements, the production of these guides could be outsourced.	Limited resources available
20.	Fellowships for developing countries to attend ITU-T activities	Developing countries have requested fellowships to participate in ITU-T activities. Without extra money from ITU Council, this could only be offered via voluntary contribution.	Limited fellowship budget for ITU-T activities
21.	TSB Point-of-Presence in the regions	Establish a regular, short-term Point-of-Presence (TSB-POP) in the regions of a TSB Study Group Counsellor (on a rotating basis) in support of WTSA-2000 Res.17. The stays should be linked to important regional events (e.g. regional standardization bodies meetings and major workshops/seminars) and should be effective in helping organize standardization-related activities in the region.	Funds needed for travel, subsistence

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22.	A.5 justification database	Rec.A.5 specifies conditions for referencing normatively non-ITU-T texts in Recommendations. A.5 requires a justification on the use of these texts, which usually reuse of information previously made available for other Recommendations. This project is proposed to reduce the editing tasks of the editors/Rapporteurs when a Recommendation referring to external organization documents is proposed for consent, determination or approval. The project will produce tools to keep record of any external reference already justified in ITU-T Recommendations and to make accessible the database of the A.5 justifications.	Limited resources available
23.	AAP archive database	Create a database for long-term reference containing all the history documents relative to the approval of Recommendations, with proposed texts, comments, and resolution reports.	Lack of in-house resources
24.	Academic-focused welcome page in ITU-T website	This website will provide a different, fresh and dynamic presentation of contents already in the ITU-T website that is more focused on academic interests. This website would also have unique items and cross-links to other sites of interest and should include areas for forward-looking topics (to which they might feel compelled to contribute). The objective of this page is to attract students and professors to check the ITU-T website when searching information related to ICTs and standardization. Possible items for inclusion are ITU-T hot topics such as workshops, new work items, work plans, e-flash and other initiatives by the various SGs and by Centres of Excellence and regional offices, possibilities of TSB internship and co-operation, info on how to download Recommendations at a special price, read only access to some of our common areas (subscription needed) and to ITU-T working documents by personal contacts with the relevant Study Group Counsellor.	No resources available for design of website
25.	Automated facility to provide short URLs for access to ITU-T content.	URLs in the ITU-T website are usually very long and hence inconvenient for including as references in documents, emails, etc. It is proposed that an automated server software be implemented that would allow the creation of short, easy to reference URLs within the ITU-T website.	IS does not have resources
26.	General user-friendly navigation interface for ITU-T publications and related information	Offer a user-friendly interface allowing to navigate between Recommendations, history information, corresponding working activities, IPR statements, summaries, Implementors Guides, AAP archives, etc. This encompass the bridging of the different ITU-T databases, and the creation of appropriate interfaces (users, different groups of TSB staff, etc.)	Lack of in-house resources
27.	Implementation Conformance Statements proforma database	Create a free-access database of the different published Implementation Conformance Statements (ICS) proforma related to ITU-T Recommendations, which will ease the search for such proformas. This will allow then the linking of each Recommendation on the web with its corresponding ICSs (PICS, MICS, etc.)	Lack of in-house resources

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28.	Improving ITU-T website	One of the elements for improving the ITU-T website is to transform many of our web areas into database-driven web pages. Apart from the official databases developed by TSB (e.g. ASN.1, work programme, etc.), many other areas of our website could be database-driven, for example the SG management team, lists of Rapporteurs, etc. which, if were run in a database instead of in HTML, would result in sortable, searchable pages. Maintenance would be much easier and possibility of error reduced.	Lack of in-house resources
29.	Interactive electronic Implementors Guides	Create a new concept of electronic Implementors Guides as an interactive electronic whiteboard, with hierarchical structure to Recommendations and their grouping, and with appropriate interfaces for Rapporteurs, membership, TSB staff and general public, and containing spaces for identified defects, resolved defects (corrigenda, errata, ...), communication mail boxes to signal problems, whiteboard system to prepare work, and links to corresponding files and to AAP area	Lack of in-house resources
30.	Redesign of ITU web architecture to allow for single sign-on for membership services	<p>Currently the different services provided to ITU-T members are run by different systems which means that users are obliged to enter their username and password each time they want to access a service. It also means that although there are dependencies between the systems, they are not harmonized to enough to be presented and used as a single, unified "members' area" on the web.</p> <p>The objective of this project is to redesign the web architecture in order to allow for a single sign-on to membership services. This platform should be scalable and permit future development of customizable web pages for each user (e.g. like "My MSN" or Amazon). A first step would be a feasibility study with the objective of proposing a technical implementation plan for a single sign-in authentication model. The benefits of this project would be ITU wide. However one should bear in mind that ITU-T uses electronic methods much more than the other sectors.</p>	Uncertainty as to availability of resources in-house (ICT fund). Furthermore, even if this project is a great step forward for ITU-T membership, it is not certain that the rest of ITU would consider its importance equally.
31.	Renewal of the mailing list system	The ITU mailing list system is rather outdated and fragile and it presents weaknesses both for the users and for internal EDH & IS maintenance of the systems. Inconveniences of this old system for the users include: instability of subscriptions (subscribers mysteriously disappear from the lists); sometimes dispatching of messages is very long; the archives are primitive. Inconveniences for EDH & IS to maintain the mailing lists: reporting is unreliable (who is subscribed to what), subscription is manual, and the web interface is not synchronized with subscription tool. The objective of this project is to move the mailing lists to a new system, reliable in terms of subscription and message flow, with a more user friendly interface for the archives and with better management tools for EDH and IS.	It seems that a study for a new system is being undertaken in IS but there is no certainty about it.

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32.	Repository of free and used Recommendation numbers	Create a database of Recommendation numbers, indicating the Series structure, the study groups responsible, the used, abandoned and free numbers, with the appropriate updating interfaces for SG secretariats and web reading interface for membership.	Lack of in-house resources
33.	OID access to formal descriptions databases	The OID database constitutes one of the most effective access methods to formal descriptions databases. The OID database could be installed on ITU servers, and appropriate interfaces developed to facilitate the entry of the metadata related to OIDs.	Lack of in-house resources
34.	Dynamic management system for the formal descriptions database	To structure the existing formal description repository into a relational SQL database that will manage all formal descriptions in order to produce dynamically the current static web pages based on requests to the database. It will be then much easier to implement the web service under Project #35	Lack of in-house resources
35.	X.695 automatic access system to ASN.1 modules	Develop an automatic access system that will allow engines to search for the complementary ASN.1 modules they need, based on the future ITU-T Rec. X.695 principles, and in close cooperation with ASN.1 project group in SG17.	Lack of in-house resources
